



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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4th April 2025

"Children are not things to be moulded, but people to be unfolded."

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have really enjoyed seeing so many parents in school this week for the start of our Mother's Day lunches. We have had a lot of positive feedback about them already and are delighted that they have been so well received! We look forward to seeing so many more visitors over the next week! I would personally like to thank the kitchen staff and play team who have gone above and beyond to make this a really special event for everyone involved.



We would also like to take this opportunity again to wish all our Muslim families a very happy, peaceful and prosperous Eid, which has been celebrated this week. Eid Mubarak! The children have had a fantastic day today in school, celebrating Eid-al-Fitr in their classrooms! It has been great to have seen the children in their traditional festive clothing and bright party outfits! Many thanks to all those parents who cooked and sent in food for the celebration. Look on our Instagram and X page to see for yourself how the party went...

As the ink dries on this week's newsletter, the PFA Easter Bingo will be well underway! The PFA would like to thank everyone in advance for their very kind donations of chocolate that will be awarded as prizes, and to those who are able to come along and support the event. We will let you

know the total that has been raised to support the PFA's new project of enhancing our outdoor provision in next week's newsletter. Thank you once again for supporting the school.

Please note that next week is our last week in school before the Easter holiday. Children will finish at **2.00pm** on **Friday 11 April 2025** and please note that Shobnall Stars will be closed for After School Club only. School will open again for pupils on **Monday 28 April 2025**.

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!



More Sporting Success for Shobnall!

Our school has been making waves recently, with some fantastic sporting achievements to celebrate!

You will already know that our netball team emerged victorious in the Dove Valley Netball Tournament a couple of weeks ago, showcasing incredible teamwork and determination.

The success hasn't stopped there though! Last Friday, our Year 5 and 6 hockey team did us proud once again, securing 1st place in the Everyone Active Hockey Tournament at Shobnall Leisure Complex. A huge thank you to Mrs. Welch for her expert coaching, which played a vital role in the team's achievement.

Meanwhile, our Year 5 and 6 swimming team put on an outstanding performance at Denstone College on Tuesday. Competing in both individual and team events, they narrowly missed out on the top spot by just one point, finishing as gracious runners-up. Their resilience and sportsmanship made us incredibly proud!

Well done to all our talented athletes – your hard work and dedication continue to shine!



Breakfast Club Early Adopter Final Plans!

As you will be aware, we are very excited to be part of the government's **breakfast club early adopter scheme**, which is funding universal breakfast clubs in up to 750 primary schools! From summer term 2025, free breakfast clubs will be available in early adopter schools, as part of a test and learn phase, so that the government can plan for a full national roll-out of universal breakfast clubs in primary schools. We have been busy planning to be ready for the launch on Monday 28 April, and are pleased to announce how you can now access this incredible offer.

We have re-branded both our existing breakfast club and our after school club. Breakfast club will be known as **Shobnall Stars Early Birds** and after school club will be known as **Shobnall Stars Night Owls**. We have produced new information booklets for both, which will be available on our website imminently.

In the meantime, please read the following information carefully, as this will tell you all about **Shobnall Stars Early Birds**, launching on **Monday 28 April 2025**...

SHOBNALL STARS EARLY BIRDS

Shobnall Stars Early Birds will run from **7.30am to 8.45am, Monday to Friday.**

The club will be fully supervised in the school hall by our staff, providing a safe and fun start to the day. Please note, supplementary staff from within the school may also be in attendance in addition to our permanent 'early birds' to ensure for safe ratios for those accessing the free provision.

Parents are not permitted to enter the provision when in operation due to safeguarding regulations. From 7.30am, parents must notify staff that their child wishes to join by ringing the bell to the right of the front gate. A member of staff will greet you before taking your child into the hall for registration. From 8.15am, a member of staff will be on duty by the gate to admit pupils due to higher numbers from this time.

