



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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12th December 2025

"He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree."



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we step into the penultimate week before Christmas, the whole school feels alive with festive sparkle, excitement, and that familiar end-of-term buzz! It has been an incredibly busy time, but also one filled with so many memorable moments that truly capture the spirit of Christmas at our school.

We began the festivities at the end of last week with the much-anticipated *Nursery Noel*. Our youngest pupils charmed everyone with their confidence, enthusiasm, and heart-warming performances. Their singing was beautiful, their jokes brought plenty of giggles, and they set the perfect tone for the nativity season. It was a wonderful reminder of the magic that comes from seeing the world through the eyes of our littlest learners!

Alongside this, the PFA hosted their fantastic Christmas Market, which was a huge success! With stalls full of festive treats, crafts, games, and goodies, it created a brilliant community atmosphere. We are delighted to share that the event raised an incredible **£1482.30**. This amazing total will go directly towards funding new outdoor equipment for the children, something we know they will absolutely love. A huge thank you to our PFA and to everyone who came along to support the event.



This week got off to a sparkling start with the Reception and Year 1 nativity, *Prickly Hay*. The children performed with such energy, charm, and confidence, telling the story with big smiles and even bigger voices! Costumes, songs, and lots of hard work came together to create a performance that left families beaming with pride.



We also enjoyed a very special whole-school trip to the Lichfield Garrick to see the pantomime, *Cinderella*. The children were completely captivated! It was a magical experience and a real highlight of the week, giving everyone a chance to come together and share something truly memorable.

Our school choir have also been busy spreading festive joy beyond the school gates. Their visit to Charlotte James Care Home was incredibly moving. Performing Christmas songs for the residents brought smiles, warm conversations, and a lovely sense of community connection. We are so proud of the children for representing the school with such kindness and enthusiasm.

To complete an action-packed week, Year 2 and Year 3 dazzled everyone with their nativity, *Lights! Camel! Action!* 2. Full of lively performances, wonderful singing, and fabulous characters, the show was a huge hit. The children worked so hard, and their joy on stage was clear for all to see.

We now look ahead to our final week in school before Christmas! A gentle reminder school closes on Friday 19 December 2025 at 2pm. Let's enjoy every minute as we head towards the holiday together! Have a great weekend and we look forward to seeing you all again on Monday!

The Week Before Christmas...

As you are all aware, next week is our last week in school before we break up for the Christmas holiday on Friday 19 December at 2pm. It promises to be an enjoyable one but an incredibly busy one at the same time! With that in mind, I thought it would be useful to provide you with a few reminders regarding our plans:

- 🎄 **Christmas Dinner Day** is on **Wednesday 17 December**. To get into the festive spirit, the children and staff can come to school in non-uniform, ideally with a Christmas jumper and/or Christmas attire! No donations required for this.
- 🎄 As **Friday 19 December** is the last day of this term, the children can bring in a toy from home. Please could we ask that they do not bring in electronics. These are rather more expensive than some other traditional toys and we would not want any of the children getting upset if they got damaged.
- 🎄 School closes on **Friday 20 December** at **2.00pm**. Shobnall Stars will NOT be open for wraparound care on this day.



Christmas Homework

As a school, we believe that holidays are a time to relax and spend with family and friends. Teachers will not be setting any formal homework over the Christmas break (Year 6 have agreed on some slightly different arrangements with Mr Bishop), although we would like to encourage the children to utilise any free time to indulge in a good book! Many thanks for the support that you give on a weekly basis with homework – it is very much appreciated by all the staff!

Important Attendance Information

As we head towards the end of term, we would like to thank families for their continued support in helping children come to school regularly and on time. Good attendance is vital for children's learning, wellbeing, and opportunities, and we are committed to working closely with parents to ensure every child can achieve their very best.

Over the next week, some parents may receive attendance letters if their child's attendance has fallen below 90% or if there are other concerns. These letters are not intended as criticism but as an offer of support. Our aim is always to work together to identify any barriers and help attendance improve in a positive and constructive way. If you receive a letter, please do not worry – simply contact us if you require further support.



We also want to remind parents that unnecessary absence should be avoided wherever possible. The NHS provides clear guidance on when children are well enough to attend school, and most mild illnesses – such as a runny nose, a slight cough, or sore throat – do not require time off unless the child has a temperature. We encourage parents to use the NHS guidance when making decisions, and we will continue to share this information through our communications, especially during the winter illness season. Please click [here](#) to take you to this guidance.



Wherever possible, medical appointments should be booked outside school hours. If this is not possible, children should attend school before the appointment and return afterwards if they are well enough. Children are welcome to attend appointments in their school uniform.



