

SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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26th September 2025

"Take your life in your own hands, and what happens? A terrible thing: no one to blame."

Dear Parents/Carers,

Here we are at the end of another very busy week – I know that the children and staff are all looking forward to a very relaxing weekend! Next week we will be issuing a letter outlining the arrangements for parent consultations, scheduled for Monday 20 October and Wednesday 22 October 2025, 4.00 – 7.00pm. A link will be sent to your phone, which you will need to click on to book your appointment/s. Please ensure we have up-to-date numbers for you on our system so that you get your preferred slot/s.



Les enfants se sont bien amusés cette semaine à célébrer la Journée européenne des langues ! Or, for those of us not familiar with French, "the children had a great time this week celebrating European Languages Day!" Throughout Europe, 700 million Europeans are represented in the Council of Europe's 46 member states, and all are encouraged to discover more languages at any age, as part of or alongside their studies. This



stems from the Council of Europe's conviction that linguistic diversity is a tool for intercultural achieving greater understanding and a key element in the rich cultural heritage of our continent. Therefore, the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg, promotes plurilingualism in the whole of Europe. Αt the Council Europe's initiative, the European Day of Languages has been celebrated every year since 2001 on 26 September - together with the European Commission. To find out more about this annual awareness event. click here, and to see how the children engaged with this, please read the 'Shobnall Showcase' at the end of the newsletter.

On **Tuesday 7 October**, the children will be celebrating harvest in our special Harvest Assembly. Reverend Simon is coming into school to lead the assembly so that we can come together as a school family to talk about harvest and say "Thank You" for the food and clothes that we have. Each year, we like to support a local charity with donations of either money or food to support those children, adults and families who are less fortunate than us. Therefore, please could we ask if you could make a small donation by sending your child in to school on Tuesday 7



October with a tin or packet of food (non-perishable items only). We will once again be supporting the YMCA charity who will come and collect the donations later during that day. Thank you!



Thank you once again for your continued commitment to ensuring your children are here, ready, and on time every day. The whole school community has really embraced 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!

Themed Lunch Day - Thursday 2 October 2025

If you would like your child to sample our 'Shobnall Fried Chicken Shop' menu on Thursday 2 October, please view the choices below. There is no requirement to pre-order a lunch if children don't usually have one, they simply choose their option at registration via their class teacher and lunches are charged through Parent Pay. We hope as many children as possible will try and engage with the theme!



SOUTHERN FRIED CHICKEN
TENDERS
OR
SOUTHERN FRIED QUORN
FILLETS

SIDES
SWEETCORN BEANS

Ice cream sundae

Chocolate crispie cake

Yogurts



Train to Teach

Could someone you know be the teacher who inspires the next generation?

Shobnall Primary & Nursery School are pleased to work in partnership with The John Taylor SCITT to offer local placements and valuable classroom experience to the teachers we need tomorrow, today!

The John Taylor SCITT is an accredited provider of Initial Teacher Training that offers;

- Experience of leading over 400 teachers through to Qualified Teacher Status since 2015.
- 40 Placement schools across the East and West Midlands, in your local area.
- Primary (3-7), Primary (5-11) and Primary (5-11 with SEND Enhancement) routes
- Secondary (11-16) routes in; Art, Biology, Chemistry, D&T, English, French, German, Geography, History, Maths, PE, Physics and Religious Studies.
- All routes can be offered on a PGCE with QTS or QTS Only basis.
- All routes can be studied either on a one-year full time or two-year part time basis.

Discover more and sign up for an upcoming Train to Teach event at: https://jtscitt.co.uk/



500 Words Competition

500 Words, the UK's most successful children's writing competition has now opened for submissions and will run until Friday 7 November 2025.

Since the competition was first launched in 2011 by Chris Evans on the Radio 2 Breakfast Show, it has received over one million stories from children throughout the UK.

This year, the two age categories will be **5-7** year-olds and **8-11** year-olds.

Children of all abilities are encouraged to use their creativity and imagination to **write a story they would love to read** without the pressure of having to worry about spelling, punctuation and grammar.

For more information on how to enter, please click here.



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

Teaching Assistant Vacancy

We are looking for a Teaching Assistant to join our outstanding school. If you would like to apply, please click on the link <u>here</u>.

For further enquires, contact the school on 01283 247410. We look forward to hearing from you! The closing date for applications is Monday 29 September, 12 noon.

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!

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**.

Year 7 Open Evenings

John Taylor Free School would like to invite Year 6 parents and children to their Open Evening on Monday 6 October 2025, 5 – 7pm.





John Taylor High School welcomes Year 6 parents and children to join them for their School **Open Evening** on **Thursday 23 October** from **6pm**. Discover what the school can offer your child by attending a presentation and a self-guided tour of the school's classrooms and facilities.



Please visit the Admissions Page to book your slot: https://www.jths.co.uk/key-information/statutory-information/year-7-admissions/

For more information, please email office@jths.co.uk.