Our club will include a range of activities such as games, reading, "Wake Up, Shake Up" to name but a few. If any child has an accident whilst in our care, as parents, you will be informed in accordance with our procedures.

There is a choice of breakfast cereals, toast and preserves and a selection of fruit from 8.15am every day. On Fridays, there will be a 'special breakfast' available. Water is available for your child. If you are accessing the paid part of our provision, food is free of charge.

Pricing has been reviewed, and our new prices are:

7.30am to 8.15am – £2.50 per child to attend

8.15am to 8.45am – FREE

All payments to be made via Parent Pay. Please note that we are also registered for Childcare Vouchers and, should this apply, these will be an accepted payment method.

Please complete this form to book your child at our Breakfast Club.

[Shobnall Stars Early Birds Booking Form](#)

You will need to complete one form per child, on a weekly basis. Forms will need to be submitted by 12noon the Friday before you wish to book. Please also select your breakfast options in advance to assist with catering, specifying dietary requirements if necessary.

*Sessions **MUST** be booked in advance on a weekly basis. This is to ensure correct supervision ratios are applied. Children cannot turn up on the day without a session being booked in advance.*

Please let us know in advance if your child will not be attending a booked session. Please note that the Club cannot give refunds for any paid sessions that have booked which your child does not attend. Please email Shobnall Stars directly at shb-wraparound@shb.jtmat.co.uk which is checked between 9.00am and 3.30pm, Monday to Friday.

We look forward to welcoming your child/children to this exciting provision in our school.



Similar systems will apply for **Shobnall Stars Night Owls**. Please keep an eye on your emails, as new information booklets for the breakfast and after school club provision have been sent to you directly in the first instance, so that you have all the information you need to ensure you are able to book in advance.



HAF fun this Easter

Holiday Activities and Food funded for children and young people aged 5-16 who get free school meals*. Paid places also available.



SCAN ME!



visit staffordshire.gov.uk/holidayactivities

Eco-friendly Easter

The days are getting longer and brighter, which means that Easter is approaching. Easter can create a lot of unnecessary excess waste, so check out these top tips:

- Look for recyclable, compostable packaging.
- If you can't avoid the plastic, make sure you recycle it afterwards.
- Recycle the foil! Did you know you can recycle foil in your kerbside recycling? Or take it to your nearest recycling centre.
- Shop local and Fairtrade.
- Get creative - make decorations from things you already have in the house.
- Use natural dye for your eggs - things like purple cabbage, beetroot and turmeric will work well.
- Compost your eggshells.



Online Safety Tips

Instagram remains one of the world's most popular social media platforms, especially among teens – used by around 70% of 13 to 17-year-olds.

It may be one of the most familiar social media names around but features like AI-powered chatbots and Threads integration have added fresh challenges for families and schools to navigate. From worrying livestreams to issues like social exclusion and fear of missing out, Instagram isn't just about photos.

As the platform evolves, so too must the conversations we have with young people about how they use it.

This latest guide outlines what these new features involve, the possible risks they bring and how to make the most of Instagram's parental controls to keep children safe online

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+...

Pike

Written by Anthony McGowan

Not a word is wasted in this fine novel. On one level it is a thriller: fishing on Bacon Pond Nicky spots a glint of gold in its murky depths, and recognises the Rolex owned by a local gangster. It seems to be still attached to his wrist. Nicky feels that the gangster owes him and his family and sets out to retrieve the Rolex with the help of his brother Kenny. Nicky's search for the watch results in a series of events that will change his and his family's life for the better.

