



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TELEPHONE: 01283 247410 INSTAGRAM: [@shobnallprimary](#) E-MAIL: shb-office@shb.jtmat.co.uk

21st November 2025

"Work hard and be kind and amazing things will happen."

Dear Parents/Carers,

Things are starting to look and feel very festive around school! The Christmas tree and decorations will be going up shortly, nativity rehearsals are in full swing, and the Christmas Market will soon be entertaining visitors! The Christmas holidays seem to be racing quickly towards us and there is still so much to do! Please keep checking the diary dates at the end of the newsletter to remind yourselves of what is happening.



Next week, Year 5 are making their way to Whitemoor Lakes and will be staying from Wednesday 26 November until Friday 30 November. Please look out on the school Instagram [@shobnallprimary](#) page to see how they are getting on! I know the children are really looking forward to their stay and it promises to be a fantastic few days for them! Year 2 also have their class assembly on Thursday 27 November at 9.00am, and we hope to see as many of our parents in attendance as possible!



It has started to feel exceptionally cold this week so we would like to take this opportunity again 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](#) 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!

Keep Well This Winter

We see cases of flu, RSV, COVID-19 and norovirus throughout the year, but in winter they circulate at the same time and can reach high levels. The NHS have produced some great advice to help us avoid catching a winter bug and protect our health.



- **Get vaccinated** – Everyone who is eligible, especially the elderly, pregnant women, and those with pre-existing health conditions, are encouraged to come forward for their vaccinations for these infections.
- **Keep washing your hands** – Regularly washing your hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds and using bleach-based products to clean surfaces are effective ways to stop the spread of norovirus and other infections. Avoid preparing food for others if you have diarrhoea and or vomiting.
- **Practice self-care** – Getting plenty of rest, drinking lots of water, and taking over-the-counter medications are often effective ways to deal with common minor illnesses like colds, sore throats or coughs.
- **Use antibiotics responsibly** – Antibiotics do not work against viruses, which are the usual cause of these conditions. Taking antibiotics when you don't need them can contribute to antibiotic resistance, making it harder to treat bacterial infections in the future, so always listen to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist's advice.
- **Protect yourself against cold weather** – Maintain indoor temperatures of at least 18°C, particularly if you are older or live with elderly people, young children, or those with long-term health conditions. If you're spending time outdoors, ensure you wear plenty of warm clothing.

For further information, please visit [Winter illness | NHS inform](#). 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.



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 from next week**, priced at £4.00, every morning and afternoon pick up by the entrance to the key stage 2 playground. 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.

Christmas Performances for Parents

We look forward to welcoming you into school next week for our Christmas performances, which the children are very excited about! These are summarised as follows:

Date	Time	Year Group(s)
Thursday 4 December 2025	9.15am	Nursery
Monday 8 December 2025	9.15am AND 2:15pm	Reception and Year 1
Thursday 11 December 2025	9.15am AND 2:15pm	Year 2 and Year 3

As teachers and parents, we realise that parents do like to take photographs and videos of their child during performances as a personal memento. However, this can only be allowed if parents follow the guidelines which have been agreed by our school community, and we thank you for your co-operation with this:

- Photographs must not appear on the internet or social media.
- Photographs/videos are used as a personal memento only and cannot be reproduced or shared elsewhere publicly.
- Parents wishing to take videos/photographs are asked to stand in a position which does not detract from the children's performances and does not restrict the view of other audience members.

We look forward to seeing you there! Whilst there has been no charge for admission to our performances, we will be having a collection at the end of each performance in support of our designated charity for this season, which is St. Gile's Hospice – a charity close to all of our hearts.



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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.

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.

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.



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.



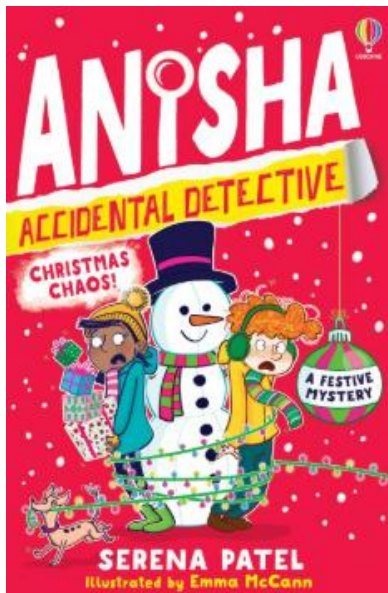
Safety Tip!

Tracking devices like AirTags and SmartTags were designed to help people find lost belongings, but they've also opened the door to worrying forms of misuse. Their compact size and subtle design make them easy to hide, which can lead to the unwanted tracking of people without their knowledge.

From stalking and bullying to potential misuse by peers, these gadgets bring a range of risks that trusted adults must stay aware of.

This guide examines the growing popularity of Bluetooth trackers, the most common ways they're being misused, and how to spot signs that a child may be affected.

With practical tips on detecting hidden devices, using the right apps, and starting important conversations, it's a vital read for parents, carers and educators looking to stay ahead of a fast-moving issue.



Reading Corner

This week's recommended read is for children aged 7+...

