

SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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19th January 2024

"Make your life matter and have fun doing it."

Dear Parents/Carers,

Learning is in full swing, and this week has seen many of the classes begin new units of work for this term! Positivity remains high and we have seen everything from Computing to Science, PE to Music. Well done to all the children for their efforts and for making such a wonderful start to the new year!

As the temperatures continue to hover just above freezing, I would like to remind all of our parents and families about our school procedures should we



receive any substantial snow fall in the coming weeks. The school will endeavour to remain open in the first instance and closing the school will only ever be chosen in the final instance. Please can I ask that you do not contact the school office asking if we are open, as we will always use our main methods of communication in the event of such a decision. You will all receive a text message, and the school Twitter (X) account will also be used to state that this decision has been made. Please ensure that the school office has up-to-date contact details for you.

We hope that we are not required to close but such a decision must take into consideration many factors, not just the amount of snow on the school grounds. For example, the safety of parents and families on their journey to school, the staff and their journey to school (many of whom travel some considerable distances through remote areas) and, of course, the weather forecast, and Met Office advice all play a part. I hope that this clarifies our procedures for you and thank you for your understanding in this matter.



We hope that whatever it is you are doing this weekend that you have a restful, relaxing and enjoyable one! As always, we look forward to seeing you again on Monday! Enjoy!



Raring2go!

Please click on the link below to access the latest addition of Raring2go. It covers events and things to do for families for January and February.

The next edition will be available just before Easter.

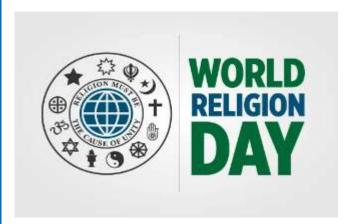
CLICK HERE FOR LINK

Forest School Help!

Miss Alexander and Mrs Martin would love your help with replenishing some of the stock that is used to deliver our Forest School sessions! All of the resources they are requesting can be found naturally so if you are out and about on a winter walk and happen to spot any of the following, please could you collect and send into school. They are looking for:

- Wood for the fire
- Wood suitable for cooking on
- Wood cookies
- Small, medium and large logs
- Large stones and pebbles
- Pine cones
- Flower cuttings
- Dried flowers
- Pallets
- Kindling (silver birch)
- Large and small cable spools

Many thanks in advance if you are able to help with sourcing any of these materials!



World Religion Day

World Religion Day takes place each January, aiming to promote understanding and peace between all religions as well as mutual understanding and tolerance between peoples from different backgrounds. It is a special day when all religions are celebrated. World Religion Day 2024 takes place on Sunday, 21 January and next week, the children will be learning about this special day during assemblies and in class. We thought you might want to know a little more about the day itself, its origins and how it is celebrated around the world:

- People who follow the Bahá'í Faith believe that the main religions around the world share some core ideas, for example, treating other people in the way you would want to be treated.
- World Religion Day was started by the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'í Faith. It began in the state of Maine in the United States as a day for World Peace Through World Religion in October 1947. By 1949, the event was being held in other areas in the US and in 1950, it became known as World Religion Day. It was decided that for one day a year, all religions should be celebrated, and their similarities appreciated.

World Religion Day is celebrated in a variety of different ways. Many people attend special services.
 The focus of these services is to gain a better understanding of other religions and to celebrate the



similarities between them all. It is about promoting the common message to treat each other with respect to create a better world for everyone.

We will be celebrating World Religion Day by taking the time to learn about different faiths from around the world, increase awareness of how many different religions there are, even the smaller, lesser-known ones, speak to others about their religion and take the time to speak to people about their own.

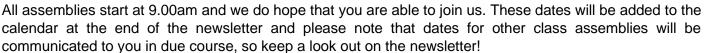
Class Assemblies

Following on from the success of Year 6's recent class assembly, further dates have now been set:

Year 1 Class Assembly - 18 April 2024

Reception Class Assembly - 25 April 2024

Year 4 Class Assembly - 27 June 2024





NSPCC Number Day!

We are delighted to be supporting the NSPCC by taking part in Number Day on **Friday 2 February 2024!** Number Day is a great way to make maths fun and bring about a positive, 'can-do' attitude towards it. We are planning to have a fun day of maths activities and will be taking part in Dress up for Digits. Pupils are asked to wear an item of clothing with a number on it (i.e. football shirt, cap. Netball shirt or even a onesie!) OR get even more creative by dressing up in a maths or numbers

theme. To help raise money for the NSPCC, we are asking for a suggested donation of £1, and we'd love everyone in the school to take part in this special event. Unfortunately, Year 6 will be at Laches Wood, but we know they'll be marking the day in their own way and celebrating with us in spirit!

We're really looking forward to all the fun of Number Day, and we really appreciate your support. All the money we raise at Shobnall Primary & Nursery School will make an enormous difference to children today and help the NSPCC be there for children tomorrow.

