



# SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

*"Find a place inside where there's joy, and the joy will burn out the pain."*

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is difficult to believe that we are already nearly at the end of January and, as ever, school has been exceptionally busy with a range of different activities taking place over the course of the week.

Next week, Year 6 are making their way to Laches Wood and will be staying from Monday 26 January until Friday 30 January. Please

look out on Instagram [@shobnallprimary](https://www.instagram.com/shobnallprimary) to see how they are getting on! I know the children are really looking forward to their stay and it promises to be a fantastic week for them!

You will all have received an invite to attend a consultation with your child's class teacher at **Parents' Evening on Monday 9 February 2026 or Wednesday 11 February 2026**. Please follow the instructions that were provided to book your slot.



With **National Storytelling Week** starting on **2 February 2026** (more information below), this has been the perfect way to find out more about children's likes and dislikes when it comes to reading! We would like to thank you for your support with reading at home, as this really helps support the children with becoming confident readers and developing a passion and enjoyment for books! Please keep checking our weekly newsletter for recommended reads and further ideas of how you can support your child with reading at home! With [The National Year of Reading](#) upon us, this is the perfect opportunity to 'go all in!'

We hope that whatever it is you are doing this weekend that you have a restful, relaxing and enjoyable one! As always, we look forward to seeing you again on Monday! Enjoy!

## **National Storytelling Week – 2 February to 8 February 2026**

We celebrate stories in every form during National Storytelling Week, which takes place from 2 February to 8 February this year. This engaging event is celebrated in schools, clubs, museums, spoken word venues, and various other places. Like its name, National Storytelling



Week encourages people of all ages, genders, and cultures to indulge in stories new and old and participate in this centuries-old form of entertainment.



The theme for National Storytelling Week 2026 is ‘**Sundtrack your Story**’. Everyone has their own musical story - whether it’s in the songs we love and the music we dance to, through British Sign Language and the rhythms we feel, the soundscapes of everyday life, or the soundtracks we hear in films and games. Music connects us to words. It helps us express who we are and how we see the world.

[Research](#) highlights that exploring stories through lyrics can be an effective way to re-engage young people with [reading for enjoyment](#) and [writing for pleasure](#). Slightly more than 3 in 5 (60.7%) children and young people age 8-18 regularly read song lyrics digitally. Writing song lyrics is also popular among children and young people age 8-18, with slightly less than 1 in 5 (17.8%) reporting that they write lyrics on a screen at least once a month.

Throughout the week, we will explore the magic of storytelling through sound, lyrics and rhythm. Who’s ready to pick up the mic? If you have any exciting ideas to share of things you do at home, please let us know!

### NSPCC Number Day!

We are delighted to be supporting the NSPCC by taking part in Number Day on **Friday 6 February 2026!** Number Day is a great way to make maths fun and bring about a positive, ‘can-do’ attitude towards it. We are planning to have a fun day of maths activities and will also be having a **non-uniform day** where pupils can choose to ‘Be a Number!’ This is also ‘disco day’ so children may decide on a partywear twist to this theme! What number will they choose to represent? How will they show it?



We’re really looking forward to all the fun of Number Day, and we really appreciate your support.

You can find out more about the NSPCC’s work at [nspcc.org.uk](https://nspcc.org.uk).

### PFA Valentine Disco – Friday 6 February 2026

The PFA are hosting a Valentine themed disco on **Friday 6 February 2026!** The infant disco will be 3.45 – 5.00pm and the junior disco will be 5.15 – 6.30pm. Please note that Shobnall Stars will remain open on that night but will be in the Year 2 classroom on that evening.

Tickets will be on sale week commencing **Monday 26 January**, every morning and afternoon pick up by the entrance to the key stage 2 playground and will be priced at £4.00, which includes a drink and some sweets. There will be a range of other goodies on sale at the discos so children will need to bring a little extra spending money on the night should they wish to purchase anything on offer. We do hope that you are able to support this event.