To help reduce the spread of winter illnesses, we continue to follow good ventilation practices in school. Opening windows and doors to allow fresh air in, using high-level windows in colder months to avoid draughts, and airing rooms at breaktimes all help remove virus particles in the air. **A gentle reminder that opting in and out of parts of the curriculum, such as PE and Forest School, is not permitted.** These subjects are a statutory part of the school curriculum and

essential for children's physical development, wellbeing, resilience, teamwork, and confidence. In *extenuating circumstances*, reasonable adjustments can be made to support a child's participation, and we are always happy to discuss needs individually. However, opting out entirely is not an option. Please ensure your child has the correct kit and clothing in school so they can fully join in with these enriching, enjoyable sessions. Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us keep our school community healthy, safe, and learning.

CATCH IT

Germs spread easily. Always carry tissues and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.



BIN IT

Germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of your tissue as soon as possible.



KILL IT

Hands can transfer germs to every surface you touch. Clean your hands as soon as you can.





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.



Tree-mendous Tips!

Christmas is slowly creeping in on us, and a lot of us will be starting to decorate the house. Here's some festive, sustainable top tips:

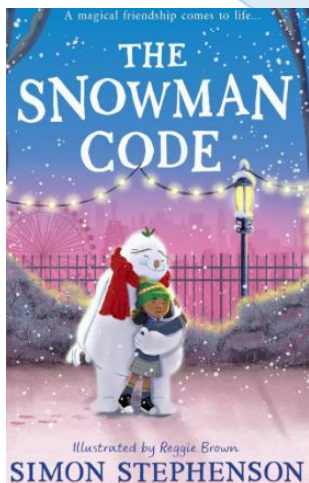
- Choose LED lights or go for solar powered
- Don't buy new decorations every year
- If you do need decorations, look for second hand
- Make your own decorations such as dried orange slices baubles or wine cork Christmas trees - [get inspired here](#)
- **Make a Christmas wreath** using the fallout or extra pieces from your tree



Safety Tip!

Scalping has long been a frustration for fans hoping to bag concert tickets or exclusive toys, but the online world has supercharged this dishonest tactic. Scalpers use bots to buy up stock in seconds, then resell items such as consoles or collectibles at significant mark-ups. For young people, it can be disappointing and harmful to their wallets, wellbeing and worldview.

As this unethical practice becomes more visible, and, worryingly, sometimes glamourised online, it's important to talk to children about fairness, financial boundaries, and spotting scams. This guide breaks down the tricks of the trade and how to avoid them, helping young consumers stay safe, informed and scam-free.



Reading Corner

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

The Snowman Code

Written by Simon Stephenson

Ten-year-old Blessing needs a friend. Her mum is suffering so badly from depression and SAD that she has stopped leaving the house, while Blessing herself has stopped going to school because classmates the Driplet Triplets bully her so much. What's more, winter seems to be going on forever. Blessing finds a very good if unusual friend in Albert Framlington, one of the snowmen in her local park. Albert might not be as well-informed as he thinks, but he's a strict adherer to the Snowman Code, article two, 'a snowman always helps a child in need.'

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** and **Year 6!** Well done! Here are the latest figures...

Nursery	92.3%	Target
Reception	93.9%	
Year 1	92.2%	Whole School – 97%
Year 2	93.9%	
Year 3	96.0%	
Year 4	97.9%	
Year 5	98.9%	
Year 6	98.9%	
Overall	96.3%	Overall (to date) 95.4%

Head Teacher's Awards

Nursery	Hana S	Archie W
Reception	EVERYONE!	
Year 1	EVERYONE!	
Year 2	EVERYONE!	
Year 3	EVERYONE!	
Year 4	Reggie P	Ibrahim J
Year 5	Ethan G	Lily B
Year 6	Lewis L	Hadi K

OPAL Play Awards

Nursery	
Reception	Amelia A
Year 1	Aidan B
Year 2	Millie G
Year 3	Ahmed M
Year 4	Yahya K
Year 5	Mason E
Year 6	Aleena A

Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 12.12.25)	158	51	168	119
Position	2 nd – 3 points	4 th – 1 point	1 st – 4 points	3 rd – 2 points
Running Total	18	5	16	12

