



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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5th September 2025

"The secret of getting ahead is getting started."

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! The summer break seems like a very distant memory, but now that we're all settled back into school and our routines, it's as though we've never been away! I would also like to formally welcome all our new children and families to the school community, whether that be for the very first time, or if you are joining us from another setting. I hope that everyone has made you feel welcome and that you've eased in well to school life. I look forward to getting to know you all and to working alongside you over the forthcoming weeks.



I have received so many positive comments from parents this week, not only about how well their children have settled in, but about the refurbishments and renovations that have taken place over the holiday! As you will have seen, the area outside the EYFS/Key Stage 1 building has been transformed into a new outdoor learning area for Key Stage 1. I would like to thank the PFA and everyone in the community once again who supports the fundraising events as this is how this provision has been financed. I would also like to thank Lovell Homes who have funded and built a huge sandpit for the



children to play in during OPAL playtimes and lunchtimes as well as Jo Pawlus and all her team from Boots for giving up their time over the summer to paint our benches and sheds and generally spruce up and tidy our outdoor area.



We have been very impressed with the children's attitude towards their learning, their behaviour, and their engagement this week – they certainly haven't forgotten what our high expectations look like after such a long holiday! Don't forget to follow us on Instagram [@shobnallprimary](https://www.instagram.com/shobnallprimary) as this is where you will get that insight into the exciting things that are happening in school. Please note that this will now be our primary social media platform. Our X.com page will still remain live but won't be used to post any school updates on from now. More urgent messages and reminders will continue to be sent to you via text message, so please make sure your contact details are up to date with the school office.



We have also been very impressed with the children's reading achievements over the summer, in particular, the number of children who have participated in the 'Summer Reading Challenge!' We would love to see their certificates of completion and medals, please feel free to send them in with the children to school.

Whatever it is you are planning on doing this weekend, enjoy! We look forward to seeing you on Monday for our first full week back at school.





Home School Agreement

At Shobnall Primary & Nursery School, we recognise each child as an individual and aim to give all children every opportunity to realise their full potential. We believe that a close partnership between the school, governors, parents and pupils is essential if we are to achieve this aim.

We have discussed this with the children during assembly this week so that they know what they agree to and what staff and governors agree to when working in partnership. We would like all parents to view this document which can be accessed [here](#) so that everyone feels assured what the expectations are for everyone.

School Photographs – Thursday 11 September 2025

On **Thursday 11 September**, all children will have their individual photograph taken for our school records and for you. Families within school can also have a joint photograph taken this year, should you wish to purchase this. Parents who wish to have pre-school children included should arrive at school at **8.15am** so that your little ones can have their photograph taken with their siblings.



National Read A Book Day – 6 September 2025

National Read a Book Day is observed annually on 6 September. National Read a Book Day invites us ALL to grab a book we might enjoy and spend the day reading.

Reading improves memory and concentration as well as reduces stress. Older adults who spend time reading show a slower cognitive decline and tend to participate in more mentally stimulating activities over their lifetime. Books



are an inexpensive entertainment, educational tool and time machine too!

Don't keep what you're reading to yourself. Share the experience! Read aloud either to children or to grandparents. Read to your pets or to your stuffed animals and plants!

Emergency Alerts Test 2025

The government will be carrying out a national test of the [Emergency Alerts system](#) on Sunday 7 September at 15:00.

Compatible mobile phones and tablets will receive an alert, make a loud siren-like sound and vibrate for approximately 10 seconds. The Emergency Alerts system is used to warn if there is danger to life nearby, including extreme weather.



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.



Shobnall Stars – After School Club Closure, Tuesday 30 September 2025 AND Thursday 9 October 2025

It is with regret that **After School Club** will not be open on **Tuesday 30 September 2025 AND Thursday 9 October 2025**. This is due to staff having to attend essential training that cannot be rescheduled. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but the rest of the sessions run as normal.

Open Evening – Thursday 6 November 2025, 4.30pm – 6.00pm

We would like to formally invite you to our forthcoming **Open Evening on Thursday 6 November, 4.30pm to 6.00pm**. The admissions window opens for places in our Reception and Nursery classes in November, so as well as welcoming potential new parents to look round our school, this is also a great opportunity for our existing parents to visit too and see some of the wonderful things that are happening!



So, please join us as we showcase our school, our vision, our values, our philosophy and our approaches. You will meet our staff and our children and get to see first-hand our work on the curriculum. We look forward to seeing you there!



Year 7 Secondary School Applications

The application window for a September 2026 start at secondary or high school is now open. Parents can apply online at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions. As in previous years, the local authority is no longer providing paper copies of the 'Information to Parents' booklet. Parents are able to access this booklet on their [website](#). Deadline for applications is **31 October 2025**.

Sand Pit for Sale!

