



# SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

*"I will honour Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year."*



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy and memorable year at Shobnall, we would like to take a moment to reflect and to say a very heartfelt thank you to our wonderful community.

To our children – thank you for filling our school with laughter, curiosity, kindness and enthusiasm every single day. You have worked so hard this term, and we are incredibly proud of everything you have achieved. You truly make Shobnall such a special place to be.

To our parents, carers and wider community – thank you for your continued support, encouragement and partnership. Your involvement, trust and positivity mean so much to us and play a vital role in helping our children thrive.

To our dedicated staff – thank you for your commitment, care and tireless efforts. Your passion and teamwork ensure that Shobnall remains a nurturing, inspiring and happy environment for everyone.

As we head into the festive season, we hope you can enjoy a well-deserved break, spend time with loved ones, and create special memories together. Whether your celebrations are filled with tradition, quiet moments, or joyful gatherings, we wish you peace, warmth and happiness.

From everyone at Shobnall, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please stay safe over the holiday, and we look forward to welcoming you all back on **Monday 5 January 2026**, refreshed and ready for another exciting year ahead.



17<sup>th</sup> December 2025

To all at Shobnall Primary School:

We are so grateful for all your generous donation to our food bank.



The collection of £130 from your Nativity will really help the people who are most in need in your local community - **WELL DONE!!**

Best wishes,

*Julia Taylor*

Food bank Co-ordinator

Food Bank Coordinator

YMCA enables people to develop their full potential in mind, body and spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.

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## JTMAT Christmas Concert

The children of our choir enjoyed a fabulous day and evening at John Taylor High School on Tuesday as they sang as part of the JTMAT Choir. Sixteen schools from across the Trust came together to perform a range of traditional and modern festive favourites.

Despite the wintry weather outside, a great time was had by all, and we look forward to doing the same next year! Our choir did us very proud!

I must pass on our sincerest thanks to Mr Blanchenet, Head of School at JTHS, Charlotte Crutchley, Assistant Headteacher at JTHS and the rest of the fabulous team for hosting this event!

## 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.



## 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.

## 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:

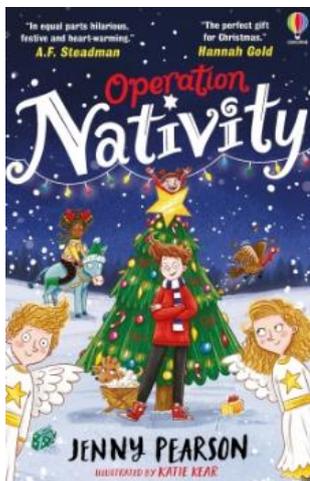
- Choose LED lights or go for solar powered
- Don't buy new decorations every year
- If you do need decorations, look for second hand
- Make your own decorations such as dried orange slices baubles or wine cork Christmas trees - [get inspired here](#)
- **Make a Christmas wreath** using the fallout or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



## Safety Tip!

AI-driven toys are becoming increasingly common, offering children personalised interactions that can feel surprisingly lifelike. This guide unpacks how these toys listen, learn, and respond – and what that means for privacy, security, and healthy development. From data collection to the subtle influence of artificial voices, it highlights why adults may need to look more closely at the tech inside modern playthings.

It also explores how features such as constant connectivity, engagement-boosting rewards, and behaviour-shaping responses can affect children's play habits. Alongside outlining the risks, the guide shares calm, practical advice to help parents and educators set boundaries, check permissions, and balance AI toys with offline experiences, ensuring AI remains a support for real-world interactions, not a substitute for them.



## Reading Corner

This week's recommended read is for children aged 11+...

### Operation Nativity

Written by Jenny Pearson

You probably think you know the story of the birth of the baby Jesus, you might even have been in a nativity play: Mary, Joseph, donkey, journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. The bit they haven't told you about is the accidental detour that Mary and Joseph took to Chipping Bottom, a characterful village in Hampshire. That story is told in this heartwarming adventure by Jenny Pearson, who has a real gift for writing books that have you laughing out loud one minute, reaching for tissues the next.

