



# SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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28<sup>th</sup> November 2025

*"Let your smile change the world, don't let the world change your smile."*

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a wonderfully busy and joyful week here at Shobnall! Our Year 5 children have had a fantastic time away on their residential at Whitemoor Lakes, returning full of stories, confidence, and smiles. All the children (and staff) were fully involved in climbing, archery, zip wires, problem solving plus so many other exciting challenges! The food on offer was incredible, and the highlight had to be the Christmas dinner on Thursday evening. As always, the children have represented the school perfectly and the staff at the centre spoke incredibly fondly and highly of our wonderful children. The school Instagram

[@shobnallprimary](https://www.instagram.com/shobnallprimary) page has captured many memorable moments of this trip! Huge thanks to Miss Allen, Mr Bishop, Mrs Shannon and Mrs Johnston for supporting this trip. We hope that the children have a very restful weekend! We are very proud of you!



Year 2 delivered a truly amazing and incredibly professional class assembly all about *The Great Fire of London* on Thursday! Their enthusiasm for the topic has been a joy to see, and they should feel very proud of themselves!

Looking ahead, we have a festive week to enjoy. On Tuesday, we will be holding our Christingle Assembly with Reverend Simon. Please see the instructions at the end of the newsletter for how children can make and bring their Christingles in. On Thursday, we are excited to host our very first **Nursery Noel**, and we look forward to welcoming our nursery parents for this special event. Then on Friday, the PFA will be holding the Christmas Market, which is always a highlight of the season and a wonderful way to come together as a community.

As I write, our Christmas tree is being put up in school, helping us all feel that the festive season has well and truly begun. A huge thank you to Mr Wilson for so kindly sourcing it for us once again.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend and a joyful start to the Christmas celebrations. 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 that will start at 3.30pm and finish at 5.30pm is nearly here! 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! We look forward to seeing you there!



### **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.

## Cold Weather Procedures



It been another exceptionally cold week in parts, 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.

### Parking on Lovell Site

Sadly, we received a complaint this week about parents parking dangerously and inconsiderately along Union Way (the Lovell Homes site) across from the school this week. Please could we remind parents and carers to avoid using here and make use of the Albion pub's car park instead. This helps ease congestion at drop off and pick up times as well as ensuring our neighbours are not inconvenienced. If you do note irresponsible and inconsiderate parking, please use the link below to report your concerns online, which will continue to support the case for greater consideration of this issue.



[Report problem parking online - Staffordshire County Council](#)



### 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 <b>AND</b> 2:15pm	Reception and Year 1
Thursday 11 December 2025	9.15am <b>AND</b> 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. Giles's Hospice – a charity close to all of our hearts.

**St Giles**  
| Hospice

# Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.



**Palm to palm**



**Backs of hands**



**Between fingers**



**Backs of fingers**



**Thumbs**



**Tips of fingers**

**To help keep time,  
sing 'Happy Birthday' twice.**



## Reception Application Process

The application process for a reception place for September 2026 opened 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.

## 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.

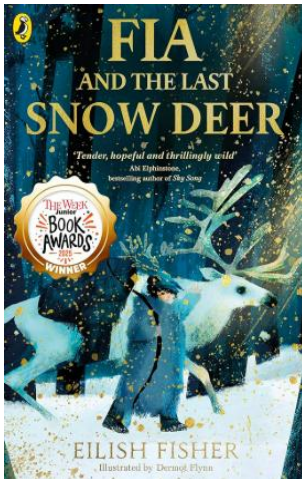
- **Make a list** - don't be tempted to buy items you wouldn't have got if they weren't in the sale
- **Shop at local, sustainable brands**
- **Think long term** - if you do want to treat yourself, get something you know will last you a long time
- **Recycle** - if you are replacing items, such as electrical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



## Safety Tip!

Now the world's go-to short video platform, TikTok captivates young audiences with its endless stream of engaging clips, but not without potential pitfalls. From unsettling or age-inappropriate content to harmful viral challenges, misinformation and even radicalisation, this ever-popular app can expose children to content that may not always be suitable for them.

