



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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2nd May 2025

"Surround yourself with positive people."

WELCOME BACK

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to say a very warm welcome back to everyone, after what has been a very busy week in school (more about this later on in the 'Shobnall Showcase' at the end of the newsletter)! It appears everyone has had a really good Easter break (with some good weather in parts) and it has been great to have seen children, parents and staff looking so well, refreshed, and revitalised.

As the warmer weather now approaches, please don't forget to send your child to school with suncream on and sunhats when we are due to have a particularly hot day. It is also essential that they have their water bottles too so that they can keep hydrated and cool. Many thanks for your support with this.



Next week is a shorter week for us in school again. Please note that the school will be closed on Monday 5 May for the May Day Bank Holiday.

Whatever it is you have planned for the long weekend, we hope that you are able to relax and enjoy spending quality time together as families. We look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday!



VE Day – Thursday 8 May 2025

This year marks 80 years since Victory in Europe (VE) Day. It's a time to remember when the war in Europe came to an end, bringing relief and hope to millions.

On **Thursday 8 May 2025**, we would like the children to come dressed in red, white, and

blue to mark this very special anniversary. We will be holding a special assembly for the children to help them reflect upon the men and women who fought for freedom and peace. We will also be having a special VE Day lunch, so if your child does not usually have a school dinner, they may wish to on this day.

Events will also be taking place across Staffordshire, including a special weekend at the [National Memorial Arboretum](#). There will also be local services, [activities in libraries](#) and a pop-up event at the [Staffordshire History Centre](#) where everyone can get involved.

National Share-A-Story Month

May marks the start of National Share a Story Month, a month created by the Federation of Children's Book Groups (FCBG) to celebrate the power of storytelling and encourage children to read more. This year's theme is 'Saving the World, One Book at a Time'. The FCBG's plans are designed to celebrate both the joy of sharing stories and the importance of our local environment to our health and wellbeing.

National Share-A-Story Month (NSSM) is an annual celebration of the power of storytelling and story sharing, providing a fantastic opportunity to fulfil the core aim of the FCBG of bringing children and stories together. Across the country Federation book groups and individuals run a whole host of events. The FCBG has plenty of ways that you can get involved – read more [here](#).



Tes Schools Awards 2025 – Primary School of the Year



The UK's best teachers and schools have been shortlisted in this year's Tes Schools Awards. The awards, dubbed the 'Oscars of education', celebrate the best of education across the country. Shobnall Primary & Nursery School has been shortlisted in the category of Primary School of the Year and we couldn't be more proud!

The Tes Schools Awards recognise the very best teachers and schools from UK state and independent schools, across early years settings, primary and secondary.

An expert panel of judges comprised of leaders in education selected a shortlist for 22 categories, with a new

category added this year: 'Inclusive Trust of the Year'. The final category, 'Lifetime achievement award', will be announced on the night.

Jon Severs, Editor of Tes Magazine, said: "We've seen some incredible entries nominated in this year's awards. The Tes Schools Awards are a highlight of the year, and it's important that we properly recognise the fantastic work that's been done in education across the academic year."

Winners will be announced on 20 June 2025 at a glittering gala at the Grosvenor Hotel, Park Lane, London.



May Day

May Day is a festival that celebrates the arrival of Spring. This day is celebrated throughout the world. In many countries it is a major holiday such as the United Kingdom, India, Romania, Sweden, and Norway. In many countries the day is celebrated as Labour Day. Here are some facts about the day...



- ♥ May Day has a long history and tradition in England. The day is celebrated with music and dancing. Perhaps the most famous part of the celebration is the Maypole. Children dance around the Maypole holding onto colourful ribbons. Many people use flowers and leaves to make hoops and hair garlands as well. A lot of towns also crown a May Queen on this day.
- ♥ May Day has changed throughout history. In Greek and Roman times, it was a day to celebrate spring and specifically the goddesses over spring. In early Gaelic times as well as in pre-Christian times in Scandinavia, May Day was also a day to celebrate the coming of Spring. When Christianity came to Europe and England, May Day became intertwined with Easter and other Christian celebrations.
- ♥ Morris Dancers in England wear hats decorated with flowers, suspenders, and ankle bells. They stomp their feet, wave handkerchiefs, and bang sticks together when they dance. One traditional May Day dance in England is called the Cumberland Square.
- ♥ A Maypole stands all year long in Inkwil, England. It has been there since 1894. Maypoles were sometimes made from old ship's masts.



