



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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6th June 2025

"The day you stop complaining is the day you start growing."

Dear Parents/Carers,



We would like to take this opportunity to say a very warm welcome back to everyone, after what has been another very busy week in school (more about this later in the 'Shobnall Showcase')! We have also been pleased to see that all the children have returned from their half-term break feeling refreshed and revitalised!

Thank you to all our new parents for attending our meeting last night about their child's induction into nursery and reception. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces and meet those that are new to the school. We look forward to meeting the children at their induction sessions later in the term and to working with you all over the forthcoming years. Wishing you a very warm welcome to Shobnall Primary & Nursery School!

As we are now creeping ever closer to the summer, 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. Many thanks for your support with this. The NHS have provided some good sunscreen and sun safety advice which you may find useful [here](#).

Next week will see us continue to open our doors to a significant number of visitors for our Father's Day lunches. We hope that you enjoy your lunch, and we thank you in advance for taking the time to come into school with the children. We look forward to seeing you there! We would also like to remind you that this term is a very busy one and our calendar seems to fill up more and more as the days go by! As always, we will endeavour to inform you via all our channels of communication, but please keep checking the 'Diary Dates' section at the end of the newsletter for any changes or updates.

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish all our Muslim families a very happy, peaceful and blessed Eid-al-Adha, which is being celebrated now. Eid Mubarak!



information attached to this newsletter, please complete a nomination and send it to the email address provided.

Eid al-Adha

Eid al-Adha, also called the “Festival of Sacrifice” or “Feast of the Sacrifice,” is one of the major and most important holidays of Islam. It is the second day of the Eid holidays observed by the Muslim community. The first day of the Eid holiday is called Eid al-Fitr. Here are some other interesting facts about this holy festival:

- ★ Eid al-Adha is a time to remember when Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) was willing to obey Allah (God) by sacrificing his son, Ismail. Even though it was hard, he was going to do it. But before he could, Allah gave him a ram to sacrifice instead. In the Christian and Jewish telling, Ibrahim was ordered to kill another son, Isaac.
- ★ Eid al-Adha also marks the end of the Hajj, which is the pilgrimage to the city of Mecca, that all devout Muslims must complete at least once in their lifetimes.
- ★ Eid Al-Adha remembers Ibrahim’s (PBUH) strong faith and his ability to commit to Allah. Muslims all over the world sacrifice a sheep (or sometimes a goat) as a reminder of Ibrahim’s (PBUH) obedience to Allah. They share out the meat among family, friends and the poor, who each get a third share.
- ★ Eid al-Adha is a major Muslim holiday that lasts for three to four days.
- ★ Eid usually starts with Muslims going to the mosque for prayers, dressed in their best clothes, and thanking Allah for all the blessings they have received. After prayers at the mosque, they share huge feasts with their family and friends. At Eid, it is obligatory to give a set amount of money to charity. It is used to help poor people to buy new clothes and food so that they too can celebrate.
- ★ Eid Al-Adha is a happy time to celebrate Allah and his kindness. It is a time to show kindness to others too because this is a commandment of Allah.



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!

Will you join us for Clean Air Day 2024?

We are encouraging all parents and pupils to give the car a day off on Thursday 19 June to help improve the air quality around schools. Why not [pledge to switch off when you drop off](#) to help everyone breathe easier.



Did you know...

- Pollution harms us all, but especially children and causes many health issues
- Running the engine whilst parked pumps out about 150 lungs worth of harmful gas every minute!
- Poor air quality is responsible for 500 deaths in Staffordshire every year
- Idling is the single biggest contributor to poor air pollution outside schools
- Air pollution can be 30% worse outside schools because of idling
- Idling is illegal



Online Safety Tips

They say a picture is worth a thousand words and when it comes to emojis, that's often true. But in the wrong context, these innocent-seeming icons can take on a whole new meaning, sometimes hinting at things that aren't as light-hearted as they appear.