Miss Brewin and Miss Alexander are currently having a good sort out of all our current resources in the EYFS outdoor area. They wondered if anyone would like to make a bid for the sand pit that currently resides in there as they would like to rejuvenate this part of the provision. If anyone is interested, please contact either Miss Brewin or Miss Alexander.



How Do You Help Birds Thrive In Your Garden?

Share your secrets for creating a bird-friendly haven in your garden!

Whether it's providing nesting spots, planting native flowers, or setting up feeders, we want to hear from you!

[Comment on this Facebook post](#) to get involved.

Across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, we are creating a new strategy to help support nature and help it to thrive. It is called the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The main purpose of the strategy is to identify locations across an area to create or improve habitats like woodlands, rivers, and meadows. [Find out more here.](#)



Safety Tip!

With over 60% of children and young people regularly feeling overwhelmed, it's never been more important to support them in managing stress as they head back to school.

This guide highlights 10 top tips – from spotting early signs to encouraging healthy sleep patterns – that can make a meaningful difference.

Designed for parents and educators alike, the guide outlines how small, everyday actions can help young people feel more in control.

It's a valuable resource to keep stress in check and nurture emotional resilience.

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 5+...

Mama's Special Wonton Soup

Written by Wai Mei Wong

Mama is making wonton soup, so she sends her daughter to the market for ingredients.

The little girl heads off with a basket and her errand turns into a special journey of discovery for readers. Along the way, she meets her village neighbours, greeting each one "Zǎo ān" and thanks them as they each share tasty gifts.

Ms Chen gives her radishes, there's shrimp from Mr Li and his daughters, pulling up their boat, all sorts of extras from Grandma and Aunt Ruby, and even butcher Ms Zhou gives her a bone for her puppy.

As she reverses her steps and takes her shopping home, she has a brilliant idea, shown to readers in a wordless page. Turn over and we see everyone all together and enjoying Mama's delicious wonton soup around their table.

This warm, involving story of independence and community will be particularly fascinating to young readers in this country, who will learn so much about the little girl's south China home, and some useful phrases too. The illustrations, in earthy tones of brown, cream and blue, add extra depth.

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.

Head Teacher's Awards

Reception	EVERYONE!	
Year 1	Kethana R	Hunter-James S-W
Year 2	Thomas G	Ava C
Year 3	Mary-Ann F	Zackaria B
	Alishba A	
Year 4	Isla G	Arham A
Year 5	Jackson B	Aisa L
Year 6	Aadil F	Inam U

The **SHOBNALL SHOWCASE!** will return next week, as will, Attendance Champions, Team Points and Play Awards...

Diary Dates 2025-2026

Event	Date/Time
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

Autumn Term Diary Dates

Event	Date/Time
School Photographs	Thursday 11 th September 2025
Welcome to Nursery – Workshop for Parents	Tuesday 16 th September 2025, 11.00am
Welcome to Reception – Workshop for Parents	Tuesday 16 th September 2025, 2.30pm
Shobnall Stars Night Owls (After School Club) CLOSED for staff training	Tuesday 30 th September 2025

Harvest	Tuesday 7 th October 2025
Shobnall Stars Night Owls (After School Club) CLOSED for staff training	Thursday 9 th October 2025
PFA Halloween Discos	Friday 17 th October 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reception, Y1, Y2 – 3.45pm – 5.00pm • Y3, 4, 5 & 6 – 5.15pm – 6.30pm
Parents' Evening	Monday 20 th October 2025 Wednesday 22 nd October 2025
School Closes for Half Term	Friday 24 th October 2025
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 3 rd November 2025
Open Evening	Thursday 6 th November 2025, 4.30-6.00pm
Odd Socks Day	Monday 10 th November 2025
Parent Coffee Morning	Friday 14 th November 2025, 9.00am – 10.00am
Children in Need	Friday 21 st November 2025
Year 5 Whitemoor Lakes	Wednesday 26 th November 2025 to Friday 28 th November 2025 inclusive
Christingle	Tuesday 2 nd December 2025
A Nursery Noel	Thursday 4 th December 2025, 9.15am
PFA Christmas Market	Friday 5 th December 2025
Reception / Year 1 Nativity	Monday 8 th December 2025, 9.15am AND 2.15pm
Whole School Trip to Pantomime – Cinderella, Lichfield Garrick	Tuesday 9 th December 2025, 10.00am
Year 2 / Year 3 Nativity	Thursday 11 th December 2025, 9.15am AND 2.15pm
Christmas Lunch / Christmas Jumper Day	Wednesday 17 th December 2025
School Closes for Christmas	Friday 19 th December 2025, 2.00pm
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 5 th January 2026



Funding for Selected Routes

Full or Part-Time Routes

Gain School Experience

Train to Teach

in Local Schools

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



The John Taylor SCITT
jtscitt.co.uk