Narrated by young Oscar who, with his five-year-old sister Molly, takes on the challenge of helping the Angel Gabriel sort out the slight hiccup he's caused in Operation Nativity, borrowed donkeys, a runaway turkey, lots of relatives plus Mary and Joseph, Balthazar and a shepherd called Steve all have their part to play in an adventure that is fantastical but absolutely rooted in family and abiding love, which after all is what the nativity story is all about. Heavenly reading!

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

Nursery	80.8%	Target
Reception	96.7%	
Year 1	96.7%	Whole School – 97%
Year 2	100%	
Year 3	98.0%	Overall (to date)
Year 4	99.0%	
Year 5	99.0%	95.4%
Year 6	96.7%	
Overall	97.0%	

This term's Attendance Champions are **Year 2** with **97.7%** attendance! Well done, Year 2!

#### Head Teacher's Awards

Nursery	EVERYONE!	
Reception	Hassnain A	Rory P
Year 1	Minahil F	Azaan K
Year 2	Ayaat A	Fred S
Year 3	Paisley H	Jakub K
Year 4	Aleem A	Bradley F
Year 5	Nancy M	Azaan M
Year 6	Seb J	Rehaan K

#### OPAL Play Awards

Nursery	
Reception	Sophie L
Year 1	Jaheem B
Year 2	Ava C
Year 3	Miley M
Year 4	Esme E
Year 5	Baaqir M
Year 6	Ibrahim D

#### Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 19.12.25)	43	32	57	26
Position	2 <sup>nd</sup> – 3 points	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 2 points	1 <sup>st</sup> – 4 points	4 <sup>th</sup> – 1 point
Running Total	21	7	20	13

#### Team Point Champions

Congratulations to **Claymills**, who have successfully won the team point challenge for this half term! As a reward, they can wear non-school uniform (ideally something red) on **Friday 9 January 2026**.

## Hot Lunch Options 05.01.26 – 09.01.26

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.

**Please could all parents ensure that their Parent Pay account has enough funds in to cover payments in advance.**

## SHOBNALL SHOWCASE!

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



### Nursery

We have had the most magical end to the autumn term with lots of festive activities.

The highlight of the week was our Polar Express Party. We all arrived in our pyjamas, and it was

full steam ahead on the Polar Express! We took our seats and clutched our tickets as we travelled to the North pole. There was lots of fun and laughter as we sang on the way- we even had our tickets checked. Later we joined in with some exciting activities including decorating gingerbread men and making reindeer food. We enjoyed a drink of hot chocolate (we got it!) and cookies then finally received our own special bell – luckily, we all heard the bells ring. What a truly magical adventure we had. An amazing autumn term completed for Nursery!

## Reception

This week in Reception, the children have had a busy and exciting time exploring Christmas and different celebrations, sharing and learning about their own faiths and beliefs with their friends. They have enjoyed writing Christmas and winter cards, practised their letter formation and sounding out CVC words as they wrote simple messages. In maths, the children have been representing numbers 1–5 in a variety of practical ways, showing great confidence with counting and number recognition. They also loved getting creative by decorating gift bags, using a range of materials and designs. We hope you all have a lovely holiday, enjoying special time together with family.



## Year 1

We've had an extremely lovely and festive last week in Year 1! In maths, we explored 3D shapes and discovered the 2D shapes that make them up, even using paint to print them and create colourful patterns. In English, we proudly published our instructional writing, and in computing, we used Paint on the iPads to recreate famous artworks with lots of creativity. To finish the term, we brought history to life by re-enacting the Battle of Hastings using the shields we made for homework. Have a wonderful, restful break, Year 1 – I can't wait to see you all in January!