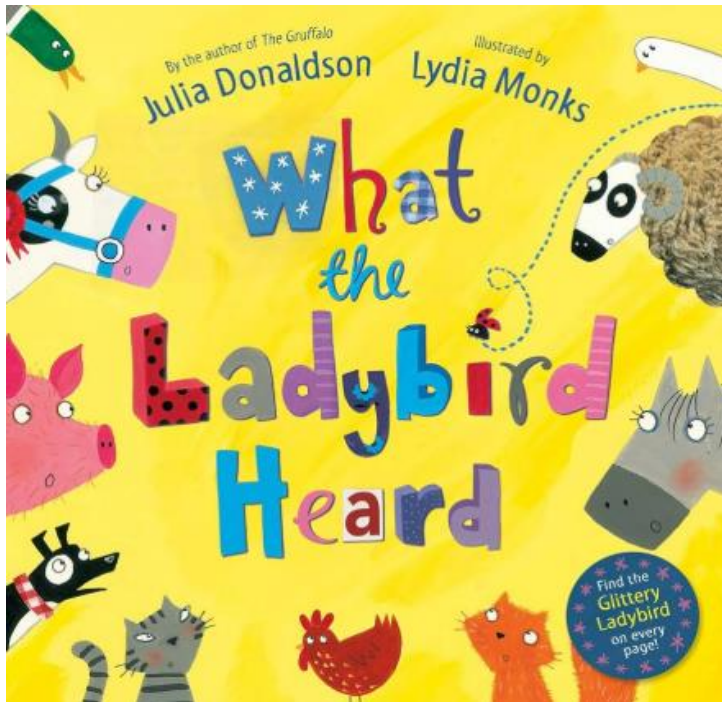
This week's guide breaks down some of the slang and symbols young people use online and explains how some could be masking real issues, from bullying and exclusion to harmful behaviours.

With this handy cheat sheet and top tips, adults can keep pace with this ever-changing digital language.

FREE Uniform!

We continue to accept donations of old uniform via the box situated outside the school office for any parents who wish to donate. Please could we ask that these are cleaned and in good condition before placing in the box outside the school office. If you need any uniform, you will need to pop down to the **Family Hub** on Waterloo Street, DE14 2NJ. The Family Hub do not have the capacity to reply to emails but do have uniform on site all year round and are open Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 4.00pm.





Reading Corner

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

What the Ladybird Heard

Written by Julia Donaldson

Best-selling author and illustrator Julia Donaldson and Lydia Monks have teamed up for another brilliant picture book. Right in the farmyard among all the noisy animals with their MOOs! and QUACKS! and BAAs! and OINKs! lives a tiny silent ladybird. This beautiful glittery creature (little fingers will love to feel her sparkly shape) is so quiet that she hears two crafty robbers plotting to raid the farmyard. And she comes up with a very clever plan to stop them, helped by the very noisy animals all around her. A wonderful adventure with gorgeous, stylised illustrations.

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 2!**

Here are the latest figures...

Reception	91.7%	Target
Year 1	94.3%	
Year 2	97.7%	97%
Year 3	96.2%	Overall (to date)
Year 4	94.7%	
Year 5	93.5%	
Year 6	95.0%	
Overall	94.3%	

Head Teacher's Awards

Reception	Joey T	Anaiah H
Year 1	Fred S	Olivia W
Year 2	Aadam A	Savannah N
Year 3	Evie T	Esme E
Year 4	EVERYONE!	
Year 5	Oliver M	Dylan S
Year 6	Evalyn W	Bonnie H

OPAL Play Awards

Reception	Ayaz M
Year 1	Harvey K
Year 2	Shasta S
Year 3	Zayn S
Year 4	Angus B
Year 5	Finlay B
Year 6	Dexter K

Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 06.06.25)	121	82	79	92
Position	1 st – 4 Points	3 rd – 2 Points	4 th – 1 point	2 nd – 3 Points
Running Total	4	2	1	3

