



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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11th September 2026

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."



Dear Parents/Carers,

What a fantastic start to the new school year it has been! It has been wonderful to see how beautifully the children have settled back into school life. Across the school, classrooms are already buzzing with purposeful learning, and the children have quickly embraced their new routines, expectations and opportunities. There is a lovely sense of enthusiasm around school, and we have been particularly proud of the positive attitudes the children are showing towards their learning.

Our extra-curricular clubs begin next week, with another exciting range of opportunities for the children to enjoy beyond the classroom. If you haven't already signed your child up and they would like to take part, please make sure you do so! We love seeing children trying something new, developing their interests and enjoying time with friends through our wider school offer.

Finally, a huge thank you for all the positive feedback we have received about MCAS (My Child At School). We really appreciate everyone's patience and support as we have introduced the new system. Payments are now live through MCAS, marking another important step in bringing our school communications and services together in one convenient place for families.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. After such a positive start, we are really looking forward to seeing what the weeks ahead bring!

Whatever it is you are planning on doing this weekend, enjoy! We look forward to seeing you all again on Monday!

European Day of Languages

The **European Day of Languages** takes place on Saturday 26 September, so we will be celebrating a day early with a special **French-themed day on Friday 25 September!** As French is the language we teach at Shobnall, children will spend the day exploring France and other countries and communities around the world where French is spoken, alongside some exciting themed learning in their classrooms. Our school lunch menu will also have a French twist for the



day! To add to the experience, children are invited to come to school in their own clothes, reflecting the fact that pupils in French state schools generally do not wear a school uniform. There is absolutely no charge for taking part, it is simply an opportunity to do something a little different and celebrate languages, cultures and our wider world together.



Class assemblies are a significant feature of our school calendar, and we have some dates for you to add to your diaries. All assemblies will start at 9.00am and will be held in the school hall:

- Year 1 – 25 March 2027
- Year 2 – 19 November 2026
- Year 3 – 27 May 2027
- Year 4 – 25 June 2027
- Year 5 – 14 January 2027
- Year 6 – 5 November 2026

We do hope you are able to join us. These dates have been added to the list at the end of the newsletter.



School Photographs – Wednesday 16 September 2026

A reminder that on **Wednesday 16 September**, all children will have their individual photograph taken for our school records and for you. Families within school can also have a joint photograph taken this year, should you wish to purchase this. Parents who wish to have pre-school children included should arrive at school at **8.10am** so that your little ones can have their photograph taken with their siblings.

Open Evening – Thursday 12 November 2026, 4.30pm – 6.00pm

Don't forget about our forthcoming **Open Evening on Thursday 6 November, 4.30pm to 6.00pm**, which you are all formally invited to!

The admissions window opens for places in our Reception and Nursery classes in November, so as well as welcoming potential new parents to look round our school, this is also a great opportunity for our existing parents to visit too and see some of the wonderful things that are happening!

For further information about admissions and applying for school places, please contact the school office, shb-office@sib.itmat.co.uk, for nursery enquiries and Staffordshire County Council, [School admissions | Staffordshire County Council](#), for enquiries about reception places.





Character.AI lets users create and chat with AI-powered characters that can behave like friends, mentors, fictional favourites, or romantic partners. While these conversations can feel engaging and supportive, their convincing human-like responses can blur important boundaries. Young people may encounter inappropriate content, misinformation and privacy risks, or begin forming an unhealthy emotional attachment to an AI companion. This guide explores warning signs, withdrawal from real-world activities and practical advice.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters. These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0800 800 5000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership and governance. He works internationally supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance and [Insert NC courses I have written].



The National College

See full reference list on our website

X @wake_up_weds

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@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09.09.2025



Year 7 Secondary School Applications

The application window for a September 2026 start at secondary or high school is now open. Parents can apply online at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions. As in previous years, the local authority is no longer providing paper copies of the 'Information to Parents' booklet. Parents are able to access this booklet on their [website](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions). Deadline for applications is **31 October 2026**.



AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Shobnall Stars – After School Club Closure, Wednesday 7 October 2026 AND Wednesday 4 November 2026

It is with regret that **After School Club** will not be open on **Wednesday 7 October 2026 AND Wednesday 4 November 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.