You can find out more about the NSPCC's work at nspcc.org.uk.

Attendance

Please read the <u>NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance</u> 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.





Online Safety Tips

According to Ofcom, 69% of under-18s use a smartphone as their main method of going online.

Additionally, 49% of children use them for online gaming – putting smartphones only behind consoles (59%) as the device of choice for playing games on. Most people won't require such statistical evidence, however, to acknowledge the huge importance of phones to young people.

Given that Santa's recent visit is likely to have bestowed smartphones on an even greater number of young people, it's a particularly opportune moment to ensure that children are able to use their handsets responsibly and, above all, safely.

From passcodes to parental controls, and from screen time to scams, this guide has all the essential advice.

New Year, New Top Tips!

It's the perfect time to make sustainable changes to do your bit for the environment! You could start with:

> Reducing your meat and dairy intake can help to reduce your impact on the environment. Why not try a meat free Monday? Choosing local produce is a fantastic



way to cut your emissions, as food can be transported from all over the world - local tastes much fresher too!

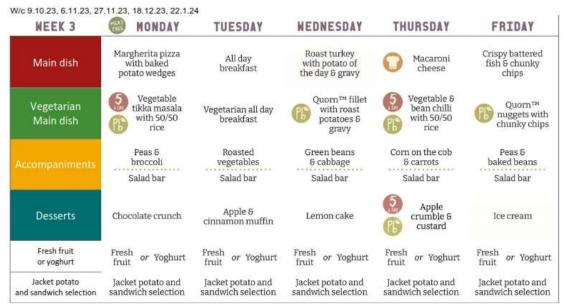
- Why not make one of your new years resolutions to start composting to cut down on food waste? Watch our beginners guide here. Get a discounted bin if you have a Staffordshire postcode.
- Got lots of unwanted gifts from Christmas? Take them to a charity shop or your <u>nearest Household</u> Waste Recycling Centre.
- If you still have your Christmas tree, make sure you take it to your nearest Household Waste Recycling Centre.
- Eligible off-gas homes in Staffordshire can get new energy upgrades to keep their homes warmer for less. The upgrades are free of charge and fully funded by the Staffordshire Warmer Homes scheme. Apply here.
- Is your business looking for support on how to reduce your costs and become greener? **Green Solutions** in affiliation with the Business Energy Advice Service is a programme that offers support to businesses in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Visit our website to get a FREE energy assessment and access FREE Carbon Literacy training.

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 - 22 to 26 January 2024





SHOBNALL SHOWCASE!

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

Nursery

Our Nursery week has been packed with an array of exciting activities!

We have had a wonderful time designing and making rockets and have been doing some lovely role play to retell the story, 'Zoom Rocket Zoom.'

We have also listened to the story of Noah's Ark, reenacted this using small world toys and explored the concept of floating and sinking. The children got very excited when we experimented with different solid objects.

On Friday, we looked at what Constellations are, and the children had fun making their own constellations!

Nursery have worked very hard this week, well done!

Reception

Reception adventures this week...

We have had lots of fun becoming explorers and using our Arctic igloo station to identify lots of Arctic animals! We also carefully hunted around the class to spot the polar bears who had hidden our tricky words!



It has been very interesting learning about the fabulous Northern Lights! We went onto learn about the artist Jackson Pollock and took inspiration from his artwork to create our own version of the Northern Lights!

"Splatter painting and drips!" (Ava. C)

"The Northern Lights and the balls hit the balls on the sun." (Oliva)

"Jackson Pollock was sad sometimes he painted to be happy." (Elliott)

"We painted on the paper and the paint drips on it." (Jacob)

"We see the lights in the dark they look like a rainbow." (Thomas)

"The Northern Lights are in the Arctic!" (Adam)

"It's an aurora." (Harper)

Next week we are going to explore the question, is it too cold for people to live in the Arctic?

On Wednesday we had a great time working with our grown ups during the maths workshop. It is going to be fun joining in with the parent project and having maths adventures at home over the next 5 weeks!



Family member. The children really enjoyed pulling all their research together and presenting it in a neat and structured way. In maths this week, the children have been looking at 2D shapes and learning about their different properties of them. They have also explored symmetry and enjoyed using the mirrors for this activity. In topic this week the children have focused on geography. They loved their local walk at the beginning of the week where they spotted both human and physical features. I would also like to thank the parents for attending the mastering number workshop! Well done year 2 on another great week!

