



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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23rd May 2025

"We work hard in the dark to shine in the light."

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's hard to believe how quickly this half-term has flown by - short in weeks but certainly not short on activity! It's been a busy and productive time across the school, with pupils and staff alike packing a huge amount into the past few weeks. From classroom learning to extracurricular events, there's been a real buzz of energy and achievement. Thank you to everyone for your continued hard work and enthusiasm.

It's been wonderful to see so many of our children taking part as *Walking Warriors* this week! Well done to everyone who's taken part by walking to school – we're very proud of your enthusiasm for staying active and helping the environment!



The children had a fantastic time celebrating World Bee Day on Tuesday, taking part in a range of fun and educational activities that highlighted the importance of bees in our environment. We're also thrilled to announce that we raised **£125.40** for the UK Bumblebee Conservation Trust. A big thank you to everyone who contributed and helped make the day such a success!

We're also delighted to share that the PFA Midsummer Film Night raised an impressive **£290.22**! A huge thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event and to all of the PFA volunteers who helped it run so smoothly. The funds will go towards enhancing our outdoor areas with new resources, helping to create even more engaging and enriching spaces for our children to enjoy.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a very happy half-term! Please note that school is due to re-open on **Monday 2 June 2025**. Also, don't forget to scroll down to the diary dates at the end of the newsletter too to check what is happening in school during next half-term and beyond!

From everyone in school, we wish you a very happy and enjoyable half-term!

JTMAT Exceptional Achievement Award

It is with great pleasure that we announce that nominations are now open for the JTMAT Exceptional Achievement Award, which all John Taylor Multi Academy Trust pupils are eligible to be nominated for.

The award, which is open to all year groups in all JTMAT schools, is an opportunity for children to gain recognition for their achievements. If you feel as though your child may fit one of the criteria for the award stated in the information attached to this newsletter, please complete a nomination and send it to the email address provided.



Term Dates and INSET Days 2025-2026

As we begin to put together the calendar for the next academic year, we wanted to give you advance notice of our scheduled INSET days for 2025-2026:

- Monday 1 September 2025
- Tuesday 2 September 2025
- Monday 1 June 2026
- Friday 3 July 2026
- Monday 20 July 2026



As always, please keep an eye out at the end of the newsletter for key dates, as those for the autumn term will start appearing imminently.

To view the school holidays and term dates for 2025-2026, please click [here](#), but they are included at the end of the newsletter for your reference.

Whitsun

The Spring Bank Holiday or late May Bank Holiday is a nice day off work and school for most people in the UK, and it falls on the last Monday of the month of May. Here are some facts about this public holiday:

- ★ The Spring Bank Holiday used to be on the Monday after Pentecost, otherwise known as Whitsun or Whit Monday. This was a holiday in the Christian calendar which is a moving feast determined by the date of Easter. This is still a holiday in over 30 countries around the world.
- ★ Until 1967, Whit Monday (which the date shifted year on year) was a formal Bank Holiday in the UK. In 1971 however after a trial period it was shifted to fall on the last Monday of May every year and to be called the Spring Bank Holiday. It's not known why this changed but it might have been in order to cease confusion.
- ★ While most will take a trip, go for a walk, or catch up with friends, others around the country will participate in some strange customs. On this day every year, people race down a steep hill following a large round cheese on Cooper's Hill in Brockworth, Gloucestershire, and the first person to cross the finishing line wins a Double Gloucester cheese weighing about 8lbs. In Endon in Staffordshire, the villagers dress their well, hold a village celebration and crown a girl as the Well Dressing Queen. Local men hold a competition, known as 'Tossing the Sheaf', in which they compete to see who can toss a bale of straw the highest. In other places, boats are blessed, Morris dancers put on displays and local festivals are held.
- ★ Since becoming a Bank Holiday in 1971, the official legislation did not and still does not specify a name for the holiday, merely when it occurs i.e. last Monday of May. While most people call it Spring Bank Holiday, it's also known as Late May Bank Holiday, and Summer Half Term Bank Holiday.