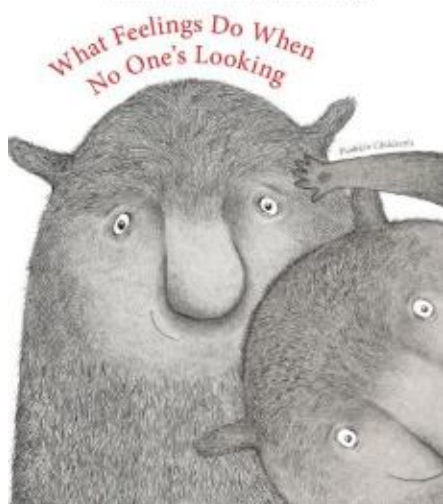
Please note that you now need to book places for your child/ren in advance for **Shobnall Stars Early Birds** or **Shobnall Stars Night Owls** via the MCAS (My Child At School) app.

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.



Tina Oziewicz & Aleksandra Zajac



Reading Corner

This week's recommended read is for children aged 5+...

What Feelings Do When No One's Looking

Written by Tina Oziewicz

Curiosity climbs to the highest branch of a tree.

Joy bounces on a trampoline.

Gratitude warms you like a woolly jumper...

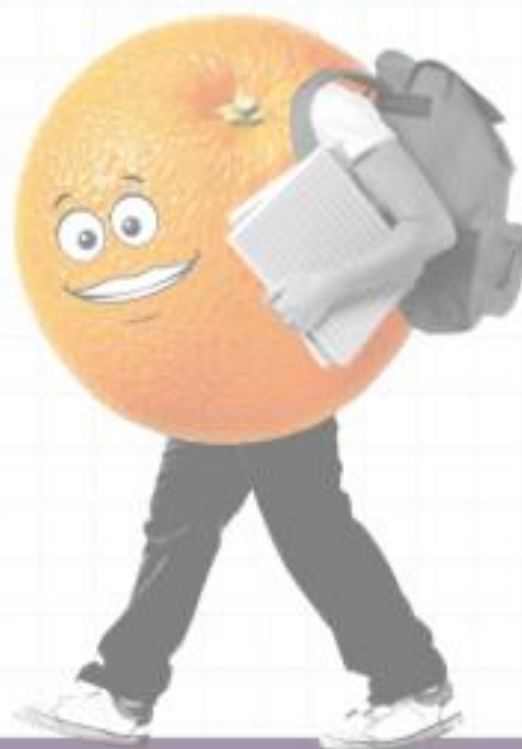
What Feelings Do When No One's Looking is a stunning, charming and brilliantly inventive picture book, beautifully illustrated by Aleksandra Zajac, about the feelings that live inside us, sure to provoke many fascinating conversations with any child.



CENSUS DAY

Dine with us...

