



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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14th November 2025

"You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step."

Dear Parents/Carers,

Despite the gloomy weather we've had at times this week, the atmosphere in school has been anything but dull! There's been a real buzz around the corridors, with children and staff alike taking part in a wide range of activities and events. From exciting classroom projects to special assemblies and extracurricular happenings, it's been a busy and uplifting week that's shown once again how much energy and enthusiasm our school community brings – rain or shine!



As you will already be aware, today is Children in Need and we have had a 'spotty' non-uniform day to support this event! Thank you to everyone who has donated! If anyone still wishes to donate, there is a box outside the school office.

On Monday, Odd Socks Day marked the beginning of Anti-Bullying Week. The theme this year has been 'Power for Good' and not only have the children been using their own power for good, but our school has also been promoting this message in abundance through our curriculum. You can read more about what has been going on in classes in this week's 'Shobnall Showcase'. Today has marked the end of this important week with a Parent Coffee Morning led by our very own Anti-Bullying Ambassadors – thank you to everyone who was able to attend!



On Tuesday, we held a two-minute silence to mark the end of the First World War in 1918, which was a very poignant moment as we took time to remember all those who have lost their lives in conflict. Year 6 led our first class assembly of the year where they were able to share all their learning and projects about World War II. Thank you to all the children and staff for supporting this event! What a great week we have had!

We would like to prepare our school community for any cold snaps that may take us by surprise as we lead into the winter months. We would like to take this opportunity to remind all of our families about the school's procedures should we receive substantial snowfall and extreme weathers. The school will endeavour to

remain open in the first instance and closing the school will only ever be chosen in the final instance. Please can I ask that you do not contact the school office asking if we are open, as we will always use our main methods of communication in the event of such a decision. You will all receive a text message, and the school Instagram [@shobnallprimary](https://www.instagram.com/shobnallprimary) page will also be used to state that this decision has been made. Please ensure that the school office has up-to-date contact details for you. We hope that we are not required to close but such a decision must take into consideration many factors, not just the amount of snow on the school grounds. For example, the safety of parents and families on their journey to school, the staff and their journey to school (many of whom travel some considerable distances through remote areas) and, of course, the weather forecast, and Met Office advice all play a part. I hope that this clarifies our procedures for you and many thanks for your understanding in this matter.



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

Shobnall PFA Christmas Market – Friday 5 December 2025, 3.30pm – 5.30pm

This year's Christmas Market on Friday 5 December 2025 will start at 3.30pm and will finish at 5.30pm. A separate letter has been issued outlining the plans and requests in more detail. As a reminder:

- 🎄 If you have any unwanted items for the bric-a-brac stall (i.e., toys, books, games etc.) that are in good condition, the PFA are happy to accept these donations in school from now.
- 🎄 On the day itself, the children (and staff) are allowed to come to school in non-uniform! Christmas jumpers are permitted! The charge for this is for pupils in EYFS and Key Stage 1 to bring in a chocolate item (value of at least 50p) and pupils in Key Stage 2 to bring a bottle!
- 🎄 Santa has confirmed his attendance! Tickets will be available prior to the event (further details to follow), priced at £4.00. Included with the price this year is a selection box, and you will be more than welcome to take your own photos of your child/ren with Santa.
- 🎄 If anyone would, or knows of anyone who would, like to hire a table at a charge of £10 for their own stall, please let the school office know and we can pass on details to the PFA.
- 🎄 If anyone is able to or has any links with local businesses who may be able to donate a raffle prize, please let the school office know and we can pass on details to the PFA.

The PFA would like to thank you in advance for your support with all their requests and for your attendance at the Market! More information will follow in the forthcoming weeks.





Christmas Cards

Each year, many of the children like to send Christmas cards to their friends. The post box will be outside the school office from Monday 1 December. So that they can be delivered to the right person, please could children ensure that the name of the recipient and their class is written clearly on the front of the envelope.

Christingle!

Tuesday 2 December 2025 will be our annual Christingle assembly day. If you would like to send your child with a Christingle orange (please see instructions below), please ensure that it arrives in school on the Tuesday morning.

Please note that due to allergies, instead of using nuts to decorate the cocktail sticks, may we please ask that parents use alternatives such as sweets and dried fruit.

Many thanks for your support!

Making a Christingle

Equipment:

- Orange
- Four cocktail sticks
- Sweets
- Candle
- Red ribbon



Instructions:

1. Tie your red ribbon in a bow around the centre of the orange.
2. Place some sweets on your cocktail sticks.
3. Insert your cocktail sticks evenly around the centre of your orange.
4. Place your candle in the hole that your teacher has made at the top of the orange.