This guide explores TikTok's hidden hazards, including in-app spending, compulsive screen time and privacy concerns, offering clear advice for parents and educators. With expert insight and practical safety tips, it aims to help families ensure that TikTok use remains fun, positive and, most importantly, safe.



## Reading Corner

This week's recommended read is for children aged 9+ ...

### Fia and the Last Snow Deer

Written by Eilish Fisher

This absorbing verse novel tells the tale of Fia and her best friend, Solas the snow deer, as they set off on a quest through the deepest, darkest mid-winter to find the mythical Deer Mother and persuade her to spark the return of warmer days after three long, desperate years of cold and snow. Accompanied by Fia's cousin Mish, they face an array of dangers including terrifying Shadows who tempt Fia to give up, while she knows that if they find the Deer Mother, there may be a terrible price to pay for her help.

## 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. **Children can come to school with mild respiratory illnesses.** 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 5!** Well done! Here are the latest figures...

Nursery	91.3%	Target
Reception	94.2%	
Year 1	92.3%	Whole School – 97%
Year 2	97.5%	
Year 3	93.5%	
Year 4	81.3%	
Year 5	100%	Overall (to date)
Year 6	93.8%	
Overall	93.1%	

## Head Teacher's Awards

<b>Nursery</b>	Theo C	Hana S
<b>Reception</b>	Hannah S	Kiana N
<b>Year 1</b>	Minahil F	Maya P
<b>Year 2</b>	EVERYONE!	
<b>Year 3</b>	Hudhayfah M	Paisley H
<b>Year 4</b>	Esme E	Angel M
<b>Year 5</b>	EVERYONE!	
<b>Year 6</b>	Rosie T	Lewis L










## OPAL Play Awards


<b>Nursery</b>	
<b>Reception</b>	Cody A
<b>Year 1</b>	Ava M
<b>Year 2</b>	Rayyan S
<b>Year 3</b>	Adam M
<b>Year 4</b>	Amaya H
<b>Year 5</b>	
<b>Year 6</b>	Keyarah B

## Team Points





Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 28.11.25)	151	93	236	137
Position	2 <sup>nd</sup> – 3 points	4 <sup>th</sup> – 1 point	1 <sup>st</sup> – 4 points	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 2 points
Running Total	15	4	12	10


## Hot Lunch Options 01.12.25 – 05.12.25

WEEK 2	 MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Main dish</b>	Margherita pizza with baked potato wedges	Meatballs in tomato sauce with rice.	Roast beef, with Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes & gravy	 Italian pasta bolognese	Crispy battered fish & chunky chips
<b>Vegetarian Main dish</b>	Roasted vegetable pizza	Vegan sausage ragu with rice.	 Quorn™ fillet with roast potatoes & gravy	  Vegetarian bolognese	 Vegetarian burger with chunky chips
<b>Accompaniments</b>	Corn on the cob & broccoli ..... Salad bar	Peas & cauliflower ..... Salad bar	Carrots & parsnips ..... Salad bar	Roasted vegetables ..... Salad bar	Peas & baked beans ..... Salad bar
<b>Desserts</b>	 Fruit sponge & custard	 Fresh fruit & whip	Spiced apple cake	 Oaty jam squares	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



### KEY

-  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!

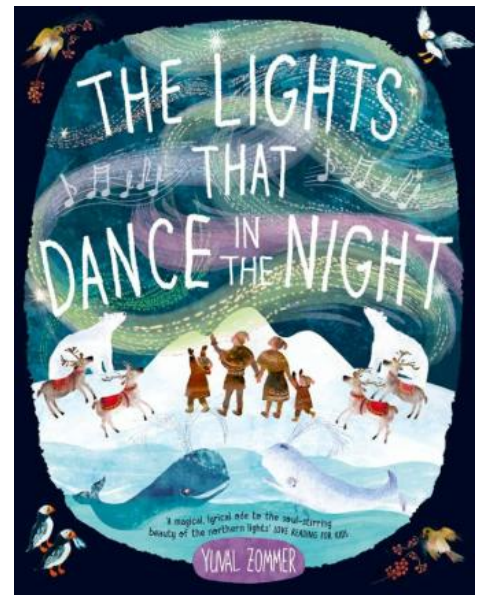
Let's have a sneaky peek as to what has been going on in our classrooms this week...

