



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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9th February 2024

"The joy of life is becoming a person you are proud of."

Dear Parents/Carers,

Once again, we have arrived at the end of another half term and are now officially halfway through the academic year! Where has the time gone? As always, we have been exceptionally busy, so I know all of our pupils, families and staff are looking forward to a well-deserved break!

Yet again, it's been busy in school! We have been spreading the love with lots of friendship themed activities and you can read more about what the children have been up to in their classrooms when you reach the 'Shobnall Showcase' further on in the newsletter.



A HUGE thank you to the PFA for organising last night's valentine themed disco for the children! A total of **£311.57** was raised! The PFA are looking forward to the next event – the return of 'Easter Bingo' on **Friday 15 March 2024**! More information will follow in due course!

This week, we say goodbye (for a while) to Mrs Sandhu, who is beginning her Maternity Leave. She is very much looking forward to the birth of her second child at the end of the month, although if you have seen Mrs Sandhu this week you probably won't be surprised if the baby arrives sooner! We will keep you posted with her news, as and when we receive it, but I'm sure you will join us in wishing her and her husband all the very best as they enter this next exciting chapter of parenthood!



I hope that whatever it is you have planned for half term, it is restful and relaxing. We reopen to pupils on **Monday 19 February 2024** at 8.45am. Have a very happy holiday and we look forward to seeing you again in just over a week's time! Enjoy!



Children's Mental Health Week / Safer Internet Day

This week, we were delighted to be engaging in **Children's Mental Health Week**, an annual week-long campaign run by children's mental health charity [Place2Be](https://place2be.org.uk). This year's theme is **My Voice Matters** and is about empowering young people and children by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. This is what the children have been thinking about and strengthening this week. There are many ways parents can support their children to maintain a positive wellbeing. Please click on the link below to access the videos and support.



[Parents and Carers - Children's Mental Health Week \(childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk\)](https://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)



The children have also been engaging with Safer Internet Day this week and exploring the theme 'Inspiring Change: Making a Difference, Managing Influence, and Navigating Change Online.' You can read more about the work each class has undertaken in this week's 'Shobnall Showcase' at the end of the newsletter.

If you would like to explore online safety to a greater extent yourselves, click on the link below for more information, useful guides, and resources.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

Gung Hay Fat Choy!

Chinese New Year begins this weekend, and we would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families who celebrate, "Gung Hay Fat Choy!" We would like to share with you some facts about this tradition:

- In Chinese legend, the twelve animals of the Chinese zodiac were asked to meet the Jade Emperor and each had a year named after them. It was then decided that all those born in the animal's years would have their personalities as well.

- Red is a lucky colour because it represents fire and is thought to drive away bad luck. This is why



people wear red clothes, hang red lanterns and give out red envelopes for Chinese New Year.

- ✿ The traditional Chinese New Year celebration lasts for 15 days. It is the longest and most important festival.
- ✿ People do their spring cleaning at Chinese New Year as it is believed bad luck is swept away with the dirt.
- ✿ It is a tradition to stay up until midnight to greet the new year. This practise is called *Shou Sui*. Doors and windows are open on the stroke of midnight to allow the old year to flow out.

This year is the **Year of the Dragon**. People born in the Year of the Dragon are usually charismatic, intelligent, confident, powerful and they are naturally lucky and gifted. In everything that they do, they tend to do it to the best of their ability with high standards.



The poster features a light blue background with a sunburst pattern. At the top, the text '&Trent & Dove' is in blue, with a yellow shield logo for 'BURTON ALBION COMMUNITY TRUST' to the right. Below this, 'Family Fun Day' is written in large, bold, green letters. A blue banner with white text reads 'Friday 16th February, 10.30 - 12.30pm'. Below the banner, the location 'Burton Albion Community Hub, Casey Lane, Burton, DE14 2ER' is listed. A blue balloon is on the left, and a blue banner with 'FREE' in white is on the right. The bottom section shows seven circular images of activities: a coffee truck, a pantry with boxes, a Diabetes UK logo, a group of people meditating, a person in a yellow shirt, a 'everyone health' logo, and a fire truck. The text 'and more!' is written in a cursive font next to the fire truck. At the bottom, a blue banner with white text provides contact information: 'w: trentanddove.org f: TDCommunities t: 01283 528528'.