Ice Lolly Sale

Don't forget about our ice lolly sale to raise money for OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)! Delicious ice lollies will be on sale for £1 or 50p each on the KS1 playground from 3.20pm on: 6 June, 13 June, 27 June, and 11 July. This is a fantastic way to support our school's outdoor play initiatives while treating the children to a refreshing snack. Cash only, please. We hope to see you there, thank you for your support!



Shobnall Stars Booking Forms

Please don't forget to book your places a week in advance for **Shobnall Stars Early Birds**, or **Shobnall Stars Night Owls** which is our after-school club.

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. You can book your place by accessing the information booklets [here](#) or by scanning the QR codes below.



Mental Health Support Team (MHST) Parent Coffee Morning – Thursday 12 June 2025

We have worked closely with the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) for a number of years now. You may have met our designated link, Sam Lewis, at our Parents' Evenings and previous workshops she has held.



She would like to invite parents to a coffee morning, which will be held on **Thursday 12 June 2025, 8.45am – 9.45am** in the school hall.

This will be an opportunity for you to talk informally about information or support you feel would be relevant for her to provide to help give greater support to children and families in relation to mental health.

We do hope that you are able to attend, 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!

Green Libraries Month

We are excited to be celebrating Green Libraries Month again this May!

This annual event highlights the importance of sustainability and environmental responsibility within our local libraries.

There will be a range of activities happening in the libraries across the whole month such as story time, crafts and scavenger hunts.

[See what's happening in your local library here.](#)



Online Safety Tips

Around 70% of teenagers say they've seen real-life violence on social media in the past year.

Violent content online isn't just something young people are occasionally stumbling across – in many cases, it's becoming a routine part of their digital world. From fights and stabbings to toxic ideologies, disturbing videos are often just a click away on social media or group chats.

This week's guide highlights the unseen risks this poses to children's mental health, sense of safety, and social behaviours. With insights from a leading expert, it offers practical ways for parents and educators to respond with empathy and support – not punishment or panic.



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 9+...

Felix and the Future Agency

Written by Rachel Morrisroe

Felix Green has a talent - a talent that often gets him into A LOT of trouble - he can foresee the future. And he's not the only one!

When his latest prediction comes true, he soon finds himself whisked off to join the secret underground Future Agency. Here he starts to learn the tools to protect the country from the natural disasters set to befall it - summoning animal star constellations down from the sky, dream weaving and speaking to ghosts.

When a dark spectre infiltrates the Future Agency, only Felix can unmask the culprit and save the agency from destruction . . .



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	94.8%	Target
Year 1	93.7%	97%
Year 2	95.3%	
Year 3	99.4%	
Year 4	96.9%	
Year 5	96.8%	Overall (to date)
Year 6	100%	95.9%
Overall	95.9%	

Head Teacher's Awards

OPAL Play Awards

Reception	Thomas H	Emmie L
Year 1	Rayyan S	Amore F
Year 2	Paisley H	Sabiha N
Year 3	Theodosia D	Amaya H
Year 4	Toby N	Gordon Z
Year 5	Reece A	Kristers K
Year 6	Ellie W	Anaya A

Reception	Ethan B
Year 1	Kinza S
Year 2	Teigan W
Year 3	Fynn M
Year 4	Mohid S
Year 5	Finlay B
Year 6	Jibreel Q

Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 23.05.25)	103	68	75	49
Position	1 st – 4 Points	3 rd – 2 Points	2 nd – 3 Points	4 th – 1 point
Running Total	11	13	12	5

Team Point Champions

Congratulations to **Rosliston** who have successfully won the team point challenge for this half term! As a reward, they can wear non-school uniform (ideally something **green** on **Friday 6 June 2025**).

Hot Lunch Options 02.06.25 – 06.06.25

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

SHOBNALL SHOWCASE!

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

Nursery

It has been another super busy week in Nursery. We started off the week celebrating World Bee Day and the children had lots of fun taking part in lots of bee themed activities. The children made some great hats and we learnt all about the importance of bees to the planet, painting and making their own models of a bee!