01.10.26



Main

KFC Fake away

Chicken goujon

Quorn dipper

French fries' beans or sweetcorn

Dessert

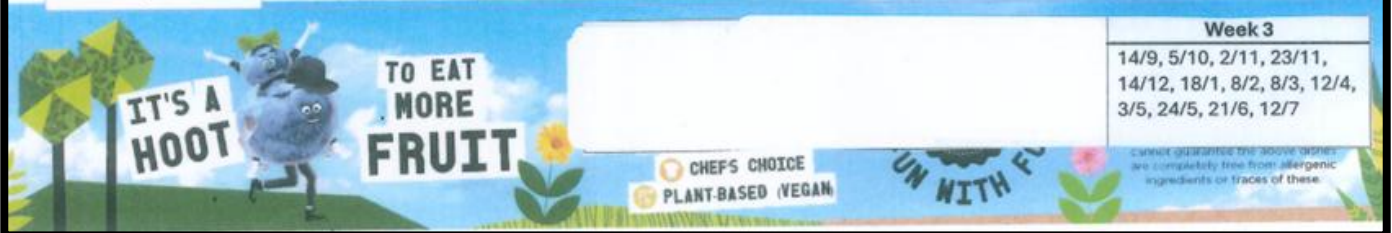
Waffle station

Fresh fruit

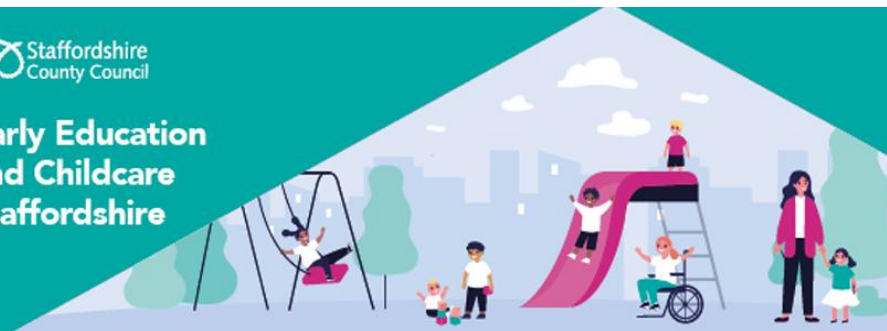
Yoghurt selection

Hot Lunch Options 14.09.26 – 18.09.26

WEEK 3	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main dish	Pizza bar Selection of toppings	Minced Beef taco With 50/50 rice	Roast chicken with mash potato & gravy	All day breakfast	Fish Fingers and Chips
Vegetarian Main dish	Pizza bar Selection of toppings	Quorn Taco With 50/50 Rice	Quorn Fillet with Creamy Mash	Vegetarian All Day Breakfast	Cheese panini
Halal	As above	Choose Opt 1 or 2	Roast chicken	Halal chicken sausage breakfast	Choose Opt 1 or 2
Pasta Bar	Sauce of the Day	Sauce of the Day	Sauce of the Day	Sauce of the Day	Sauce of the Day
Accompaniments	Sweetcorn & broccoli Salad bar	Peas & Green Beans	Carrots & cauliflower Salad bar	Broccoli & green beans Salad bar	Peas & baked beans Salad bar
Desserts	Pancakes with forest berries	 Chocolate brownie	Fruit Sponge	 Oaty jam squares	Ice-Cream & fresh fruit
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 Wrap selection	Jacket potato and Wrap selection	Jacket potato and Wrap selection	Jacket potato and Wrap selection	Jacket potato and Wrap selection	Jacket potato and Wrap selection



Early Education and Childcare Staffordshire



Have Your Say!

Are you the parent of a child under 5 or a parent to be?

Have your say on childcare in Staffordshire
Please complete our childcare survey for 2026 by visiting the link
below
or scan the QR code. Have your say now!

<https://tinyurl.com/ys4mdyju>

You could be
entitled to help
with childcare costs



Visit staffordshire.gov.uk/fundedchildcare



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 9.00am** 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.



Nursery	100%	Target
Reception	98.3%	Whole School 97%
Year 1	97.1%	
Year 2	99.6%	
Year 3	98.2%	
Year 4	98.5%	Overall (to date)
Year 5	99.2%	98.3%
Year 6	96.8%	
Overall	98.3%	



Nursery	EVERYONE!	
Reception	EVERYONE!	
Year 1	Ariana I	Hannah S
Year 2	Dawoud A	Emmie L
Year 3	Fatima A	Jacob M
Year 4	Umair Q	Mary-Ann F
Year 5	Jacob S	Amaya H
Year 6	George N	Thea K



Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 11.09.26)	32	53	63	23
Position	3 rd 2 points	2 nd 3 points	1 st 4 points	4 th 1 point
Running Total	2	3	4	1

SHOBNALL SHOWCASE

Nursery

We have had a fabulous start to our year in Nursery. Each day we have arrived with bigger smiles and have been eager to start our day by choosing an exciting activity. We have settled beautifully in our new class and are becoming familiar with the routines and transitions throughout the morning.

It has been super joining in with new friends to engage in lots of imaginative play especially in our nursery house where we have been making lots of tea and coffee!

One of the most popular areas this week has been the message booth where we have been busy making lots of marks with the chalks. We also love our outdoor area and are getting very good at keeping the bikes, cars and scooters on the road.

A fantastic start Nursery- you are amazing!



We are so proud of Adheera whose picture is on the front cover of the latest Nature Explorers book! She won a competition to mark David Attenborough's 100th birthday! Well done, Adheera!