NEW NSPCC Online Safety Parent Resource

The NSPCC has developed a new resource to help parents to keep their children safe online.

[Help keep children safe online with Techosaurus! | NSPCC](#) is aimed at those beginning to explore the digital world. Techosaurus encourages positive conversations about healthy online habits.

Please use the link provided to access the resources. We hope you find this helpful.

Walk to School Week – 19 to 23 May 2025

May is National Walking Month and everyone across Staffordshire is being encouraged to ditch the car and walk more – especially for those shorter journeys. Before you reach for your car keys, ask yourself: “Could I walk instead?”

Walking is one of the easiest ways to improve your health, boost your mood, and do your bit for the environment. Small changes can make a big difference – so why not:

- ♥ If possible, walk to work or school
- ♥ Walk to the shops instead of driving
- ♥ Have a stroll to your local park, library or café
- ♥ Swap a meeting room for a walking meeting
- ♥ Enjoy a walk with the dog, family or friends and take a break from screens

Whether you're walking for fitness, health, wellbeing or just to get some fresh air, we hope you make every step count this May. Let's walk more, drive less, and feel better – one step at a time!

Walk to School Week itself takes place on **Monday 19 May** and will run until **Friday 23 May 2025**. This Walk to School Week primary school pupils across Staffordshire are invited to become Walking Warriors!

Pupils who walk to school will earn special walking warrior stickers and bookmarks and we will also receive Walking Warrior-themed resources to keep pupils engaged.

Walking to school is a great way to start the day! It keeps children active, helps the environment, and even boosts concentration in the classroom. Whether you walk the whole way or park and stride (parking a short distance from school and walking the rest), every step makes a difference.



Shobnall Stars Early Birds – DfE Breakfast Club Early Adopter Scheme



We have really enjoyed our first week as part of the government's breakfast club early adopter scheme! From now, free breakfast clubs are 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.

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.



The 5p Challenge is Back!

The 5p Challenge starts Friday 2 May and will run up until 6 June! We challenge each class from Nursery to Year 6 to fill a 2-litre bottle with 5ps.

Each 2-litre bottle can hold over £100 so raid your money boxes, save your change, look down the back of the sofa, ask family members for help and join us to help us raise funds for the school.



Each class has their own bottle collecting 5p coins.

Once each class has completed the challenge, the coins in each bottle will be counted and the class with the most 5p coins will win a treat!

Raid your money boxes, save your change, look down the back of the sofa and help your class fill their bottle.

A fun challenge for the whole class to join together and help raise funds for the school.

**CHALLENGE RUNS FROM FRIDAY 2ND MAY
- FRIDAY 6TH JUNE.**



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

Traffic-related incidents are a major risk for young pedestrians and cyclists which is why it's so important to equip children with the skills they need to stay safe.

We explore essential, easy-to-teach habits that help children build lifelong road safety awareness.

From spotting quieter electric vehicles to crossing safely at designated points, this latest guide is packed with tips to keep young road users visible, vigilant and secure.

This week's free guide shares practical advice like making 'practice' journeys, wearing reflective clothing and staying focused near roads.