It was great fun sharing the book 'What the Ladybird Heard,' by Julia Donaldson. We also watched the animated read along story and we had a great time joining in with all the different animal sounds. The children enjoyed painting their own representations of a ladybird, making a ladybird from playdough and did some fantastic subitising by noticing how many spots on the ladybirds.

Later in the week, we used the farm animals to retell parts of the story using the vocabulary we learnt. On Friday, we brought the farm experience into the classroom. We discussed shearing sheep to get wool, and the children enjoyed using scissors to shear off Shaun the sheep's wool.



Reception

We have had a bee-riliant week exploring bees!

The week started with learning why bees are so important and what they do for us.

"They only sting people if they are frightened." (Ali)

"They help the food to grow and flowers to get bigger." (Azaan)

"The drone bees don't have a sting." (Mustafa)

"Bees make honey, they collect nectar." (Joey)

"They collect food for the little bees." (Ethan)

We also learnt the different body parts of a bee with fun actions and a song.

"Head, thorax, abdomen, abdomen,

head, thorax, abdomen, abdomen,

6 legs 4 wings and 2 antennae

head, thorax, abdomen, abdomen."

On Tuesday it was World Bee Day and we had celebrated this be buzzing into school wearing yellow and black.

In the afternoon members of our family joined us for a bee-autiful afternoon of bee themed activities including, games, crafts, biscuit making, sharing our work and stories, eating cakes and nibbling on a fruit bee! It was fabulous and we had a wonderful time- many thanks for those of you that were able to join us.

The bee theme continued throughout the week as we explored pollination with an exciting activity involving chesses puffs and flowers! It was a great way to develop our understanding of how bees pollinate.

We also shared the bee water stations we completed for homework. they really are the bees knees. They are going to be a great help to the bees as the travel in the hot weather.

A bee-tastic way to end the first half of the Summer term.



Year 1

In English, we've been exploring suffixes, discovering how they can change the meaning of words. The children have also been busy using adjectives to describe sunflowers and add detail to their writing. We introduced the use of a glossary too, learning how to find and understand new words using this helpful tool. In Maths, we've been learning all about finding a half whether it's halving different shapes or quantities. The children have enjoyed using practical resources to deepen their understanding and apply this to problem-

solving activities. In PSHE, we've been learning about people who help us. The children enthusiastically role-played different scenarios where they could help others, from everyday kindness to emergency situations.

It's been lovely to see their empathy and creativity shine through! A huge highlight this week was our sport-filled afternoon at John Taylor High School on Thursday. The children had a fantastic time trying out different activities, showing great energy, enthusiasm, and teamwork throughout. Well done Year 1! We hope you have a lovely half term break.

Year 2

We've had a lovely week in Year 2 as we wrapped up our topic on fractions in Maths and began exploring time, focusing on recognising o'clock and half past. In English, the children wrote some fantastic, detailed instructions on how to make a jam or cheese sandwich, which they then followed step-by-step to make their own – with great success and lots of smiles! A real highlight of the week was our amazing trip to John Taylor High School for the Multi Skills event, where the children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a range of fun physical activities. We're so proud of all their hard work and hope they have a fantastic, well-deserved half-term break!

Year 3

This week in English, the children have been busy planning and drafting the exciting beginnings of their very own adventure stories, full of creative ideas and imaginative characters! In Maths, they've been exploring units of time, including years, months, minutes, and seconds, building their understanding of how we measure and compare different durations. In Science, the class investigated shadows, measuring how they change throughout the day and learning what causes them. In RE, our focus has been on Sikhism, where the children have learned about the importance of prayer, community, sharing, and the tradition of *langar* (a free community meal). It's been a fantastic week of learning and discovery!

