

SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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7th November 2025

"The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today."



Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to formally welcome you back after the half-term break! I hope you managed to spend some quality time with your families and have had a restful and relaxing week.

The turnout for our Open Evening on Thursday was tremendous, and I would like to express a huge thank you to all our parents and families who spent time coming in to school to view the excellent work produced by each class. If you couldn't attend, please view the posts on our school Instagram @shobnallprimary page as the work that was on display was fabulous! Every year, we feel that it is important to open our doors to

parents and the wider community to enable everyone to have the opportunity of seeing our school setting, the work completed by the children and have chance to meet the staff. I am sure that for those who attended, you found it informative, engaging and a worthwhile experience.

We also had the pleasure of meeting and talking to many potential new parents looking to apply for places in our Nursery and Reception classes next year. The easiest way for parents to apply is online. Further information can be found on the <u>Staffordshire County Council website</u>. The closing date is **15 January 2026**. Please ask at the school office if you would like a copy of the letter informing parents about the process.



I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage all families to take extra care on their journey to and from school as we are now approaching the winter. The dark mornings and dark nights are upon us, and it is imperative to remember, especially with Shobnall Road being so busy, that you need to be seen to be safe!



On Tuesday, we will be holding a two-minute silence to mark Armistice Day in school. This is to mark the end of the four-year conflict in 1918 where an agreement between Germany and the Allies was made "on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month". We remember all those who have lost their lives in conflict.

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

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

Christmas is creeping up on us and the PFA are busy behind the scenes, sorting out the organisation of this year's Christmas Market. A separate letter will be issued in due course outlining the plans and requests in more detail but in the interim, the PFA wish to outline a few requests for help in preparation for the event.

- ♣ 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 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.



Anti-Bullying Week - Monday 10 November 2025 to Friday 14 November 2025



Anti-Bullying Week 2025 is taking place from Monday 10 – Friday 14 November and has the theme 'Power for Good.' It is coordinated by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, which is based at leading children's charity the National Children's Bureau. Our school will be promoting this message through our curriculum, and the children will be involved in a series of reflective and essential activities. On Monday (10 November) of Anti-Bullying Week, we will be holding an **Odd Socks Day**. Therefore, we would like all the children and staff to come to school wearing odd socks on that day in support of the event! On Friday (14 November), there will be a **Parent Coffee Morning** in the school hall from 9 – 10am, led by our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, to inform parents how they use their 'Power for Good' to stand up to bullying. All parents are welcome to attend.

Children in Need – Friday 14 November 2025

Please be aware that it is Children in Need on Friday 14 November. We are aware that we are asking for other donations but, as a school, we feel it would be wrong to ignore such an initiative. So, we will be keeping things simple and having a 'spotty' non-uniform day! Donations are voluntary but we recommend a minimum of 50p, which will go towards Children in Need. Should you wish to donate more, you will be very welcome to do so! Thank you for your support!





Remembrance Day

In the UK, Remembrance Day honours the men and women who have died in conflicts since the First World War. It takes place every year on 11th November and is marked by a two minutes' silence at 11am.

Remembrance Sunday falls on the second Sunday of November.

We thought you would enjoy reading these facts about this very special occasion:

- On Remembrance Day, local ceremonies take place in small villages and major cities alike a
 reminder of how many people sacrificed their lives for the country. A televised event takes place
 on Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph in London.
- On the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month, the guns fell silent. The 1918 armistice of the First World War marked the end of one of the deadliest conflicts in human history.
- To commemorate the anniversary of the peace in 1919, King George V dedicated November 11th as Armistice Day and requested the nation pause for two minutes' silence. In 1939, the main commemorations were moved to a Sunday.
- The government renamed Armistice Day as Remembrance Day as a way to honour those who had
 fought and died in the Second World War. Today, the event is a way to commemorate those who
 have died in any war not just the First and Second World Wars.
- In the lead up to Remembrance Day and during the event itself, millions of people wear poppies on their clothing and lay wreaths on memorials. But why poppies? Poppies grew in many First World War battlefields. For soldiers, their growth was in stark contrast to the death and destruction they saw in the trenches (to put this in context, over 150,000 people died in the Battle of Passchendaele in Flanders, Belgium). These poignantly featured in John McCrae's iconic war poem, *In Flanders Fields*.
- Poppies remained an enduring symbol of the war even after it had ended. Silk poppies were first
 used to raise money for the Royal British Legion in 1921. They later switched to the paper poppies
 familiar today. But though the material has changed, poppies have been made in the same factory
 since the 1920s and still employs a workforce made up of former soldiers with health conditions.
- Speeches, poetry, and literature are an important part of the way Britons reflect on conflict. In the
 First World War, poets like Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen helped shine a light on the
 suffering in the trenches. In the Second World War, Winston Churchill built morale with his eloquent,
 powerful wireless broadcasts.