Reception

What a fantastic first full week we have had in Reception! The children have been busy exploring their new classroom, getting to know their teachers and friends, and becoming familiar with all of the exciting resources available to them. They have enjoyed getting creative using different media to produce some wonderful artwork, singing and joining in with their favourite nursery rhymes, and using a variety of resources to design and build in our construction area. The children have particularly loved exploring the home corner, using their imaginations to create lots of wonderful stories and play scenarios. It has been a lovely week full of fun, exploration, creativity and new experiences, and we are so proud of how well everyone is settling into school life!

Year 1

This week, Year 1 have had a fantastic start and the children are really beginning to settle into the rules and routines of the classroom. In English, we have been developing our transcription skills by segmenting words

and writing sentences linked to our Little Wandle learning. In Maths, we have focused on counting and grouping numbers to 10, while also practising correct number formation and working hard to overcome number reversals. In Science, the children explored a range of everyday materials and their properties, including metal, fabric and wood, discussing what makes each material unique. In Geography, we used an aerial photograph to identify and label key features of our school. We are very proud of how well the children have engaged with their learning this week and look forward to another exciting week ahead!



Year 2

What a lovely first week we have had in Year 2! The children have settled beautifully into their new classroom and have been getting to know our routines, expectations and rules. We have been so impressed with how well they have adapted and how quickly they have become familiar with their new surroundings. The children have got straight stuck into their learning, particularly in Maths and English, where they have been working hard and showing lots of enthusiasm. In Maths, we have been exploring building numbers and place value, using place value grids to help us understand the value of each digit, which the children have really

enjoyed. We have also had our first Forest School session, which the children absolutely loved! They had lots of fun exploring, playing and learning outdoors, and it was wonderful to see them enjoying themselves and working together. It has been a fantastic start to Year 2, and we are incredibly proud of how well the children have settled and are looking forward to another exciting week of learning and adventures!



Year 3

What a brilliant week we've had in Year 3, jam packed with learning and fun! In maths, the children have been looking at addition across 10 and using concrete resources to problem solve. In computing, the children have been looking at digital devices and how they work using inputs, processes and outputs. In history, the children learned about cave paintings and the different natural used to make the paints. The children also had a go themselves of creating their own stone age artwork which they loved. We have had a super start to year 3 together. Well done!



Year 4

Throughout this week in Year 4, we have been starting off strong and getting familiar with our new topics! We are beginning to apply place value skills into our Maths work and work on partitioning numbers. We have been going "Back to Basics" in English, revising our handwriting, nouns and verbs. A super highlight of this week has been starting our new Science topic, all about electricity! It has been so interesting sharing our ideas on how to stay safe around electricity. We have also started learning about Romans and identifying all the different important dates from the Roman Empire.

Year 5

It has been wonderful to welcome Year 5 back to school, and they have started the new year with great enthusiasm and positivity! In Maths, the children have begun our Place Value within 100,000 unit. They have been learning to read and write 4, 5 and 6-digit numbers accurately and have been developing their understanding of the value of each digit. In English, we have been getting back to basics by exploring what a sentence actually requires: a subject and a verb. We have also been working hard on improving our handwriting, focusing on improving our posture, sitting position and the tripod grip.



In Art, we have been exploring interactive installations. Working in groups, the children designed and created their own models of an art installation. They really impressed me with their teamwork, creativity and ability to share ideas. Well done, Year 5, for such a fantastic start to the new school year!

Year 6

The children have settled into school incredibly quickly this week and have made a fantastic start to Year 6. They are already working exceptionally hard, and I have been so impressed by the high standard of presentation they are producing. In Maths, we have begun exploring place value, while in English we have been revisiting and refining our handwriting skills. I have been amazed by the quality of the children's handwriting already. The class has also taken part in choosing their class representatives for the year, demonstrating responsibility and enthusiasm for the roles. It has been a wonderful first few days, and I cannot wait to see what the next few weeks bring for this fantastic group of children.