Outstanding Repairs to Shobnall Road

Please note that that outstanding repairs to Shobnall Road are set to be carried out this month. During earlier works to install a new shared footpath and cycleway, crews uncovered hidden defects beneath the road surface that required more complex repairs than originally planned. At the time, it wasn't possible to extend the existing road closure due to the number of other schemes taking place across Burton and the need to keep traffic moving.



The outstanding repairs are now planned to begin on **Sunday 16 November 2025**, lasting three days. This will involve a full road closure for one day, followed by two days of temporary two-way traffic lights in operation between 9.30am and 2.30pm.

The timing of the works has been carefully chosen to avoid clashing with other local schemes and to reduce disruption.



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.

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.



Have a Sustainable Black Friday

It's Black Friday next week and it can be very tempting to buy lots of new things. The most sustainable Black Friday is to not buy anything at all - but here are some tips if you want to get involved.

- **Make a list** - don't be tempted to buy items you wouldn't have got if they weren't in the sale
- **Shop at local, sustainable brands**
- **Think long term** - if you do want to treat yourself, get something you know will last you a long time
- **Recycle** - if you are replacing items, such as electrical goods, take your old or broken ones to your nearest recycling centre.



Safety Tip!

AI can now generate realistic looking videos that are almost impossible to distinguish from genuine content. From hoax news to abusive deepfakes, these synthetic clips can mislead, manipulate and even harm.

As AI tools become more advanced, and more accessible, young people are increasingly at risk of encountering fake but convincing footage online. This guide unpacks the dangers of AI-generated videos, from the emotional impact of fake distressing content to the potential for impersonation and bullying.

With practical tips to help young users spot deepfakes and navigate online spaces with confidence, this guide is an essential read for parents and educators navigating this rapidly evolving digital landscape.

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+...

Fox and Owl's Winter Adventure

Written by Jackie Lui

In a gentle tale set against a snowy woodland backdrop, Ember the fox and her friend Flint the owl explore the excitement and beauty that winter brings. As they journey through the trees, young readers are introduced to winter wildlife, nature's rhythms and the quiet joys of friendship and kindness. At the end of the book, a non-fiction section offers fun facts and simple eco-friendly crafts.

Part of a beautifully illustrated four-book series, *Fox and Owl's Winter Adventure* encourages children's creativity and nurtures their curiosity about the natural world.

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

Nursery	94.9%	Target
Reception	95.4%	
Year 1	95.6%	
Year 2	96.7%	
Year 3	100%	<i>Whole School –</i> 97%
Year 4	99.0%	Overall (to date)
Year 5	99.0%	
Year 6	93.3%	
Overall	97.3%	

Head Teacher's Awards

Nursery	Archie W	Mila W
Reception	Grace-Mai S-R	Harriet M
Year 1	Jaheem C	Aidan B
Year 2	Millie G	Harper O
Year 3	Hassan A	Sabiha N
Year 4	Peta O	Zain C
Year 5	Angus B	Yousuf H
Year 6	EVERYONE!	

OPAL Play Awards

Nursery	
Reception	Ayaat A
Year 1	Maya P
Year 2	Fatima A
Year 3	Riley F-T
Year 4	Peta O
Year 5	Isaac P
Year 6	Elliot M

Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 14.11.25)	69	41	52	65
Position	1 st – 4 points	4 th – 1 point	3 rd – 2 points	2 nd – 3 points
Running Total	8	2	5	5

Hot Lunch Options 17.11.25 – 21.11.25

WEEK 3	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main dish	Margherita pizza with baked potato wedges	All day breakfast	Roast turkey with Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes & gravy	5 <small>A DAY</small> Mexican chilli with 50/50 rice	Fish cake served with chips
Vegetarian Main dish	Pb Vegetarian burger with chunky chips	Vegetarian all day breakfast	Pb Quorn™ fillet with roast potatoes & gravy	Vegan meatballs with 50/50 rice	Vegetable fingers with chips
Accompaniments	Peas & broccoli Salad bar	Roasted vegetables Salad bar	Green beans & cabbage Salad bar	Corn on the cob & carrots Salad bar	Peas & baked beans Salad bar
Desserts	Chocolate sponge	Rice pudding with fruit compote	Pb Fruit flapjack	Pb Ginger biscuit	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

- 5 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

This week has been super busy and exciting. We learned all about Remembrance Day and made beautiful poppy paintings to help us remember the soldiers. We used red for the soldiers and purple for the animals. It was fun when our parents came in for a Concept Cat workshop, where we explored the idea of long together.

It was also Anti-Bullying Week, so we talked about being kind to each other and made our very own Class Charter with promises like using kind hands, kind feet, kind words, sharing, listening, and telling the truth.



At the end of the week, we celebrated Children in Need by dressing up and designing our own long and not long socks.