**SHOBNALL  
PRIMARY SCHOOL  
PFA VALENTINE  
DISCO**

**FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY**

**KS1 3:45 - 5pm**

**KS2 5:15 - 6:30pm**

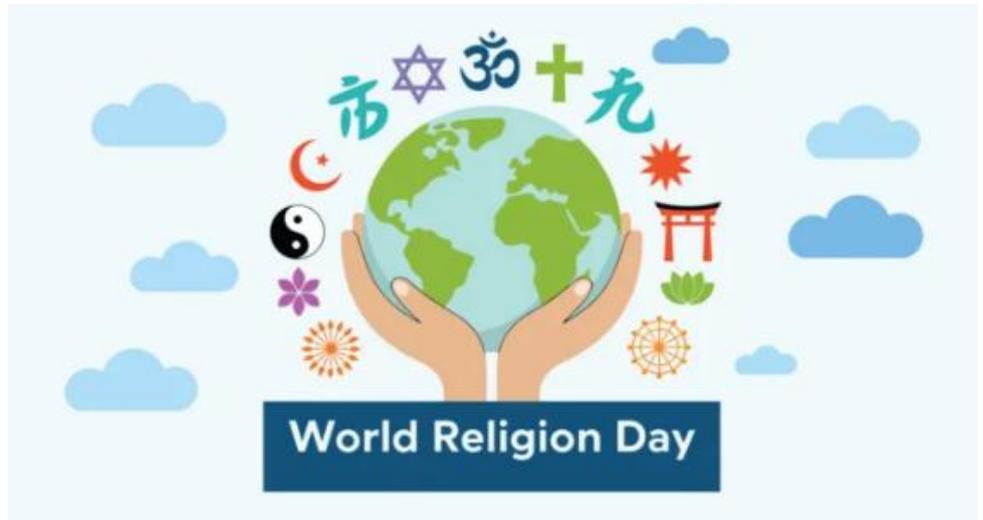
**Tickets £4 each  
(Includes drink & bag of sweets)**

**ADDITIONAL SWEETS, CRISPS,  
SNACKS WILL BE AVAILABLE  
TO BUY AT THE DISCO**

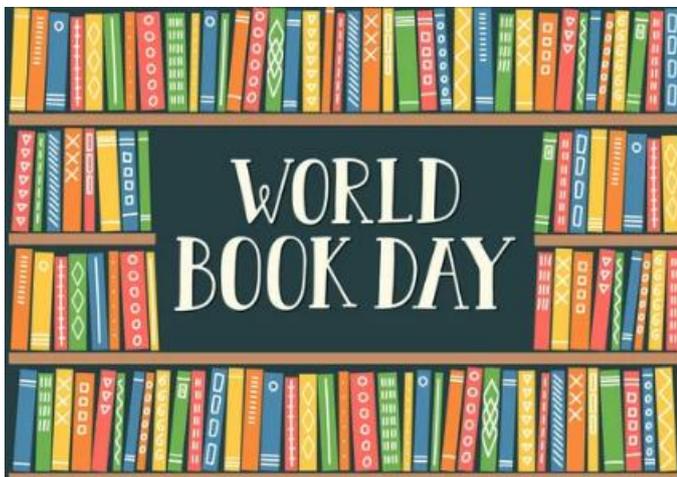
**\* 2026 INTRODUCING A TATTOO  
STATION, SUNGLASSES & GLOW  
BRACELETS\***

## World Religion Day

World Religion Day takes place each January, aiming to promote understanding and peace between all religions as well as mutual understanding and tolerance between peoples from different backgrounds. It is a special day when all religions are celebrated. World Religion Day 2026 took place on Sunday, 18 January and this week, the children learnt about this special day during assemblies and in class. We thought you might want to know a little more about the day itself, its origins and how it is celebrated around the world:



- People who follow the Bahá'í Faith believe that the main religions around the world share some core ideas, for example, treating other people in the way you would want to be treated.
- World Religion Day was started by the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'í Faith. It began in the state of Maine in the United States as a day for World Peace Through World Religion in October 1947. By 1949, the event was being held in other areas in the US and in 1950, it became known as World Religion Day. It was decided that for one day a year, all religions should be celebrated, and their similarities appreciated.
- World Religion Day is celebrated in a variety of different ways. Many people attend special services. The focus of these services is to gain a better understanding of other religions and to celebrate the similarities between them all. It is about promoting the common message to treat each other with respect to create a better world for everyone.



