



# SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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18<sup>th</sup> October 2024

*“Enjoy the little things in life, for one day you may look back and realise they were the big things.”*

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will see from the ‘Shobnall Showcase’ at the end of this week’s newsletter, the children have had another busy week! One of the highlights must be from our year 1 and year 2 children who were full of excitement when they returned from their Bhangra dancing workshop at John Taylor High School! Not only did they thoroughly enjoy the session, but they also represented our school beautifully. Well done, everyone!



You will also have seen on X (Twitter) that we held our very first ‘Quiggy Cup’ football tournament last week in memory of our former pupil Hussein Quig-Diop, who sadly passed away last year. The children had a great afternoon, and we were very grateful to Hussein’s mum for joining us and presenting the cup to the winners, Rosliston. A great afternoon was had by all!

It has certainly been a very ‘spooky’, but fun day in school as the children have been dressed in their own clothes and costumes ready for tonight’s disco. The PFA would like to thank everyone who has bought tickets, which promises to be ‘spooktacular!’ Don’t forget that there will also be a range of other

goodies on sale at both discos so children will need to bring a little extra spending money should they wish to purchase anything on offer. We will let you know the grand total that has been raised in next week’s newsletter!

Thank you once again for your continued commitment to ensuring your children are here, ready, and on time every day. The whole school community continues to embrace our Little Heroes campaign – **HERE, EVERYDAY, READY, ON TIME.**

We look forward to welcoming parents into school next week for our parent consultations on Monday 21 October and Wednesday 23 October 2024, 4.00 – 7.00pm. We hope that you have a great weekend and, as always, we look forward to seeing you again on Monday! Enjoy!



## Staffordshire Police Halloween Advice

Halloween has become an increasingly popular celebration over the past few years for children, families and young people especially, but it is important not to have fun at the expense of others.

To make it easy to see who's welcoming of trick and treaters and who doesn't wish to be disturbed, Staffordshire Police have produced a '[No trick or treaters' poster](#). If you don't want trick or treaters, please print and display the poster in your window. If you see someone displaying a no trick or treat poster, please be considerate and do not call at those homes.

If you see anti-social behaviour please [report it](#) to the police.



Staffordshire  
Police

## Mental Health Support Team Parent Survey

Many of you will have met Sam Lewis, our Wellbeing Practitioner from the Mental Health Support Team. Please see the letter she has written below, requesting for help in providing your responses to a survey. Your responses will help further strengthen our work with the team.

*Hello,*

*I am Sam Lewis, a Children's Wellbeing Practitioner supporting Shobnall Primary & Nursery School as part of the Whole School Approach. I am part of the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) for Schools and you may or may not be aware that your child's School has access to a Children's Wellbeing Practitioner (CWP for short) who works closely with your Schools designated mental health lead. The CWP for your child's school is Sam Lewis and the designated mental health lead in School is Paula Johnston.*



*MHST deliver low intensity cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) interventions which are evidenced based, to young people who might be struggling with mild to moderate mental health concerns. As part of the role, we also work with teaching staff and groups delivering workshops, assemblies and training around mental health and promoting positive emotional well-being.*

*To help our team support Shobnall Primary & Nursery School to develop targets in relation to mental health provision in school, we are asking parents/carers to share their views via the attached survey. It is really important that we get as many views as possible from everyone involved in school life so a survey similar to this one will also be going out to them as well. It should take around 5 minutes to complete and your answers and feedback will be key in the development of mental health and well-being provision in Shobnall Primary & Nursery School.*

*Your answers will be anonymous. Your opinions are very much valued. Thank you for your time.*

*Sam Lewis  
Children's Wellbeing Practitioner*

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=V2N9w4vla0K2gN-BZqhu1wJ9MS\\_vMBInullR-7c7Z5UQ0xGQVIWRlpZMkhZUzFRRFFDUEpPRVpWVy4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=V2N9w4vla0K2gN-BZqhu1wJ9MS_vMBInullR-7c7Z5UQ0xGQVIWRlpZMkhZUzFRRFFDUEpPRVpWVy4u)





## Reception Application Process

The application process for a reception place for September 2025 will open on 1 November 2024.