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

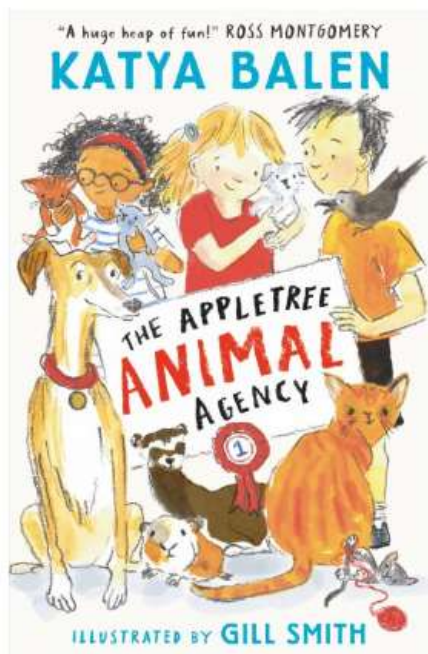
This week's recommended read is for children aged 7+...

The Appletree Animal Agency

Written by Katya Balen

When Mattie wishes on a shooting star for a puppy, she doesn't really expect her wish to come true. Her dad is adamant that she's not ready for the responsibility of caring for a pet so Mattie has to make do with playing with her friend Zoe's little dog and helping the village vet whenever she can.

When a new vet arrives to do holiday cover with her young son and a menagerie of animals from the rescue centre they run, Mattie and Zoe immediately lend a hand and take along a little puppy they've found with an injured paw. (Could it be anything to do with Mattie's wish ...?) Mattie determines that the three friends will help find forever homes for all the animals, even the goat and the ferret but things don't go quite to plan; can Mattie somehow save the day?



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

| Reception | 96.3% | Target |
|-----------|-------|-------------------|
| Year 1 | 92.0% | 97% |
| Year 2 | 96.7% | |
| Year 3 | 95.9% | |
| Year 4 | 95.0% | |
| Year 5 | 97.4% | Overall (to date) |
| Year 6 | 94.7% | |
| Overall | 95.3% | |

Head Teacher's Awards

Lunchtime Star Awards

| Reception | Ayaz M | Dawoud A |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Year 1 | Harper O | Elliott T |
| Year 2 | Khalia R | Mia L |
| Year 3 | Kaleb G | Arham A |
| Year 4 | Ben S | Sophia W |
| Year 5 | Safa Q | Sughra F |
| Year 6 | Tabitha B | Inayah A |


| Reception | Yusuf S |
|-----------|---------|
| Year 1 | Sada C |
| Year 2 | Daisy J |
| Year 3 | Isla G |
| Year 4 | Toby N |
| Year 5 | Rosie T |
| Year 6 | Asra Z |

Team Points

| Team Points | Claymills | Rosliston | Sinai | Trent |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Points (Week Ending 02.05.25) | 16 | 32 | 35 | 28 |
| Position | 1 st – 4 Points | 2 nd – 3 Point | 1 st - 4 points | 3 rd – 2 Points |
| Running Total | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 |

Hot Lunch Options 06.05.25 – 09.05.25

| WEEK 2 | TUESDAY | | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Main dish | Margherita pizza with baked potato wedges | | Roast turkey with potato of the day & gravy | VE DAY MENU – STREET PARTY FOOD | Crispy battered fish & chunky chips |
| Vegetarian Main dish | Vegetarian burger with chunky chips | | Quorn™ fillet with roast potatoes & gravy | | Cheese & bean bake with chunky chips |
| Accompaniments | Peas & baked beans Salad bar | | Broccoli & cauliflower Salad bar | | Peas & baked beans Salad bar |
| Desserts | 5 Fresh fruit & whip | | Chocolate sponge | | Ice cream |
| 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 |



SHOBNALL SHOWCASE!

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

Nursery

Our week started with the excitement of exploring our new book, 'Dear zoo! Having read the story Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell, we have discussed animals that would and would not make good pets and learnt how to care for them! The children then took on the role of being vets and veteran nurses in the Acting Avenue and have been taking care of all the animals, working together to make the animals feel better.

We have also been busy in the creative area, painting our own representations of all the different animals from our class focus book 'Dear zoo' and have enjoyed sharing their paintings with the class.

Reception

We have had a fabulous start to the Summer term and were eager to share our Easter holiday adventures which included..

Minnie "I went on a picnic with my uncle and auntie and baby cousin and my whole family. We ate biryani."