&Trent & Dove

BREWERS
Burton Albion Community Trust

Family Fun Day

Friday 16th February, 10.30 - 12.30pm

Burton Albion Community Hub, Casey Lane, Burton, DE14 2ER

FREE

Coffee Connect

Community Pantry & Fridge

Diabetes UK
KNOW DIABETES. FIGHT DIABETES.

Breathing and Relaxation session

Multisport

everyone health
because everyone has health

Fire & Rescue Service, & Police

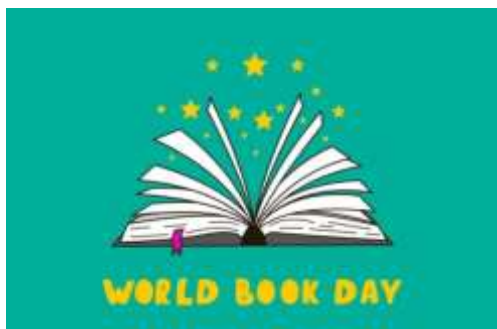
and more!

w: trentanddove.org f: TDCommunities t: 01283 528528

5p Class Challenge!

We still have another 2 weeks of our challenge to see which class can collect the most 5p coins! The winning class will receive a dress down day and a class treat for all to enjoy.

A bottle has been placed in each class; pupils will be allowed time to add their 5p coins when they arrive each morning. Miss Barker will check the bottles each Friday afternoon to give everyone an update on how each class is doing and who might be in the lead. It would be great if you could join us in this challenge and help us raise funds for the school.



World Book Day – Thursday 7 March 2024

World Book Day is fast approaching, and this year Miss Martin-Mills is asking the children (and staff) to come **dressed** as their **favourite book character**! The Reading Ambassadors and Miss Martin-Mills will be planning lots of fun activities based around reading when we return after half-term! More information will follow in due course!

Check out the World Book Day Family Hub for more things to do at home. We're very much looking forward to celebrating World Book Day, which could not happen without the support of parents and carers – thank you. Please remember to keep reading over the half-term holiday!

Measles

There have been recent localised outbreaks of measles centred around the West Midlands. There is a risk of further outbreaks in other areas unless urgent action is taken to increase Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination take up in areas with low MMR vaccine rates.

Measles spreads very easily among those who are unvaccinated, especially in nurseries and schools. The best protection against measles for children and adults is to get both doses of the MMR vaccine. It is never too late to have these vaccinations. Has your child had their MMR vaccination? Ask your doctor if unsure.

The following guidance is available:

[NHS England » NHS launches catch up campaign for missed MMR vaccines](#)

Measles is a disease which spreads very easily. People with measles can get a cough, runny nose, rash and fever. Measles can be serious, particularly for people whose immune system is not working normally. The best way to prevent measles is through vaccination. You can find [more information on measles](#) online.

Most older children and adults are immune to measles and so are very unlikely to catch it. This is either because they had measles as a child or because they have been vaccinated. You should contact your doctor if you have weakened immunity (due to illness or medication). The doctor will assess whether you are immune (that is, you have antibodies) to measles. If you are pregnant and not sure of your immunity, you should also seek your doctor's advice.



Disruption to the A38 Branston



The A38 Branston Interchange Scheme is planned to start in full in February 2024. The scheme is being delivered by the Branston Locks developer and Staffordshire County Council through the Levelling Up Fund. The scheme is a planning condition of the Branston Locks development and will support the creation of new homes and employment as well as improving road safety and capacity on the A38 Branston interchange roundabout and

Parkway.

Construction works include widening the A38 northbound off and on slip roads to provide additional traffic lanes, installing new traffic signals on the interchange roundabout and a third lane westbound on Parkway. Works will last until Spring 2025.

