

1st September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very fond and warm welcome back to you! It seems as though we were only waving goodbye to the last academic year five minutes ago and already the new one is upon us! I hope that you have all had a fantastic summer break and that you are looking forward to this new academic year as much as I am! Having spent the day today with all the staff, delivering our annual safeguarding training session, they are buzzing with excitement and are fired up and ready to begin giving their new classes high-quality, fun and engaging learning activities as we continue building on our standards of excellence.

Some parts of the school may look a little different when the children return on Wednesday. Over the summer we have had some refurbishments and renovations completed to enhance and improve the school environment. The area outside the EYFS/Key Stage 1 building has been transformed into a new outdoor learning area for Key Stage 1. We can't wait for the children to see it! I would like to thank the PFA and everyone in the community 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 also had some interior work done in the school, such as a lovely new intervention space having been created outside the Year 3 and 4 classrooms. Here are some pictures to give you a flavour of the hard work that has taken place...



I would also like to 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. Starting a new school can be a daunting experience for some, but please feel reassured that the staff will support all our new starters with kindness and care, both children and parents alike. If you haven't had the opportunity already, may I suggest you have a quick look at your child's class page on the school website under the 'Children' tab to acquaint yourselves with some of the routines and expectations for the forthcoming year.

I would also like to formally welcome some new faces to our team, some of which you will have already met – Miss Allen, our Year 5 Class Teacher, Mr Attwood, our Year 3 Class Teacher, and

Mrs Walker, our brand new Teaching Assistant. I know you will all make them feel at home! We are still recruiting for Mrs Sangster's replacement in the school office. There is still time to apply if you, or anyone you know, is interested in the position. Details can be found [here](#).

We look forward to increasing good patterns of **attendance** this academic year and enhancing the school's already strong and supportive ethos and culture around this. JTMAT considers excellent school attendance as paramount to pupils achieving their full potential and therefore, enhancing lifelong outcomes. It is central not only, to academic attainment but in developing children socially, morally, ethically and in enhancing well-being. It is with this in mind, that we set expectations of excellent attendance for all our pupils. Being in school and having the best attendance possible underpins all the many benefits of school for your child, such as their learning, wellbeing, and wider development. Statistics show that if children miss a day or two in the first couple of weeks of term of a new academic year, they're more likely to go on to be persistently absent which has consequences for their life chances. We hope to get off to a great start when the children return on Wednesday!

In addition to this, **school uniform** plays a key role in promoting pride, self-confidence, and a feeling of belonging. These factors contribute to students' wellbeing, removing the additional pressures of deciding what to wear and the added stress of meeting the expectations of their peers. Please see our dedicated school website page [here](#), which lists our requirements inclusive of our PE kit, which can be worn on PE days. PE will commence this week, so if you are unsure which day/s your child is required to come to school in PE kit, please visit their class page on the school website. The children are very keen to ensure that they are as smart as possible and that uniform standards remain high, and our new rewards system will acknowledge this. You were informed before the summer holiday about the changes regarding the wearing of earrings for PE, which are now not permitted at all.

Please also note that the school's Breakfast Club will resume from 7.30am on Wednesday. If your child has not yet been booked in, please do so via the link [here](#). Mrs Foster and I will be on hand in the morning on the gate from 8.45am to receive any important messages and guide the children to their new classrooms, where all the staff will be waiting in readiness to greet them and support them with the transition to their new routines.

Finally, it is important to remember and acknowledge that our communication channels are always open, and that all stakeholders agree to send and receive these with kindness. Our weekly newsletter will continue to provide you with all the relevant information you need, and our Instagram page [@shobnallprimary](#) will continue to give you 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.

I very much look forward to working alongside you over the forthcoming year and to welcoming the children back to school on Wednesday 3 September!

Kindest regards,



David Adams
Headteacher
Shobnall Primary & Nursery School