Joey "I went on holiday in a caravan and brought home my new teddy, George."

Amal "went on holiday with Dawoud. Its Pakistan!"

Zaynab "we went to Morocco, mummy, daddy and my baby. We went on an aeroplane and to a water slide."

It has been wonderful to have the sun shining down on us throughout the week. Although we welcomed the lovely weather, we also took time to discuss the importance of keeping safe as the weather gets warmer.

Maya "wear your sunhat because its hot"

Ethan "wear sunglasses so your eyes don't burn"

Emmie "wear sunscreen, it makes you not burn on your skin"

Azaan "drink lots of water, it helps keep us cool"

It was also interesting taking part in a nature walk around school and discovered the many ways the warmer weather affects the environment. A great start to the Summer term!

Year 1

Year 1 have had a fantastic first week back! In English, they have started writing the beginning paragraphs for their own versions of "Jack and the Beanstalk," showcasing their creativity and storytelling skills. In Maths, they have been comparing and measuring capacity and developing their understanding of measurement. During PSHE lessons, they have been learning about different types of families, fostering inclusivity and respect. In Art, they have been exploring primary and secondary colours, unleashing their artistic potential. Well done, Year 1! Keep up the great work!

Year 2

We've had a fantastic week in Year 2 with lots of exciting learning happening across the curriculum. In maths, the children have really enjoyed exploring temperature and learning how to read a thermometer – a very practical and engaging topic that sparked lots of curiosity. In English, we've started drafting our chronological reports on King Charles, and the class has shown great enthusiasm. They've loved finding out more about him and are keen to share what they've learned. Our PSHE lesson this week focused on "Where We Belong" and exploring what makes a happy home – the children came up with some very thoughtful and heartwarming ideas. In RE, we've been learning about Islam, with the children showing great interest and respect as we look at different beliefs and traditions. Finally, in geography, we had a lovely session looking at the seas and oceans, including how humans are affecting the Great Barrier Reef. It sparked some important discussions and plenty of questions – a really engaging lesson!

Year 3

This week, our Year 3 students have been busy exploring, creating, and learning! In English, they've been drafting and editing persuasive letters to convince prospective parents why our school is the best choice!

Maths has been all about money, where they've been adding, subtracting, and calculating change-perfect for their next shopping trip!

In History, they stepped back in time to the Iron Age, designing and planning their own settlements, as mini versions on tables.

Geography took them outdoors as they investigated air pollution by counting passing cars and recording data! It's been a fantastic week of hands-on learning, and we're so proud of their enthusiasm.

Keep up the great work, Year 3!

Year 4

What an exciting and busy week we've had in Year 4! This week in maths, we have continued with our decimals unit, learning how to order, compare, and round them to the nearest whole number. Mr. Bishop's favourite English unit has been the highlight of our week! We've been discussing whether Banksy is an artist or a vandal, and our fantastic debate on Tuesday morning showcased some brilliant critical thinking and persuasive arguments. In Computing, we've been learning how to edit photos. The children have had a wonderful time exploring different tools to adjust colours, add filters, and enhance images. Our exploration of habitats started this week. We've been identifying how animals adapt to their environments, from polar bears in the Arctic to camels in the desert. Finally, we started our new history unit on Ancient Egypt! This week, we focused on identifying key events in the Egyptian timeline, laying the groundwork for our journey into this incredible civilization. A brilliant first week back Year 4. Well done!



Year 5

Year 5 have returned to school full of energy and ready to learn! In English, the children were thrilled to complete their tragedy stories. This unit has been one of our longest, but it's given everyone the chance to develop their writing stamina and explore figurative language in depth to really hook their readers. The final pieces are nothing short of *magnificent* – some of the best writing we've seen all year!

In Maths, we've started a brand-new topic on coordinates. Thanks to their recent work with data and graphs in Science, the children have picked it up quickly and are already showing great confidence.

Guided Reading has also brought a buzz of excitement, as we've begun our new class text: *Journey to the River Sea*. With its exotic setting in the Amazon Rainforest, we made the most of the warm weather and took our reading outside, bringing the story to life right from the first page!

