



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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7th February 2025

"The person who can bring the spirit of laughter into a room is indeed blessed."

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a fantastic week it has been at Shobnall Primary & Nursery School! We were delighted to welcome the new headteacher from Branston Locks Primary & Nursery School, who spent time shadowing me and was incredibly complimentary about both the high-quality learning taking place and the excellent behaviour of our children. It was wonderful to hear such positive feedback about our school community.



The children also had a thought-provoking assembly on 'worry' delivered by Sam Lewis from the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) as part of Children's Mental Health Week. They engaged brilliantly and have taken away some valuable strategies to help manage their worries in a positive way.

As I write this, the school is buzzing with excitement from NSPCC Number Day, where the children have been having lots of fun with maths activities. Preparations are also in full swing for tonight's PFA Valentine Disco, and we look forward to sharing with you next week just how much has been raised!

We are looking forward to welcoming parents to the school on Monday 10 February and Wednesday 12 February 2025, 4.00 – 7.00pm for parent consultations. If you have not already booked your slot, it is not too late to do so. Please follow the instructions that were provided on the email you previously received.

Please note that next week is our last week in school before the half-term holiday. Children will finish at the usual time on **Friday 14 February 2025**. School will open again for pupils on **Tuesday 25 February 2025**.

We hope that you all have a great weekend and look forward to seeing you on Monday! Enjoy!



Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 11 February 2025

We would like parents and carers to note that **Safer Internet Day 2025** will be celebrated on **11 February** with the theme **'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'**. Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people, and to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically, and creatively. Coordinated in the UK by the

UK Safer Internet Centre, Safer Internet Day is celebrated in over a hundred countries coordinated by the joint Insafe/INHOPE network, with the support of the European Commission, and national Safer Internet Centres across Europe. Click on the link below for more information, useful guides and resources:

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

Year 3 Class Assembly – Wednesday 9 April 2025

Miss Brewin would like to announce that Year 3's final Forest School session will also be their class assembly! The children would like to invite all their parents and carers to join them for this very special event! The assembly will provide parents with the unique opportunity to see firsthand the engaging and creative outdoor activities their children have been involved in. Please ensure that you come equipped with a pair of wellies as a change of shoes when entering the forest, along with appropriate clothing to keep you comfortable and safe during the experience. More details with timings and locations to meet will be provided closer to the event. We look forward to sharing this memorable adventure with you!



Essential Gas Works – Shobnall Road

We have been informed that essential Utility works are scheduled to be completed on Shobnall Road. To conduct the work safely, the road will be **closed** from **14 to 23 February 2025** inclusive. This will then change to **4-way lights** from **23 February to 10 March 2025**.



A fully signed diversion will be in place throughout the duration of the closure, and drivers are encouraged to plan ahead and allow extra time when travelling.

Access to properties and businesses will be maintained during the closure.

For any further enquiries please contact NRSWA@poweron-uk.co.uk or 01277 811735 ext.4 quoting the permit reference ZP010N0018014-R7-02.

Parent Survey Feedback

Following on from the feedback provided by parents in our Kirkland Rowell Survey, we would like to discuss the *appropriate use of social media* in this week's newsletter, which we have sent reminders about previously.

Parent/Carer WhatsApp groups, which operate independently of the school, can be a very useful way to connect parents in a particular class or year group. Class WhatsApp groups have been voluntarily set up by parents in each class and endeavour to include all parents with children in the



class. There is **no requirement** to join these groups and **participation** is **voluntary**. Ideally, these group chats should be used as an efficient means of receiving relevant updates and reminders about school events that have been published in the newsletter, or the sharing of information that is of general interest to all parents in the class.

Some parents have commented that they have felt uncomfortable at times with some of the discussions that have taken place on this forum and expressed a need for us to reinforce again that the misuse of any social media sites that is not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community is not acceptable in any way.

Please refer to the Social Media Code of Conduct for Parents on the school website should you need further clarification of what is deemed appropriate behaviour and the potential actions that could be taken in the event of a breach to these guidelines. Many thanks for your feedback and for your support and understanding.



Coffee morning for parents

Got concerns or questions about your
child's development?

Join the Early Years Special Educational Needs
Coordinators for tea, coffee, biscuits and a chat.



Get advice and
support about your
child's development:

- 25 February 2025
- 10am to 11am
- East Staffordshire Family Hub, Waterloo Street, DE14 2NJ



Family Hub
Staffordshire

- Right help.
- Right time.
- Right place.

Improve your Mental Health with Composting

If you are already a composting pro, why not get your friends and family to start their journey.

Asides from helping the environment, composting can be great for your own mental health by:

- Reducing stress and anxiety through mindful activity
- Providing a sense of accomplishment
- Connecting you with nature
- Involves physical activity, boosting mood.



Get a discounted compost bin if you live in Staffordshire by putting your postcode in www.getcomposting.com.



Online Safety Tips

'Fake news' is a widespread issue in the digital world, and it's overwhelmingly likely that both children and adults will be exposed to it online.