Early works on Branston Road will be installing new drainage, ducting, electrical works and to install a temporary site access from Branston Road. So they can be carried out safely, a one-way road closure will be needed from the beginning of the February half-term week. The one-way closure starts on 10 February, with a planned completion on 28 February. Vehicles will be able to travel westbound on Branston Road from the A38 towards Tatenhill but will not be able to travel eastbound from Tatenhill to access the A38. A diversion route will be signed via Tatenhill, Rangemore and Needwood. Additional safety measures and signing will be provided on the diversion route.

Please see Staffordshire County Council's website for further information:

[A38 Branston Interchange Proposed Highway Improvements - Staffordshire County Council](#)

A38Branstoninterchange@staffordshire.gov.uk



Online Safety Tips

With Omegle finally shutting down in late 2023, the top spot among video chat services is up for grabs – and Monkey has its eyes set on the crown.

Randomly matching its users for 15-second conversations, the platform's developers claim to have created a dynamic online space for people to make new connections and, potentially, even some new friends.

Despite these innocuous-sounding intentions, however, Monkey has been criticised for moderation which may not be comprehensive enough to defend against the obvious dangers that unregulated, random video calls pose to the younger element of the site's userbase. This guide tells trusted adults what they need to know about Monkey.



Anti-Bullying Charter

The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors have led on different initiatives throughout the school year and through consultation with the whole school our new **Shobnall Anti-Bullying Charter** has been created. This has been proudly displayed in the entrance hall alongside our leaf display where everyone in school has agreed to follow our principles by signing their leaf and indicating what makes them unique and different. If there are any parents that would like to contribute to this display, please create and sign a leaf and hand in to the school office. You could also write a comment about what makes you different if you so wish.

Conscious Cupid

As Valentine's Day approaches, love is in the air, so why not spread some of that love for the environment...

Simple Swaps

- Did you know a mixed bouquet of roses imported from overseas creates approximately 32kg of CO2 emissions! Switching to UK grown flowers will produce less than 2kg of carbon emissions.
- Over 145 million Valentine cards are sent each year! Cut down on waste and give a wildflower card or send a virtual one.
- When it comes to wine, glass bottles usually have a higher carbon footprint than the wine! Buy locally or try buying wine boxes over bottles - and remember to recycle when you're done.

[Read more on having a sustainable Valentine's Day here.](#)

FREE Uniform!

We have FREE uniform that is available for anyone who needs it, via our donation service. There is a box situated outside the school office for any parents who have old items that they wish to donate. Please could we ask that these are cleaned and in good condition before placing in the box! Amy Roobottom continues sorting, collating and distributing this. If you wish to contact Amy to ask what is available that you might be in need of, please contact her via amyroobottom@outlook.com.



Hot Lunch Options – 19 to 23 February 2024

W/c 9.10.23, 6.11.23, 27.11.23, 18.12.23, 22.1.24

WEEK 3	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main dish	Margherita pizza with baked potato wedges	All day breakfast	Roast turkey with potato of the day & gravy	Macaroni cheese	Crispy battered fish & chunky chips
Vegetarian Main dish	5 Vegetable tikka masala with 50/50 rice	Vegetarian all day breakfast	5 Quorn™ fillet with roast potatoes & gravy	5 Vegetable & bean chilli with 50/50 rice	5 Quorn™ nuggets with chunky chips
Accompaniments	Peas & broccoli Salad bar	Roasted vegetables Salad bar	Green beans & cabbage Salad bar	Corn on the cob & carrots Salad bar	Peas & baked beans Salad bar
Desserts	Chocolate crunch	Apple & cinnamon muffin	Lemon cake	5 Apple crumble & custard	Ice cream
Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt
Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection



SHOBNALL SHOWCASE!

Let's have a sneaky peek as to what has been going on in our classrooms this week...

Nursery

Nursery adventures this week...

