

SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TELEPHONE: 01283 247410 TWITTER: @shobnallprimary E-MAIL: shb-office@shb.jtmat.co.uk

13th December 2024

"I never dreamed about success. I worked for it."

Dear Parents/Carers,

We start this week's newsletter with some amazing news! You may have already seen on X (Twitter) that Shobnall Primary & Nursery School has been awarded the prestigious Primary School of the Year title at the Education Today Awards ceremony, held on Friday, 6th December. To say that we are absolutely delighted with this is an understatement this remarkable as achievement reflects the hard work. dedication, and innovation of our entire school community.

The Education Today Awards are renowned for recognising schools that go above and beyond to provide exceptional learning experiences for their pupils. Winning this award is a testament to the incredible commitment of our staff, the enthusiasm and achievements of our children, and the unwavering support from our parents and wider community. The children were ecstatic when they were told that we had won in assembly on Monday!





In particular, the judges commended the school's innovative teaching methods that inspire curiosity and foster a love of learning, and our strong emphasis on inclusivity, ensuring every child thrives, regardless of their background or abilities.

The glittering event brought together schools and suppliers from across the country, celebrating the best in education. It was an unforgettable evening of inspiration and recognition, and both Mrs Farrington and I were very proud to be able to attend and represent our school. The award has now taken pride of place in our trophy cabinet and is for everyone in our school community. It reflects the tireless efforts of our staff, the enthusiasm of our children, and the partnership we have with our families. Together, we have created a school we can all be proud of. I would like to thank everyone who contributes to making Shobnall Primary such a special place. This award belongs to all of us, and we are excited to continue working together to achieve even greater things.

Have an amazing weekend everyone – whatever it is that you are doing, ENJOY!

We look forward to seeing you all again on Monday!

PFA Christmas Market

It was a wonderful turnout at the PFA Christmas Market last Friday night. Your kindness will really help and support the children in our school. Thank you to all those who came and joined in the festivities and to Santa for making a special trip to join us for this event! The PFA are delighted to announce that the final amount raised was £1003.69! A massive well done to everyone who organised, helped and supported – huge thanks again!





Year 1 and 2 Nativity - Whoops-A-Daisy Angel

Year 1 and 2 did an incredible job on Tuesday with not one, but TWO performances of their version of the nativity story. It was incredible and the audience loved it! The performance was energising and uplifting and was worthy of a 'Broadway' accolade!

Thank you to all our families who came along to watch, and who helped with the learning of lines at home. There were certainly a lot of words to remember, but the children did not slip up once! As with the EYFS performance, I must re-iterate my thanks once again to our wonderful staff and volunteers who helped ensure both performances were of an exceptionally high standard.

Year 3 Cosy Christmas

What an amazing end to our week of Christmas shows as Year 3 entertained us with their cosy Christmas celebration! It was magnificent to hear some fantastic singing from the children, as they told us all about St. Nick himself! A sprinkle of 'cosiness' was added by the children performing in their Christmas jumpers! Sincerest thanks must go to all the staff in Year 3 for helping to put together and prepare such a festive treat for us and to all the parents who came along to support the children! Feliz Navidad!



The Week Before Christmas...

As you are all aware, next week is our last week in school before we break up for the Christmas holiday on Friday 20 December at 2pm. It promises to be an enjoyable one but an incredibly busy one at the same time! With that in mind, I thought it would be useful to provide you with a few reminders regarding our plans:

Christmas Dinner Day is on Wednesday 18 December. To get into the festive spirit, the children and staff can come to school in non-



uniform, ideally with a Christmas jumper and/or Christmas attire! No donations required for this.

As **Friday 20 December** is the last day of this term, the children can bring in a toy from home. Please could we ask that they <u>do not</u> bring in electronics. These are rather more expensive than some other traditional toys and we would not want any of the children getting upset if they got damaged. Miss

Alexander and Mrs Lukman already have some special activities planned for EYFS, so have stated that Reception and Nursery children do not need to bring in their own toys as they will be engaged in their own festivities!

School closes on Friday 20 December at 2.00pm. Shobnall Stars will NOT be open for wraparound care on this day.



Christmas Homework

As a school, we believe that holidays are a time to relax and spend with family and friends. Teachers will not be setting any formal homework over the Christmas break (Year 6 have agreed on some slightly different arrangements with Miss Lord), although we would like to encourage the children to utilise any free time to indulge in a good book! Many thanks for the support that you give on a weekly basis with homework – it is very much appreciated by all the staff!