Year 6 Laches Wood Meeting for Parents

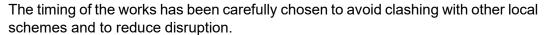
There will be a meeting for children and parents on **Monday 5 January 2026** at **3.30pm** in the Year 6 classroom about the forthcoming residential trip to Laches Wood. This is a great opportunity to discover more about the itinery, essential information and to ask any burning questions that you may have. For parents who are unable to attend, a copy of the presentation and kit list will be uploaded to the class website page.



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.







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 <u>Staffordshire County Council Website</u>. 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 <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.





Pumpkin to Consider

Now that the spooky season is over, please don't leave your pumpkins in our country parks and open spaces. It might seem harmless, but discarded pumpkins can actually harm wildlife.

Animals can get sick from eating pumpkins, because they aren't part of their natural diet. Any decorations or leftover candles can also seriously harm wildlife if they're ingested.



Instead, try repurposing your pumpkins by making delicious dishes like pumpkin pie or soup. Alternatively compost them or place them in the appropriate bin.



Safety Tip!

Even among adults, it can be all too common to see disputes and differing opinions grow extremely heated, which is rarely helpful to anyone. When emotions run high, it can be easy to forget yourself and perhaps even say something you didn't mean, hurting feelings or escalating the situation further.

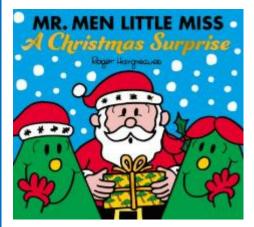
For children, it's just as important to avoid this kind of behaviour whenever possible; without the necessary guidance, however, they could struggle to identify any disrespectful behaviour, let alone recognise what they can do differently.

This guide offers you expert advice on teaching children and young people to choose respect when interacting with their peers, helping to create an environment based on empathy and tolerance.

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 3+...

A Christmas Surprise

Written by Roger Hargreaves

Father Christmas works really hard all year round to give everyone the perfect gift for Christmas. But after he returns home from delivering presents all around the world, what does he get in his stocking? The Mr Men and Little Miss decide that now is the time to find him the perfect present!

Mr Men and Little Miss Celebrations introduce children to all the exciting occasions that people celebrate including Chinese New Year, Easter, Eid, Diwali, Halloween and Christmas.

These colourful adventures will delight children of two years and upwards. Bold illustrations and funny stories make Mr Men and Little Miss the perfect story time experience.

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 6! Well done! Here are the latest figures...

Nursery	93.6%	Target
Reception	90.8%	
Year 1	88.3%	Whole School –
Year 2	98.9%	97%
Year 3	98.0%	
Year 4	92.7%	Overall (to date)
Year 5	92.7%	
Year 6	99.4%	96.4%
Overall	94.4%	

Head Teacher's Awards

Nursery	Zayan K	Adheera H
Reception	Cody A	Aurora-Rose S
Year 1	Anaiah H	Dawoud A
Year 2	Raafae A	Kadijah F
Year 3	Aminah F	Aadam A
Year 4	Ayesha F	Noah H
Year 5	Isaac P	Kailen S
Year 6	Sughra F	Oliver M

OPAL Play Awards

Nursery	
Reception	Dawda D
Year 1	Darcey-Mae C-S
Year 2	Amore F
Year 3	Rupert M
Year 4	Evie T
Year 5	Toby N
Year 6	Dylan S

Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 07.11.25)	107	66	106	88
Position	1 st – 4 points	4 th – 1 point	2 nd – 3 points	3 rd – 2 points
Running Total	4	1	3	2