The Nursery children have had a fantastic last week of the half term. We have been celebrating Chinese New Year! We have enjoyed practising how to use chopsticks and created some wonderful dragons from playdough to celebrate the 'Year of the Dragon.'



On Tuesday we joined in with Safer Internet Day by sharing the story of Smartie the Penguin and learning a new song. It was interesting to learn about all the different ways the Internet is used and how we can stay safe online.

Love was in the air at the end of the week as the nursery children listened to the story of St. Valentine. We also looked at the work of the street artist James Goldcrown and created our own overlapping heart pictures to give to the people we love.

Reception

Reception adventures this week...

Our week started with the excitement of the Chinese New Year! We had a wonderful time exploring the story of the great race and had a fantastic time re-enacting it!

We continued to explore what takes place in preparation for this exciting festival. We joined in by designing our own cards and creating dragons in various ways. Did you know this year it is the year of the dragon? We also had fun making noodles in our noodle bar.

As part of internet safety day, we shared a great story 'Digiducks Big Decision' by Lindsay Buck. We discussed the importance of being kind on the internet and always telling a grown up if we get a pop up on our screens.

After completing our homework projects on Arctic animals, we had an art exhibition and shared all our wonderful work!

We finished our week with some positive affirmations in celebration of Children's Mental Health Week. We blew balloons and shared how wonderful, beautiful, strong, amazing, unique..... we are!



Year 1

Year 1 have had a lovely final week of this half term with lots of lovely lessons taking place. They have been learning about the 'space race' in History and creating a timeline looking at chronology. In English, we have started our new narrative unit and as part of our hook lesson the children have started growing their own beans. We are hoping that they turn into beanstalks. Forest School yesterday was a lovely, wet, and muddy affair with lots of children enjoying jumping in the muddles as well as making mud paint to create aliens. Have a lovely restful break and see you soon Year 1!

Year 2

Year 2 have had a great week! They have finished their Australian Folk Tales and have written them up neatly. I am so impressed with their hard work! In maths this week we have started our money unit! We have been working hard to recognise the coins and notes. The children have

enjoyed practically using the money to work out how much they would need to buy items. They have enjoyed playing shops and using the iPads to build on their learning. In computing the children have designed mats for their Beebots to travel along. After half term they will be inputting algorithms to move their robot around on their mat! The children have enjoyed making worry dolls and joining with the dance sessions for Children's Mental Health Week! Well done Year 2.

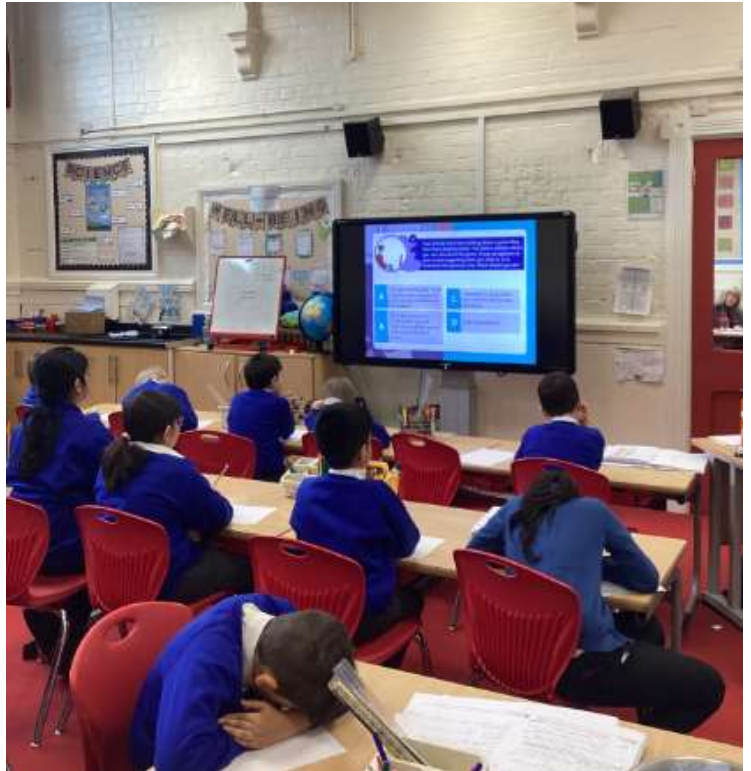
Year 3

Year 3 have had a lovely week! They have been working hard on measurement in maths looking at mm, cm and m. In English they have been working on their new text, 'How Magnets Help Us.' In French children have been using adjectives to describe Henri Matisse's artwork.