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 <u>Staffordshire County Council Website</u>. 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.

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.

Deck the Halls with Sustainable Materials...

Being sustainable at Christmas does not mean you have to be a scrooge! Check out these tips for staying green while decorating:

- ♣ Use LED lights they will use much less energy
- Make your own DIY decorations
- Most Christmas crackers are not recyclable and contain plastic - look for ones that are 100% recyclable
- If you're buying an artificial tree, make sure to use it for at least 10 years, or you're better off buying a real tree and recycling it properly
- Make your own wreath from sustainable materials



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.

Tip of the week

Doing our Bit to make

Staffordsh

Online Safety Tips

The holiday season is a time for celebration, relaxation and spending wellearned time with loved ones.

While this period will hopefully be calm, it's important that parents and educators acknowledge there are still things we can do to make these weeks as safe as possible for the young people in our care.

Of course, it's not immediately obvious what can or should be done to stay safe over the festive season.

This free guide offers expert advice on the steps you can take to enjoy a less fraught winter break, safeguarding any youngsters who might be present for the celebrations.





Reading Corner

This week's recommended read is for children aged 9+...

Traitors in Space

Written by Tim Collins

You, the reader, are the star of this book, and you decide what happens. Along with your fellow crew members on your spaceship, you've travelled from Earth to Titan and are ready to return when the emergency alarm goes off: alien life has been



detected on the ship. Can you track it down? Has it already attacked your friends? What are you going to do?

As the story develops, you'll need to be on your toes – the wrong decision will lead to disaster, while there are logic puzzles and brain teasers to test you too. The format has all the interactive fun of a computer game while the extras, including lively black and white illustrations, make it an even more exciting reading experience.

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 <u>before</u> <u>9.30am</u> and state clearly reasons for absence.

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	96.0%	Target
Year 1	99.3%	
Year 2	96.3%	97%
Year 3	99.4%	
Year 4	98.1%	Overall (to date)
Year 5	97.4%	
Year 6	95.6%	96.1%
Overall	97.3%	

Head Teacher's Awards

Reception	Ayaz M	Zaynab A
Year 1	Harriet O	Adam J
Year 2	Alfie T	Sofia K
Year 3	Aleem A	Inaaya A
Year 4	Isaac P	Millicent M-B
Year 5	Alicia F	Eisa L
Year 6	Ellie W	Angelo M

Lunchtime Star Awards

Reception	Amal M
Year 1	Abia L
Year 2	Teigan W
Year 3	Rupert C
Year 4	Aiza L
Year 5	Eisa L
Year 6	Dexter K

Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 13.12.24)	68	40	87	104

Position	3 rd – 2 points	4 th – 1 point	2 nd – 3 points	1 st – 4 points
Running Total	7	10	9	14

Hot Lunch Options 16.12.24 - 20.12.24

MEEK 3	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main dish	Margherita pizza with baked potato wedges	Chicken tikka masala served with rice	Roast beef, with Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes & gravy	Chicken 8 tomato pasta bake	Crispy battered fish 6 chunky chips
Vegetarian Main dish	Roasted vegetable pizza	Vegetable tikka masala with 50/50 rice	Quorn TM fillet with roast potatoes 6 gravy	Macaroni cheese	Quorn™ nuggets with chunky chips
Accompaniments	Peas 8 baked beans Salad bar	Sweetcorn & carrots Salad bar	Carrots 6 cauliflower Salad bar	Broccoli & green beans Salad bar	Peas 8 baked beans Salad bar
Desserts	Fruit flapjack	Marble sponge 8 custard	Lemon cake	Shortbread	Ice cream
Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh or Yoghurt	Fresh or Yoghurt	Fresh or Yoghurt	Fresh or Yoghurt	Fresh or Yoghur
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
IT'S A HOOT	to EAT MORE	◎ 1	KEY OF YOUR 5 A DAY AT FREE MONDAY CHEFS CHOICE	Mellors S	"Allergelis and Intolerances" of our food in lovingful hand carter prepared on site daily. We have a right procedure in place so please assure you make our catering your child regions prior to using the restaurant Our kitchers are used for multi-purpose production so we smoot guarantee the above dishes occapilately the from allergenic.