Anisha Accidental Detective: Christmas Chaos!

Written by Serena Patel

Anisha Mistry, better known to her fans as the accidental detective, is back for her eighth adventure, and this time the stakes are festively high. She gets embroiled in her most Christmassy caper yet when Santa's sleigh for the community festive fayre mysteriously vanishes.

Christmas in the Mistry household is always a big deal. Her mum, dad, and the ever-marvellous Granny Jas embrace the season with gusto. Anisha... not so much. She enjoys plenty about it, but the noise, the fuss, and her dad running the whole community is all a bit much. Thankfully, she has her loyal best friend, Milo Moon, by her side.

When the sleigh disappears, the dynamic duo with cousins Manny and Mindy turn super-sleuths once again. With Anisha's trademark determination, sharp instincts, and refusal to give up – even when things look impossible – they sift through clues and follow the evidence wherever it leads. Along the way, they uncover festive chaos, community spirit, and a reminder that with loved ones around you, you can take on anything.

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

Nursery	91.0%	Target
Reception	80.0%	
Year 1	90.0%	
Year 2	98.9%	Whole School – 97%
Year 3	91.9%	
Year 4	94.8%	Overall (to date)
Year 5	97.9%	
Year 6	95.6%	96.3%
Overall	94.8%	

Head Teacher's Awards

Nursery	Hana	Zeenat
Reception	Barnaby	Hannah
Year 1	Joey	Ali
Year 2	Harvey	Harriet
Year 3	Mariam	Adam
Year 4	Ava	Amaya
Year 5	Meerab	Azaan
Year 6	Zain	Charlie




OPAL Play Awards

Nursery	
Reception	Sophie L
Year 1	Azaan K
Year 2	Abia L
Year 3	Miley M
Year 4	Noah H
Year 5	Alina P
Year 6	Lewis L

Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 21.11.25)	65	17	65	31
Position	1 st – 4 points	4 th – 1 point	3 rd – 2 points	2 nd – 3 points
Running Total	12	3	8	8

Hot Lunch Options 24.11.25 – 28.11.25

WEEK 1	MEAT FREE MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main dish	Margherita pizza with baked potato wedges	SPECIAL MENU - BIRTHDAY BUFFET BOX	Roast turkey with Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes & gravy	Pork sausage with creamy mash potato & gravy	Crispy battered fish & chunky chips
Vegetarian Main dish	Roasted vegetable pizza		 Quorn™ fillet with roast potatoes & gravy	 Vegan sausage & mash potato with gravy	 Vegetarian burger with chunky chips
Accompaniments	Cauliflower & broccoli Salad bar		Green beans & cabbage Salad bar	Sweetcorn & broccoli Salad bar	Peas & baked beans Salad bar
Desserts	Jam & coconut sponge		Chocolate sponge	Shortbread	Ice cream
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



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SHOBNALL SHOWCASE!

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

Nursery

This week we have had an amazing adventure exploring colour.

We had a special delivery on Monday when a new book arrived wrapped in layers of colourful paper. After lots of unwrapping we were excited to find the story, 'The Dinosaur that Popped a Rainbow' by Tom Fletcher. We were so excited to share this story and learn all about colours. We also thought it was very funny when the colour brown was added!

The colour theme continued as we explored the artwork of Jackson Pollock. After lots of discussion it was our turn to become artists and using inspiration from this brilliant artist we created our own masterpieces.

"The paint is dripping off the end" -Theo

"I've mixed these and it's made orange." - Cody

"Jackson Pollock made the drip painting now the black paper is more colourful." – Adheera

"It looks like the fireworks I saw with my mummy." - Mila

Our colour adventures continued and included mixing colours using surprise dinosaur splats, subitising pipe cleaner rainbows and using a variety of construction resources to create our own rainbows.

To finish off the week we created our own happy breathing tools to help us feel calm when we get red. We transformed boring plain cardboard tubes into magnificent rainbow breathing creations. Watching the strips of paper make a rainbow as we breath out is a fantastic way for us to return to green.

Reception

What a magical week it's been in Reception! We've kicked off our new theme, "Sparkle and Shine," with an amazing surprise – our very own Ice Castle! The children have loved exploring this frosty wonderland and have been busy building their own castles using lots of different construction materials.

They've also designed clever vehicles to transport ice to the palace and carried out exciting investigations to discover how ice melts. In art, the children have wowed us with their portrait skills, learning how to create eyes and noses using a variety of media.

And in Drawing Club, the story of "*The Magic Porridge Pot*" has inspired plenty of creativity and imagination. What a fantastic week Reception!

Year 1

Year 1 have had a fantastic week of learning! We've been working hard on writing our own sentences using imperative verbs, and Miss Barker is so impressed with how carefully everyone remembered their finger spaces and full stops. In maths, we've been learning to use part-whole models to show subtraction, which really helped us understand how numbers fit together. In science, we explored the different seasons and even designed our own hibernation dens for animals – such creative ideas! On Wednesday, we had a magical trip to the cinema to watch "*The Wild Robot*." The children behaved exemplarily and made Miss Barker, Ms Walton and Mrs Robina so proud. They loved the popcorn and chocolate too – what a treat! To finish off the week, we've started learning the songs for our Nativity and practicing our lines. We can't wait to share it with you soon!