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 <u>one form per child</u>, on a <u>weekly basis</u>. 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 <u>here</u> 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.

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. <u>Find out more here.</u>



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.



Safety Tip!

Violence among young people is a growing concern – but we're not powerless to act

This latest guide unpacks the causes and signs of youth violence, including when and where it's most likely to happen. It also offers compassionate, practical advice for parents, carers and educators.

From peer pressure to online influences, there are many reasons why young people may engage in or fall victim to violence. This week's guide shares expert insight from the Ben Kinsella Trust to help parents and educators spot the risks, start sensitive conversations, and help keep children safe.

Reading Corner

This week's recommended read is for children aged 11+...

The Last Journey

Written by Stacey Gregg

This standalone feline adventure will have huge appeal to animal lovers, and it makes a refreshing change that cats rather than dogs are centre stage.

The story is entirely told from the cat's perspective, with the cat in question told by his mama that he is descended from the Egyptian God Bastet and that his destiny is to change the world. Yet he is the last of the litter to find a home and is then christened Pusskin by his new owner Lottie, but the cats he meets, rapidly learn not to be misled by the less than princely name. He soon has his humans exactly where he wants them and begins to rule the other cats in the cul-de-sac where they live.



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 <u>before 9.30am</u> and state clearly reasons for absence.

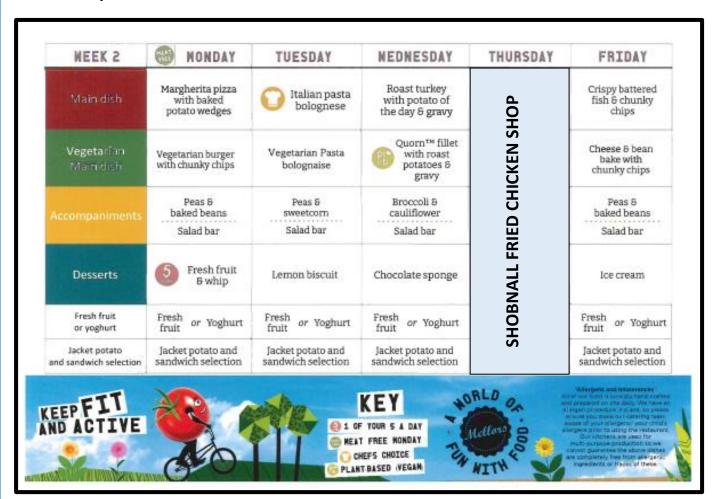


Let's keep working together to ensure attendance is as good as it can be! Remember, **every pupil**, **every day**! Thank you for your support.

This week's Attendance Champions are Year 2 and Year 6! Well done! Here are the latest figures...

Reception	98.3%	Target
Year 1	96.7%	
Year 2	100%	97%
Year 3	95.1%	
Year 4	96.9%	Overall (to date)
Year 5	94.9%	
Year 6	100%	97.1%
Overall	97.4%	

Hot Lunch Options 29.09.25 - 03.10.25



Head Teacher's Awards

Nursery	Cody A	Kylan A
Reception	Olive F	Logan S-B
Year 1	Zaynab A	Mustafa A
Year 2	Muhammad-Y	Ava T
Year 3	Mia L	Umair Q
Year 4	Charlotte M	Noah H
Year 5	Sofia W	Daniel L
Year 6	Ibrahim H	Afrah M

OPAL Play Awards

Nursery	Archie W
Reception	Zara A
Year 1	Maya P
Year 2	Sada C
Year 3	Mariam A
Year 4	Reggie P
Year 5	Ben S
Year 6	Lewis L

Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 26.09.25)	12	21	21	22
Position	3 rd – 2 points	2 nd – 3 points	2 nd – 3 points	1 st – 4 points
Running Total	9	8	6	9

SHOBNALL SHOWCASE!

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



Nursery

We have had an exciting time learning more about each other this week. We shared our fantastic homework and learnt about different family members.

Did you know....

Theo has an axolotl called Lottie? Thank you for telling us more about this was Cody!

Kylan and Cody have a cat called Scorpion?

Aatikah has 2 brothers?

Mila has a dog called Bailey Boo Baa?

In the creative patch we got busy creating representations of our families' using lots of different natural materials. It was fun deciding what to use for the different body parts. Our finished work is magnificent.

It was great joining in with European Languages Day on Friday and we celebrated Italy. Our adventures were full of themed activities including a mini football pitch in our imagination island where some super matched took place.

Miss Alexander said we couldn't learn about Italy without talking about pizza (her favourite) so we made some creative pizzas in our pizza station and even made our own real mini pizzas. It was great cutting circle shapes out of dough, spreading the base and choosing our toppings. Our finished pizzas were very yummy!