MEEK 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main dish	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
Vegetarian Main dish	Roasted vegetable pizza	Vegan sausage ragu with rice.	Quorn™ fillet with roast potatoes & gravy	Vegetarian bolognese	Vegetarian burger with chunky chips
Accompaniments	Corn on the cob & broccoli Salad bar	Peas 8 cauliflower Salad bar	Carrots 8 parsnips Salad bar	Roasted vegetables Salad bar	Peas & baked beans Salad bar
Desserts	Fruit sponge 8 custard	Fresh fruit 8 whip	Spiced apple cake	Oaty jam squares	Ice cream
Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh 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
KEEPFIT ND ACTIVE 1 OF YOUR 5 A DAY NEAT FREE MONDAY CHEF'S CHOICE PLANT-BASED (VEGAN) All or our food is lovingly hand crafted and prepared on site daily. We have a allergen procedure in place, so place and prepared on site daily. We have a surface of your allergens, your child allergens prior to using the restaurance of your allergens prior to using the restaurance of y					

SHOBNALL SHOWCASE!

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

Nursery

It has certainly been an exciting first week back at school! We began by sharing some of the adventures we had over the half term...

"I went on a train ride. Crazy golf had frogs and they sang a song." (Theo)

"We are the monsters. Don't be scared it's only us." (Cody)

"I did the spider and the bat pumpkin and Cody is the ghost. I loved Gaby's dollhouse movie!" (Kylan)

"I saw the amazing cars at the car show." (Theodore)

"Cupcakes with Gracie." (Isla)



Miss Alexander had an exciting adventure to Wales and after sharing, 'The Red Dragon' story, we learnt some exciting facts about the country. Did you know...

"There's a big dragon on the flag!" (Zeenat)

"Miss Alexander went up the snow mountain with Oreo." (Cody)

"Lots of sheep live there, they are fluffy." (Mila)

"Pretty yellow flowers." (Aatika)

We created a wonderful display using our creative skills to show some of our new learning about this exciting country.

It was interesting learning why Bonfire Night is celebrated and we all thought Guy Fawkes made a very bad choice. We continued the theme by creating firework representations in using a variety of resources including, playdough, paints and sand. Our favourite was using breadsticks to make sparklers. We had to melt the chocolate so it would stick to the breadsticks then carefully add sprinkles- it was lots of fun!

We also had a wonderful calming session in our sensory room it was like being at a fireworks show. It was relaxing watching the different colours and shapes floating across the ceiling and walls. A lovely way to feel green (calm) at the end of the week!



Reception

This week, our Reception children have been busy exploring stories from the past in Drawing Club. They had great fun watching Bananaman and were inspired to create their very own superhero characters, complete with secret houses, invention ray guns, and even a baby stroller for Dr Gloom! In maths, the children have been focusing on numbers 1-5, using practical activities to build their understanding. They also enjoyed learning about Guy Fawkes and

Bonfire Night, creating dazzling firework paintings, colourful Catherine wheels made from paper plates, and tasty fruit rockets while exploring the themes of light and dark. To finish the week, the Open Evening was a huge success! The children were so proud to see their beautiful work on display for everyone to admire!

Year 1

Year 1 have had a fabulous first week back!

In English, we have drafted, edited, and written up our own poems based on different seasons. The children have worked hard to use capital letters, full stops, and adjectives in their sentences.

In Maths, we have been learning to use a number line to help us add two numbers together. The children have loved using our large number line and practising their jumps along it!



During our afternoon sessions, we have been learning all about special gifts we have received in RE and creating our own compositions in Music.

Well done, Year 1 – what a brilliant start to the term!



Year 2

We've had a wonderful week in Year 2! In Maths, we have been continuing our work on addition and subtraction with two-digit numbers, using a range of strategies such as counting on number lines and using tens and ones manipulatives to help us build our confidence. In English, we began our new topic on non-chronological reports by exploring examples about the Royal Family, and towards the end of the unit, we will be writing our own reports. We have also been very creative this week, designing and making our own mermaids, which turned out beautifully. Our music lesson was full of fun and energy, with everyone joining in enthusiastically, and to finish off a busy week, we were lucky to have a lovely

visit from an ASDA Community Champion, who helped us make some delicious fruit kebabs. It has been such an exciting and enjoyable week for everyone in Year 2!