The easiest way for parents to apply is online. Further information can be found on [Staffordshire County Council Website](#). The closing date is 15 January 2025.

The school office has a letter informing parents about the process, which we are happy to distribute to prospective families. If you would like a copy of this, please contact us.

## Walk to School Month

We are encouraging pupils and parents to take part in Walk to School Month this October. Walking is a healthy, active and non-polluting way of getting to school. For those that live too far away to walk the whole distance try parking 5-10 minutes from the school and walking the rest of the way. Walking also promotes a less congested environment around the school gate making it safer for everyone!



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL  
Happy Children, Inspired Learners

SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

PROUDLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND OUR

OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER  
4.30pm – 6.00pm

Please join us as we showcase our school, our vision, our values, our philosophy and our approaches. You will meet our staff and our children and get to see first-hand our incredible work on Faith. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Open Evening – Thursday 7 November 2024, 4.30pm to 6.00pm

We would like to formally invite you to our forthcoming **Open Evening** on **Thursday 7 November, 4.30pm to 6.00pm**.

The admissions window opens for places in our Reception and Nursery classes on **1 November 2024**, so as well as welcoming potential new parents to look round our school, this is also a great opportunity for our existing parents to visit too and see some of the wonderful things that are happening!

So, please join us as we showcase our school, our vision, our values, our philosophy and our approaches. You will meet our staff and our children and get to see first-hand our work on the curriculum. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please click on the link below which will take you to our website page where you can find out more about how to apply, the process, and the timeline for admissions.

[Admissions Procedures – Shobnall Primary & Nursery School](#)



## Year 7 Secondary School Applications

The application window for a September 2025 start at secondary or high school is still open. Parents can apply online at [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions). As in previous years, the local authority is no longer providing paper copies of the 'Information to Parents' booklet. Parents are able to access this booklet on their [website](#). Deadline for applications is **31 October 2024**.

## Nursery Places Still Available!

Please note that there are still a few places left in our nursery, so enquire if you or someone else you know within the community, would like a place in our outstanding school. Further information can be found on our school website [Admissions](#) page on how to apply for a place and we look forward to receiving your application.

## Winter is Coming...

Temperatures are dropping, and you may be thinking about, or already have, turned the heating on. It's important to stay safe and look after your health, especially if you are an older person or have a medical condition.

Generally, having your thermostat set to 18 - 21 degrees will make sure that your heating will only turn on when it needs to and won't get too hot. Some other things you can do to improve your home's energy efficiency are:

- Bleed your radiators regularly;
- Lower the flow temperature of your boiler;
- Use thermostatic radiator valves (TRVs) to control the temperature setting in each room;
- Look into getting a smart thermostat.



## FREE Uniform!

We continue to accept donations of old uniform via the box situated outside the school office for any parents who wish to donate. Please could we ask that these are cleaned and in good condition before placing in the box outside the school office. If you need any uniform, you will need to pop down to the **Family Hub** on Waterloo Street, DE14 2NJ. The Family Hub do not have the capacity to reply to emails but do have uniform on site all year round and are open Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 4.00pm.



## Online Safety Tips

Many children and young people enjoy exploring new and exciting genres and themes in the films and TV they consume – and as they grow, the maturity of this content will likely increase with them. However, without proper supervision and safeguarding, youngsters looking for a new title to enjoy – especially in the horror genre – might get a little more than they're ready for.

The emotional and psychological impacts of viewing age-inappropriate content can be severe. It's vital for parents and educators to know how to keep the children in their care as safe as possible while young people explore new, potentially grittier or darker, pieces of media. This free guide breaks down the risks of viewing age-



inappropriate content, with a particular focus on horror, and offers expert advice on how to limit youngsters' exposure to material that might upset or disturb them.