Hot Lunch Options 15.12.25 – 19.12.25

WEEK 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	SPECIAL MENU – CHRISTMAS DINNER	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
Main dish	Margherita pizza with baked potato wedges	Chicken tikka masala served with rice			Pork sausage with creamy mash potato & gravy	Crispy battered fish & chunky chips
Vegetarian Main dish	Roasted vegetable pizza	5 4 Vegetable tikka masala with 50/50 rice			Vegan sausage & mash potato with gravy	Vegetarian burger with chunky chips
Accompaniments	Cauliflower & broccoli Salad bar	Peas & carrots Salad bar			Sweetcorn & broccoli Salad bar	Peas & baked beans Salad bar
Desserts	Jam & coconut sponge	Flapjack			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

EAT WELL

GROW STRONG

KEY

- 1 OF YOUR 5 A DAY
- MEAT FREE MONDAY
- CHEF'S CHOICE
- PLANT-BASED (VEGAN)

A WORLD OF FUN WITH FOOD

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 in nursery. The Christmas theme has continued with lots of festive fun.

We had fun hanging our homemade decorations to the class Christmas tree and they look magnificent! We continued the theme by joining in with lots of activities including painting our trains for The Polar Express, designing Christmas cards, printing, decorating mini trees, creating fun Christmas scenes and sharing some fantastic Christmas stories, poems, songs and dances.



The elves were up to lots of tricks again this week! They had a bauble bath, ate all the bananas for our snack and knocked the Christmas tree over. We were very cross when we found Concept Cat tied up so the elves could throw Christmas decorations at him.



Reception

Reception have had a wonderfully busy week full of creativity and learning! In RE, the children have been exploring the Nativity story, using small-world figures to act it out and deepen their understanding. They have also enjoyed creating beautiful self-portraits, decorating them with gems, pasta, sequins, flowers and other exciting materials to make each one unique. In maths, the children have been investigating squares and rectangles, looking closely at their features and

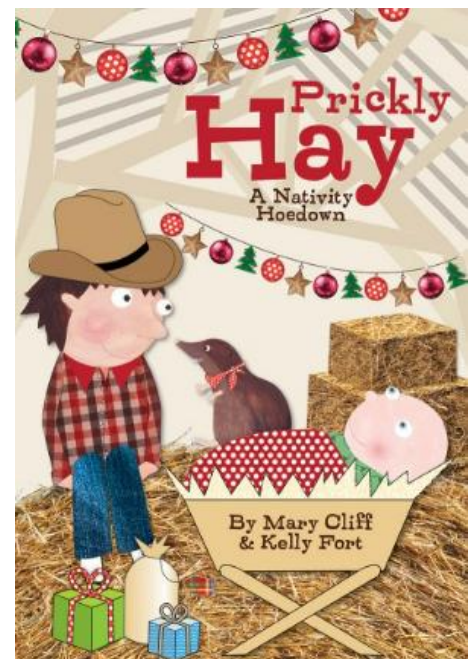
using the shapes to design their own stunning snowflake pictures. It has been a joyful and imaginative week in Reception!

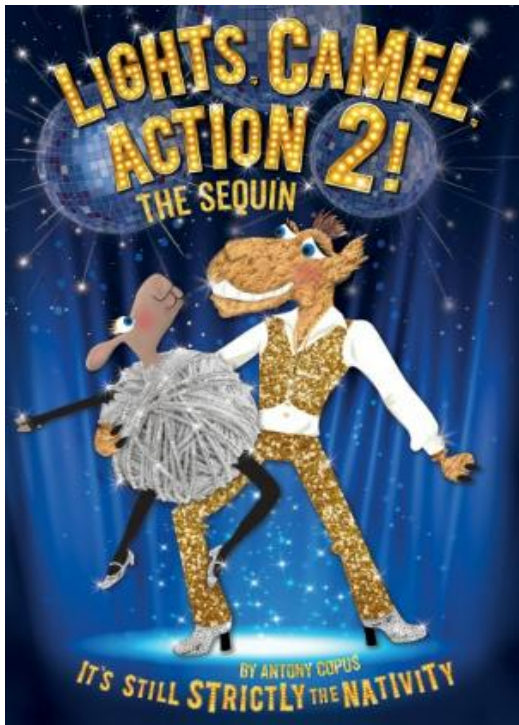
Year 1

What a wonderful week in Year 1! This week has been full of creativity and learning! The children have written their own instructions for making musical instruments, rainsticks, guitars, drums, and maracas, and cannot wait to follow them next week to make their own instrument. In maths, we explored 2D shapes and their properties, while in computing we created amazing digital portraits using Paint (we found iPads much easier than a mouse!). The highlight of our week was Monday's magical nativity performance – thank you to all our special guests who came to watch and support us. Well done, Year 1, for a fabulous week of hard work and festive fun! #

Year 2

We've had a wonderful week in Year 2! The children have been working hard on their final English write-ups, showing off some beautifully neat handwriting. On Tuesday we enjoyed a brilliant trip to the pantomime to see *Cinderella*, which the children loved, and all that inspiration certainly paid off because our joint nativity with Year 3 was an absolute triumph;





after watching our nativity, I think the panto might be taking notes from Year 2 and 3 next year! Alongside all the excitement, we've also been learning about geography, exploring physical and human features and comparing different countries. What a busy and fantastic week!

