



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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10th October 2025

"Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it."

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been another wonderful week at Shobnall, filled with reflection, celebration, and community spirit. As part of World Mental Health Day, we took time to think about the importance of kindness, wellbeing and looking after ourselves and one another – values that are at the heart of everything we do.



We also came together this week for our Harvest celebration, where we gave thanks for all that we have during a special assembly led by Reverend Simon. It was a lovely opportunity to reflect on gratitude and giving, and we'd like to thank *everyone* who contributed to our Harvest collection. Don't forget to take a look at this week's Shobnall Showcase, where you can see some of the fantastic learning and activities that have

been happening across our classrooms. And if you haven't already, make sure you're following us on Instagram [@shobnallprimary](https://www.instagram.com/shobnallprimary) to keep up with all the latest moments from around school!



Thank you to all those parents who have engaged in our online booking system for parent consultations where the class teachers will be able to tell you more about your child's achievements this term. If you haven't yet booked your appointment, there is still time to do so! We look forward to welcoming you into school on Monday 20 October and Wednesday 22 October 2025, 4.00 – 7.00pm.

Thank you once again for your continued commitment to ensuring your children are here, ready, and on time every day. The whole school community continue to embrace our Little Heroes campaign – **HERE, EVERYDAY, READY, ON TIME.**

We hope that you have a great weekend and, as always, we look forward to seeing you again on Monday! Enjoy!

Staffordshire County Council

HERE EVERY DAY READY ON TIME

Little Heroes Assemble

Find out more → SCAN ME

visit staffordshire.gov.uk/littleheroes

Give Thanks!



To all at Shobnall Primary School:

7th October 2025

Thank you so much to you for your regular generous donations to our food bank, especially your most recent. We cannot do what we do without the help of others, so please accept our most heartfelt thank you for your support.

During such difficult and challenging times for so many individuals and families, our vital services are needed more than ever. With your donations, we can help to fulfil this need within our local community, providing food items for emergency food parcels so that nobody needs to go hungry. Last year, we continued to experience a very high level of demand for our foodbank service, issuing over 3,000 food parcels to those in need, and this year so far we have given out over 2,100. Each food parcel contains 24 core food items with a value of £30.45. We were able to support over 6,000 individuals with this essential service, with over 1,700 of those being children. This is our harsh reality, and we are doing everything that we can to meet this need and to support those living with food poverty.

On behalf of all of us at YMCA Burton, thank you very much again for your kindness and thoughtfulness in supporting our charity.

Yours sincerely

Julia Taylor

Julia Taylor
Food Bank Co-ordinator
Julia.Taylor@burtonymca.org

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**.



Reception Application Process

The application process for a reception place for September 2026 will open on **1 November 2025**. The easiest way for parents to apply is online. Further information can be found on [Staffordshire County Council Website](#). The closing date is 15 January 2026.

The school office has a letter informing parents about the process, which we are happy to distribute to prospective families. If you would like a copy of this, please contact us.



Paulet High School Invites you to...



Empowering Families to be Support Savvy ✨



Date: Wednesday, 22nd October



Time: 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM



Location: Paulet High School



Highlights Include:

- Free prize draw - win a hamper!

- Rare opportunity to meet our partner agencies who support our students and their families.

- Find out about support available within Paulet and talk to those delivering it.



Register Interest Now email n.bradley@phs.jtmat.co.uk with your full name (you will also receive an extra entry into the prize draw.)



Class Assemblies

Class assemblies are a significant feature of our school calendar, and we have some dates for you to add to your diaries. All assemblies will start at 9.00am and will be held in the school hall:

- Year 6 – 13 November 2025
- Year 2 – 27 November 2025
- Year 5 – 22 January 2026
- Year 3 – 26 February 2026
- Year 1 – 26 March 2026

We do hope you are able to join us. These dates have been added to the list at the end of the newsletter.

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

Don't forget about 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. Our theme this year is 'Once Upon an Open Evening' and much of the work on display will be based around the joy of reading!

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!

A poster for the Open Evening event. At the top, it says "Happy Children, Inspired Learners" and "SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL". Below that, it says "SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL" and "PROUDLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND OUR OPEN EVENING". There is a small logo for "MAT". The main part of the poster is a collage of photos showing children and staff engaged in various activities. At the bottom, it says "THURSDAY 6th NOVEMBER 4.30pm – 6.00pm". A small text at the bottom reads: "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 incredible work. We look forward to seeing you there!"