## World Book Day – Thursday 5 March 2026

World Book Day is fast approaching, and this year we are asking the children (and staff) to come **dressed** as their **favourite book character** as our theme is 'go all in' in conjunction with [The National Year of Reading](#). The Reading Ambassadors and Miss Barker will be planning lots of fun activities based around this theme when we return after half-term! More information will follow in due course!

Check out the official [World Book Day](#) webpage for further resources, celebration materials and information about this year's £1 books!

**GO  
ALL  
IN.**

National  
Year of  
Reading  
2026

## Go all in for World Book Day

World Book Day will be bigger and better than ever during the National Year of Reading, 2026. World Book Day is a proud delivery partner of National Year of Reading

Go All In – The National Year of Reading campaign to get more people reading, by bringing reading to where culture is.

If you're into it, read into it.



## Shobnall Stars – After School Club Closure, Monday 9 March 2026

It is with regret that **After School Club** will not be open on **Monday 9 March 2026**. This is due to staff having to attend essential training that cannot be rescheduled. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but the rest of the sessions run as normal.

### 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.



### Warm up this Winter!

At this time of year, the most important thing to do is keep warm.

#### Layer up

It goes without saying, but make sure you are wearing those layers, especially if you're heading outside.

Gym clothes are great to wear as your base layer, then add woolly jumpers and thick hoodies over the top before adding your waterproofs. When it's extra chilly, keeping your head warm with a woolly hat, and wearing thick socks and gloves will make all the difference when you're out and about.

### Keep moving

Heading outside to exercise may seem like the last thing you want to do when it's cold. But going out for a brisk walk is the perfect way to warm up and won't cost you a penny.

### Comfort foods are made for winter

Cook up some winter warmers to keep your body warm from the inside out. Chillis, curries, spaghetti bolognese and a good old Sunday roast are some popular favourites which are also great for batch cooking and leftovers making your meals last longer and go further.

Try cooking in an air fryer or slow cooker too, to keep your energy costs down.

### Hot water bottles

Bring out the hot water bottle instead of heating the whole house. Perfect when working from home or warming up your bed.

### Safety Tip!

Roblox is hugely popular with children, offering millions of user-created games and social experiences. This #WakeUpWednesday guide explains how the platform differs from traditional video games, and why its scale, self-rating system and automated moderation can expose young users to inappropriate content or unsafe interactions.

Aimed at parents and educators, the guide explores concerns including online communication, in-game spending and compulsive play. It also shares practical advice on parental controls, limiting chat and encouraging open conversations, helping adults support children to enjoy Roblox more safely and responsibly.



### Reading Corner

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

#### The Island Vet – The Winter Snow Goose

Written by Gill Lewis

This is the fourth of Gill Lewis's books to be set in the fictional Haven Islands and starring Tia, daughter of the island's vet.

She and her mum are still relative newcomers, and this is their first winter there. Tia is a bit miserable at the thought of the cold, dark days ahead, and especially because the seabirds have gone back out to sea and the swallows have left too. But there are new arrivals, including flocks of pink-footed geese and one solitary snow goose that needs Tia's help.

Storm the goose is soon settled in but then a real storm arrives, cutting the islanders off from the mainland completely and even knocking out their electricity. Fortunately, Tia, her friend Nat and her neighbours find the perfect way to cheer themselves up and to brighten their situation.

Readers will be left with a real sense of warmth and community as well as more understanding of life – human and animal – on islands like the ones Lewis describes so well. It's the perfect book to read snuggled up on a dark evening, and a great choice for young animal lovers.