## Nursery

We have had a wonderful week continuing to explore colours as part of our theme, 'The Rainbow Express'.

We were very excited to learn about the wonderful Northern Lights and the beautiful colours that that can be seen in the sky. After sharing the story, 'The Lights That Dance in the Night,' by Yuval Zimmerman we created our own beautiful Northern Lights using foil felt tips and water- the results were truly magnificent. We also experimented with a range of media to represent different lights and compared the bright rainbow colours to the pastel colours of the aurora.

Our classroom has been full of singing, dancing and smiley faces as we have been busy practising exciting new songs for our upcoming Christmas performance, 'A Nursery Noel.' We can't wait to share this with our grown-ups next Thursday as we begin celebrating the most wonderful time of the year.



## Reception

The Reception class has had a wonderfully busy and creative week! The children have been practising drawing portraits, using mirrors to help them sketch with pencils, wax crayons, felt tips, and chalk. In maths, they have been developing their subitising skills for numbers 1–5 by adding “marshmallows” (pompoms) to their hot-chocolate number cups. We also had great fun following a set of instructions to make our very own snowflake potions, a hugely popular activity! A big thank-you to all the parents who joined us for our parent build afternoon; the children absolutely loved it, and the castles they created were fantastic. It was wonderful to see how proud they were of their amazing creations!



## Year 1

What a brilliant week we've had in Year 1! Our nativity is really coming to life! We've been singing, dancing, and practising our lines, and the children are loving it. In English, the children have been busy planning which instrument they would like to make (guitar, maraca, rainstick or drum) and have begun planning their instructional writing. In Maths, we've been hopping along number lines to help us add and subtract. We also had great fun using the keyboards, typing our names and

words that describe who we are! In Geography, we explored the playground and looked closely at its different features. Next week, we'll be using our ideas to design a brand-new playground which is very exciting! To finish our week, we created our own bright and bold versions of the Bayeux Tapestry, and they look fantastic! Super work, Year 1!

## Year 2

This week in Year 2, we have had a truly lovely and busy few days of learning. In Maths, we began our new topic on shapes, exploring both 2D and 3D shapes by identifying their sides and vertices. The children particularly enjoyed a hands-on lesson where we combined art with maths, creating block-painted shape prints and then sorting them into groups based on their properties. In English, we have started drafting our own non-chronological reports, using the research the children gathered on the iPads. They have been putting their facts together wonderfully and are beginning to structure their writing with clear subheadings and interesting information.

In Science, we explored the food pyramid, learning about the different food groups and how each one helps our bodies stay healthy. To finish off our week, we were incredibly proud to perform our class assembly on the Great Fire of London. Every single child spoke clearly, remembered their lines, and confidently stood on stage to share their part. They were all amazing, and I am extremely proud of each and every one of them!

### Year 3

What a week we've had in year 3. Nativity rehearsals are now in full swing, and it's been wonderful to see everything beginning to come together. The children are putting in a tremendous amount of effort with their singing and learning their lines – well done to each and every one of them! In English, Year 3 have begun their new unit exploring *The Beautiful Game*, where they are already impressing us with their understanding of idiomatic phrases. Our mathematicians continue to shine as we begin learning the 3 times table, showing great enthusiasm and determination. In Geography, the children enjoyed their very first experience of fieldwork as they explored the school grounds in search of different types of rocks. They did a fantastic job comparing natural and man-made rocks and asking thoughtful questions. Well done, Year 3 – a brilliant week of learning!