## Reading Corner

This week's recommended read is for children aged 5+...

### That Christmas

Written by Richard Curtis

Gathered together for the first time in a beautiful treasury, *The Empty Stocking*, *Snow Day* and *That Christmas* make the ultimate Christmas trilogy - filled with joy, drama and all the trimmings.

Have you been naughty or nice? Will Father Christmas visit and will there be snow? Celebrate all kinds of Christmases in these funny festive tales...

The books have now been woven together into a major animated Netflix film.



## Hot Lunch Options 21.10.24 – 25.10.24

WEEK 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main dish	Margherita pizza with baked potato wedges	Italian pasta bolognese	Roast turkey with potato of the day & gravy	Chicken goujons With sweet pepper sauce and rice	Crispy battered fish & chunky chips
Vegetarian Main dish	Vegetarian burger with chunky chips	Vegetarian Pasta bolognaise	Quorn™ fillet with roast potatoes & gravy	Vegan goujons With sweet pepper sauce and rice.	Cheese & bean bake with chunky chips
Accompaniments	Peas & baked beans Salad bar	Peas & sweetcorn Salad bar	Broccoli & cauliflower Salad bar	Sweetcorn & carrots Salad bar	Peas & baked beans Salad bar
Desserts	5 Fresh fruit & whip	Lemon biscuit	Chocolate sponge	5 Fruit sponge & 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

**KEEP FIT AND ACTIVE**

**KEY**

- 1 OF YOUR 5 A DAY
- MEAT FREE MONDAY
- CHEF'S CHOICE
- PLANT-BASED (VEGAN)

**A WORLD OF FUN WITH FOOD**

**Vegetarian and Vegan options:** All of our food is thoughtfully prepared and prepared on-site only. We have an allergen-free kitchen. It is not possible to use our kitchen as a catering base. Instead of food at home, your child's emergency plan is using the restaurant. Our kitchens are used for multiple purposes and we cannot guarantee the above plates are completely free from allergen ingredients or traces of these.

## 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.

**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.

Please note, we can only accept and administer **prescribed medicines** that are in-date, labelled, provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include instructions for administration and dosage.

**When reporting an absence, please could we ask that parents contact the school office before 9.30am.**

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.

This week's Attendance Champions are **Year 3!** Well done! Here are the latest figures...

Reception	93.1%	Target
Year 1	92.3%	97%
Year 2	98.7%	
Year 3	99.4%	
Year 4	96.1%	Overall (to date)
Year 5	93.8%	96.8%
Year 6	96.2%	
Overall	96.0%	

### Head Teacher's Awards

### Lunchtime Star Awards

Reception	Jaheem C	Anaiah H
Year 1	Ava T	Harvey K
Year 2	Hassan A	Ava E
Year 3	Evie J	Zayn C
Year 4	Sophia W	Layla N
Year 5	Alfie H	Momina R
Year 6	Noah O	Faryal S

Reception	Minahil F
Year 1	Harper O
Year 2	Rupert M
Year 3	Jacob S
Year 4	Amara I
Year 5	Elliot M
Year 6	Euan W

### Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 18.10.24)	102	68	142	48
Position	2 <sup>nd</sup> – 3 points	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 2 points	1 <sup>st</sup> – 4 points	4 <sup>th</sup> – 1 point
Running Total	22	14	17	16

## SHOBNALL SHOWCASE!

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

### Nursery

Our adventures in Nursery this week...

We have had a busy week continuing our learning with Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The children had great fun in our 'Acting Avenue' station where they enjoyed their time going into the three bears cottage and re-enacting the story using props and puppets. The Goldilocks theme continued as we carried out an exciting investigation of, 'What makes yummy porridge' and the children then made the three bears some more porridge to eat. They all carefully manipulated knives to cut pieces of fruit to add to their porridge and we talked about the mixture being sticky and wet. We did a great job at making the porridge yummy because it all went down a treat!