Reception

This week in Reception, the children have been busy exploring a range of exciting learning opportunities. As part of our Remembrance Day activities, the children created beautiful poppy artwork to help them reflect on the importance of remembrance. In Understanding the World, they enjoyed making nature catchers, first heading out onto the field to observe seasonal changes in autumn and gather natural materials to use in their creations. The children also had great fun developing their positional vocabulary during a squirrel hunt on our tuff spot. To round off the week, they worked collaboratively to make wonderful portraits using natural resources found outdoors. It has been a fantastic week of creativity, exploration, and hands-on learning!



Year 1

Year 1 have had an amazing week and have truly blown Miss Barker away with how independent and resilient they are becoming as learners! In English, we began our new writing unit on instructions. The children followed step-by-step instructions to make their own rainsticks and explored the text features that make instructions clear and easy to follow. In Maths, they have been solving addition word problems using number lines, developing their problem-solving skills.

As part of Anti-Bullying Week, Year 1 created their own class *Kindness Contract* and designed lots of colourful odd socks to celebrate individuality and kindness. In Art, the children learned about Paul Klee and created portraits inspired by his famous work, experimenting with shapes and colours. In Science, we started

planning and designing our own homes, ready for an exciting junk modelling project that is coming up soon.

Well done, Year 1 – you've had a fantastic week of creativity and learning!

Year 2

Year 2 have had an incredibly busy and exciting week! In English, the children have been learning fascinating facts about the Royal Family as they prepare to write their own non-chronological reports. They are now developing creative titles and will soon begin researching their chosen royal family member. In Maths, they have been practising subtraction and finding the difference using number lines, building confidence with these key skills.

In History, the children explored the plague, discovering how it spread and the impact it had on people's lives in the past. In RE, they discussed the importance of the Nativity story, thinking



about why Christians celebrate Christmas and what the story means to them today. In Science, the children investigated what animals need to survive, learning about food, water, shelter, and air, and even comparing the needs of different animals in their habitats.

A fantastic effort from everyone – well done, Year 2!



Year 3

This week in Year 3, we have been busy polishing our English writing as we edited our persuasive reports on why people should visit Skara Brae. The children worked wonderfully hard and used some excellent adjectives to create expanded noun phrases that would convince anyone to explore this fascinating place! In History, the class wrote diary entries about a day in the life of someone living at Skara Brae. They impressed us with how well they used everything they have learned in our lessons so far. In French, we began learning colours, and everyone enjoyed practising the

new words. The children really impressed me with their pronunciation! We have also started our Nativity rehearsals. The children are already very excited and can't wait to perform it for you!

Year 4

What a fantastic week we've had in Year 4! We started off with a brilliant forest school session, where we made poppies from leaves, tried some leaf printing, and enjoyed a hot chocolate and singsong around the fire. In maths, we finished our unit on area, understanding that area is the amount of space something takes up, before moving on to our learning about the three times table. In English, we have been exploring fronted adverbials and even took part in



some drama, becoming elephant handlers while answering questions from our peers about Luca the elephant and his role in the Roman army. In history, we learned about the Punic Wars, focusing on the Second Punic War and Hannibal's incredible journey with his elephants through the Alps. Finally, in science, we began to explore how humans digest food, discovering what happens inside our bodies after we eat. A really great week, full of creativity, curiosity, and teamwork – well done, Year 4!

Year 5

Year 5 have shown great focus and enthusiasm in their learning this week!

In Maths, the children have been developing their understanding of improper and mixed fractions. They have practised converting between the two and have also been learning how to order fractions by finding common denominators. In English, we have been learning how to punctuate dialogue correctly and use reporting clauses effectively. The children have started planning their very own alien stories, thinking carefully about characters, settings, and how to make their writing exciting for the reader.

As part of Anti-Bullying Week, we discussed the importance of being an upstander rather than a bystander. The children shared thoughtful



ideas about how they can support others and help make our school a kind and safe place for everyone. Together, we created a class 'Kindness Contract' to remind us of the positive actions we can take each day.

Year 6

What a fantastic week it's been in Year 6! In Maths, we've been challenging ourselves by dividing fractions by integers and finding fractions of different amounts. The children have shown great perseverance and growing confidence with these tricky concepts. In English, our creativity has been flowing as started writing gripping narratives about our characters getting lost in the Amazon rainforest and finding their way out of danger. The stories have been full of suspense, vivid descriptions, and imaginative ideas! In Science, we've been investigating electrical conductors and testing out different materials to see which ones allow electricity to flow. The class loved taking on the role of young scientists and making their predictions. In French, we've been expanding our vocabulary by learning about the different parts of a house and the rooms within it – *la cuisine, le salon, la chambre* and more! A great week, Year 6 – keep up the fantastic effort and enthusiasm!



Diary Dates 2025-2026

Event	Date/Time
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
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
Year 6 Laches Wood Meeting for Parents	Monday 5 th January 2026, 3.30pm, Year 6 Classroom



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