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

Reception	98.3%	Target
Year 1	96.3%	97%
Year 2	93.3%	
Year 3	99.1%	
Year 4	100%	Overall (to date)
Year 5	98.7%	95.8%
Year 6	93.8%	
Overall	96.3%	

Head Teacher's Awards

Lunchtime Star Awards





Reception	Zaynab A	Ava M
Year 1	Harriet O	Harper O
Year 2	Lincoln S-B	Teigan W
Year 3	Penelope T	Aria A
Year 4	Lily B	Mariam A
Year 5	Finlay B	Fatiha N-M
Year 6	Constance L	Rhema B

Reception	Freddie B
Year 1	Kadeem H
Year 2	Mariam S
Year 3	Aria A
Year 4	Ben S
Year 5	Dylan S
Year 6	Faryal S

Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 04.04.25)	168	64	154	97
Position	1 st – 4 Points	4 th – 1 Point	2 nd – 3 Points	3 rd – 2 Points
Running Total	12	9	14	15

Hot Lunch Options 07.04.25 – 11.04.25

WEEK 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main dish	Margherita pizza with baked potato wedges	Pork sausage with creamy mash potato & gravy	Roast beef, with Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes & gravy	Chicken burger with crispy diced potato	Crispy fish fingers with chunky chips
Vegetarian Main dish	Roasted vegetable pizza	 Vegan sausage & mash potato with gravy	 Quorn™ fillet with roast potatoes & gravy	Vegetarian burger with crispy diced potato	 Crispy vegetable fingers with chunky chips
Accompaniments	Peas & baked beans Salad bar	Peas & carrots Salad bar	Carrots & cauliflower Salad bar	Green beans & sweetcorn Salad bar	Peas & baked beans Salad bar
Desserts	Apple & cinnamon muffin	Shortbread	 Flapjack	Jam & coconut sponge	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



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 has been an exciting, busy week in Nursery.

The week began with the children exploring the celebration of Eid Al-Fitr! They enjoyed listening to the different ways some of their friends celebrated and had fun exploring the continuous provision, completing a range of Eid based activities.

The children were extremely interested to learn all about the important values and traditions related to the celebration of Eid Al-Fitr and had a lovely morning celebrating during our Eid party! The highlight of the party was having the opportunity to have henna applied by Mrs Jamil!



Reception

Our adventures in Reception this week...

It has been an exciting week in reception as we learnt about the wonderful festival of Eid!

Some of our friends were very excited to share with us about their celebrations.

"I had lots of tasty food and some chicken it was a bit spicy" (Azaan)

"Look I have mehndi on my hands they are flower patterns." (Minnie)

"I had some yummy pakoras with my mummy." (Ayaz)

"I wore new clothes, blue ones and so did my baby sister and my mummy we all had blue" (Zaynab)

On Tuesday we were very excited to welcome our mummies into school to join us for lunch. They were very happy to see our beaming smiles and the beautiful plants which we had planted for them with extra love.

On Friday we arrived at school in our party clothes and some of us wore our traditional Eid outfits. We looked magnificent!

It was a fun filled day taking part in a variety of themed activities, dancing, games and munching on some yummy snacks.

Eid Mubarak!

Year 1

In Maths, we have been learning to measure the length and height of items using both non standard units of measurements and rulers. The children have really enjoyed being able to find items longer, shorter and taller and smaller than a given measurement and also using centimetres. In English, we have been using exclamation marks as well as designing their own magical lands for the giant to live in. We have been learning all



about medicine safety in PSHE as well as retelling the Easter story. In Science, we have been learning all about omnivores, herbivores and carnivores and identifying which animals belong to each group. We have also had lots of wonderful Eid celebrations this afternoon. Well done Year 1.



Year 2

This week in Year 2 has been wonderfully busy and filled with engaging activities! In Maths, we kicked off our unit on mass, where the children have been enthusiastically exploring different weights. They enjoyed weighing various objects and comparing them, which has sparked their curiosity about measurements in everyday life. In English, we've been diving into the fascinating world of King Charles and his family, leading to lively discussions about royal traditions and history. The children's excitement has made our lessons

particularly enjoyable! In Religious Education, we've been looking at Easter stories and discussing the significance of the holiday. The students also created some beautiful Easter crafts, which they can't wait to showcase at home. We celebrated Mother's Day with a special lunch that was a big hit; the children loved sharing this meal with Mrs Sadya and Miss Walton, who joined in the meal. To top off the week, we had a joyful Eid celebration filled with fun activities and games, making this week truly memorable for everyone involved!