Year 4

This week in maths, the focus has been on understanding time. This is a concept that the children initially found challenging. However, their resilience and determination to improve has been fantastic. In English, we have continued our work on writing balanced arguments. The children have been carefully considering both sides of the argument, demonstrating thoughtful reasoning and attention to detail. It's been wonderful to see how much effort they are putting into refining their writing. In science, we delved into classifying animals through the use of food webs. The children showed great curiosity and enthusiasm while exploring how animals are interconnected in their ecosystems. A highlight of the week was seeing so many Year 4 pupils participating in the Year 5/6 hockey tournament. Their teamwork, sportsmanship, and enthusiasm was a joy to watch. Have a wonderful half term break Year 4!



Year 5

It's been a fantastic week of learning for Year 5! In maths, the children have excelled in adding and subtracting decimals, even tackling numbers with varying decimal places with confidence.

In English, they brought their creativity to life by typing up their haiku poems and adding beautiful decorations. Towards the end of the week, they began an exciting new unit on double-page spreads, focusing on life cycles. They can't wait to explore this topic further after half-term!

Meanwhile, in French, the children explored family trees, strengthening their pronunciation skills as they learned new vocabulary. In RE, they delved into the Hindu belief of Karma, discovering the fascinating origins of 'Snakes and Ladders' – a game originally designed to teach children about good and bad deeds.

Of course, Forest School was a huge hit as always! Be sure to check out our Instagram to see the children in action, embracing nature and all its wonders.

Year 6

It's been a busy and exciting week in Year 6! In science, we explored the function of the heart and its role in the circulatory system. On Tuesday, we celebrated World Bee Day, learning about the importance of bees and began writing an explanation text to share what we discovered. We also enjoyed a bit of gardening with Mrs Taylor, exploring different plants and their features.

In maths, we've been working through our problem-solving unit in Power Maths, applying our knowledge of place value, negative numbers, and addition and subtraction to tackle a variety of challenges.

Computing has been a highlight this week – we've started using Tinkercad to explore 3D modelling! We learned how to resize objects in three dimensions, lift and lower them, and change their colours. The children have really enjoyed getting creative and developing their digital design skills.



Well done for another great week Year 6 and I hope you enjoy half term.

Diary Dates 2024-2025

Event	Date/Time
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

Diary Dates 2025-2026

Event	Date/Time
INSET Day	Monday 1 st September 2025
INSET Day	Tuesday 2 nd September 2025
School Reopens for Pupils	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 24 th October 2025
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 3 rd November 2025
Year 5 Whitemoor Lakes	Wednesday 26 th November to Friday 28 th November 2025

Whole School Trip to Pantomime – Cinderella, Lichfield Garrick	Tuesday 9 th December 2025, 10.00am
School Closes for Christmas	Friday 19 th December 2025, 2.00pm
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 5 th January 2026
Young Voices 2026	Thursday 15 th January 2026
Year 6 Laches Wood	Monday 26 th January to Friday 30 th January 2026
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 13 th February 2026
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 23 rd February 2026
School Closes for Easter	Friday 27 th March 2026, 2.00pm
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 13 th April 2026
May Day Bank Holiday – School Closed	Monday 4 th May 2026
Key Stage 2 SATs Week	Monday 11 th May 2025 to Friday 15 th May 2026
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 22 nd May 2026
INSET Day	Monday 1 st June 2026
School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 2 nd June 2026
Year 4 Multiplication Check	Tuesday 2 nd June 2026 to Friday 5 th June 2026
Year 1 Phonics Screening Check	Monday 8 th June 2026 to Friday 12 th June 2026
JTMAT INSET Day	Friday 3 rd July 2026
School Closes for Summer	Friday 17 th July 2026, 2.00pm
INSET Day	Monday 20 th July 2026