Year 3

What a great first week back after half term! In English, we began planning our persuasive reports all about why people should visit Skara Brae. The children have already come up with some fantastic reasons! In Science, we learned about healthy, balanced diets and even created our own Eatwell Plates. We learned that a diet of just fruit and vegetables isn't healthy and that our diets must be balanced. In Geography, we explored how most earthquakes and volcanoes are found along tectonic plate boundaries. We also discovered that the epicentre is where the earthquake is strongest. Super work this week. Year 3 – keep it up!





Year 4

In Maths, we've been developing our problemsolving skills by tackling two-step problems before moving on to our new topic, area. In English, we've started a new unit on diary entries, using a model text about the Romans invading Britain – on elephants! The children have loved imagining what it might have been like to witness such an extraordinary event. We looked at features of a diary entry and key vocabulary from the model text. Our new Science topic is Animals, including Humans, where we've been exploring the digestive system. The class has been fascinated to learn how our bodies process food and the journey it takes! In Art, we've been learning about proportion and composition. Using

sweet wrappers and shiny paper, the children created fantastic collages with a clear focal point, each one bursting with creativity and colour. In PE, we've been focusing on tennis, practising our rallies and improving our control. Everyone showed great teamwork and enthusiasm – what a great week!



Year 6

What a fantastic first week back it's been for Year 6! In Maths, the children have been working incredibly hard learning how to multiply fractions by both integers and other fractions. They've shown great confidence and accuracy in applying their skills - well done, everyone! In English, we've been busy planning our new narrative based on the exciting theme of being lost in the Amazon Rainforest. The children have been using their imagination to create suspenseful plots, leading up to an encounter with a deadly creature – we can't wait to read their finished stories! In Science, we've begun our new topic on 'Electricity.' The children have enjoyed building circuits and exploring how different components connect and work together. Their curiosity and teamwork have really shone through during these practical lessons. Finally, in French, Year 6 have been learning the vocabulary for different parts of a house. It's been lovely to hear so many children practising their pronunciation with enthusiasm! A brilliant start to the half term keep up the great work, Year 6!

Year 5

Year 5 have had a brilliant week! They visited the fire station for the 'Safe and Sound' event, where they learned about being a good citizen, banking and passcodes, preventing fires, what to do in an emergency, and how to stay safe near roads and lorries. In Maths, the children have been exploring equivalent fractions, using their times tables to find and simplify them. In English, they have been writing descriptive paragraphs and learning how suffixes can change a word's class to make their writing more engaging.



Diary Dates 2025-2026

Event	Date/Time
Year 6 Class Assembly	Thursday 13 th November 2025, 9.00am
Year 5 Whitemoor Lakes	Wednesday 26 th November to Friday 28 th
	November 2025
Year 2 Class Assembly	Thursday 27 th November 2025, 9.00am
PFA Christmas Market	Friday 5 th December 2025
Whole School Trip to Pantomime – Cinderella,	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 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
Odd Socks Day	Monday 10 th November 2025
Year 6 Class Assembly	Thursday 13 th November 2025, 9.00am
Parent Coffee Morning	Friday 14 th November 2025, 9.00am – 10.00am
Children in Need	Friday 21 st November 2025
Year 5 Whitemoor Lakes	Wednesday 26 th November 2025 to Friday 28 th
	November 2025 inclusive
Christingle	Tuesday 2 nd December 2025
A Nursery Noel	Thursday 4 th December 2025, 9.15am
PFA Christmas Market	Friday 5 th December 2025
Reception / Year 1 Nativity	Monday 8 th December 2025, 9.15am AND
	2.15pm
Whole School Trip to Pantomime – Cinderella,	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



Could you design a Christmas card to be printed and used by the Trust?

ENTER JTMAT'S CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

WHAT YOU COULD WIN!

Win a printed copy of your Christmas card, a certificate and a voucher to spend on art supplies. One winner from a JTMAT primary school, and one winner from a JTMAT secondary school.

COMPETITION RULES

- 1. This competition is open to all children attending any JTMAT school.
- 2. The design should be based on your own imagination/idea.
- 3. Your design should be completed on one side of a white piece of A4 paper or card.
- 4. Please ensure the design is flat and text free. ie. with no writing, no cotton wool or 3D objects as this can cause issues with scanning designs for printing.
- Posters must be submitted to your Headteacher by Monday 10th November. Late entries unfortunately cannot be accepted.

"We believe in the power of education to improve lives - and the world"