Our afternoons have been packed with a rich variety of subjects, including RE, French, PSHE, Science, and Geography. As always, the children have embraced the wider curriculum with enthusiasm and are eager to dive into their new topics for the Summer Term.

Year 6

It's been a short but productive first week back after the half term, with a day off for polling. Year 6 have returned focused and ready to learn! In PE, we began our new topic on athletics in preparation for Sports Day. In maths, we explored circles – learning about radius, diameter, and using string to measure circumference. In English, we revised active and passive voice, learned about the subjunctive form, and looked at the poem "*The Concrete Cracks and Crumbles*". We created our own comprehension questions using prompts like "Find and copy a word..." and answered each other's questions in pairs. We also took part in a fun maths knowledge organiser quiz, hunting for answers around the classroom. The children have worked brilliantly this week and should be very proud of themselves!

Diary Dates 2024-2025

| Event | Date/Time |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 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 |

Summer Term Diary Dates

| Event | Date/Time |
|---|--|
| May Day Bank Holiday – School Closed | Monday 5 th May 2025 |
| Key Stage 2 SATs Week | Monday 12 th May 2024 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 |
| Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check | Monday 2 nd June 2025 – 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 | Monday 9 th June 2025 – 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

OFFICIAL

Community Safety Flash



Grass Fire Prevention

Every year fire is responsible for the destruction of thousands of acres of countryside. There are lots of things you can do to help prevent grass fires.

GRASS FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

- Never throw cigarette ends out of car windows
- Make sure cigarettes are put out properly and disposed of in dedicated bins
- Take your rubbish home or put it in a nearby bin
- Don't leave glass bottles lying on the ground. Sunlight shining through glass can start a fire
- Don't have open fires or BBQs in the countryside- they can easily set fire to the ground and spread
- Keep matches and lighters out of children and young peoples' reach and talk to them about the dangers of starting fires outside.

If you see a fire in the countryside

- Don't attempt to tackle it
- Call **999** and ask for the fire service
- Pass as much information about the location as possible
- Use What 3 Words app to pinpoint the exact spot



www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk



Staffordshire
Fire and Rescue Service
preventing • protecting • responding



Join our Walking Warriors this May for Walk to School Week



Most pupils in Staffordshire live within walking distance of their school and could walk to school on a regular basis, but survey data shows us that not everyone does this. We appreciate that some pupils do live too far away to walk, so why not park further away and walk the last bit of your journey?



Walking to school has many benefits

Children who walk to school are more alert and more attentive in the classroom than those who arrive in the car.

Walking to and from school helps to keep children physically active, a 15-minute walk will provide your child with half of their recommended daily exercise.

Walking to and from school is great for adults too.

The walk to school can be used to help children develop the necessary road safety skills to help them stay safe when out and about and become independent travellers.

It helps keep the local air clean and is a great way of helping to tackle climate change, we all need to do our bit!

Children in cars are exposed to twice as much pollution as pedestrians, even travelling along the same road.

It keeps the streets around your school free from congestion, making it much safer for everyone.

Walking to school instead of driving saves a family, on average, £400 per year!

Join in the fun and share your stories

Share with us your Walk to School Week Story on social media by tagging **@AirAwareStaffs** and **@StaffordshireCountyCouncil** into your posts and using the hashtag **#INTOWalkingStaffs** and you may feature in one of our TikTok stories. Please only share photos that you are happy for us to share too.

Ask your school for a copy of your 5/10-minute walk zone map. Every school in Staffordshire has one and it may help you to plan your journey more effectively.

Please visit our **website** or email **INTO@staffordshire.gov.uk**



@AirAwareStaffs

@StaffordshireCountyCouncil

#INTOWalkingStaffs



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY ON THE ROAD

Traffic-related incidents are a significant risk for young pedestrians and cyclists, so understanding road safety is crucial for children's wellbeing. While all road users share responsibility for keeping one another safe, this guide offers strategies for empowering young people to navigate the roads confidently and responsibly.