### Year 4

We've had another brilliant and busy week in Year 4! On Monday in Forest School, we learned how to use a shear lashing to make beautiful stars using willow and wool. We also practised our fire-striking skills and used birch bark as tinder to help start a fire. The children showed fantastic teamwork and enthusiasm throughout the session. In English, we began writing our diary entries from the perspective of Hannibal. We completed our first and second entries, making sure to include plenty of fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases to add detail as we described preparing for the journey and travelling across the Alps with our army and battle animals. In maths, we continued our learning on the seven times table, using different strategies to build fluency and confidence. In science, we carried out an investigation into what liquids can affect our teeth. We discussed tooth decay and cavities and used eggs, which have a similar surface to tooth enamel, to observe the effects of different sugary and acidic liquids. In RE, we explored why Christians believe Christingles are important, reflecting on what each element of the Christingle represents. A fantastic week of learning – well done, Year 4!



### Year 5

It has been an exciting and action-packed week in Year 5! In Maths, the children have been learning how to add and subtract mixed numbers without a common denominator. They have been practising finding common

denominators before completing the calculations and have shown great perseverance with these tricky problems. In English, the children have continued working on their alien stories. This week, they drafted and edited the build-up to their narratives, focusing on using engaging language and clear structure to draw the reader in.

However, the highlight of the week has undoubtedly been our fantastic trip to Whitemoor Lakes! The children took part in a range of brilliant activities, including the zip-wire, elf-agility, archery, climbing, stealth training, and even carols around the campfire. Their enthusiasm, bravery and teamwork were wonderful to see, and we are incredibly proud of them all.

After such a busy few days, we're sure they'll be ready for a well-earned rest this weekend!



## Year 6

What a great week for Y6! In Maths, the children have begun their 6B unit on ratio and proportion, tackling new concepts with confidence and enthusiasm. It has been great to see them applying their knowledge to a range of problem-solving activities. In English, the class have been busy crafting the problem and resolution sections of their Amazon rainforest adventure stories. Their writing has been incredibly imaginative and engaging – an absolute pleasure to read! During RE, we have been exploring the significance of Christmas for Christians, discussing why the festival is so important and how it is celebrated around the world. In PE, the children have enjoyed applying their developing passing and dribbling skills in football to real game situations. Their teamwork and sportsmanship continue to shine. Overall, it's been a wonderful week of hard work, creativity, and great progress. Well done, Year 6!



## Diary Dates 2025-2026

Event	Date/Time
PFA Christmas Market	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
Whole School Trip to Pantomime – Cinderella, Lichfield Garrick	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2025, 10.00am
School Closes for Christmas	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025, 2.00pm

School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Young Voices 2026	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Year 5 Class Assembly	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026, 9.00am
Year 6 Laches Wood	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> January to Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
PFA Valentine's Disco	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026
Year 3 Class Assembly	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2026, 9.00am
PFA Easter Bingo	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Year 1 Class Assembly	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2026, 9.00am
Year 5 Hampton Court Palace	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
School Closes for Easter	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026, 2.00pm
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
May Day Bank Holiday – School Closed	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Key Stage 2 SATs Week	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 to Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
PFA Midsummer Cinema Night	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026
<b>INSET Day</b>	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026
School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2026
Year 4 Multiplication Check	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2026 to Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
Year 1 Phonics Screening Check	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2026 to Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
<b>JTMAT INSET Day</b>	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2026
School Closes for Summer	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2026, 2.00pm
<b>INSET Day</b>	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2026

### Autumn Term Diary Dates

Event	Date/Time
Christingle	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2025
A Nursery Noel	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2025, 9.15am
PFA Christmas Market	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
Reception / Year 1 Nativity	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2025, 9.15am AND 2.15pm
Whole School Trip to Pantomime – Cinderella, Lichfield Garrick	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2025, 10.00am
Year 2 / Year 3 Nativity	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2025, 9.15am AND 2.15pm
Christmas Lunch / Christmas Jumper Day	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
School Closes for Christmas	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025, 2.00pm
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Year 6 Laches Wood Meeting for Parents	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026, 3.30pm, Year 6 Classroom

**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)

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