It has been a pleasure teaching such a wonderful, hardworking class and I wish them all the best for the future – Mrs Sandhu x

Year 4

We have had another really productive week this week in Year 4! In maths, the children have continued to look at length and perimeter and have been using their multiplication and addition skills to calculate missing lengths. In English, the children have been writing their persuasive arguments to convince people to visit a country of their choosing. It has also been Children's Mental Health Week and also Safer Internet Day, so the children have been completing a range of different activities and even had a wonderful dance session with Miss Brewin on Thursday afternoon which was amazing! Finally, the children have completed their science topic for this half term, and we have been learning all about the water cycle this week. Well done for all of your hard work this half term Year 4. Have a wonderful break!



Year 5

Year 5 have had another week full of learning. In English, the children finished off their persuasive leaflets about Whitemoor Lakes. Year 5 have worked exceptionally hard on these and have been able to include a plethora of Year 5 writing features to ensure that their writing is exciting, engaging, and enjoyable to read. In maths, the children have moved onto multiplying fractions by integers, which they are grasping quickly and demonstrating a good understanding of. As Tuesday was Safer Internet Day, within PSHE the children

learnt about navigating change online, as well as the importance of secure passwords and the positive and negative uses of the internet. As always, the children were shocked to learn about the age limits on lots of their beloved apps with the following apps stating that the user must be 13+ to use the app; TikTok, YouTube, Snapchat, Instagram, Messenger, and WhatsApp being 16+! Learning about this certainly started some interesting conversations in class!



Year 6

In Year 6 this week we have been looking at what strategies we can use for overcoming our worries. We have also shared with one another what we are proud of. This formed part of our celebrations for Children's Mental Health Week. We also were lucky enough to have a dance session with Miss Brewin to celebrate the importance of physical exercise on our mental health. In maths this week we looked out how to solve one step and two step equations in Algebra. We

found that using measuring scales helped us to understand this. In English we continued our focus on the narrative of a chimney sweep and looked at how to edit writing to ensure there is a consistent tense used throughout. We looked at different verb forms such as past progressive and past perfect. We completed a French lesson where we looked at how to form the near future tense, using the verb 'aller' (which means to go). Along with all this learning, we have even managed to squeeze in some booster sessions for maths and reading to support us with our SATs. We were set a task of marking a maths paper and seeing where the person had made the mistakes and why. This will help us so that hopefully we won't make the same mistakes. Overall, a great week!

Reading Corner

This week's recommended read is for children aged 3+...

The Blue Umbrella

Written by Emily Ann Davison

A delightful picture book in which a tiny twist of magic enables a little boy's small blue umbrella to grow big enough to shelter everyone from the heavy rain.

Calling out to all the people he sees, the little boy brings everyone, young and old, in families or alone, under the umbrella's shelter. Suddenly they are all friends, and they all realise that talking and laughing, working and playing together makes life more fun.

A warm message lightly told and beautifully illustrated.



Head Teacher's Awards

Lunchtime Star Awards

Reception	Muhammad-YK	Sada C
Year 1	Daisy J	Mustafa A
Year 2	Evie J	Theodosia D
Year 3	Zayn S	Maksym B
Year 4	Rosie T	Fatima S
Year 5	Bonnie H	Inayah A
Year 6	Safa U	Jess M

Reception	Ava T
Year 1	Sabiha N
Year 2	Ava O
Year 3	Angus B
Year 4	Ibrahim D
Year 5	Constance L
Year 6	Freya B

Attendance

Please read the [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#) which has further information if you are unsure whether to send your child to school or not.