Summer Term Diary Dates

Event	Date/Time
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 2 nd June 2025
Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check	Monday 2 nd June 2025 to Friday 13 th June 2025
Reception Class Assembly	Thursday 5 th June 2025, 9.00am
New Parents Meeting for Nursery & Reception Parents	Thursday 5 th June 2025, 5.00pm
Year 1 Phonics Screening Check	Monday 9 th June 2025 to Friday 13 th June 2025
Father's Day Lunches – Reception	Monday 9 th June 2025
Father's Day Lunches – Year 1	Tuesday 10 th June 2025
Father's Day Lunches – Year 2	Wednesday 11 th June 2025
Mental Health Support Team (MHST) Parent Coffee Morning	Thursday 12 th June 2025, 8.45am – 9.45am
Father's Day Lunches – Year 3	Thursday 12 th June 2025
Father's Day Lunches – Year 4	Friday 13 th June 2025
Sports Day – EYFS/KS1 AM & KS2 PM	Monday 16 th June 2025
Father's Day Lunches – Year 5	Monday 16 th June 2025
Father's Day Lunches – Year 6	Tuesday 17 th June 2025
Reserve Sports Day – EYFS/KS1 AM & KS2 PM	Wednesday 18 th June 2025
Year 1 Class Assembly	Thursday 19 th June 2025, 9.00am
Year 4 Bikeability	Wednesday 25 th June 2025
Year 4 Class Assembly	Thursday 26 th June 2025, 9.00am
Year 5 Bikeability	Wednesday 2 nd July 2025
Year 5 Class Assembly	Thursday 3 rd July 2025, 9.00am
JTMAT INSET Day – School Closed	Friday 4 th July 2025
Year 6 Leavers' Disco	Friday 11 th July 2025, 6.00pm – 7.30pm
Year 4, 5 & 6 Brewhouse Performance – Oliver with a Twist	Tuesday 15 th July 2025, 1.30pm and 6.00pm
Nursery Graduation	Wednesday 16 th July 2025, 9.00am
Year 6 Leavers' Assembly	Thursday 17 th July 2025, 9.00am
School Closes for Summer	Friday 18 th July 2024, 2.00pm
INSET Day	Monday 21 st July 2025



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:

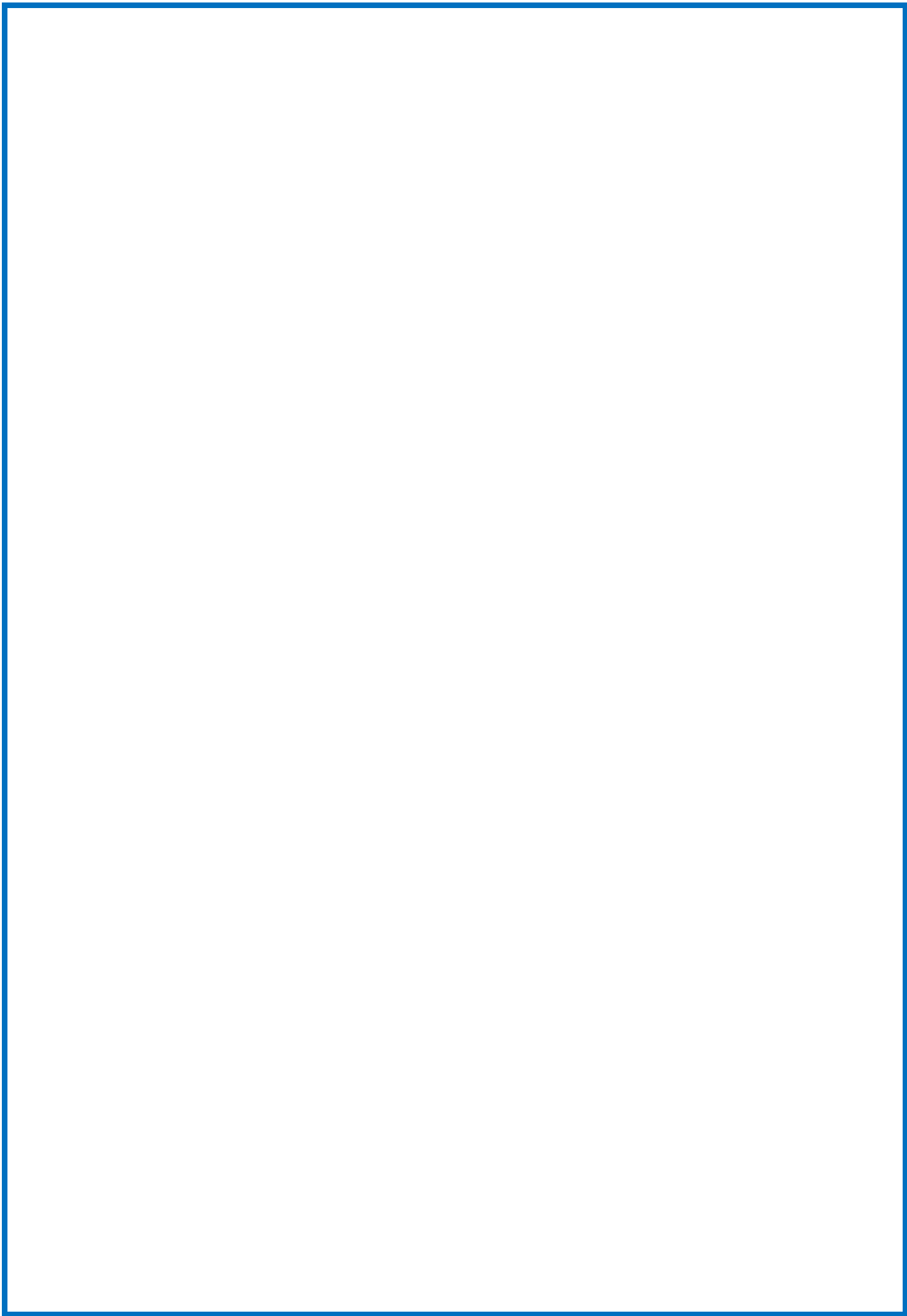


Less likely to be employed when **persistently absent***



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

*Compared to their peers with near perfect attendance



John Taylor MAT

CEO: Mike Donoghue OBE MA (Hons), MBA, NPQH, NLE



Dear Parents/ Carers,

It is with great pleasure that we announce that nominations are now open for the JTMAT Exceptional Achievement Award, which all John Taylor Multi Academy Trust pupils are eligible to be nominated for.

The award, which is open to all year groups in all JT MAT schools, is an opportunity for children to gain recognition for their achievements. Pupils may be nominated for the Exceptional Achievement Award at any point in the academic year, based on the following criteria:

Primary Aged Pupils (KS1 & KS2)	Secondary Aged Pupils (KS3, KS4 & KS5)
County, National or International status in any given activity in the last 18 months.	National or International status in any given activity in the last 18 months.
Grade 1 at KS1 or Grade 3 plus level in music or singing at KS2. Performing in televised programme/ film or National stage production.	Grade 8 level/ Diploma in music or singing. Performing in televised programme/ film.
Fundraising for a charity over £2000.	Fundraising for a charity over £5000.
Success in overcoming adversity.	Success in overcoming adversity.

Parents, carers, staff, or peers can make a nomination using the above criteria.

Please complete the online form via this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/qcKcUGbQ4H>, the form will ask you to complete a short paragraph (please work to a maximum of 250 words) in order to provide further details regarding the nomination.

Once you have made your nomination and, in the weeks, leading up to the ceremony, please be advised that we will be in contact with you to request supporting evidence, which you should provide to the student's headteacher. Please be advised that you will be notified shortly after this process has taken place to let you know whether your nomination has been successful.

Please provide as many specific details about the achievement as possible, ensuring that you provide full details of which sport/ instrument (eg), the achievement involves.

If successful, students will be invited to meet with their headteacher, who will join a Teams call with Mike Donoghue OBE, CEO of John Taylor MAT, in which they will receive their very special gold pin badge award and certificate of exceptional achievement.

We very much look forward to seeing our school community embrace this opportunity and celebrate those who achieve the award. The deadline for nominations is **4pm on Friday 13th June 2025** and winners will be announced shortly after that date.