Diary Dates 2026-2027

Event	Date/Time
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 23 rd October 2026
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 2 nd November 2026
Year 6 Class Assembly	Thursday 5 th November 2026, 9.00am
Year 2 Class Assembly	Thursday 19 th November 2026, 9.00am
Year 5 Whitemoor Lakes	Wednesday 25 th November to Friday 27 th November 2026
Whole School Trip to Pantomime – Robin Hood,	Thursday 3 rd December 2026, 10.00am

Lichfield Garrick	
School Closes for Christmas	Friday 18 th December 2026, 2.00pm
INSET Day	Monday 4 th January 2027
School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 5 th January 2027
Year 5 Class Assembly	Thursday 14 th January 2027
Year 6 Laches Wood	Monday 25 th January to Friday 29 th January 2027
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 12 th February 2027
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 22 nd February 2027
Year 1 Class Assembly	Thursday 25 th March 2027
School Closes for Easter	Thursday 25 th March 2027, 2.00pm
INSET Day	Monday 12 th April 2027
School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 13 th April 2027
May Day Bank Holiday – School Closed	Monday 3 rd May 2027
Key Stage 2 SATs Week	Monday 10 th May 2027 to Friday 14 th May 2027
Year 3 Class Assembly	Thursday 27 th May 2027
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 28 th May 2027
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 7 th June 2027
Year 4 Multiplication Check	Monday 7 th June 2027 to Friday 11 th June 2027
Year 1 Phonics Screening Check	Monday 14 th June 2027 to Friday 18 th June 2027
Year 4 Class Assembly	Thursday 25 th June 2027
JTMAT INSET Day	Friday 2 nd July 2027
School Closes for Summer	Wednesday 21 st July 2027, 2.00pm
INSET Day	Thursday 2 nd September 2027
INSET Day	Friday 3 rd September 2027
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 6 th September 2027

Autumn Term Diary Dates

Event	Date/Time
Welcome to Nursery – Workshop for Parents	Tuesday 15 th September 2026, 11.00am
Welcome to Reception – Workshop for Parents	Tuesday 15 th September 2026, 2.30pm
School Photographs	Wednesday 16 th September 2026
Harvest	Tuesday 29 th September 2026
Shobnall Stars Night Owls (After School Club) CLOSED for staff training	Wednesday 7 th October 2026
PFA Halloween Discos	Friday 16 th October 2026 • Reception, Y1, Y2 – 3.45pm – 5.00pm • Y3, 4, 5 & 6 – 5.15pm – 6.30pm
Parents' Evening	Monday 19 th October 2026 Wednesday 21 st October 2026
School Closes for Half Term	Friday 23 rd October 2026
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 2 nd November 2026
Shobnall Stars Night Owls (After School Club) CLOSED for staff training	Wednesday 4 th November 2026
Open Evening	Thursday 12 th November 2026, 4.30-6.00pm
Odd Socks Day	Monday 16 th November 2026
Children in Need	Friday 20 th November 2026
Year 5 Whitemoor Lakes	Wednesday 25 th November 2026 to Friday 27 th November 2026 inclusive
Christingle	Tuesday 1 st December 2026
A Nursery Noel	Wednesday 2 nd December 2026, 9.15am
Whole School Trip to Pantomime – Cinderella, Lichfield Garrick	Thursday 3 rd December 2026, 10.00am
PFA Christmas Market	Friday 4 th December 2026, 3.30pm – 5.30pm
Reception / Year 1 Nativity	Tuesday 8 th December 2026, 9.15am AND 2.15pm

Year 2 / Year 3 Nativity	Thursday 10 th December 2025, 9.15am AND 2.15pm
Christmas Lunch / Christmas Jumper / Christmas OPAL Day	Wednesday 16 th December 2026
School Closes for Christmas	Friday 18 th December 2026, 2.00pm
INSET Day	Monday 4 th January 2027
School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 5 th January 2027

We Need YOUR HELP!

Help us source wood and natural resources for our Forest School!

We are looking for donations of natural materials to support outdoor learning, creativity and play. Your contributions help our children connect, create and thrive in nature.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

WOOD SLICES
(VARIOUS SIZES)

Great for crafts, painting, counting and loose parts play.

WOOD COOKIES
(NATURAL DISCS)

Perfect for crafts, weaving, storytelling and natural art.

FIREWOOD
(SEASONED)

For our outdoor fire area, cooking, and keeping warm on forest days.

BRANCHES & STICKS

Ideal for building, den making, crafts and creations.

NATURAL MATERIALS

Pinecones, bark, seed pods, leaves and more for crafts and nature exploration.

EVERY PIECE OF NATURE INSPIRES A WORLD OF LEARNING!

THANK YOU!

If you can help, please speak to our Forest School leaders
Miss Alexander or Mrs Martin.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR FOREST SCHOOL