Year 5 Whitemoor Lakes Meeting for Parents

There will be a meeting for children and parents on **Thursday 16 October 2025 at 3.30pm** in the Year 5 classroom about the forthcoming residential trip to Whitemoor Lakes. This is a great opportunity to discover more about the itinerary, essential information and to ask any burning questions that you may have. For parents who are unable to attend, a copy of the presentation and kit list will be uploaded to the class website page.

Children in Need – Friday 14 November 2025

Please be aware that it is Children in Need on Friday 14 November. We are aware that we are asking for other donations but, as a school, we feel it would be wrong to ignore such an initiative. So, we will be keeping things simple and having a 'spotty' non-uniform day! Donations are voluntary but we recommend a minimum of 50p,



which will go towards Children in Need. Should you wish to donate more, you will be very welcome to do so!
Thank you for your support!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Shobnall Primary School PFA
HALLOWEEN DISCO
FRIDAY 17th OCTOBER

KS1 3:45-5pm
KS2 5:15-6:30pm

Tickets £4 each
(includes a drink & bag of sweets)

Additional drinks, sweets & crisps
will be available to buy at the disco

Glow sticks will also be available
30p each

Tickets will be on sale each day
from Monday 6th October
(before & after school from the PFA
at front gate)
cash only

Please note that Friday 17 October will be a non-uniform day (the theme being party, or spooky wear) free of charge, so no need for children attending the infant disco to bring a change of clothes.

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.



Winter is Coming...

Temperatures are dropping, and you may be thinking about, or already have, turned the heating on. It's important to stay safe and look after your health, especially if you are an older person or have a medical condition.

Generally, having your thermostat set to 18 - 21 degrees will make sure that your heating will only turn on when it needs to and won't get too hot. Some other things you can do to improve your home's energy efficiency are:

- Bleed your radiators regularly;
- Lower the flow temperature of your boiler;
- Use thermostatic radiator valves (TRVs) to control the temperature setting in each room;
- Look into getting a smart thermostat.



Safety Tip!

When young people go through something traumatic – such as bereavement, bullying or a family crisis – it can take time to make sense of what they're feeling. That's where adult guidance can make all the difference. This week's guide offers helpful tips for parents and educators supporting children and young through difficult experiences.

From fostering a sense of safety to recognising when specialist help might be needed, the guide is full of practical ideas for creating a compassionate, stable environment that supports recovery.

It's a reassuring read for anyone who wants to be there for a young person going through tough times.

We have been made aware that several titles in the *Spy Dogs*, *Spy Pup*, and *Spy Cat* series by Andrew Cope contain a weblink at the back of the book that no longer directs people to information about the books. Instead, the link has been compromised and now leads to inappropriate and unsafe material with no age restrictions. We have removed copies of the book from our school library and classroom book corners. Below are images of some of the front covers in the series to help you identify the books should you have any at home. We advise you remove them immediately. Should any be the property of the school, please return them and we will dispose of them accordingly.



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 Twits Next Door

Written by Greg James and Chris Smith

The Twits are some of Roald Dahl's most deliciously awful creations, indeed they glory in their filthy, nasty, brutish irredeemable awfulness. Now they're back and just as horrible in this new adventure written by Greg James and Chris Smith which brings them into reluctant contact with two of the loveliest people you could ever meet, and their children (fortunately, not quite as lovely).

Could forced niceness including better beer and underpants that set you dancing transform these uber-villains into better people?

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 4!** Well done! Here are the latest figures...