Year 3

This week, our Year 3 children have been busy with lots of exciting learning! In English, they have been exploring synonyms and using expanded noun phrases to describe our school in creative ways. In Maths, they have been working hard to find fractions of numbers and using their reasoning skills to determine whole numbers when given only a fraction. As part of



their Topic lessons, they have been delving into the Bronze Age, examining fascinating artifacts from an archer's burial ground to uncover what they tell us about life in the past. Forest School was a real treat, as the children toasted marshmallows around the fire and even made delicious flapjacks using a Dutch oven! To top off a fantastic week, they had a wonderful time celebrating at the Eid party. Well done, Year 3!



Year 4

In Maths, we've wrapped up our decimals unit by diving into hundredths and exploring them on a place value grid. The children have shown excellent understanding and are becoming more confident when working with decimal numbers. In English, the children have completed their final edits for their Viking myth stories, and the results are absolutely amazing! They've poured their creativity into their writing, and each myth tells an exciting adventure. In Science, we've been investigating the insulation of sound. The children have been experimenting with different materials to see which ones are the most effective at blocking sound. It's been fascinating to see them think critically and work together on this hands-on project. In DT, the children have been testing out different biscuits! They've been exploring texture, taste, and design to create the perfect biscuit. It's been a fun and delicious project, and we've all enjoyed sampling the results! Finally, we celebrated Eid on Friday afternoon with a lovely party. It was a great way to come together, share stories, and enjoy some festive treats. As always, it's been a wonderful week of learning. Well done Year 4!

Year 5

Year 5 have had an amazing week! In English, they've been busy drafting and editing their tragedy stories. The class has worked incredibly hard, using a model text to inspire and improve their writing, which has made a real difference to their work. In Maths, the children have been mastering the skill of measuring, drawing, and calculating angles with protractors. Although it was a tricky concept at first, they've now gained a strong understanding and can confidently use the correct vocabulary to identify different types of angles. Year 5 also wrapped up their final French lesson for this unit, where they wrote full sentences about a week of activities

in French, including their translations. To finish off the week, they completed their final Science lesson by designing their very own planets. All in all, it's been a fantastic and productive week – well done, Year 5!

Year 6

Year 6 have had another fantastic week of learning! In science, we explored Carl Linnaeus' classification system, learning how animals are grouped into seven sections – Domain, Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, and Species. In maths, we worked on interpreting and creating pie charts, using fractions and percentages to analyse data. In English, we planned and began writing our recounts based on the music video *Titanium*, focusing on structure and detail. Our SPaG revision covered word classes, while in reading, we practised test techniques – breaking down questions, underlining key information, and improving time management. We ended the week with a wonderful Eid celebration on Friday afternoon. 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
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

A promotional banner for 'Train to Teach in Local Schools'. The background shows a smiling woman (a teacher) sitting at a desk with two young girls, who are looking at a book together. The text 'Train to Teach' is prominently displayed in large white letters, with 'in Local Schools' in smaller green text below it. To the left, there are three overlapping circles in teal, orange, and pink, each containing a benefit: 'Funding for Selected Routes', 'Full or Part-Time Routes', and 'Gain School Experience'. Below the main title, the text 'Primary (3-7) · Primary (5-11) · Secondary (11-16)' is written. At the bottom right, there is a logo consisting of three overlapping circles in teal, orange, and pink, followed by the text 'The John Taylor SCITT' and the website 'jtscitt.co.uk'.



ATTENDANCE

WHY IT MATTERS



Persistent absence means pupils who miss more than **10% of school** every year.