We are always happy to advise in line with this guidance, so if you are still in doubt, please contact the school office if your child develops any symptoms and we can discuss this further with you.

Please note that children can come to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This includes general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose, or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above.

Let's keep working together to ensure attendance is as good as it can be! Remember, **every pupil, every day!** Thank you for your support.

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

- Chickenpox** at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
- Diarrhoea and Vomiting** 48 hours after their last episode
- Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)** they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19
- Impetigo** their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
- Measles** 4 days after the rash first appeared
- Mumps** 5 days after the swelling started
- Scabies** they've had their first treatment
- Scarlet Fever** 48 hours after they started taking antibiotics
- Whooping Cough** 48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

- Head, feet and mouth
- Head lice
- Throat issues
- Glomerular fever
- Strep throat
- Strep throat

Advice and guidance
To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://nhs.uk/medic>

This week's Attendance Champions are **Year 6!** Well done! Here are the latest figures...

Reception	97.3%	Target
Year 1	95.7%	97%
Year 2	95.7%	
Year 3	96.2%	
Year 4	93.4%	Overall (to date)
Year 5	96.2%	95.1%
Year 6	100%	
Overall	96.2%	

Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 09.02.24)	114	44	56	57
Position	1 st – 4 points	4 th – 1 point	3 rd – 2 points	2 nd – 3 points
Running Total	9	7	10	14

Team Point Champions

Congratulations to **Trent**, who have successfully won the team point challenge for this half term! As a reward, they can wear non-school uniform (ideally something blue) on **Friday 23 February 2024**.

Diary Dates 2023-2024

Event	Date/Time
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 9 th February 2024
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 19 th February 2024
PFA Easter Bingo	Friday 15 th March 2024
Year 5 Trip to Hampton Court	Thursday 21 st March 2024
School Closes for Easter	Friday 22 nd March 2024, 2.00pm
INSET Day	Monday 8 th April 2024
School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 9 th April 2024
Year 1 Class Assembly	Thursday 18 th April 2024, 9.00am
Reception Class Assembly	Thursday 25 th April 2024, 9.00am
Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner Election – School Closed	Thursday 2 nd May 2024
May Day Bank Holiday – School Closed	Monday 6 th May 2024
Key Stage 2 SATs Week	Monday 13 th May 2024 to Friday 17 th May 2024
School Closes for Half-Term	Thursday 23 rd May 2024
INSET Day	Friday 24 th May 2024
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 3 rd June 2024
Year 4 Class Assembly	Thursday 27 th June 2024, 9.00am
JTMAT INSET Day	Friday 5 th July 2024
School Closes for Summer	Friday 19 th July 2024, 2.00pm
INSET Day	Monday 22 nd July 2024

Spring Term Diary Dates

Event	Date/Time
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 9 th February 2024
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 19 th February 2024
Mother's Day Lunches – Reception	Thursday 29 th February 2024
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 1	Friday 1 st March 2024
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 2	Monday 4 th March 2024
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 3	Tuesday 5 th March 2024
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 4	Wednesday 6 th March 2024
World Book Day	Thursday 7 th March 2024
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 5	Thursday 7 th March 2024
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 6	Friday 8 th March 2024
Comic Relief	Friday 15 th March 2024
Parents' Evening	Monday 18 th March 2024, 4.00pm – 7.00pm
Parents' Evening	Wednesday 20 th March 2024, 4.00pm – 7.00pm
School Closes for Easter	Friday 22 nd March 2024

**Working in
partnership**
with



The John Taylor SCITT



HOLIDAY SPORTS CAMP

Have fun in the
school holidays
with your friends!



