



# SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

*"Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbours and let every new year find you a better man."*



Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope that you have all had a fantastic break and enjoyed the holiday! Unfortunately, due to Storm Goretti, we had no choice but to close today. The decision to close is never an easy one, but after gathering information that many of the roads in and around the school were not safe enough for families, children, and staff to travel on, in addition to the site team being unable to reach school to prepare the site, we were sadly left with no alternative. As the weather forecast is set to improve we aim to be open as normal on Monday.

As a reminder, should we experience any further adverse weather conditions, please be assured that the school will endeavour to remain open in the first instance. Closing the school is a decision that will only ever be taken as a final resort. However, such a decision must take into consideration a range of factors, not just the amount of snow on the school site. These include the safety of our children, parents and families travelling to and from school, the ability of staff to travel safely (many of whom journey considerable distances through remote areas), as well as the weather warnings and official Met Office advice. In the event that a decision is made to close the school, we will communicate any closure or change to arrangements using our text messaging service. Please ensure that the school office holds up-to-date contact details for you. We will also update our Instagram page with this information. We will endeavour to make a decision as early as is feasibly possible to help parents and carers make any necessary childcare arrangements as we appreciate this can be challenging with your own work commitments.



We hope that you have all had a very positive start to 2026 and that you have a great weekend! Stay warm and stay safe!

# National Year of Reading 2026

This year is [The National Year of Reading](#), a nationwide campaign which aims to reverse the decline in reading for pleasure among children, young people and adults.



The National Year of Reading 2026 is a special year, created to help children and adults in the UK enjoy reading more. Everyone is encouraged to explore all kinds of stories, books, comics, magazines, websites, and even audiobooks, with the theme 'Go All In'. Throughout the year, schools, libraries, and communities will run fun events and challenges to help everyone find a type of reading they love.

Reading can open doors to new ideas, new possibilities, and new ways of understanding the world around us so we hope that you will join us in supporting this initiative over the next twelve months. Happy reading!



## 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.



## 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.



### New Year, Sustainable Me

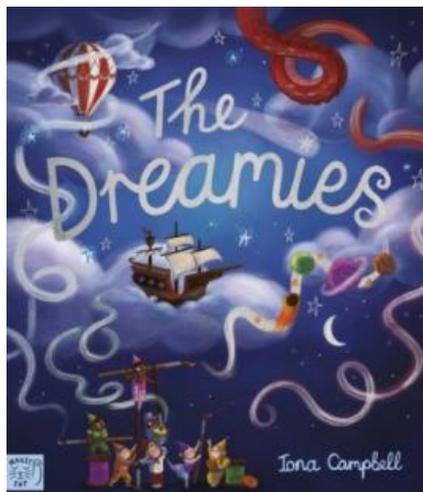
As we step into 2025, it is the perfect time to start new habits. Why not kick off the year on a positive note and challenge yourself to be more sustainable this year. Travel makes up 40% of Staffordshire's carbon emissions, so active travel is one of the best things you can do for the environment. Why not challenge yourself this month to swap one journey a

week from driving to walking, wheeling or cycling? You could also try and do 10,000 steps a day – this is also great for your physical and mental health!

### 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 3+...

#### The Dreamies

*Written by Iona Campbell*

Step into the whimsical world of the Dreamies - tiny, playful creatures who live hidden between the walls of your home. As you sleep, they paint your dreams with dazzling colours, filling the night with wonder and adventure. But sometimes, even the Dreamies lose control, and a dream that starts off fun can twist into something far more thrilling... or even a little scary. Can you help the Dreamies turn a nightmare back into a dream?

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.**

## Attendance

Please read the [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#) which has further information if you are unsure whether to send your child to school or not. **Children can come to school with mild respiratory illnesses.** However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above. Please note, we can only accept and administer **prescribed medicines** that are in-date, labelled, provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include instructions for administration and dosage.

**If your child arrives late, it is the responsibility of the adult to report to the school office and sign the "Late Book", giving a reason for lateness. This is important so that the school office knows your child is in school and can mark your child in in the class register. The class registers in the classrooms close at 8.55am when lessons start. When reporting an absence, please could we ask that parents contact the school office before 9.30am and state clearly reasons for absence.**



Let's keep working together to ensure attendance is as good as it can be! Remember, **every pupil, every day!** Thank you for your support. This week's Attendance Champions are **Year 5!** Well done! Here are the latest figures...

Nursery	95.2%	Target
Reception	95.4%	Whole School – <b>97%</b>
Year 1	97.9%	
Year 2	97.9%	
Year 3	97.7%	
Year 4	98.4%	
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>98.8%</b>	<b>Overall (to date)</b>
Year 6	94.6%	<b>95.5%</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>97.2%</b>	

## Hot Lunch Options 12.01.26 – 16.01.26

WEEK 3	MEAT FREE MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	SPECIAL CENSUS DAY MENU!	FRIDAY
Main dish	Margherita pizza with baked potato wedges	All day breakfast	Roast turkey with Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes & gravy		Fish cake served with chips
Vegetarian Main dish	Vegetarian burger with chunky chips	Vegetarian all day breakfast	Quorn™ fillet with roast potatoes & gravy		Vegetable fingers with chips
Accompaniments	Peas & broccoli ..... Salad bar	Roasted vegetables ..... Salad bar	Green beans & cabbage ..... Salad bar		Peas & baked beans ..... Salad bar
Desserts	Chocolate sponge	Rice pudding with fruit compote	Fruit flapjack		Ice cream
Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit <i>or</i> Yoghurt	Fresh fruit <i>or</i> Yoghurt	Fresh fruit <i>or</i> Yoghurt		Fresh fruit <i>or</i> 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



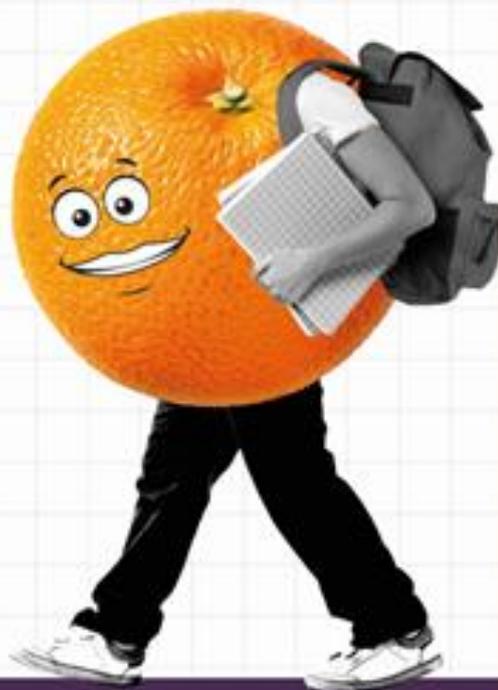
Please could all parents ensure that their Parent Pay account has enough funds in to cover payments in advance.



# CENSUS DAY

Dine with us...

Thursday 15th January



## Main

Beef Burger in Bun.

Or

Quorn Burger in Bun.

with French Fries & Baked Beans or Corn on the Cob.

Jacket Potato or Sandwiches.

## Dessert

Ice Cream

Yoghurts

Fruit

The **SHOBNALL SHOWCASE!** Will return next week, as will, **Head Teacher's Awards, Play Awards and Team Points...**

**Diary Dates 2025-2026**

Event	Date/Time
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
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



**Funding for Selected Routes**

**Full or Part-Time Routes**

**Gain School Experience**

# Train to Teach

in Local Schools

Primary (3-7) • Primary (5-11) • Secondary (11-16)



**The John Taylor SCITT**  
jtscitt.co.uk