Reception

This week in Reception, we've been busy exploring the classic tale of *The Three Little Pigs*! The children loved retelling the story and got hands-on in the construction area, building houses from straw, sticks, and bricks. Then testing their strength using a fan to see which ones could stand up to the "Big Bad Wolf!" We also investigated materials by







exploring sinking and floating, and created beautiful collages of the three little pigs using a variety of textures. As part of our science focus, we looked at how things can change shape. Melting chocolate was a big hit! Of course, we couldn't let it go to waste, so we turned it into tasty chocolate nests for everyone to enjoy. It's been a week full of creativity, curiosity, and lots of fun learning!



Year 1

What a fantastic week we've had in Year 1!

In English, we have been learning all about *letter* families and practising how to form and write them correctly. The children are working hard to improve their handwriting and it's really paying off!

In Maths, we explored comparing numbers using the less than (<), greater than (>), and equals (=) signs. The class has enjoyed using these symbols to compare different quantities.

During Music, we got creative and explored the different sounds that fish might make – using only our bodies! It was a fun and imaginative session.

In Science, we learned about the difference between natural and man-made materials, investigating the world around us and what different things are made from.

To finish off the week, we celebrated World Languages Day by learning all about Germany. We made our own German flags, crafted traditional Alpine hats, and even got to taste some delicious German delicacies!

Well done, Year 1 – what a brilliant week of learning and fun!

Year 2

This week in Year 2, we have been busy exploring some exciting topics across our subjects! In Maths, the children have been learning about estimating numbers and practicing how to estimate positions on a number line, which has really helped build their number sense.

In English and History, we've been diving into the story of the Great Fire of London. The children enjoyed sequencing the events and even reenacted the fire to better understand what happened during this important moment in history.



We also had our second Forest School session, which was a huge hit! The children loved spending time outdoors, discovering nature, and engaging in fun activities.

In Art and History, we combined creativity and learning by making clay houses based on the sketches we created last week. It was wonderful to see the children bring their drawings to life through their clay models – they really enjoyed the hands-on experience!

It's been a fantastic week full of learning and fun!



Year 3

This week in Year 3, we've been busy exploring lots of exciting topics! In English, the children began looking at the lifecycle of a sunflower and explanation texts. In science, we carried out a fascinating experiment to test how permeable different rocks are, with lots of careful observing and recording. In history, we travelled back to the Stone Age, learning about the different types of houses and how early humans cleverly used every part of an animal to survive. The children have been full of curiosity and enthusiasm, and it's wonderful to see their knowledge growing across subjects. Keep it up, year 3!

Year 4

Wow! What an amazing week that we have had in year 4. In maths, the children have been rounding to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000 and I have been blown away with how well the children have been able to grasp this concept so quickly. Elsewhere in the curriculum this week, we have been building circuits in science, and the children have loved experimenting when building circuits to identify the difference between a complete and incomplete circuit! The children have also been identifying their rights as children during PSHE, and this sparked a thoughtful conversation across the classroom. Another fantastic week year 4, well done!



Year 5

What a brilliant week it has been in Year 5!

In Maths, the children have been working hard on developing their mental strategies for addition and subtraction. They have shown great focus and determination, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence growing as they explain their thinking and try out different methods. In English, we have been learning about relative clauses and exploring the difference between facts and opinions. The class have enjoyed the challenge of spotting these in texts and using them in their own writing.



In History, our topic on the Tudors has sparked a lot of excitement. The children have been fascinated by the life of Henry VIII and particularly enjoyed learning about his many wives and the dramatic stories behind them. In Music, the classroom has been filled with energy as Year 5 have been singing lively sea shanties which they have loved performing together.

It has been a busy, fun-filled week full of learning and creativity - well done, Year 5!

Year 6

What a fantastic week it has been in Year 6!

In Maths, we've been working hard on identifying prime numbers and exploring cube numbers, sharpening our number skills and making links across different areas of maths. In English, we've been busy describing our trainer design, getting ready to write a persuasive advert next week — watch out for some very convincing sales pitches! In Geography, our focus has been on population change and population density, thinking about



why people live where they do and how places grow and develop over time. In Science, we've investigated how light travels in straight lines, helping us understand how shadows form and how we see the world around us. Meanwhile, in Computing we've been learning about IP addresses and how they are used to connect devices across networks. It's been a busy but brilliant week full of curiosity and creativity – well done, 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
PFA Christmas Market	Friday 5 th December 2025
Whole School Trip to Pantomime – Cinderella,	Tuesday 9 th December 2025, 10.00am
Lichfield Garrick	
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
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
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 8th June 2026 to Friday 12th 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
Shobnall Stars Night Owls (After School Club)	Tuesday 30 th September 2025
CLOSED for staff training	
Harvest	Tuesday 7 th October 2025
Shobnall Stars Night Owls (After School Club)	Thursday 9 th October 2025
CLOSED for staff training	
PFA Halloween Discos	Friday 17 th October 2025
	 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 21st 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,	Tuesday 9 th December 2025, 10.00am
Lichfield Garrick	
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