Year 2

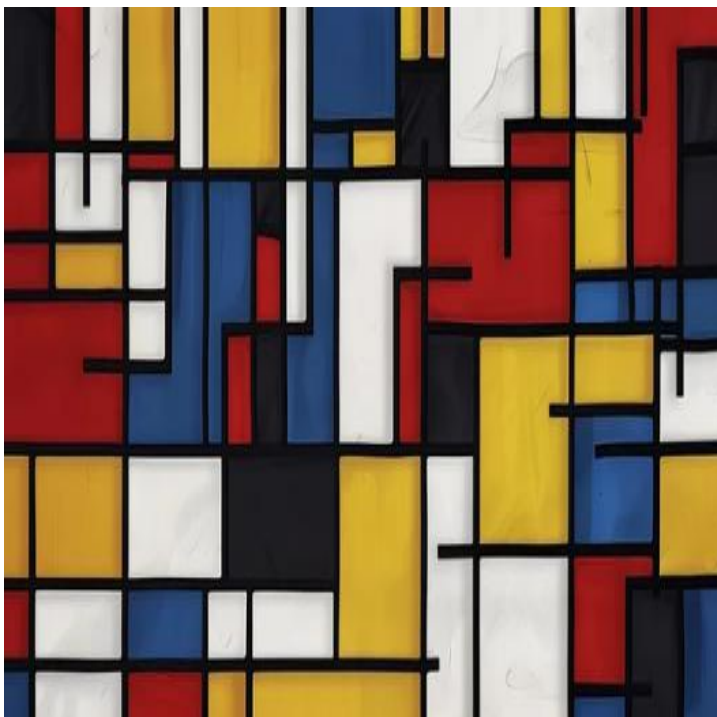
This week in Year 2, the children have been working hard in Maths, focusing on subtraction, missing-number problems, and comparing number sentences. In English, we have been learning all about the Royal Family through reading and writing activities. In Science, we have been exploring healthy eating, discussing the right foods to choose and why they are important for our bodies. We also enjoyed a wonderful trip to the cinema to watch *The Wild Robot*, which the children absolutely loved. In addition, we are busy preparing for our Great Fire of London assembly and can't wait to showcase all the children's hard work to you next week.



Year 3

What a brilliant week we've had in year 3. Despite the cold temperatures, the learning in the classroom has been the opposite! The children have made a fantastic start to the new Multiplication and Division unit in Maths. They've been working really hard and I've been so impressed. In English, we have finished writing our persuasive reports about why people should visit Skara Brae. The children have worked so hard perfecting their writing and it's been lovely to see. In History, the children practiced being historians! We compared primary and secondary sources and the benefits of both. We've also started to ramp up our rehearsals for our nativity - Lights Camel Action 2: The Sequin. The children have impressed with their singing, and some children are even off script! Well done year 3 - keep it up!

Year 4



Year 4 have had a fantastic and action-packed week! We began at Forest School, where the children learned how to use bow saws safely to cut wood and practised striking flint and steel to create sparks – great teamwork and resilience on show. On Tuesday, we completed our Design Technology unit by making our very own slingshot cars. The class built their chassis using lollipop sticks, dowels and wooden wheels before designing bold, colourful car bodies inspired by the De Stijl art movement. After assembling the final models, we raced them to investigate what made some cars travel faster than others. In Maths, we focused on the 6 and 9 multiplication and division facts, while in RE we began our new Christianity unit, exploring the importance of symbols. Science saw us learning about different types of teeth and their specific jobs. In English, we worked with fronted adverbials and created our own imaginative battle animals to prepare for

writing diary entries as if we were Hannibal crossing the Alps during the Punic War. I can't wait to read their incredible diary entries next week!

Year 5

In Maths, the children have been learning how to add fractions with different denominators. They have practised finding common denominators and using their times-table knowledge to add fractions accurately. In English, the children have begun writing and editing their alien stories. They have been focusing on using powerful verbs to make their writing more vivid and engaging. It has been wonderful to see their imagination develop as they create their characters and settings.

In Science, we have explored reversible changes, thinking about which materials can return to their original state. The children have also been working hard on improving their scientific writing by using the PEEL paragraph method to structure clear predictions and thoughtful conclusions.



Year 6

This week in Maths, the children have been developing their understanding of *measurement*. They have been learning how to convert between different units, including millimetres, centimetres, metres and kilometres, and have been applying these skills to a range of problem-solving activities. In English, we have continued working on our Amazon Rainforest narratives. The children have written the *introduction* and *build-up* to their stories, focusing on rich description and effective atmosphere. They also spent time

editing and improving their drafts, thinking carefully about vocabulary, punctuation and sentence structure. During PE, we have been exploring a variety of *passing techniques*. The children practised accuracy, control and teamwork as they learned when and how to use different types of passes in game situations. In Computing, Year 6 have begun learning about *website design*. They explored the key features of effective websites and started planning the layout and content for their own web pages. Overall, the children have worked incredibly hard and shown great enthusiasm across all subjects. Well done, Year 6!

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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