Hot Lunch Options 09.06.25 – 13.06.25

WEEK 3	MEAT FREE MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main dish	Margherita pizza with baked potato wedges	Chicken tikka masala served with rice	Roast beef, with Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes & gravy	5 Chicken & tomato pasta bake	Crispy battered fish & chunky chips
Vegetarian Main dish	Roasted vegetable pizza	5 Vegetable tikka masala with 50/50 rice	Pb Quorn™ fillet with roast potatoes & gravy	Macaroni cheese	Pb Quorn™ nuggets with chunky chips
Accompaniments	Peas & baked beans Salad bar	Sweetcorn & carrots Salad bar	Carrots & cauliflower Salad bar	Broccoli & green beans Salad bar	Peas & baked beans Salad bar
Desserts	Fruit flapjack	Marble sponge & custard	Lemon cake	Shortbread	Ice cream
Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt
Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection

TO EAT MORE FRUIT

KEY

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

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

SHOBNALL SHOWCASE!

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

Nursery

It has been an exciting week as the children returned for their last half term in Nursery – where has the time gone?

The Nursery children have begun their final half term with great enthusiasm and energy and are loving their new topic, 'Our Heroes'. This week we have talked about fictional superheroes and the special superpowers they have. The children have immersed themselves in imaginative play with each other, dressing up, making their own props to go with their costumes and re-enacting their own stories. Alongside learning about superheroes, we have been tapping out rhythms with percussion toys, practised our counting and subitising skills through playing lots of games and mark making activities and have been creative making our own mysterious masks. The school has certainly been in safe hands this week!



We have also had lots of fun practising for Sports Day. The children have shown excellent listening skills and have been working hard on each of the races.

A fantastic first week back for Nursery!



Reception

We have had an amazing first week back. It was great starting our new topic, 'Bon Voyage,' we enjoyed discussing the different types of holidays people go on and our favourite holiday activities including building sandcastles, playing at the arcades, swimming, beachball and ice creams!

We had a very exciting Forest School session this week as some of our family members joined in the fun. The rain didn't spoil our fun and we all got stuck in exploring. Our adventures included making bubble wands and searching for coloured wool to make rainbow sticks. We also had a go at creating mehndi patterns using mud and designed fairy

and elf homes – these were very creative and impressive! We also created a wonderful piece of art by adding our handprints to make a tree. A huge thank you to all of the adults that joined us.

Lots of us are celebrating Eid al-Adha today and we have been learning all about this wonderful celebration. It has been the perfect time to reflect on what we are grateful for and how we can show kindness to others. We look forward to hearing about some of our friends celebrations next week.

Year 1

What a superb week back it's been in Year 1! The children have returned full of energy and enthusiasm, and we've had a fantastic time getting stuck into some exciting learning across the curriculum. We've begun writing our own explanation texts, all about the lifecycle of a sunflower. The children have enjoyed learning

about each stage of growth, from seed to flower. This week in maths, our focus has been on position and direction. We've been learning all about half and quarter turns, as well as exploring left and right. The children have had lots of fun using practical activities to support their understanding. In Art, we've been inspired by the work of Clarice Cliff and have created our own colourful and imaginative plates in her style. The children showed great creativity and care in their designs! We've made a start on our new DT unit by designing our own hand puppets. We've also been practising different joining techniques, including gluing, stapling, using safety pins, and sewing. We are very proud of how hard Year 1 have been working in preparation for their Phonics Screening Check, which will take place next week. The children are confident and ready – well done, everyone!



Year 2

It's been a busy and exciting week in Year 2!

In English, we've been learning how to write postcards, and the children have really enjoyed using their imaginations to write as if they were sending messages from faraway places. In Maths, we've been learning to tell the time (always a bit of a tricky topic) but the children are showing great perseverance and making fantastic progress!

We've also started some gentle SATs preparation, and we're very proud of how well the children have approached it with focus and confidence.