Nursery	92.3%	Target
Reception	91.4%	
Year 1	95.6%	Whole School – 97%
Year 2	98.9%	
Year 3	97.0%	
Year 4	99.0%	Overall (to date)
Year 5	97.9%	97.3%
Year 6	98.9%	
Overall	97.9%	

Head Teacher's Awards

Nursery	Luna C	Liviya C
Reception	Sophie L	Rory P
Year 1	EVERYONE!	
Year 2	Jacob M	Kinza S
Year 3	Mustafa A	Savannah N
Year 4	Aria A	Evie J
Year 5	Milli M-B	Zayn S
Year 6	Adam H	Zaef R






OPAL Play Awards

Nursery	Brayden G
Reception	Barnaby C
Year 1	Zaynab A
Year 2	Ayaat A
Year 3	Alishba A
Year 4	Ava O-R
Year 5	Angus B
Year 6	Keyarah B

Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 10.10.25)	126	92	101	88
Position	1 st – 4 points	3 rd – 2 points	2 nd – 3 points	4 th – 1 point
Running Total	17	13	11	11

Hot Lunch Options 13.10.25 – 17.10.25

WEEK 1	 MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main dish	Margherita pizza with baked potato wedges	Pork sausage with creamy mash potato & gravy	Roast beef, with Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes & gravy	Chicken burger with crispy diced potato	Crispy fish fingers with chunky chips
Vegetarian Main dish	Roasted vegetable pizza	 Vegan sausage & mash potato with gravy	 Quorn™ fillet with roast potatoes & gravy	Vegetarian burger with crispy diced potato	 Crispy vegetable fingers with chunky chips
Accompaniments	Peas & baked beans ----- Salad bar	Peas & carrots ----- Salad bar	Carrots & cauliflower ----- Salad bar	Green beans & sweetcorn ----- Salad bar	Peas & baked beans ----- Salad bar
Desserts	Apple & cinnamon muffin	Shortbread	 Flapjack	Jam & coconut sponge	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

Autumn has certainly arrived in our nursery class this week.

We have had lots of fun exploring natural autumnal objects including pinecones, conkers and different coloured leaves. We used them to create playdough models, faces and even painted with them.

After tidying up our EYFS garden we used the plants that had withered away to explore further. This included carefully picking out sunflower seeds from the head, peeling corn stalks and discovering magic beans, it was all very exciting! When we finished, we placed everything in our compost bin so it can decompose and be used again when we plant new seeds.



On Friday we celebrated mental health day by decorating our own positive affirmation rocks, it was lots of fun being creative with the brightly coloured paints. We also shared the fabulous mirrors we designed for our homework and talked about what was great about us!

We decided that we are all amazing!



Reception

This week in Reception, we have been exploring the theme of *Understanding the World*, focusing on the special people in our lives, what makes a good friend, and the importance of role models. We've had some lovely discussions about who is special to us and why, and we've been learning about Jesus and Moses, two very important figures in Christianity, and how Christians believe they are special and inspiring. In Maths, we've been busy

spotting, creating, and continuing patterns, which we linked to making colourful friendship bracelets. We also made kindness crowns to celebrate the good things we see in each other. In Phonics, we've started Phase 2 and are already working hard on recognising sounds and beginning to blend them. A busy and joyful week of learning!

Year 1

Year 1 have had another fantastic week of learning! In English, we've been exploring proper and common nouns as well as verbs. To inspire our writing, we also went on an autumnal walk as part of our hook lesson. The children enjoyed observing the changes in the season and gathering ideas to help us begin thinking about writing our very own autumn poems. In Maths, we've been working hard to understand the part-whole model. We've been using a helpful stem sentence to support our learning: "1 is



a part, and 4 is a part, the whole is 5." The children have enjoyed using practical resources to represent numbers in different ways. In Geography, we've been busy creating our own maps of the playground, learning how to use symbols and keys to represent the different areas we know and love. In Science, we've been investigating materials to find out which ones are absorbent, and which are not. The children made some great predictions and enjoyed testing their ideas through simple experiments. Well done, Year 1 – keep up the brilliant work!



Year 2

What a wonderful week we've had in Year 2! In English, the children have been busy planning and writing their diary entries, learning how to use time adverbials to make their writing exciting and full of detail. In maths, we've been adding three one-digit numbers, and the children have really impressed us with their fantastic number work and growing confidence. In science, we became real investigators – testing a range of materials to see whether they could be squashed, bent, twisted, or stretched, which caused lots of laughter and curiosity! We also enjoyed a lively music session,

exploring rhythm and beat together. To finish the week, our Forest School session was a real highlight: the children went on a Great Fire of London treasure hunt to find their hidden valuables, baked in their very own

“Pudding Lane bakery,” and used natural objects to create beautiful crayon rubbings of patterns and textures from the forest. It’s been a week full of creativity, teamwork, and discovery – what an amazing time we’ve had!