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...

It is certainly beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Nursery!

Our role play area has been transformed into a magical workshop and the Christmas elves have been busy wrapping gifts and placing them into Santa's sleigh for Santa to post down the chimney!

We have also seen lots of sparkles and glitter in our creative area as the children completed some wonderful Christmas artwork involving bubals. The maths area has also been filled with Christmas themed activities as the children decorated trees using their understanding of subitising and enjoyed counting cotton pads onto the snowmen to match their numbered hats.

We finished the week by making our Christmas cards and can't wait to share these next week!

Reception

Our adventures in Reception this week...

The Christmas celebrations have continued with lots of singing, laughter and exciting adventures.

It has been extremely busy in Santa's workshop as we boxed and wrapped a variety of presents. We also had to use the telephone and laptop to send messages to Elf headquarters.

We have been on the hunt for Kevin, the golden carrot, who keeps moving to different places. He has helped make our maths learning on prepositions lots of fun.

In the creative patch it was design time! We used our hands to create a tree print and then decorated it with numerous resources to make it sparkle and shine.

After Joey shared his picture of himself and Koby (his dog) with their matching Grinch pyjamas, which we all loved, we all decided to share photographs or drawings of our pets.

"Amal has a black and white cat called Diamond." (Maya)

"Emmie has 2 dogs one is bigger and one is a puppy." (Kethana)

"Henry is Darcey's pet he is brown and black. He has a comfy big bed." (Emmie)

"Sim's pet was named Spikey he was a dragon pet and he shares it with his brother." (Minnie and Mustafa)













Year 1

Year 1 have had a superb week and have created some truly wonderful pieces of work. In history, they created their own interpretation of the Bayeux Tapestry on a large piece of children paper. The worked collaboratively to recreate the scenes from 'The Battle of Hastings'. In Art, we have been learning how to use fine liner pens to create observational drawings of different shells. Miss Barker was amazed at how life like they were. In Maths, the children have been exploring 3D shapes and what 2D shapes they are made from. The children also explored printing using 3D shapes to recreate different shoe pictures. In English, we have been publishing our life story. A great week Year 1 - keep up the hard work.

Year 2

What a fantastic week Year 2 has had! A definite highlight was our Nativity performance. The children were absolutely brilliant, and I couldn't be prouder of them. They all remembered their places and lines so well, and the performance was truly magical. It was wonderful to see their hard work come together so beautifully.

In addition to the Nativity, we've had a very busy week. I was so pleased to read the final write-ups of the children's stories – each and every one of them were amazing. The creativity and effort they put into their writing really stood out.

In Geography, we've been learning about human and physical features of different countries. The children have been very engaged in these lessons, exploring the world around them with great curiosity.

The children have also been thoroughly enjoying their music lessons, and it's been lovely to see them develop their skills and enthusiasm for music.

It's been a week full of learning, creativity, and hard work.

Year 3

This week, our children have been busy exploring a variety of exciting topics across the curriculum! In English, they have been delving into the persuasive text "Why Should I Visit Skara Brae?", expanding their vocabulary and recapping the use of co-ordinating and subordinating conjunctions. In Maths, they've been mastering the 4 and 8 times tables, using practical resources to help them understand multiplication and division. In Science, the focus has been on animal skeletons, with students matching skeletons to their respective animals. In Topic, they've been learning about Christianity in RE, exploring the Christmas story and discussing how different people celebrate Christmas in unique ways.

The highlight of the week was our Cosy Christmas Performance, where the children worked incredibly hard to put on a fantastic show. A huge thank you to all the parents who came to watch and support – it was wonderful to see so many of you there to share in the festive spirit!

Year 4

In maths this week, the children have been learning how to multiply and divide by 10 and 100 and it has been wonderful to see the children actively using their place value grids to support their learning with this! In English, we have been writing our narratives about electricity safety, and I have been impressed by the levels of creativity with this! It is clear to see that the children are taking on board the feedback within their



writing and this has enabled the children to write some fantastic pieces of work! In Science, the children have been exploring food webs in different environments, and they loved seeing how different eco systems are formed. Finally, the children took part in their final Forest School session of the year and had a wonderful afternoon! Keep it up, Year 4!