If you have any enquiries, please email jtmat-subjectexcellence@jtmat.co.uk

With Kind Regards,

Mrs G Martin
Director of School Improvement (secondary)

Mrs L Farmer
Director of School Improvement (primary)

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about VIOLENT CONTENT ONLINE

Around 70% of teenagers say they've seen real-life violence on social media in the past year – often from as young as primary school age. Just 6% actively seek it out; most encounter it through group chats or social media algorithms. From fights and pranks to hate speech and graphic media, exposure to violent content online is more widespread – and more harmful – than many adults realise.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MENTAL HEALTH AND TRAUMA



Children and young people report feelings of anxiety, guilt, shame or fear after seeing violent content. For some, these effects may be short term, but for those with existing vulnerabilities or past trauma, the impact can be more severe. Many also feel pressured to 'laugh off' violent content to fit in with friends, even when they find it distressing.

BEHAVIOUR CHANGES



Exposure to online violence can lead to fear and avoidance behaviours – such as skipping school or staying indoors. When children see weapons used in videos, it can heighten their perception that the world is unsafe and, in rare cases, increase the likelihood they'll consider carrying a weapon themselves, such as a knife for protection.

ESCALATION AND PARTICIPATION



Violent videos often go viral quickly. What begins as an online argument can spill into real-world fights – which are sometimes filmed and shared to gain views or status. Some children even admit to sharing or creating violent content themselves to gain attention or boost their reputation.

DESENSITISATION



Older teens may become numb to violent content after years of exposure, admitting they're unlikely to report it. Younger children also tend not to report it – usually because they don't believe anything will be done or because they're afraid of being labelled a 'snitch' by their peers.

HARMFUL IDEOLOGIES



Violent content online may overlap with racist, misogynistic or otherwise extremist ideas. These messages can dehumanise others or glorify violence as a way to gain power, popularity or notoriety. Over time, this can normalise dangerous behaviours and attitudes among impressionable viewers.

DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT



Not all children are affected equally. Those who are excluded from school, marginalised, disabled or neurodivergent are often more vulnerable to the effects of online violence. It's essential to consider wider context – including home life and access to safe spaces – when thinking about potential harm.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CREATE SUPPORTIVE SPACES



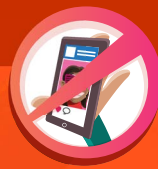
Many children feel adults are too busy or won't understand their experiences online. Take time to build trust through non-judgemental conversations about what they're seeing. If they don't want to speak to you directly, gently signpost towards trusted services they can turn to for support.

KNOW WHAT'S ILLEGAL



Some violent content is simply upsetting, while other examples may be criminal or a safeguarding matter that needs reporting. Help children understand the difference by staying informed about online laws and social media reporting procedures. A useful resource is reportharmfulcontent.com.

AVOID HARSH RESTRICTIONS



Fear of punishment is a major reason young people stay silent about violent content. Try not to overreact or threaten to take away devices. Instead, reassure children that they can speak openly and that asking for help won't get them into trouble.

UNDERSTAND TECH AND TRAUMA



Older children may already know how to block accounts or avoid triggering content. Help younger or more vulnerable children learn these tools and encourage habits that reduce exposure. Just as importantly, teach techniques that help them process distress – building resilience and emotional literacy for both online and offline life.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading UK 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 onlinemedialawuk.com for more.



THE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM IN SCHOOLS ARE **OPEN** OVER THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

**Monday 26th - Friday 30th May
(excluding weekends and bank holidays)**

If your child is experiencing low level mental health difficulties, we may be able to help. Call us* between 9am - 5pm (Monday to Friday), leave your name and number and one of our practitioners will give you a call back to see what support we can offer.

We can help with:

- Low mood
- Anxiety
- Sleep difficulties
- Worry
- Panic

Burton and Uttoxeter
01283 504487

Cannock and Lichfield
01283 352113

Stafford
01283 352097

Tamworth
01785 301027



*Please note that these contact numbers are not to be used in an emergency.