Year 3

Wow. What amazing performers we have in year 3! The children did so well with their two show day on Thursday. They should be so proud of how hard they've tried and how much effort they have all put in! Thank you to anyone who helped the children learn lines or sort costumes. We had a wonderful time on Tuesday watching the pantomime. The children behaved beautifully and really enjoyed the performance. Unfortunately for the Garrick, I think our performance was better! In Science this week, we have looked at the role muscles have in the better. The children learned how muscles are connected to bones and that's how we move. In Maths, the children continue to impress me with their excellent knowledge of the 2, 4 and 8 times-tables. Another excellent week year 3 - only one more to go!

Year 4

We began with our last Forest School session, where the children enjoyed frying Scotch pancakes over the campfire and learned all about the fire triangle. A brilliant, cosy end to our outdoor learning. On Tuesday, we had an amazing trip to the Cinderella pantomime. The children absolutely loved the performance and represented the school beautifully. We're already excited for Robin Hood next year! On Wednesday, we continued developing our netball skills in PE and carried on our geography learning about food miles. The children mapped and calculated how far different foods travel to reach us. We also welcomed a visitor from the school kitchen, who helped us carry out fieldwork to answer our enquiry question: *Are our school dinners locally sourced?* To finish the week, we explored the impact the Romans had on life in Britain, deepening our understanding of this fascinating period in history. A brilliant week – well done, Year 4!



Year 5

Year 5 have had a brilliant week full of hard work and excitement!

In Maths, the children have been learning how to subtract mixed numbers, including breaking the whole when needed. They have shown great confidence with this and are becoming experts at finding common denominators to help them

solve each calculation accurately. In English, the children have proudly finished their alien stories and written them up in neat.

In Science, enthusiasm has been sky-high as we were learning about chemical reactions. The children were fascinated by the Coke and Mentos experiment, watching the dramatic reaction and discussing why it happens. Their curiosity and questioning have been fantastic.

Year 6

Year 6 have had a fantastic week of learning and enrichment! In Maths, the children have continued to work hard in our ratio and proportion unit, showing great perseverance and growing confidence with some tricky concepts. On Tuesday, we enjoyed a wonderful trip to the pantomime – it was a joy to see how beautifully the children behaved and how brilliantly they represented our school. In RE, we have continued our learning about the importance of Christmas for Christians, with some thoughtful discussions and reflections. We have also launched our exciting new English unit, where the children will be writing reports about the adaptations of different animals. A great week all round – well done, Year 6!

Diary Dates 2025-2026

Event	Date/Time
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
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

Spring Term Diary Dates

Event	Date/Time
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
Young Voices	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
NSPCC Number Day	Friday 6 th February 2026
PFA Valentine Disco	Friday 6 th February 2026: - KS1, 3.45pm – 5.00pm - KS2, 5.15pm – 6.30pm
Parents' Evening	Monday 9 th February 2026, 4.00pm – 7.00pm
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 10 th February 2026
Parents' Evening	Wednesday 11 th February 2026, 4.00pm – 7.00pm
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
Parent Coffee Morning	Friday 28 th February 2026, 9.00am – 10.00am
World Book Day	Thursday 5 th March 2026
Shobnall Stars Night Owls (After School Club) CLOSED for staff training	Monday 9 th March 2026
Comic Relief	Friday 20 th March 2026
Eid al-Fitr	Thursday 19 th March 2026/Friday 20 th March 2026
PFA Easter Bingo	Friday 20 th March 2026, 5.00pm
Mother's Day Lunches – Reception	Monday 23 rd March 2026
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 1	Tuesday 24 th March 2026
Key Stage 2 SATs Meeting for Parents	Tuesday 24 th March 2026, 3.30pm, Year 6 Classroom
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 2	Wednesday 25 th March 2026
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 3	Thursday 26 th March 2026
Year 5 Hampton Court Palace	Thursday 26 th March 2026
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 4	Friday 27 th March 2026
School Closes for Easter	Friday 11 th April 2025, 2.00pm
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 5	Monday 13 th April 2026
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 6	Tuesday 14 th April 2026



Train to Teach
in Local Schools

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The John Taylor SCITT
jtscitt.co.uk