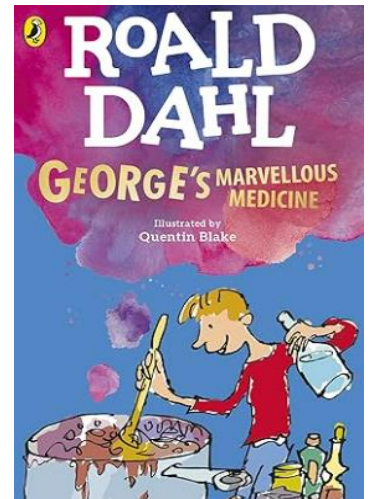
Year 3

What another excellent week for Year 3! In Geography, we explored how different volcanoes are formed and learned about the differences between active, dormant, and extinct volcanoes – the children were fascinated by the dramatic eruptions!

In reading, we’ve been loving *George’s Marvellous Medicine* and discussing what a brave and inventive boy George is. The class has also begun their first piece of independent writing, and it’s been wonderful to see how well everyone is drafting, editing, and improving their work.

The children have really been enjoying OPAL at lunchtimes. It is fantastic to see how well they play together and how creative they can be!

Well done, Year 3 – you should all be very proud of your efforts this week!



Year 4



This week in Year 4, we’ve been busy learners across all subjects! In maths, we tackled subtraction with one exchange before moving on to more than one exchange. It was challenging, but we showed great resilience. In English, we began our new unit on report writing by exploring a model text titled *Terrific Teeth*. We identified key features and vocabulary which will eventually help us when write our own reports about dental care for humans in the next few weeks.

Our history lessons introduced us to the Romans – we placed key events on a timeline and learned the legendary story of Romulus and Remus. In science, we used a program called PhET on the iPads to test complete and incomplete circuits, making predictions and checking our understanding. Music was a highlight too – we learned how to safely use ukuleles and memorised the four main strings: G, C, E, A using the mnemonic Good Cats Eat Ants. A fantastic week all round!

Year 5

What a fabulous week it’s been in Year 5! The children have settled beautifully into their learning and have shown great enthusiasm across all subjects. In English, we have started to write our diary entries. The children have also been working hard on editing and improving their work. In Maths, we’ve been tackling multi-step addition and subtraction problems and exploring missing number challenges. The children have shown great resilience as they’ve applied their problem-solving skills to real-life contexts.



We've also started our brand-new Geography topic all about the Alps! The children have loved using atlases and Google Maps to research this incredible mountain range. They have identified which countries the Alps run through and begun to find out about the climate and landscapes of the region. Their curiosity and teamwork have been wonderful to see!



Year 6

It's been another fantastic week in Year 6! In Maths, we have been tackling long division – a tricky concept that has really tested our perseverance. The children have shown great determination and are beginning to feel much more confident with this challenging skill. In English, we have

completed our persuasive adverts for our shoe designs. The finished pieces are creative, convincing, and wonderfully presented – well done, Year 6! In Art, we have been exploring how to scale up images, practising careful observation and proportion. Meanwhile, in Design and Technology, we've started our new unit on *Steady Hand Games*, beginning to think about design ideas and how electrical circuits will be used in our creations. A brilliant week of hard work and creativity – great job, Year 6!

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 6 Class Assembly	Thursday 13 th November 2025, 9.00am
Year 5 Whitemoor Lakes	Wednesday 26 th November to Friday 28 th November 2025
Year 2 Class Assembly	Thursday 27 th November 2025, 9.00am
PFA Christmas Market	Friday 5 th December 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 5 Class Assembly	Thursday 22 nd January 2026, 9.00am
Year 6 Laches Wood	Monday 26 th January to Friday 30 th January 2026
PFA Valentine's Disco	Friday 6 th February 2026
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 13 th February 2026
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 23 rd February 2026
Year 3 Class Assembly	Thursday 26 th February 2026, 9.00am
PFA Easter Bingo	Friday 20 th March 2026
Year 1 Class Assembly	Thursday 26 th March 2026, 9.00am
Year 5 Hampton Court Palace	Thursday 26 th March 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 2026 to Friday 15 th May 2026
PFA Midsummer Cinema Night	Tuesday 19 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
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
Year 6 Class Assembly	Thursday 13 th November 2025, 9.00am
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