In fact, a study from the Alan Turing Institute has found that 94% of people in the UK have encountered misinformation on social media and that's only the ones who were aware of it!

However, while some fake news is shared mistakenly by well-meaning individuals, it's also shared by scammers and other cyber-criminals to lend legitimacy to their con. While this presents a clear risk to children and young people online, the question remains as to how we can protect them against such tactics.

This week's free guide offers expert advice on the specific ways scammers use misinformation and how to safeguard younger users against these techniques.

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.



Reading Corner

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

Animal Adventure

Part of the Lift the Flap Adventure Hunt series

It's time to go on an awesome animal adventure! Follow Gus the Explorer around the world as he takes you to meet some of the most amazing animals on the planet. Lift the flaps to discover tonnes of interesting facts about what they do, where they live and more, in a science expedition like no other. - Perfect for curious children looking to learn more about the animal kingdom! - Lift the flaps

on every page encourages interactive learning - Beautiful and bright illustrations throughout to keep children engaged



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.

If your child arrives late, it is the responsibility of the adult to report to the school office and sign the "Late Book", giving a reason for lateness. This is important so that the school office knows your child is in school and can mark your child in in the class register. The class registers in the classrooms close at 8.55am when lessons start.

When reporting an absence, please could we ask that parents contact the school office before 9.30am 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 6!** Here are the latest figures...

Reception	89.0%	Target
Year 1	92.7%	97%
Year 2	93.0%	
Year 3	94.4%	
Year 4	96.6%	Overall (to date)
Year 5	98.4%	96.3%
Year 6	100%	
Overall	94.6%	

Head Teacher's Awards

Reception	Aidan B	Penelope P
Year 1	Millie G	Thomas G
Year 2	Jakub K	Aadam A
Year 3	Fynn Mc	Esmee E
Year 4	Angus B	Layla N
Year 5	Aadil F	Aminah A
Year 6	Everyone	Everyone





Lunchtime Star Awards


Reception	Lakshmi S
Year 1	Kinza S
Year 2	Mia L
Year 3	Esmee E
Year 4	Ethan G
Year 5	Eisa L
Year 6	Fatimah A

Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 07.02.25)	106	110	67	202
Position	3 rd – 2 Points	2 nd – 3 Points	4 th – 1 Point	1 st – 4 Points
Running Total	8	10	9	15





Hot Lunch Options 10.02.25 – 14.02.25


WEEK 3	MEAT FREE 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 & tomato pasta bake	Crispy battered fish & chunky chips
Vegetarian Main dish	Roasted vegetable pizza	 Vegetable tikka masala with 50/50 rice	 Quorn™ fillet with roast potatoes & gravy	Macaroni cheese	 Quorn™ nuggets with chunky chips
Accompaniments	Peas & baked beans Salad bar	Sweetcorn & carrots Salad bar	Carrots & cauliflower Salad bar	Broccoli & green beans Salad bar	Peas & baked beans Salad bar
Desserts	Fruit flapjack	Marble sponge & custard	Lemon cake	Shortbread	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



TO EAT MORE FRUIT

KEY

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



"Allergens and Intolerances"
All of our food is lovingly hand-crafted and prepared on site daily. We have an allergen procedure in place, so please inform you make our catering team aware of your allergen/your child's allergen prior to using the restaurant. Our kitchens are used for multi-purpose production so we cannot guarantee the above dishes are completely free from allergenic ingredients or traces of these.

SHOBNALL SHOWCASE!

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

Nursery

We have been learning to use and respond to some positional vocabulary, e.g. across, around, in, over, in front, on, under etc and began by reading the story 'Rosie's Walk' by Pat Hutchins. We have had a great time completing a variety of activities linked to our focus book, 'Rosie's Walk' and have had fun re telling the story using a variety of props. We have also been very creative and have had lots of fun painting our own interpretations of Rosie the hen and also the fox.

We have also enjoyed exploring old and new vehicles and we have had a great time in our bus station, taking on the role of a bus driver and bus conductor and driving around different places.

Reception

It has been a super week in Reception!

We went back in time and boarded the famous ship, 'The Titanic,' this week as we continued to explore our topic, Ships Ahoy! It was an exciting adventure as we waved goodbye and set sail for New York unfortunately we hit a giant iceberg but were lucky enough to get on a lifeboat!

After our trip we joined in with lots of activities including some sketching, creating our own Titanic ships using small and large construction materials, creating outfits for the passengers and retelling the story in our acting avenue.

Thursday marked the 80th Birthday of Bob Marley and we had a fabulous time learning and celebrating his music. We learnt lots of facts about him and enjoyed sharing the story, 'Every Little Thing,' which is one of his songs adapted by Cedella Marley. We then created artwork and made our own guitars. We even explored real guitars and learnt the names for the different parts. It was fun making our, 'little birds,' using the colours of the Jamaican flag- that's where Bob Marley was born. We then had lots of singing and dancing to his wonderful music- the genre is reggae.



Year 1



Year 1 have been learning all about diary entries this week and what features they include. They have been learning the different meaning of key vocabulary in the model text. In maths, we have been learning to add numbers to 20 using a number line and our knowledge of number bonds.

On Wednesday, we spent the whole day at Forest school where we were able to cook popcorn on the fire as well as toasting some marshmallows. The children loved being able to create some mini beasts homes and creating different constellations out of natural materials.

We have finished off the week with Number Day where we have seen how much maths we could do with a bag of skittles and we loved being able to taste test them afterwards.

Year 2

This week has been amazing in Year 2! On Monday, we've started a new reading session where we're reading *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark* as a whole class. The children are really enjoying it and have developed a fantastic understanding of the book so far. They especially love our popcorn reading sessions, where everyone gets a turn to read aloud, and it's great to see their confidence growing! In English, we've kicked off our new topic with the delightful story of *Cinderelphant*, and the children are really enjoying it, using their creativity to explore the fun twist on a classic fairy tale. In History, we've been learning about the inspiring life of Martin Luther King Jr. and his significant contributions to equality and justice. The children have worked hard to create fantastic fact file sheets all about him! In Geography, we've been exploring the different continents of the world, and the children had a blast putting together their very own quick world jigsaws. It's been a week filled with excitement, learning, and lots of fun!

Year 3

This week, our Year 3 children have been busy exploring a range of exciting topics across the curriculum! In English, they have been drafting and editing their sections of an explanation text titled *How Do Magnets Help Us?* linking perfectly to their Science lessons. As part of their learning, they conducted an experiment around the classroom, investigating which objects were magnetic and which were not. In Maths, the children have been working hard on converting measurements, as well as adding, subtracting, and calculating perimeters. Meanwhile, in History, they have been delving into the Bronze Age, gathering their own research and using it to construct model Bronze Age houses. It's been a fantastic week of hands-on learning and discovery!

Year 4

This week has been packed with exciting learning adventures! In Maths, we've been exploring fractions – understanding parts of a whole and even practicing how to add and subtract them. It's been wonderful to see everyone grasp this essential concept. In English, creativity took centre stage as we dived into poetry about the changing states of matter. From melting ice to swirling steam, the verses were as imaginative as they were descriptive. History lessons transported us back in time as we studied Viking longboats. We uncovered fascinating facts about their design, purpose, and the incredible voyages these iconic vessels undertook. In Art, we've been experimenting with tints and shades, learning how to create depth and mood in our paintings by mixing colours. It's been a fantastic week of discovery, creativity, and fun! We can't wait to see what's in store for next week. Well done Year 4!



Year 5

Year 5 have had a fantastic week of learning!

In English, the children were excited to complete the drafting and editing of their persuasive leaflets about Whitemoor Lakes. They are looking forward to publishing them next week as part of their unit of learning.

In Maths, Year 5 have shown great success, quickly grasping the concept of converting between fractions and decimals.

Afternoons have been filled with a variety of engaging activities, including testing the effects of friction on different materials using a Newton meter in Science, researching local historical figures in History, and creating printing plate boards in Art.

Towards the end of the week, Year 5's competitive spirit shone as they battled it out on TTRockstars against other JTMAT primaries for NSPCC Number Day. The children sharpened their multiplication skills and competed fearlessly to climb the leaderboard – we can't wait to see their final position!



Year 6

This week in Year 6, we tackled one-step and two-step equations in algebra, building our confidence in solving problems. In English, we explored new vocabulary from a fascinating model text about the life of a chimney sweep. In History, we delved into the lives of Victorian children and discussed how the Industrial Revolution shaped social and political organisations. We ended the week with our reading session of *Alex Rider: Stormbreaker* – we're on the edge of our seats, eager to find out what happens next in Alex's mission!

Well done, Year 6, for another fantastic week of learning!

Diary Dates 2024-2025

Event	Date/Time
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
Year 3 Class Assembly	Wednesday 9 th April 2025
School Closes for Easter	Friday 11 th April 2025, 2.00pm
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 28 th April 2025
County Council Elections – School Closed	Thursday 1 st May 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 21 st July 2025

Spring Term Diary Dates

Event	Date/Time
Parents' Evening	Monday 10 th February 2025, 4.00pm – 7.00pm
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 11 th February 2025
Parents' Evening	Wednesday 12 th 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 21 st 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
Year 3 Class Assembly	Wednesday 9 th April 2025
School Closes for Easter	Friday 11 th April 2025, 2.00pm



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

Have you seen this video of yourself?

SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.



YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.



FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.



PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.



FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.



Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.



TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.



ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.



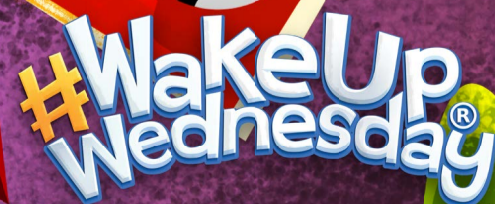
BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).



Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk for more.



The National College