We also used construction materials to build a bed and a chair for Baby Bear. It was fun using the large construction and we made some great designs to make him happy again.

During Concept Cat this week, we have been exploring the concept 'long.' We helped 'picky puppet' find things that were long and not long and noticed the fruits and vegetables that were long and not long at snack time. Great application of your learning Nursery!

## Reception

Our adventures in Reception this week...

We have had a fabulous autumn themed week. We began with an amazing autumn walk; it was wonderful to spot lots of different signs of autumn in our local area. We walked sensibly and were extremely polite to passers-by. When we arrived at Shobnall Fields we were so excited to find a variety of autumn treasures.

*"All the leaves are crunchy on the ground, they have fallen off the trees because it is autumn now."* (Ava)

*"I like this tree look it has red leaves on changing colours."* (Ayaz)

*"I've found a conker shell look it's very spikey."* (Mustafa)

*"The squirrels are hiding in the trees; they are getting ready for the big sleep."* (Freddie)

Back at school we got creative and used our Autumn treasures to create animal pictures. These included cows, a chicken, a horse, a wolf face and even a t-rex!

We explored used natural autumn scented playdough to make magnificent creations.

On Friday lots of us were transformed into Halloween characters and Mrs Martin even grew horns on her head! We are looking forward to our first school disco!

## Year 1

Year 1 have had a lovely week! On Monday, we went on an autumn walk as part of our hook lesson for our poetry unit. The children were able to identify lots of different autumnal items as well as using their senses. We walked through Oak Wood and across Shobnall playing fields before heading back to school. In Maths, we have continued using the part whole model to create addition number sentences. The children found this rather tricky but have persevered. In computing, we have been using the iPads to create different paintings. During our PSHE lesson, we looked at creating a learning charter made up of our class rules. Yesterday, we got invited to John Taylor High School to take part in a Bhangra dancing workshop with a host of other schools. The children thoroughly enjoyed being able to learn the dance as well as learning all about harvesting. Well done Year 1.

## Year 2

This week in Year 2, we have been working hard and making great strides in our learning! In maths, we focused on adding across ten, building our skills and confidence with this important concept.

We also just completed our plans for our own diary entries, which we are excited to start writing next week! It's wonderful to see the creativity and enthusiasm from all the students.

This week marked our final Forest School session, and we will truly miss the adventures and experiences it brought us. The children have loved exploring nature and developing their outdoor skills.





Additionally, we had an exciting adventure at John Taylor High School, where we learned about Bhangra dance. This experience not only introduced us to a new cultural tradition but also taught us about farming practices in Asian countries. The children creatively engaged in this learning by "sewing" seeds and "digging" out the produce while dancing!

Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend ahead!



### Year 3



This week, Year 3 has been buzzing with exciting activities! In English, the children focused on drafting and editing their imaginative cave stories, enhancing their writing with direct speech and vivid descriptive techniques. In Maths, they tackled addition and subtraction across ten within 100, engaging in hands-on activities using base 10 blocks to reinforce their learning. In Science, the children conducted an experiment to explore various types of soil, deepening their understanding of the natural world. In their Geography lessons, they located countries in Europe and learned about the five types of mountains and their formations. The students creatively represented these concepts using a variety of materials and equipment, while also investigating how different types of weathering can shape our landscapes. It's been a week full of learning and creativity!

### Year 4

Wow! What a fantastic penultimate week before half term we have had in Year 4 this week! In maths, the children have applied their knowledge of addition and subtraction to answer a range of 2-step and multi-step problems, and the children have shown fantastic resilience with this!

In History, the children have loved learning about the story of Queen Boudicca and her rebellion of the Roman Empire in Britain. The children loved it that much they decided to create a double page spread in their books and they look fantastic!