### 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.



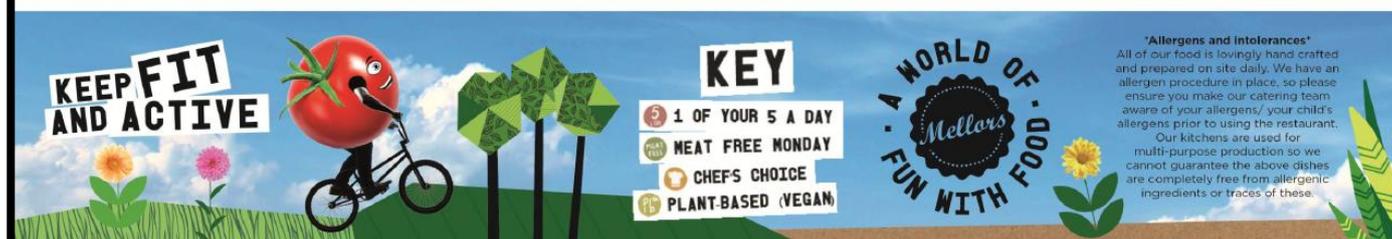
Let's keep working together to ensure attendance is as good as it can be! Remember, every pupil, every day! Thank you for your support.

This week's Attendance Champions are **Year 1** and **Year 3!** Well done! Here are the latest figures...

Nursery	95.2%	Target
Reception	95.0%	Whole School – 97%
Year 1	99.2%	
Year 2	97.9%	
Year 3	99.2%	Overall (to date) 95.7%
Year 4	96.9%	
Year 5	98.4%	
Year 6	95.4%	
Overall	97.3%	

### Hot Lunch Options 26.01.26 – 30.01.26

WEEK 2	MEAT FREE 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 & cauliflower Salad bar	Carrots & parsnips Salad bar	Roasted vegetables Salad bar	Peas & baked beans Salad bar
Desserts	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



## Head Teacher's Awards

Nursery	Aatiakh F	Zeenat S
Reception	Sophie L	Olive F
Year 1	Gianna R	Ayaz M
Year 2	Amore F	Hamza I
Year 3	Khalia R	Aiyla N
Year 4	Ayesha N	Jacob S
Year 5	EVERYONE!	
Year 6	Fatima S	Lewis L

## OPAL Play Awards

Nursery	
Reception	Zara A
Year 1	Lakshmi S
Year 2	Sada C
Year 3	Aminah K
Year 4	Noah H
Year 5	Layla N
Year 6	Aminah A

## Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 23.01.26)	47	22	73	45
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	7	2	4	4

# SHOBNALL SHOWCASE!

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

## Nursery

We have been flying high in nursery this week as we continued to explore our Motion Commotion theme with a focus on air transport.

It all started on Monday when we found Maisy Mouse taking off in an aeroplane. We shared the story of Maisy Mouse on a plane, by Lucy Cousins and shared our own experiences of travelling in the sky.

We then went onto use various materials to create our own representations of an aeroplane, these included construction bricks, cardboard boxes and various types of material. Lots of

fantastic vocabulary was used as we worked hard to include all parts of an aeroplane including the cockpit, wings, engines, boosters and seats. We also made a fabulous runway with lights.

On Friday Miss Alexander received an urgent message from Maisy Mouse. Sadly, her aeroplane had broken, and she needed our help to make a new one. We carried out an investigation to find out which material would be the best to make an aeroplane. We used different materials including tissue paper, cellophane and corrugated card. We carefully made different folds to create the features. After making some super predictions the most exciting part came- flying the aeroplanes! We had lots of fun and our results showed that paper was the best material. We think Maisy Mouse will be very pleased!

## Reception

This week in Reception, the children have been busy exploring food from around the world through exciting taste-testing activities. They have been learning about different foods and discovering where they come from,





sparkling lots of curiosity and discussion. The children also enjoyed making their own pizzas, practising important skills such as following instructions and working together. As part of their learning about food, they have been finding out about the decaying process and have been using magnifying glasses to carefully observe and monitor apples over time. In addition, the children used music to inspire their artwork, listening to different sounds and expressing how the music made them feel through painting. It has been a fun, creative, and very tasty week in Reception!



### Year 1

This week in Year 1, the children have been busy writing wonderful recounts about their own lives. They have enjoyed sharing where they were born, how old they are, and all the special people in their families. In maths, we have been working on ordering numbers on a number line and finding the missing numbers in sequences. The children have shown great focus and growing confidence with these skills. In music, we have been learning to sing chants, exploring rhythm and teamwork. In science, the children have been discovering how our ears help us

hear and how sound travels. We also had another fantastic (and very muddy!) session at Forest School, where it was wonderful to see the children's, imaginations come to life outdoors. Well done, Year 1 – keep up the brilliant hard work!