In RE, we've now finished our topic, which tied in beautifully with this week's learning about Hajj. As part of our celebration, the children decorated cupcakes and, of course, enjoyed eating them too! It was a lovely way to end the week.

Wishing Eid Mubarak to all those celebrating, and a big well done to Year 2 for another fantastic week!

Year 3

This week, Year 3 has been busy exploring, creating, and investigating across the curriculum! In English, the children have been drafting and editing their very own adventure stories, using exciting vocabulary and cliffhangers to keep readers hooked. Maths lessons have been all about angles and measuring, where pupils used protractors and rulers to identify different types of angles in shapes. Over in French, they've been learning vocabulary for school resources, practising phrases like "le crayon" and "la gomme" through games and role-play. In Science, the class investigated how shadows change throughout the day, recording their findings by creating bar charts to track the movement of the sun. It's been another fantastic week of hands-on learning, well done, Year 3!



Year 4

What an amazing first week back we've had in Year 4! In Maths, we have now embarked on our geometry unit, where the children have been exploring the fascinating world of angles and quadrilaterals. Our English lessons have been buzzing with debate as we continued working on our balanced arguments. The children have shown remarkable critical thinking, presenting thoughtful points for both sides of the argument. In RE, we have been delving into the significance of the church for Christians. The children have explored why the church is considered such an important place of worship, community, and reflection, engaging in meaningful



discussions and sharing insightful thoughts. A special mention goes to the children for completing their multiplication check this week. Their hard work and determination throughout the year have truly paid off, and I couldn't be prouder of their progress and perseverance. It has been a wonderful start to the final 7 weeks, and we are looking forward to the weeks ahead with more exciting learning and achievements to come!

Year 5

Year 5 have had a brilliant week, diving into a wide range of exciting learning experiences across the curriculum.

In English, the children began their new unit by researching the life cycles of various animals. They gathered fascinating facts and information, which they will use next week to create their own detailed double-page spreads. Their enthusiasm for exploring the natural world has really shone through in their research.

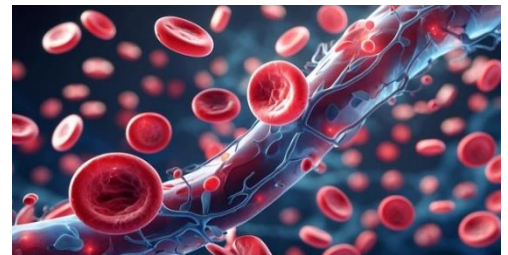
In Maths, the class have flown through their unit on decimals. They've shown great focus and resilience, tackling challenging concepts such as comparing, ordering, and rounding decimals with growing confidence.

Music lessons with Mr Mansfield have introduced the children to the ukulele. They've enjoyed learning how to hold the instrument, strum simple rhythms, and begin playing their first chords – with some very tuneful results already!

In Forest School, the children have been hands-on and creative. They sculpted expressive face sculptures from clay using natural materials, had the opportunity to safely use a bow saw to cut wood, and explored natural dyeing techniques by using plants to print patterns onto cotton fabric.

Year 6

What a great first week back! The children have returned with enthusiasm and focus. In English, we've been writing biographies about significant figures. We began by revisiting the key features of the genre, carried out research on our chosen individuals, and began drafting. The children have produced some brilliant writing already!



In science, we explored the different types of blood vessels – arteries, veins, and capillaries. We conducted an investigation to see how restricted arteries affect blood flow using cups with different-sized holes and water to represent blood. We timed how long the water took to flow through, repeated the test three times, and calculated the mean average. Our results showed that narrower arteries slow blood flow, and the children wrote excellent conclusions based on their findings.

Some children had visits from high school staff who spoke about life in Year 7. We also enjoyed martial arts and Brewhouse production rehearsals, focusing on stage directions and projecting our voices. Well done, Year 6!