The children have also continued to build their chassis for their cars, and we have now assembled the wheels and have been testing out the vehicles in the classroom!

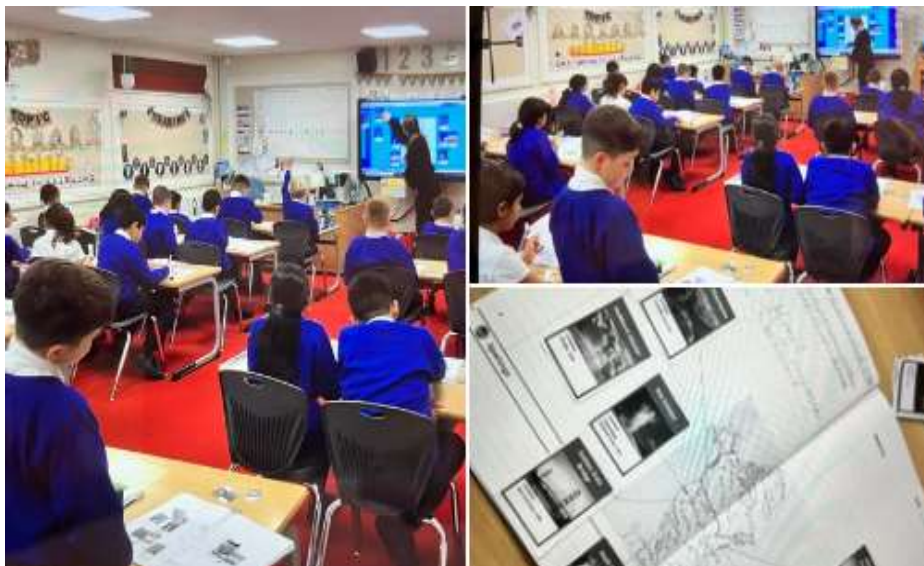
Finally, the children have continued to excel when learning their times tables and it is already fantastic to see the progress that they have made already this year! Well done, Year 4!



### Year 5

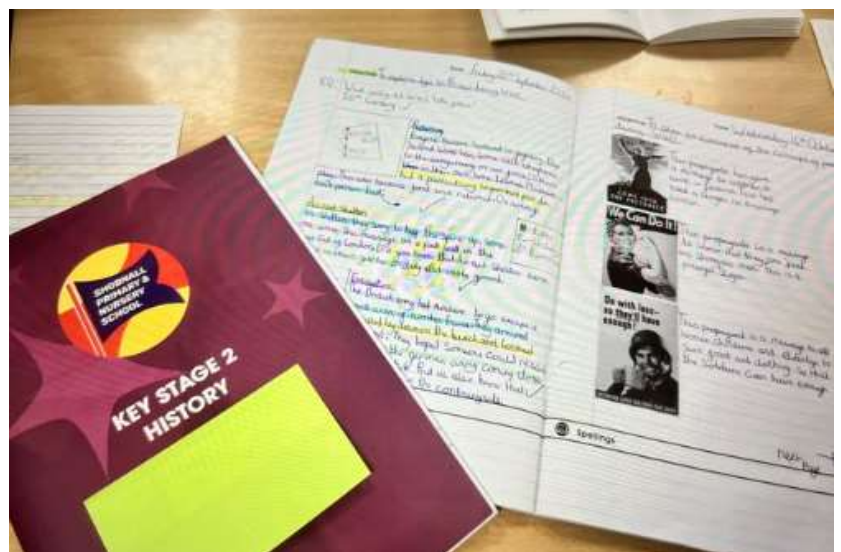
Year 5 have been busy bees this week. In Maths they have been learning about factors, common factors and prime numbers. In English, the children have researched different Hindu deities in preparation for writing fact files about them for our open evening display. Within this work, Year 5 have been using parenthesis to add

additional information to make sure their work is full of interesting facts. In Geography, the class used atlases to name and locate the countries that make up North America, and then used Google Maps to identify where famous human and physical features are across the continent. In Science, Year 5 planned their experiment (which they will conduct next week) on how volumes of solvent impact the solubility of a solute. They made sure that their investigations were fair by only changing one variable!