### Year 2

We have had an amazing week in Year 2! In maths, we have continued working with money and have been focusing on finding change, with the children showing great effort and confidence. In English, we have completed our story maps and are very excited to begin writing our draft stories next week. In science, we have been learning about animals by matching offspring to their parents, which the children really enjoyed. We have also been busy sewing and learning how to do a running stitch – everyone managed it well, even if a few threads became a little tangled! We finished the week in art by completing our maps using a range of different materials to represent different features, and the final pieces looked fantastic.



### Year 3

Another excellent week in Year 3! The children thoroughly enjoyed making their Stone Age houses, and it was wonderful to see just how crafty and creative they could be. In computing, they have been getting to grips with Scratch and are quickly becoming real programming whizzes. In science, we have been exploring magnets and learning about the difference between north and south poles. To celebrate National Handwriting Day, the children created some fantastic graffiti artwork using their names as inspiration. A brilliant week, Year 3 – keep up the fantastic work!



#### Year 4

This week in Year 4, we have been learning how to multiply 2-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers in maths, using both the expanded method and the short formal method. This was new learning and we found it tricky at first, but the children showed great resilience and made strong progress by the end of the week. In English, we began writing our narrative electrical warning stories, focusing on developing ideas and building tension. In computing, we used repeated code and applied this algorithm to draw squares using Logo software. In French, we

learned the months of the year and how to say dates. We also began our new geography unit by researching the Amazon rainforest and locating it on maps and globes. In music, we continued our learning of the pentatonic scale. A great week Year 4!

#### Year 5

Year 5 have had a fantastic and memorable week! The highlight has been their class assembly, where the children performed confidently, proudly showcasing what they have been learning. They should be extremely proud of their effort, teamwork and courage - they did a wonderful job!

In Maths, the children have started a new unit on fractions, practising how to multiply unit and non-unit fractions. In English, the children have been planning their own tragedy stories, developing exciting plots, characters and emotional moments inspired by the genre. In Science, the children have been learning about air resistance and how it affects moving objects. They investigated this by testing different sized parachutes, making predictions and observing how size and surface area change how objects fall.

Well done, Year 5, for another brilliant week of learning, creativity and confidence!

#### Year 6

This week in Year 6, the children have continued their decimals unit in maths, focusing on multiplying integers by decimals, and have shown great determination when tackling these challenges. In English, we have begun our new unit based on a river poem, which links perfectly to our upcoming residential trip where the children will be able to experience this learning first-hand during our visit to Carding Mill Valley next week at Laches Wood. We have also continued our SATs preparation with a SPaG and maths paper, and I have been incredibly impressed with how hard the children are working and the positive attitude they are showing. I know many children will be spending the weekend packing their bags in preparation for our residential away next week. Have a great weekend, Year 6, and I look forward to seeing you all bright and early on Monday morning!

#### Diary Dates 2025-2026

Event	Date/Time
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
Year 4 Class Assembly	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2026, 9.00am
<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
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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JTMAT Subject Excellence Project



**100 Words Competition**  
Poetry Writing Competition

Poetry in 100 Words or Less

**Competition Type:** Poetry Writing

**Theme:** Open Choice - children may choose any topic that inspires them!

**Competition Categories**

- EYFS
- Key Stage 1
- Key Stage 2

A winner will be chosen from each category. Highly commended entries will also be celebrated.

**Competition Guidelines & Rules**

- **Theme:** Pupils may write a poem on any topic of their choice.
- **Word Limit:** Poems must be 100 words or fewer (title not included).
- **Originality:** Entries must be the pupil's own original work.
- **Format:**
  - Poems may be typed or neatly handwritten.
  - Illustrations are optional

**Entry Details:**

Each entry should include the pupil's full name, class, year group and school name.

Teachers should submit all class entries together, one entry per category. by  
6/02/26

**A certificate and badge will be awarded to each category winner!**

**Winning poems will be displayed around school and shared through social media.**