-£750

For each additional day of absence between years 7 to 11, the typical pupil could miss out on an average of **£750** in future lifetime earnings

-£10,000

Persistently absent pupils in year 10 and 11 could earn **£10,000 less** on average at age 28, compared to pupils with near perfect attendance

This **risks to almost £20k less** on average at age 28 for those who are **severely absent**

-£20k

For **employability over a sustained period**, people age 28 were around:



Less likely to be employed when **persistently absent***



Less likely to be employed when **severely absent***

*Compared to their peers with near perfect attendance

HOLIDAY SPORTS CAMP

Have fun in the
school holidays
with your friends!



William Shrewsbury

Mosley Academy

Thomas Russell Infants

William Shrewsbury
(DE13 0HE)
April 14th - 25th
Thomas Russell (DE13 8DS)
April 14th - 25th
Mosley Academy
(DE13 9QD)
April 14th - 17th

Camp info

Times: 8.30am - 3.15pm
Ages: 4-13
What to bring:
Packed lunch
snack plenty to drink,

Late collection option
4.15pm

Featuring

Dodgeball
Football
Basketball
Cricket

Movies at lunchtime
Easter Activities
Street dance
Nerf wars
Zorb football
Capture the flag
Gymnastics
Axe throwing

Apply: @activelearningsports.com

If you receive this flyer you will be within
15 minutes drive of one of our venues

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Instagram's design encourages prolonged use through endless scrolling of trending content and generating a fear of missing out (FOMO). Children can quickly lose track of time browsing posts from friends, influencers, and strangers, which may disrupt their day-to-day activities.

AI CHATBOT CONCERNS

Meta's AI, which is available on Instagram, allows users to chat with an in-app chatbot. While often helpful, it can blur boundaries for young users, who may ask for or read content that is inappropriate or see it as a real friend or confidant. Privacy issues also arise, as conversations may not be as secure or private as children assume.

RISKS OF GOING LIVE

The livestream feature allows real-time broadcasting to followers – or anyone, if the account is public. This increases the chance of unwanted contact from strangers and pressure to act in ways that gain attention, including engaging in inappropriate behaviour. Viewers may also post offensive or harmful comments during live sessions.

THREADS INTEGRATION

Threads is Instagram's sister app for public, text-based conversations. Posts from Threads appear in users' Instagram feeds and can lead children to view, share, and comment on public conversations with strangers. The content may not always be age-appropriate and can be misleading or false.

SCHEDULED MESSAGING

Instagram's newer ability to schedule direct messages means that children could receive messages late at night or early in the morning. This can disrupt their sleep or keep them preoccupied before the school day even begins.

EXCLUSION AND LOW SELF-WORTH

Feeling left out online can have a real emotional impact. Being left out of photos, receiving fewer likes, being unfollowed, or being ignored in chats and comments can leave children feeling excluded, which often hurts as much as in real life. There is a risk this can lead to reduced self-esteem and a sense of not belonging.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE INSTAGRAM'S SUPERVISION TOOLS

Instagram's built-in Family Centre lets parents monitor how much time their child spends on the app. Specialised 'teen accounts' are private by default and offer controls on who can message them. Make sure that children use their real age when registering their account to ensure they have these protections.

OPEN UP THE CONVERSATION

Talk regularly to the children in your care about what they enjoy on Instagram – and what makes them uncomfortable. Encourage honest chats about filters, body image, and online approval. Reassure them that they don't need to edit their appearance or chase 'likes' to feel valued.

SET BOUNDARIES FOR THREADS AND AI

Parental controls on Instagram also apply to Threads. These allow parents to monitor time spent in the app, check follower lists and adjust exposure to sensitive content. Discuss AI features, too, therefore helping children understand that chatbots aren't real people and should be used with care.

BE MEDIA-SAVVY WITH INFLUENCERS

Parents should follow a few of the influencers their child watches, so they can better understand the content they're seeing. Use this as a springboard to talk about the difference between genuine recommendations and paid promotions – and how online personalities can shape opinions and behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