Year 3

Year 3 have had a great week; they have been working hard on multiplication of 2-digit numbers. In English they have planned their own story based on our cave challenge text and they are looking forward to writing them next week! In French, the children

Year 1

Year 1 have been learning all about verbs and imperative verbs, that they may want to use in their instructions. The children loved being able to play charades in order to act out different verbs. In maths, we have been looking at one more and one less as well as understanding numbers to 20. In our afternoon sessions, we have been learning about Neil Armstrong in History and creating a fact file. In Geography, we have been looking at the UK and its cities. The children also enjoyed a chilly Forest School session, using the secateurs to cut pieces of wood as well as creating pinecone aliens. Well done Year 1!

Year 2

Year 2 have had a great week. They have finished writing their non-chronological report about a Royal



have enjoyed learning colours and shapes and are now able to speak in short sentences, their understanding of French is also developing very well! In History we are starting to look at the Bronze Age! Well done for a great week Year 3!

Year 4

Year 4 have enjoyed another busy week! In maths, we have been learning how to multiply a 2- and 3-digit number by 1, whilst also looking at how we can divide a number with the aid of concrete resources. In English this week, we have been continuing our investigation into Banksy to identify the different reasons why people think that Banksy is either an artist or a vandal and I cannot wait to read through the children's balanced arguments next week! In Science this week, we have set up an experiment where we have been identifying how liquids evaporate at different rates in different environments. Finally, we have started our Geography unit for this term and the children have thoroughly enjoyed researching about the capital cities of Europe and even had the opportunity to create a bar chart to show the different populations of European countries. Well done Year 4!

Year 5

Year 5 are making brilliant progress with their new writing unit this week (Visit Yorkshire!), where they have learnt how to use modal verbs and emotive language persuade. to The children thoroughly enjoyed utilising the thesaurus to find synonyms for words. iPads and the research Whitemoor Lakes in preparation



for writing their own persuasive leaflet. In Maths, the children have continued with the learning on fractions. Despite the learning becoming significantly more difficult, the children have taken it in their stride and are becoming experts at adding and subtractng mixed number fractions, including converting between mixed-number and improper! Mrs Taylor visited the Year 5 children on Thursday afternoon to teach the class about the history of Burton and the Bass & Paget families – we are so lucky to have such knowledgeable people in our community.



Year 6

This week in Year 6 the children have been looking at algebra in maths, finding the nth term and looking at different rules by substituting numbers into the equation. We have been engrossed in reading and have been reading our whole class Stormbreaker, at any opportunity. We cannot wait to find out what happens to Alex Rider. In Science, we have been continuing with our topic of 'Evolution and Inheritance' and looked more closely at how plants are adapted to their environment. It was very interesting to find out some clever adaptions of

certain plants. In History, we looked more into the life of a child living in a workhouse and wrote a diary entry from their perspective. As well as all this learning, we have been very busy revising some key topics for our SATs and looking at test techniques to help us answer the questions.

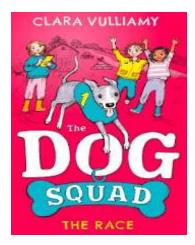
Reading Corner

This week's recommended read is for children aged 7+...

The Dog Squad

Written by Clara Vulliamy

Meet Eva, Simone and Ash: best friends, budding journalists, and the stars of this delightful new series about family, friends, and DOGS, from the author of the much-loved MARSHMALLOW PIE and DOTTY DETECTIVE books! Eva has always wanted to be a journalist, so when she and her friends go whippet racing and find some underhand competitive cheating, she might just have found her next story. Can she get to the bottom of it, with a little help from a furry friend?



Head Teacher's Awards

Reception	Harper O	Olivia W
Year 1	Milo C	Shaayani R
Year 2	Esme E	Peta O
Year 3	Ava B	Azaan M
Year 4	Keyarah B	Kristers K
Year 5	Saif N	Daisy S
Year 6	Hafsa U	Beatrix M-B

Lunchtime Star Awards

Reception	Ava T
Year 1	Hassan A
Year 2	Zayn C
Year 3	Olivia K
Year 4	Alicia F
Year 5	Zahra B
Year 6	Mohammed A

Attendance

This week's Attendance Champions are Year 5! Well done! Here are the latest figures...

Reception	98.0%	Target
Year 1	98.0%	
Year 2	98.3%	97%
Year 3	98.1%	
Year 4	96.9%	Overall (to date)
Year 5	99.1%	
Year 6	91.6%	94.9%
Overall	97.0%	

Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 19.01.24)	140	104	96	147
Position	2 nd – 3 points	3 rd – 2 points	4 th – 1 point	1 st – 4 points
Running Total	4	4	1	8

Diary Dates 2023-2024

Event	Date/Time
Year 6 Laches Wood	Monday 29 th January to Friday 2 nd February 2024
PFA Valentine's Disco	Thursday 8 th February 2024
	 Infants: 3.45pm – 5.00pm
	 Juniors: 5.15pm – 6.30pm

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 21st 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
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
PFA Summer Fair	Friday 21st 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
Year 6 Laches Wood	Monday 29th January to Friday 2nd February 2024
NSPCC Number Day	Friday 2 nd February 2024
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 6 th February 2024
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





SHOBNALL PARISH COUNCIL NOTICE OF FILLING SIX VACANCIES FOR COUNCILLORS BY CO-OPTION

The Parish Council invites applications to fill the six vacancies by co-option.