## Year 2

This term, Year 2 have had a really lovely and busy time learning and growing together. In maths, we have been developing our skills in addition and subtraction and learning all about different shapes. In English, we enjoyed writing a diary entry set in the time of the Great Fire of London and creating a non-chronological report about the Royal Family. Our history learning linked closely with our English work as we explored the Great Fire of London and what life was like long ago. In geography, we went on a walk around our local area to identify human and physical features, which the children really enjoyed. In RE, we have been learning about Christianity and loved getting creative with our work. In science, we carried out some exciting experiments, including building bridges using different materials and testing their strength, as well as learning about living things. We also took part in a lovely class assembly where everyone participated confidently. Most importantly, we have all settled into Year 2 so well and are ready for the learning ahead. It has been wonderful to see how much the children have grown in confidence, independence and enthusiasm this term. We hope everyone has a happy, restful break and returns ready for more exciting learning!

## Year 3

Festive magic has been swirling through Year 3 this week! The children wrapped up their cave painting art unit by mixing their own prehistoric paints using flour, water and spices, just like real cavemen (minus the mess in caves!). They created fantastic positive and negative handprints using colours that would have been around thousands of years ago.



The creativity didn't stop there, as the children also designed some beautiful cards and calendars to spread festive cheer. What a brilliant way to round off Mr Attwood's first term at Shobnall. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



#### **Year 4**

This week, in maths, we have finished our unit on multiplication and division. The children are coming on really well with their times table learning—their confidence has grown hugely. In English, we began exploring the vocabulary linked to our new narrative, *Joe's Hooded Hawk*. We learned the meanings of ambitious words such as plummet and smoulder and practised our retrieval and inference skills when answering questions about the model text. In geography, we discussed the advantages and

disadvantages of sourcing food locally and from further afield, considering factors such as food miles, shelf life, cost, and consumer preferences. We also enjoyed a lovely day on Wednesday with our delicious Christmas dinner, a perfect way to finish the year together. Well done for all your hard work this term Year 4. I look forward to seeing you all in January, refreshed and ready to go!

#### **Year 5**

As we come to the end of the term, it has been lovely to see how much Year 5 have achieved.

In Maths, the children have finished their second unit on fractions, becoming confident at finding common denominators and starting to convert between mixed numbers and improper fractions. In Science, they have loved exploring chemical reactions, particularly investigating how bicarbonate of soda reacts with acids through hands-on experiments. The children also really enjoyed Toy Day, bringing in and sharing their favourite toys, which was a lovely way to celebrate the end of term together.

Year 5 have had a wonderful term, and I would like to wish everyone a happy and well-deserved holiday!

#### **Year 6**

Year 6 have had a fantastic final week, and the children should be very proud of their hard work. In Maths, we have been focusing on our algebra unit. While some of the concepts have been challenging, the children have shown great resilience and determination, and it has been wonderful to see them persevere and grow in confidence. We also enjoyed some very special festive moments. On Wednesday afternoon, we were delighted to welcome a visit from Santa, which was followed by a delicious Christmas lunch. It was lovely to see so many children getting into the festive spirit by wearing their Christmas jumpers.

On the final day of term, the children enjoyed celebrating Toy Day, bringing in their favourite toys and sharing them with friends – a perfect way to end the term. Well done for a great term, Year 6. Have a wonderful and well-deserved Christmas break!



## Diary Dates 2025-2026

Event	Date/Time
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

## Spring Term Diary Dates

Event	Date/Time
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
Young Voices	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
NSPCC Number Day	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
PFA Valentine Disco	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2026: - KS1, 3.45pm – 5.00pm - KS2, 5.15pm – 6.30pm
Parents' Evening	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2026, 4.00pm – 7.00pm
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
Parents' Evening	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2026, 4.00pm – 7.00pm
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
Parent Coffee Morning	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2026, 9.00am – 10.00am
World Book Day	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
<b>Shobnall Stars Night Owls (After School Club) CLOSED for staff training</b>	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Comic Relief	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Eid al-Fitr	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2026/Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
PFA Easter Bingo	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2026, 5.00pm
Mother's Day Lunches – Reception	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 1	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2026

Key Stage 2 SATs Meeting for Parents	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2026, 3.30pm, Year 6 Classroom
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 2	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 3	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Year 5 Hampton Court Palace	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 4	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
School Closes for Easter	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2025, 2.00pm
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 5	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 6	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2026



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