### Year 6

This week in Year 6 we have been really engaged in our history learning where we have been discussing the concept of propaganda and how it was used during WW2. In reading we have nearly finished our novel about Hana Brady. We have found it interesting learning about her life during the war as well as reading about George Brady, her brother. In science we carried out a great investigation where we looked at where to place a sun shade (umbrella) so that it provided the maximum amount of shade for sunbeds around a swimming pool. We found it interesting to learn about our planet's major natural source of light, the sun, and how this helped us to see where to place our sun shades on our mini diagram. We also explored light phenomena and considered how light is refracted and how a rainbow is made. Lots of investigating and exploring in learning this week. Well done year 6!





## Dove Valley Netball Hi Five Netball Champions

Congratulations to our netball team, who have been crowned JOINT Dove Valley Hi Five Netball champions, after successfully drawing 1-1 with Rykneld Primary School in the final. The team performed exceptionally well and we are very proud of them. They displayed great skill and sportsmanship throughout the entire tournament and represented our school brilliantly!

Huge thanks to Mr Bishop for organising the tournament and to Miss Brewin for her expert coaching and umpiring on the night!

### Diary Dates 2024-2025

Event	Date/Time
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
<b>INSET Day</b>	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
Open Evening	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
Year 5 Whitemoor Lakes	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November to Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
Year 6 Class Assembly	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2024, 9.00am
Whole School Trip to Pantomime – Jack and the Beanstalk, Lichfield Garrick	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2024, 10.00am
PFA Christmas Market	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
School Closes for Christmas	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024, 2.00pm
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Year 2 Class Assembly	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025, 9.00am
Year 6 Laches Wood	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> January to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2025
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<b>INSET Day</b>	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
Young Voices 2025	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
School Closes for Easter	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2025, 2.00pm
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
May Day Bank Holiday – School Closed	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Key Stage 2 SATs Week	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 to Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025
Reception Class Assembly	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2025, 9.00am
Year 1 Class Assembly	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2025, 9.00am
Year 4 Class Assembly	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2025, 9.00am
Year 5 Class Assembly	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2025, 9.00am
<b>JTMAT INSET Day</b>	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2025
School Closes for Summer	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2025, 2.00pm
<b>INSET Day</b>	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2025

### Autumn Term Diary Dates

Event	Date/Time
Parents' Evening	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2024 Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2024
School Closes for Half Term	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024



<b>INSET Day</b>	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
Open Evening	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2024, 4.30-6.00pm
Odd Socks Day	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
Children in Need	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
Shobnall Stars After School Club <b>CLOSED</b>	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
Christingle	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
Year 5 Whitemoor Lakes	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 to Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 inclusive
Year 6 Class Assembly	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2024, 9.00am
EYFS Nativity	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2024, 9.15am
EYFS Nativity	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2024, 9.15am
Whole School Trip to Pantomime – Jack and the Beanstalk, Lichfield Garrick	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2024, 10.00am
PFA Christmas Market	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
KS1 Nativity	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2024, 9.15am AND 2.15pm
Year 3 Cosy Christmas Celebration	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2024, 9.15am
JTMAT Christmas Concert	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
Christmas Lunch	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
School Closes for Christmas	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024, 2.00pm
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025



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# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HORROR FILMS & AGE RATINGS

The 'on-demand' availability of streaming platforms in many homes creates extra possibilities for young viewers to be exposed to age-inappropriate content. Material which features horror or violence can cause anxiety and nightmares for children, especially since it can be hard for young ones to grasp that what they're watching isn't real.