1 TAKE PRACTICE JOURNEYS

Making 'practice' journeys with children is a great way to help them stay safe, thereby modelling responsible behaviours and having road safety conversations as they prepare to travel independently. Add hazard perception activities like spotting electric vehicles – which may have a green number plate – and point out how quiet they are. Children learn by watching others; remind them that their peers might not always be the best role models.

2 BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN

Visibility is lower during darker winter days, and drivers need to take extra care to look out for pedestrians. Wearing bright and reflective clothing can help make children more visible to drivers near roads. In poor daylight conditions, encourage children to wear light, bright or fluorescent clothing. When it's dark, wear reflective clothing or materials such as a reflective armband or jacket.

3 EYES UP

Encourage children to look up and keep their eyes on the road. Teach them to constantly watch for traffic and practise double-checking the road before crossing – looking right, left and then right again.

4 LIMIT DISTRACTIONS

Where possible, devices like phones should be kept away from children while out and about near roads. If they're carrying devices, these should be put away until they've reached their destination. Children must also avoid playing with toys or being distracted by friends. If a friend wants to show them something funny on their phone, there'll be time for that once they've safely arrived.

5 SLOW DOWN

Discuss the importance of waiting instead of crossing immediately. It can be tricky to judge the speed of traffic and spot obstacles that could cause a trip or a fall. For safety, children must stop and think before they get to the kerb and should always walk – not run – when crossing the road. They should avoid crossing until they're certain they have plenty of time. Even if traffic seems a long way off, it could still be approaching very quickly.

6 STOP BEFORE THE KERB

Teach children to stop before reaching the kerb – not right at the edge of it. Halting before they get to the kerb allows them to see if anything's coming, whereas getting too close to traffic is dangerous. If there's no pavement, children should stand back from the road's edge but ensure they can still see approaching traffic.

7 CROSS SAFELY

Children should always find a safe spot to cross the road, prioritising zebra crossings or pelican crossings, footbridges and subways. Find a place where they can see traffic coming from both directions. Avoid crossing near junctions, bends in the road, or obstacles that block their view, instead moving to somewhere they can see and be seen. Remind them to use their eyes and ears together when checking the road, as sometimes they can hear traffic before they can see it. Looking and listening while crossing helps them quickly spot traffic, including cyclists and motorcyclists driving between other vehicles.

8 PARKED VEHICLES

Crossing between parked vehicles is very dangerous. Teach children to use extra caution if crossing in this way, and, ideally, avoid it altogether. They should use the outside edge of a vehicle as if it were the kerb, waiting and checking for traffic before moving. They should ensure vehicles aren't about to move, by looking for drivers in the vehicles and listening for engines running – but remember that electric vehicles may move off silently. They should always make sure there is a gap between any parked vehicles on the other side, so they can reach the pavement.

9 REVERSING VEHICLES

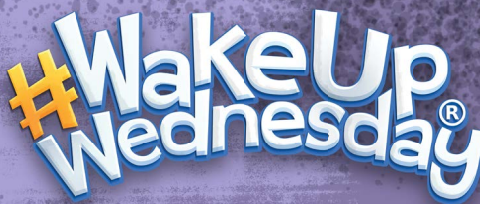
Children must never cross behind a reversing vehicle – it's extremely dangerous. Remind them to look for white reversing lights and listen out for warning sounds. Can they hear the engine sound or a radio playing inside the vehicle?

10 WAIT FOR THE BUS TO LEAVE

When getting off a bus, children must wait for it to leave before crossing so they can have a clear view of the road in both directions. This also allows them to see and be seen by other road users. Crossing near large vehicles is particularly dangerous and should be avoided.

Meet Our Expert

THINK! is a year-round national campaign that aims to encourage safe road behaviours – whether we're driving, cycling, horse riding or walking – with the aim of reducing the number of people killed and injured on the UK's roads each year. Find out more at: <https://www.think.gov.uk/education-resources/>



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