Diary Dates 2024-2025

Event	Date/Time
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
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

Train to Teach

in Local Schools

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



The John Taylor SCITT

jtscitt.co.uk

Funding for Selected Routes

Full or Part-Time Routes

Gain School Experience



ATTENDANCE

WHY IT MATTERS



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

-£7,500

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 rises 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. Grade 1 at KS1 or Grade 3 plus level in music or singing at KS2. Performing in televised programme/ film or National stage production. Fundraising for a charity over £2000. Success in overcoming adversity.	National or International status in any given activity in the last 18 months. Grade 8 level/ Diploma in music or singing. Performing in televised programme/ film. Fundraising for a charity over £5000. 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 EMOJIS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Emojis are more than playful expressions – they form a fast-evolving digital language that many adults struggle to decode. For young people, this ‘secret code’ is central to how they communicate identity, humour and emotions. With over 5 billion emojis sent daily on Facebook Messenger alone, understanding these symbols is key to engaging meaningfully with digital youth.

GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

An emoji like 👍 (thumbs up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but teens often interpret it as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.

SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE

When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar. Terms like ‘mid’ or ‘delulu’ may seem harmless, but they can be used to undermine peers in subtle ways.

RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person standing emoji (👤) once signified awkwardness but might now be repurposed for something entirely different. This ever-changing lexicon can leave adults in the dark and young people vulnerable to misunderstanding or misuse.

MASKING DISTRESS OR HARM

Some emojis are used to discreetly signal troubling behaviours. For instance, 🍂 (falling leaves emoji) or 💊 (pill emoji) might suggest drug use, while 🌸 (wilted flower emoji) could hint at emotional struggles. Such usage can obscure serious issues, making them harder for trusted adults to detect.

NORMALISING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Emojis can make harmful actions seem light-hearted or fashionable. Strings like 🔥👤🍷 (fire + ‘woozy’ face + pill emojis) may appear humorous but can reference partying, intoxication or dangerous challenges, which might otherwise raise red flags.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEARN THE LINGO

Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like emojipedia.org or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.

ASK, DON'T ASSUME

Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted “What does 🍷 (juice box emoji) mean these days?” can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.

CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Showing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.

PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE

While parental controls and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to – not just someone who’s watching them.

EMOJI CHEAT SHEET

The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples – please be aware this isn’t an exhaustive list.

COMMON EMOJIS:

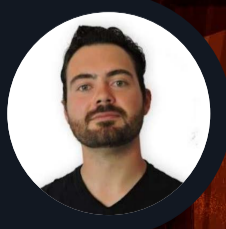
- 🤡 (Clown face) Foolishness or clowning around
- 🙄 (Cold face) Cool, stylish or ruthless
- 😍 (Hot face) Intense attraction or excitement
- 🤨 (Moai) Stone-faced, unbothered
- 👑 (Crown) ‘Slaying’, as in doing great
- 🙏 (Pleading face) Over-affectionate or ‘simping’
- 👁️ (Eyes) Watching drama unfold
- 🐐 (Goat) Greatest of all time (G.O.A.T.)
- 💅 (Nails) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference
- 🚩 (Triangular flag) Red flag; a warning sign about someone’s behaviour

POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

- 🌽 (Ear of corn) Slang for pornography (avoids censorship algorithms)
- ❄️ (Snowflake, snowman, snow cloud) Can symbolise cocaine
- 🗝️ (Key, lying face) Related to cocaine use
- 🍃 (Falling leaves, herb, maple leaf) Can symbolise cannabis
- 💊 (Pill) May reference drug use or prescription misuse
- 🌸 (Wilted flower) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness
- 🐍 (Snake) Can represent betrayal or being ‘two-faced’
- 🔫 (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm
- ⚠️ (Warning) Used to emphasise drama, threats or emotional turmoil
- 🍜 (Steaming bowl) Refers to nudes (‘noods’ is an abbreviation of noodles)

Meet Our Expert

Keith Broni is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emojipedia.org, the world’s number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.



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