Year 5

This week, Year 5 has been full of exciting learning and creativity! In Maths, we tackled subtracting mixed numbers, sharpening our problem-solving skills. In English, the children have been editing and redrafting their alien invasion stories. They worked hard on using engaging reporting clauses to show emotions through speech – there were some truly gripping conversations between characters!

Thursday was a highlight, with our Design and Technology day. Inspired by the bold and colourful world of pop art, the children designed and made their own cushions. They practiced running and blanket stitching, producing some fantastic creations to be proud of. It's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and hard work across all subjects this week!

Year 6

This week Year 6 have had a great week! In English, they have been writing a diary entry as an evacuee of World War II. In Maths, the children have been learning about measurement using metres, centimetres and kilometres. In History, they have been learning about primary and secondary sources and in RE the focus was on learning how important the Christmas story is to Christians.

Diary Dates 2024-2025

Event	Date/Time
School Closes for Christmas	Friday 20 th December 2024, 2.00pm
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 6 th January 2025
Year 2 Class Assembly	Thursday 23 rd January 2025, 9.00am
Year 6 Laches Wood	Monday 27 th January to Friday 31 st January 2025
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 14 th February 2025
INSET Day	Monday 24 th February 2025
School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 25 th February 2025
Young Voices 2025	Thursday 27 th February 2025
School Closes for Easter	Friday 11 th April 2025, 2.00pm
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 28 th April 2025
May Day Bank Holiday – School Closed	Monday 5 th May 2025
Key Stage 2 SATs Week	Monday 12 th May 2025 to Friday 16 th May 2025
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 23 rd May 2025
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 2 nd June 2025
Reception Class Assembly	Thursday 5 th June 2025, 9.00am
Year 1 Class Assembly	Thursday 19 th June 2025, 9.00am
Year 4 Class Assembly	Thursday 26 th June 2025, 9.00am
Year 5 Class Assembly	Thursday 3 rd July 2025, 9.00am
JTMAT INSET Day	Friday 4 th July 2025
School Closes for Summer	Friday 18 th July 2025, 2.00pm
INSET Day	Monday 21st July 2025

Autumn Term Diary Dates

Event	Date/Time
JTMAT Christmas Concert	Tuesday 17 th December 2024
Christmas Lunch	Wednesday 18 th December 2024
School Closes for Christmas	Friday 20 th December 2024, 2.00pm
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 6 th January 2025

Spring Term Diary Dates

Event	Date/Time
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 6 th January 2025
Year 2 Class Assembly	Thursday 23 rd January 2025, 9.00am
Year 6 Laches Wood	Monday 27 th January to Friday 31 st January 2025
Shobnall Stars – After School Club ONLY Closed	Monday 3 rd February 2025
for Staff Training	
Mental Health Support Team (MHST) Introduction to	Tuesday 4 th February 2025, 3.30pm
Worry Parent Workshop	
NSPCC Number Day	Friday 7 th February 2025
PFA Valentine Disco	Friday 7 th February 2025:
	- KS1, 3.45pm – 5.00pm
	- KS2, 5.15pm – 6.30pm
Parents' Evening	Monday 10 th February 2025, 4.00pm – 7.00pm
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 11 th February 2025
Parents' Evening	Wednesday 12th February 2025, 4.00pm – 7.00pm
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 14 th February 2025
INSET Day	Monday 24 th February 2025

School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 25 th February 2025
Young Voices 2025	Thursday 27 th February 2025
World Book Day	Thursday 6 th March 2025
Comic Relief	Friday 21st March 2025
Year 5 Hampton Court Palace	Thursday 27 th March 2025
Eid al-Fitr	Sunday 30 th March 2025/Monday 31 st March 2025
Mother's Day Lunches - Reception	Tuesday 1 st April 2025
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 1	Wednesday 2 nd April 2025
Key Stage 2 SATs Meeting for Parents	Wednesday 2 nd April 2025, 3.30pm,
	Year 6 Classroom
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 2	Thursday 3 rd April 2025
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 3	Friday 4 th April 2025
PFA Easter Bingo	Friday 4 th April 2025, 5.00pm
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 4	Monday 7 th April 2025
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 5	Tuesday 8 th April 2025
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 6	Wednesday 9 th April 2025
School Closes for Easter	Friday 11 th April 2025, 2.00pm



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY



Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS



The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS



Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS



Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce

SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS



Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE



Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY



concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season





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