Persons wishing to be considered for co-option, and who fulfil the requirements for appointment as Parish Councillors for this parish, are invited to give notification in writing of their willingness to be considered for co-option to the Parish Clerk.

Potential Councillors must be 18 years of age or over, their name should appear on the current register of local government electors for Shobnall or the applicant should, during the whole of the twelve months preceding the date of appointment, have resided in or within three miles of the parish or the applicant's only place of work during that period should have been in the parish. Applicants must not be debarred from serving as a councillor.

The notification should include relevant background information that will assist the Parish Council in forming an opinion as to a candidate's suitability for cooption.

Please contact the Parish Clerk if you require any additional information or clarification.

Mary Danby Clerk to Shobnall Parish Council 32 Hillcrest Rise Burntwood WS7 4SH

Tel: 07521 022738

Email: clerk@shobnallpc.co.uk

15 January 2024

SMARTPHONE SAFETY TIPS for goung people

You may have been lucky enough to have unwrapped a smartphone at Christmas, or you might be eagerly anticipating getting a new one at some point during this year. Whether it'll be your first ever phone or an upgrade on your old model, it's always useful to have a refresher about how to set it up and adjust the settings to keep yourself – and your valuable personal info – safe and secure. We've collected some expert tips to help you enjoy your smartphone in the healthiest way possible.

NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSCODE

Alongside face or fingerprint recognition, your passcode is crucial to unlocking your phone and accessing your apps and personal information. You shouldn't give it out, even to close friends - after all, you wouldn't hand them a key to your house and let them go in for a nosey around! If a friend wants to use your phone, ask them why and make sure you can see what they're doing with it.

RESPECT PARENTAL

If you're allowed to have a smartphone, it's because your parents or carers feel that you're mature and responsible enough to use it safely. They might set controls and boundaries on your device - not to spoil your fun but to help you avoid hazards like too much screen time or costly in-app purchases. Following these rules means you can enjoy using your phone while respecting

TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT

Whether it's to listen to music, play games, create content or chat with friends, using a smartphone should be fun. If you're ever feeling anxious, worried or scared about going on your phone, then something isn't right. It's important not to ignore these feelings; instead, talk to a trusted adult about what's happening and how it's making you feel.

STAY ALERT

Two words: look up. It might sound obvious, but it's so easy to get immersed in what we're looking at r listening to on our can become unaware of our surroundings - or who might be around us. People often walk with their head down, focusing on their phone, and forget to check for obstacles in their path, cars or other pedestrians coming towards them,

DEVELOP HEALTHY

Phones offer a vast amount of content and the chance to chat with friends whenever we feel like it, which can make it difficult to take time away from the screen. If that's something you struggle with, you could try setting time limits on certain apps. Putting our phones down for a while gives us more time to interact with others or do something physical that helps keep us fit and healthy.

IGNORE UNKNOWN NUMBERS

There are some scammers who might call or text asking you to share personal data or to click on a link and provide your details. Some may claim to be from a genuine company, but trustworthy businesses don't spontaneously call or message to ask for your information. It's safest to ignore calls or texts from unknown numbers, and never give your personal details out over the phone.

ONLY USE AGE-APPROPRIATE APPS

Before downloading a new app or game, check what age rating it has. Don't feel pressured into getting a particular game or app just because your friends are using it. If it's intended for older people, there's a definite risk that it could include content (which is violent or frightening, for instance) or language which isn't suitable and may leave you feeling upset or disturbed.

REMOVE

A good night's sleep is so important for concentration, mood and overall health. Unwinding properly before going to bed – which means not staring at a screen late at night can often improve sleep quality. Put your phone on charge overnight, but not in your room. This means you'll have a lot less temptation to check any notifications, reply to messages or get caught up scrolling on social media.

THINK ABOUT OTHERS

Watching videos, listening to music or calling someone can all help to pass the time while we're on the bus, waiting in a queue or walking down the street. It's important to remain mindful of other people, though: they might not want to hear your tunes or your conversation. Likewise, if you're calling from a public place then don't forget that anyone could overhear something personal about

SWITCH OFF GEOLOCATION

In your phone's settings, you'll be able to disable geolocation for individual apps and photos: this means that people online (including strangers) can't see information about where you are when you share or post a pic. On the subject of images, it's also important to ask permission before taking or sharing a photo of someone – and don't share embarrassing images of your friends with others.

Meet Our Expert

which is clearly dangerous.

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®





f /NationalOnlineSafety