BURTON & UTTOXETER MHST

Schools we work with:

- Anglesey Primary Academy
- Burton Pupil Referral Unit
- Loxley Hall School (Manor Hall Academy Trust) Secondary
- Paget High School
- Scientia Academy (Primary)
- Victoria Community Primary School
- Christ Church Primary School
- De Ferrers High School Academy
- Eton Park Junior (a deFerrers Trust)
- The Fountains High School
- The Fountains Primary School
- Lansdowne Infants (a deFerrers Trust)
- Shobnall Primary School
- Abbot Beyne Secondary School
- Edge Hill Junior School
- Holy Trinity CofE Primary
- Paulet High School
- Riverview Primary School
- Robert Sutton Catholic School Secondary
- Tower View Primary School
- Violet Way Primary Academy
- Dove CofE Primary Academy
- Oldfields Hall Middle School
- St Marys CofE First School
- St Joesphs Catholic Primary School
- Thomas Alleynes High School
- Tynsel Parkes CofE Primary Academy
- Windsor Park CofE Middle School

CANNOCK & SEISDON MHST

Schools we work with:

- Redhill Primary School
- Moorhill Primary School
- Bridgtown Primary School
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School
- West Hill Primary School
- Redbrook Hayes Community Primary School
- Littleton Green Community School
- Heath Hayes Primary Academy
- Churchfield CofE Primary Academy
- Kingsmead School
- Cannock Chase High School
- Cardinal Griffin Catholic College
- St Lukes CofE Primary School
- Chadsmoor CofE (VC) Junior School
- Chadsmoor Community Infants and Nursery School
- Sherbrook Primary School
- Five Ways Primary School
- Landywood Primary School
- Bilbrook C of E Middle School
- Chaselea Alternative Provision Academy
- Cherry Trees School
- Forest Hills Primary School
- Great Wyrley Academy
- Lane Green First School
- Jerome Primary School
- Moat Hall Primary Academy
- Norton Canes High School
- Norton Canes Primary Academy
- Perton Middle School
- The John Bamford Primary School
- Hazleslade Primary Academy
- Staffordshire University Academy
- Wightwick Hall School
- Longford Primary Academy

STAFFORD MHST

Schools we work with:

- Burton Manor Primary School
- Castlechurch Primary School
- Doxey Primary & Nursery School
- Flash Ley Primary School
- John Wheeldon Primary Academy
- King Edward V1 High School
- Penkridge Middle School
- Sir Graham Balfour School
- St. Leonard's CofE First School
- Stafford Manor High School
- Veritas Primary Academy
- St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
- St Leonard's Primary School
- St Austin's Catholic Primary School
- Walton Hall Academy
- Walton Priory Middle School
- Silkmore Primary Academy
- Marshlands School
- Blessed William Howard Catholic School
- Bailey Street Alternative Provision Academy
- St. John's C of E Primary Academy
- The Weston Road Academy
- Tillington Manor Primary School
- Blessed Mother Teresa Catholic Primary School

TAMWORTH MHST

Schools we work with:

- Kettlebrook Short Stay
- Landau Forte Academy Qems
- Moorgate Primary Academy
- St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary
- Two Rivers High School
- Oakhill Primary School
- Glascote Academy
- Lakeside CP School
- Amington Heath Primary
- Two Rivers School
- Ankermoor Primary Academy
- Landau Forte Amington
- Two Gates Primary
- Hanbury's Farm Primary
- Tamworth Enterprise College
- Landau Forte Academy 6th Form
- Ashcroft Infants School
- Florendine Primary School
- Dosthill Primary School
- Landau Forte Academy Greenacres
- Anker Valley Primary School
- The Woodlands Community Primary
- Birds Bush Primary
- Three Peaks Primary Academy
- Stoneydelph Primary
- The Wilnecote School
- Wilnecote Junior School
- Heathfields Infant Academy

LICHFIELD MHST

Schools we work with:

- Boney Hay Primary School
- Charnwood Primary School
- Chase Terrace Primary School
- Chase Terrace Academy
- Chasetown Community Primary School
- Erasmus Darwin Academy
- The Friary School
- The Rawlett School
- Saxon Hill Academy
- Queenscroft
- Rocklands School
- The Bridge Academy
- Willows Primary School
- Netherstowe High School
- St. Chad's C.E. Primary School
- St Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School