Shobnall Primary School



Thomas Russell
Infants School

Shobnall Primary School
(DE14 2BB)
Feb 12th, 13th, 14th & 15th

Thomas Russell
(DE13 8DS)
Feb 12th, 13th, 14th & 15th

Apply: @activelearningsports.com

Camp info

Times: 8.30am - 3.15pm

Ages: 4-13

What to bring:
Packed lunch
snack plenty to drink,
sun cream and hat

Cost: Only £19 a day

Featuring

Dodgeball
Football
Basketball
Cricket

Movies at lunchtime

Tag rugby
Street dance
Nerf wars

Zorb football

Capture the flag

Gymnastics

Axe throwing

If you receive this flyer you will be within
15 minutes drive of one of our venues



The Shobnall Anti-Bullying Charter

At Shobnall Primary & Nursery School we are committed to the following principles to help prevent and respond to bullying.

1. We **listen** to all pupils, parents and carers and develop our strategies to prevent, report and respond to incidents of bullying through partnership working.
2. All pupils are **included**, valued and participate fully in all aspects of school life.
3. We treat everyone fairly and **respect** each other.
4. All forms of discriminatory language is **challenged** and taken seriously.
5. We **celebrate** that we are all **different** and our special qualities are welcome across the whole school.
6. All staff, pupils, parents and carers **understand** what bullying is and what it isn't.
7. All pupils, parents and carers are **believed** and taken seriously when incidents of bullying are reported.
8. All pupils, parents and carers understand how to **report bullying** incidents.
9. We respond quickly to all incidents of bullying and **take action**.
10. Our school's **Anti-Bullying Procedure** reflects these principles and is actively promoted to staff, pupils, parents and carers.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MONKEY

Also known as Monkey Cool, this platform aims to fill the gap left by Omegle (which has now shut down) by placing users in random video chats with strangers. Participants use their mobile number and Snapchat username to connect to the service, where they can make matches, message other people and join group chats. The mobile version has been removed from the App Store due to safety concerns, but iPhone owners can still access the site via their web browser. The app remains available on Google Play, where its listing claims that Monkey has more than 30 million users worldwide.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The app claims to use AI to detect sexual content or activity that violates its policies, along with having a 24/7 moderation team. However, reports in the media continue to indicate that explicit content remains commonplace on Monkey (including sexually graphic or violent material) and is therefore accessible to anybody who uses the app – including those aged under 18.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

The obvious risk in accepting random video chat partners is that users cannot know what or who they will see on their next connection. Talking to strangers is, of course, potentially dangerous – especially for children who might be persuaded to meet up with these people offline. The app lets users find each other by location, increasing the chances of a child being matched with a stranger from their local area.

IN-APP SPENDING

While Monkey is free to download, it nevertheless offers in-app purchases promising to unlock access to premium features. For example, users who wish to make use of 'Knock Knock chat' (Monkey's text-based messaging option), rather than the app's Chatroulette-style random video calling feature, will need to pay to be able to do so.

INTRUSIONS ON PRIVACY

According to Monkey's privacy policy, personal information (such as name, profile picture and date of birth), user-contributed content (any photos, texts, videos and screenshots shared) and each user's browser and IP address are collected. That is a considerable amount of data for Monkey to gather on its users – and all of this information is shared with third parties.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

Even if you're comfortable with your child using Monkey, it's still important to talk about the potential dangers. It's crucial, for instance, that young people recognise the risks that stem from video chatting with strangers; that they understand not to share identifying information (like their street or school name); and that they know what to do if they are exposed to inappropriate content.

RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASING

If your child is accessing Monkey via an Android device, you can prevent them from making in-app purchases through the device's settings. If you do allow your child to use the site, we'd recommend that you enable this feature: young people have been known to spend significant amounts of money in their desire to unlock more features in apps such as this.

REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Monkey states in the safety section of its site that "people are given the power" and that, to a large extent, Monkey is "self-governing." If a user is exposed to sexually explicit or inappropriate content on the platform, they can select the 'police' emoji in the top right corner of their screen to submit a report for Monkey's moderation team to review.

SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Monkey – or that they may have been exposed to inappropriate or distressing content – it's important to watch for potential indications that they've been affected emotionally. They could be unusually irritable or unable to concentrate, for example, or failing to complete their homework or even to eat regular meals.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College®



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday