



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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

7th March 2025

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

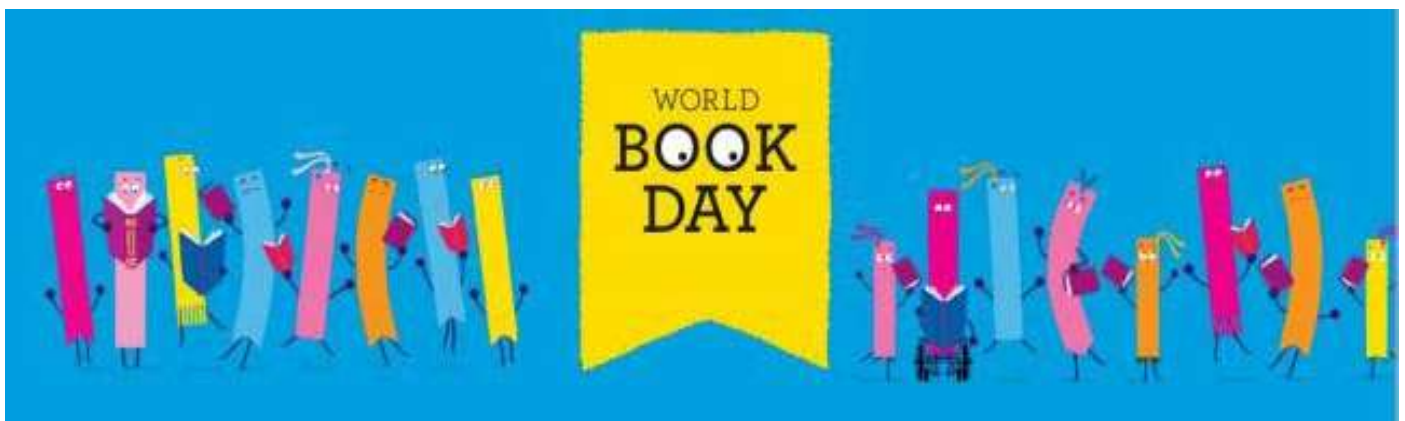
Dear Parents/Carers,

What a busy week! In school, it's all been about books, books, and more books! Not just because of World Book Day but because we love them! The children (and staff) had a great time on Thursday coming dressed in their pyjamas in support of our theme on bedtime stories! Everyone looked really cosy and fabulous, and we must thank all of our parents and carers who helped the children prepare! In addition to this, the children engaged with a great range of activities during the day focused on reading. They particularly enjoyed having a different teacher visit their classroom and read a different story to them. A great time has been had by all and I'm sure you will enjoy reading about the children's experiences as you work your way through the newsletter.



Last week we told you that our school has been successful in our recent application to become a breakfast club early adopter school, with 750 schools being funded by the Government to provide access to a free, universal breakfast club. Thank you to everyone for responding to our survey and for providing their views about their child attending the free breakfast club, which will begin at the start of the summer term. We can now proceed with making further plans and will be in touch again shortly to provide an update on how our plans are progressing.

Whatever it is you have planned for the weekend, we hope that you are able to rest, relax and spend quality time together as families. As always, we look forward to seeing you all again on Monday. Enjoy!



World Book Day

Wow! What a great day we had!

Everyone participated in lots of fun activities throughout the day. These included participating in a live World Book Day lesson via BBC Teach Live World Book Day, *The Footy & Booky Quiz* (where Year 5 won a box of books for school!) and 'Share a Story Time'!

Don't forget to use your **World Book Day £1 Voucher** which can be used to get a **FREE** book! Getting a free £1 book for your child is easy - simply take your £1 book token to your nearest bookseller and swap it for a World Book Day £1 book OR get £1 off any book or audiobook costing £2.99 or more. You can find your nearest bookseller at worldbookday.com/participating-retailers. Many thanks to everyone for making our World Book Day a success!



Mental Health Support Team **Sleep Hygiene** Workshop – Thursday 13 March 2025

Sam Lewis, our Mental Health Support Team (MHST) worker is holding another one hour workshop for parents on Thursday 13 March, 3.30pm – 4.30pm. The topic will be **Sleep Hygiene**. We do hope that you are able to attend, as the content is very useful and relevant.

Please enquire with Mrs Johnston, our Family Liaison Officer, if you have any questions or would like any further information. We look forward to seeing you there!

OPAL Update!



We have had a great first week of OPAL! Thank you to everyone for supporting us in our efforts to improve playtimes for all children. Your support in making OPAL a success is greatly appreciated!

As mentioned in the introduction letter you received earlier this week, if you have any unwanted materials such as pipes, crates, fabric, or other safe loose parts that could be used for play, please refer to the sheet attached on the letter for a list of suggested donations. If you could drop these off in the designated donation drop-off area on the back playground, that would be great.

Next week, children with wellies will be able to go on the field at lunchtimes. Our aim is for every child to have a pair of wellies kept in school so they can access the field even on wet days. Wellies will become part of the school uniform. Welly storage is nearly finished, so please could we ask that wellies are brought in by the beginning of next week. Thank you!





Bee-riliiant News for Bees!

Exciting news for nature lovers! The West Midlands is now home to several 'bee beaches' thanks to the Purple Horizons Nature Recovery Project. This initiative, led by Natural England, aims to restore historic heathland habitats and create essential bare ground areas for our threatened pollinators.

It has introduced seven new bee-friendly sites including Chasewater Country Park and Muckley Corner.

These efforts are a significant step towards enhancing local biodiversity and ensuring the long-term health of our natural environment.

[Read more here.](#)

Online Safety Tips

It's World Book Day this week, a perfect time to celebrate the joy of reading and explore how technology can support literacy.

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy.

To help struggling readers, many digital platforms offer tools that enhance readability by making text more accessible and engaging. This week's free guide – also available in podcast format – offers parents and educators ten top tips on how they can help young readers engage in text and foster a love for reading.



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.

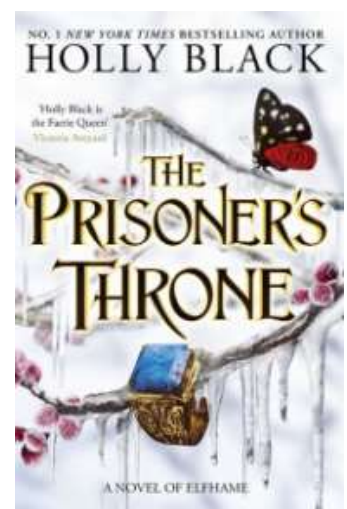
Reading Corner

This week's recommended read is for children aged 11+...

The Prisoner's Throne

Written by Holly Black

The Stolen Heir reintroduces Suren and Oak, eight years after the battle of the serpent in Holly Black's popular *The Folk of the Air* series. With part one of this tale written from Suren's perspective we dive into *The Prisoner's Throne* to see how their story continues from Oak's point of view. The plot follows immediately on from the dramatic conclusion to its predecessor and concludes The Stolen Heir duology. Prince Oak is paying for his betrayal but how far reaching are the repercussions of his deceptions, and what choices will he have to make in order to keep everyone he loves alive.



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 3!** Here are the latest figures...

Reception	90.8%	Target
Year 1	95.0%	97%
Year 2	96.7%	
Year 3	98.0%	
Year 4	96.1%	Overall (to date)
Year 5	94.4%	96.2%
Year 6	96.9%	
Overall	96.2%	

Head Teacher's Awards

Reception	Maya P	Ethan B
Year 1	Ava C	Amelia M
Year 2	Hassan A	Jack P
Year 3	Inaaya A	Isla G
Year 4	Milli M-B	Isaac P
Year 5	EVERYONE!	
Year 6	Dexter K	Tabatha L








Lunchtime Star Awards


Reception	Minahil F
Year 1	Haider H
Year 2	Aadam A
Year 3	Noah H
Year 4	Thea K
Year 5	Rosie T
Year 6	Angelo M

Team Points





Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 07.03.25)	29	49	119	101
Position	4 th – 1 Point	3 rd – 2 Points	1 st – 4 Points	2 nd – 3 Points
Running Total	4	6	6	4

Hot Lunch Options 10.03.25 – 14.03.25

WEEK 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 & 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



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 ensure you make our catering team aware of your allergens/ your child's allergens 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...

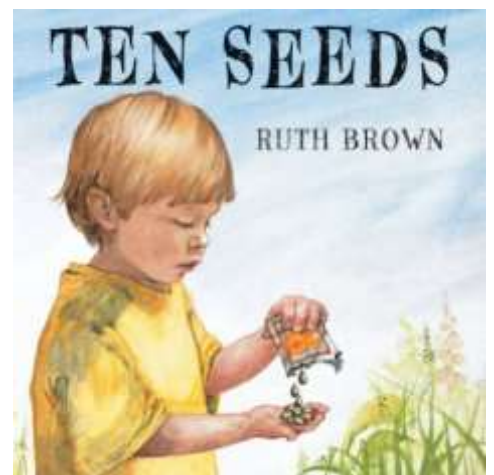
Nursery

Our adventures in Nursery this week...

The children have been continuing enjoying their new class book, *Ten Seeds*. They have been hard at work subitising 10 seeds using a ten frame and have re-enacted the story using the puppets and story props.

Wednesday brought the excitement of their second Forest School experience. The children had a fantastic time engaging in a variety of gingerbread man-themed activities. They crafted clay gingerbread men, baked delicious gingerbread man biscuits in the mud kitchen, and embarked on an exciting hunt to find gingerbread man characters hidden around the forest.

Thursday was a special day as the children had a brilliant day celebrating World Book Day. They had a delightful morning and had a visit from the Year 5 children who read their favourite stories to them!



Reception

Our adventures in Reception this week...

We have had a wonderful, busy week in reception...

On Monday we had a big change to our lunchtime play as we fully embraced Opal! It has been fantastic, exploring and having lots of fun using different resources and joining in with children throughout the year groups.

On Tuesday we enjoyed the story, 'Mr Wolf's Pancakes,' by Jan Fearnley. We enjoyed discussing a variety of toppings and pointed out which were healthy and unhealthy. We then designed our own pancakes using a variety of media including, paints, playdough and iPads.

On Thursday we all looked fantastic as we arrived to school in our pyjamas to celebrate World Book Day! We were all eager to share our favourite books and bedtime buddies. During PE we had fun taking part in some parachute games using our soft toys- it was lots of fun seeing how high they could go.

In the afternoon we had a cosy afternoon in the sunshine sharing books with Year 6.

The World Book Day themed continued on Friday as we invited our grandparents, Aunts and Uncles to join us in a story filled afternoon. We shared books and explored a variety of themed activities including, a tea party for the Tiger who came to Tea, making porridge for Goldilocks and the Three Bears, using playdough to make Gingerbread Men and designing our own Zog characters!

Year 1

In English, the children have been planning their diary entry and including all the features they have learnt during this unit of writing. The children have begun to write up the beginning of their diary entry today and Miss Barker is so impressed with all the features they have included. In Maths, the children have been continuing developing their subtraction knowledge and finding the difference. We had a DT day on Wednesday, where all the children designed and created their own personalised smoothies. They learnt how to chop and juice different fruits as



well as taste testing before they chose their smoothie ingredients. We also celebrated World Book Day and got to share our favourite books with Year 3. Well done Year 1!



Year 2

We've had a fantastic week in Year 2! In maths, we've been exploring multiplication and division, and the children have really impressed us with their understanding of these concepts.

In English, we've been diving into the past, researching different types of transport that people used long ago. The children have loved using iPads to find interesting facts and learn more about how travel has changed over time.

Our computing lessons have been full of excitement too! The children went on a mini-beast hunt on the field, carefully recording their findings in a tally chart before turning their data into a graph using the iPads.

To top it all off, we had a wonderful World Book Day celebration, with everyone coming to school in their pyjamas! It was a fantastic way to share our love of reading and enjoy stories together.

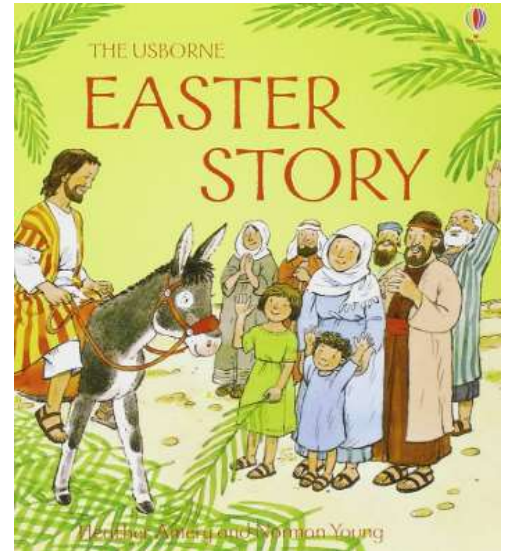
Well done, Year 2 – another brilliant week of learning!

Year 3

Our Year 3 pupils have been working hard and enjoying a range of exciting activities this week! In English, they have been exploring direct speech and discovering a variety of synonyms to enhance their writing. In maths, they have been busy measuring mass, developing their understanding of weight and balance. Art lessons have been particularly creative, as the children made their own paint using spices and natural materials and used bulgur wheat to recreate the texture of stone age art on walls. They also had the wonderful opportunity to read with Year 1 and were captivated by Miss Martin-Mills' storytelling on World Book Day. One of the highlights was Forest School, where they built dens, tied knots, crafted magic wands, and spread kindness by leaving positive messages on decorated rocks hidden around the forest. It has been a fantastic week of learning, creativity, and adventure!

Year 4

This week in Year 4 has been full of exciting learning adventures! In Maths, we've been mastering the art of subtracting fractions. The class has enjoyed solving problems and applying their new skills to real-life scenarios. An impressive achievement! In English, creativity has been at the forefront as we designed our very own Viking characters. Inspired by the legendary Viking gods Loki, Odin, and Thor, the children have created fascinating characters for their stories. This ties beautifully into our history topic, where we've been investigating the impact of the Viking invasions on British history. The children have shown great curiosity in exploring how these events have shaped our nation. Our science lessons have been hands-on, with experiments demonstrating how vibrations create sound. The children were amazed to discover how vibrations travel and allow us to hear! Finally, in RE, we've been delving into the significance of Easter for Christians. Through thoughtful discussions and activities, the class has developed a deeper understanding of this important celebration. It's been a fantastic week of learning and discovery. Well done Year 4!



Year 5

Year 5 have been working incredibly hard this week, showing enthusiasm and determination across all areas of their learning.

In Maths, they kicked off an exciting new unit on measuring the perimeter of rectilinear shapes and polygons. The children quickly grasped the concept of perimeter and used this to strengthen their skills in adding whole and decimal numbers!



In English, Year 5 have been captivated by their unit on *The Tragedy of Beddgelert*. Through role-play, they explored the emotions of Llewelyn in his heart-wrenching tale, which inspired them to write powerful and emotive diary entries from his perspective. Their writing truly brought the story to life!

The wonders of space continue to fuel Year 5's curiosity as they delved into the heliocentric model of the solar system. Working together, they created a stunning paper mâché solar system, which will soon take pride of place in their classroom.

The highlight of the week was *World Book Day!* Year 5 took part in a range of exciting reading-based activities, including a thrilling 'Battle of the Characters', where they delivered passionate speeches and voted for their favourite book characters. They also competed in *The Footy & Booky Quiz*, hosted by The National Literacy Trust in partnership with the Premier League, and they WON! Their prize? A fantastic box of books for the school, which we can't wait to open when it arrives next week!

Year 6

What a fantastic week of learning! In science, we explored how animals are classified, deepening our understanding of different species. In English, we worked hard on writing our chimney sweep stories, focusing on engaging the reader through varied sentence structures, parenthesis, relative clauses, and semi-colons to create a cohesive narrative. In maths, we wrapped up our decimals unit by looking at fractions as decimals before moving on to percentages. A highlight of the week was *World Book Day!* The children created their own book trailers on PowerPoint, enjoyed more of *Stormbreaker*, and even took part in shared reading with Reception. Well done, Year 6!

Diary Dates 2024-2025

Event	Date/Time
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
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

Train to Teach

in Local Schools

Primary (3-7) · Primary (5-11) · Secondary (11-16)



The John Taylor SCITT

jtscitt.co.uk

Funding
for Selected
Routes

Full or
Part-Time
Routes

Gain School
Experience



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College