## CLASSIFICATION BREAKDOWN

The British Board of Film Classification has the following age ratings:

**U:** Suitable for all ages

**PG:** For children aged 8 and above; this content shouldn't unsettle them

**12A:** Children under the age of 12 should not watch without an adult; this content potentially features bad language, nudity or sexual references

**15:** Suitable only for 15-year-olds and above

**18:** Exclusively for an adult audience, with potentially explicit themes of violence, nudity or sex



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### STREAMING IS EVERYWHERE

Modern mobile devices make it very easy for children to watch streamed films without the need for a TV. The availability of inappropriate content has risen significantly on streaming platforms, almost all of which host 18-rated content. If not restricted by parental controls, this could be viewed by children who aren't quite ready for such adult themes, concepts and imagery.

### FACT VS. FICTION

Many children have no trouble separating fact from fiction. However, with modern day technology making pretend violence and horror look ever more realistic, it's becoming harder for youngsters to tell the difference. For instance, consider remakes of older films, where dated special effects (making it easy to discern that something wasn't real) have been replaced by far more convincing monsters and gore.

### PEER PRESSURE

Friends encouraging each other to watch the latest film featuring violence or horror can lead to children consuming content that they're not ready for. As 18+ content is available on many streaming platforms, youngsters can watch these together – potentially without their parents' or carers' knowledge.

TOO SCARED?

### CHILDREN SCARE DIFFERENTLY

It can be difficult to decide what content is appropriate for children. What's fine for one child could be extremely frightening for another. As many children admit to not sharing or discussing the content they watch with their parents, encouraging an open dialogue around the kind of media that young people consume can help avoid exposing them to any inappropriate content.

### PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

Horror prides itself on its ability to startle or induce genuine fear in the viewer – so it's no surprise that this genre isn't usually intended for children. A natural side-effect of this is that 'jump scares' or a creepy, suspenseful atmosphere can have lasting effects on younger minds. The resulting anxiety can impact a child's sleeping patterns or eating habits.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### WATCH THE FILM FIRST

If you're concerned that a film might be unsuitable for children (whether it's their first dive into the horror genre or a step up in age classification), then take a look for yourself. There's no better way to judge whether this content is something you'd deem appropriate for a child – and if a parent, for example, has actually seen the film (or at least a portion of it), they can construct a far more credible case if they decide it's inappropriate.

### REMEMBER – IT'S NOT REAL

Emphasise to children that the content they're viewing is entirely fictional and has no chance of affecting them in real life. If a child is upset after watching a film, try to understand what exactly has unsettled them: this can help you approach the topic in a healthy and informative manner, to dispel any fears or anxieties they may have.

### DISCUSS THE CONTENT OF FILMS

If a child has seen a film that you think may have exposed them to potentially uncomfortable themes and ideas, don't shy away from talking about it, and answer any questions they may have. This is especially important if they watched the film without an adult present. Ask them to summarise the story for you, as this will give you an understanding of what they've learned from watching it.

### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most streaming platforms have the option to put age ranges on children's accounts. This means that films and shows that are inappropriate for children won't be advertised while they're browsing and won't even appear if a child specifically searches for them. This can be changed any time at parents' discretion, but it's wise to protect these settings with a password, so a child can't alter anything on their own.

## Meet Our Expert

John Insley is an assistant principal at a secondary school. He has been involved with e-safety in schools for over 10 years, writing policies and supporting various schools in developing their e-safety provision. John has introduced a range of strategies at multiple schools aimed at helping parents to better support their child in the ever-changing digital world.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



# Art Classes for Children, Preteens & Teens

## in Tutbury

### Saturday Art Classes

**Children for 5yrs+**

9:30am to 11am &  
3:15pm to 4:45pm

**Pre-teens for 10yrs to 13yrs**

11:15am to 12:45pm

**Teens for 13yrs+**

1:30pm to 3pm



**Book On-line**

**Henhouse Art School**

[www.henhouseart.co.uk](http://www.henhouseart.co.uk)



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