



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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25th September 2026

"If a year was tucked inside of a clock, then autumn would be the magic hour."



Dear Parents/Carers,

What another great week we have had! There has been a real buzz around school, and it has been lovely to see the children enjoying their learning and making the most of everything on offer.

Today, we rounded off the week by celebrating European Day of Languages, with a particular focus on all things French! Throughout the day, the children have enjoyed learning more about the French language and culture, as well as exploring the many different countries and communities around the world where French is spoken. Our special French-themed lunch certainly went down well, and with everyone coming to school in non-uniform, we joked that it was just like being in a French school, where children do not usually wear school uniform! Thank you to everyone who helped to make the day such an enjoyable celebration of languages, culture and the wider world. *Merci beaucoup!*

A reminder that we will be holding our **Harvest Assembly** on **Tuesday 29 September**. We would be very grateful if families could send in a donation for our Harvest collection. All donations will be given to the YMCA to support people within our local community. As always, thank you for your generosity and support.

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

OPAL – Wellies and Waterproofs!

Just a quick reminder as we head into the wetter weather that we need all children to have wellies and waterproofs in school for OPAL, ready for those wet and muddy lunchtimes on the field!

Please could we also ask parents to ensure that wellies and waterproofs are named, just in case they are ever mislaid. We want the children to be able to make the most of OPAL throughout the autumn and winter, even when the field gets wet and muddy! Thank you for your support with this.



Calling all Parents!

PLAY
EXPLORE
DISCOVER
TOGETHER

As we head into the winter months, our OPAL lunchtimes on the field will be wetter and muddier!

MUD
MAKES
GREAT
MEMORIES!

To make sure the children can still enjoy **OPAL** at lunchtimes (whatever the weather!), please ensure your child has their wellies and waterproofs in school at all times.

Let
them
play!

Fresh air
Happier children
Brighter days

1



Please name
your wellies
and waterproofs

2



Bring them
into school
ASAP!

3



Leave them in
school so they are
always ready
for OPAL
lunchtimes.

This will help us keep everyone happy, dry
and (most importantly) avoid muddy children coming home! 😊

Thank you
for your
support!





500 Words Competition

500 Words, the UK's most successful children's writing competition, will open for submissions on Tuesday 29 September and will run until Friday 6 November 2026.

Since the competition was first launched in 2011 by Chris Evans on the Radio 2 Breakfast Show, it has received over one million stories from children throughout the UK.

This year, the two age categories will be **5-7 year-olds** and **8-11 year-olds**.

Children of all abilities are encouraged to use their creativity and imagination to write a story they would love to read without the pressure of having to worry about spelling, punctuation and grammar.

For more information on how to enter, please click [here](#).

PFA Reminders!

The **PFA Halloween Disco** is coming to Shobnall on **Friday 16 October!** We are looking forward to a *fantastic* evening of music, dancing and Halloween fun for the children. Disco timings are:

- **Reception, Year 1 & Year 2:**
3.45pm – 5.00pm
- **Key Stage 2 (Years 3–6):**
5.15pm – 6.30pm



Tickets cost **£4.00 per child** and include entry to the disco, a drink and a bag of sweets. Additional drinks, sweets and crisps will be available to purchase during the disco, alongside some spooky extras including glow sticks and temporary tattoos. Tickets go on sale during the week commencing Monday 5 October and can initially be purchased via bank transfer. From Monday 12 October, tickets will also be available to purchase at the school gate, as well as by bank transfer.

As our first disco begins very shortly after the end of the school day, and because we couldn't possibly have a Halloween Disco without some suitably spooky outfits, **Friday 16 October** will also be a **non-uniform day**. Children are welcome to come to school dressed in their party clothes or spooky outfits, meaning those attending the first disco can head straight to the fun without needing to rush home to get changed. We can't wait to see everyone dressed up and ready to dance. It's going to be spook-tacular!

The PFA Christmas Market will take place on **Friday 4 December 2026!** We are currently looking for prizes for our Christmas raffle. Perhaps you work for a company that might be willing to donate a prize, know a local business that could help, or are able to offer something yourself. No donation is too big or too small, and every contribution will help us to create a fantastic raffle and raise more money for the children. The PFA will also be approaching local businesses and organisations over the coming weeks, so if you have contacts within local businesses who you think may be willing to support us, we would be delighted to hear from you.

We are also offering the opportunity for parents, families, local businesses and independent sellers to have their own table/stall at the Christmas Market for just £10. If you make crafts, gifts, cakes, Christmas items or have products that you would like to sell, this could be a great opportunity to join us and be part of the festivities. If you would like to book a table for £10, please contact the school office to register your interest. Spaces will be limited, so please get in touch early if you would like one. Many thanks, as always, for your support.

A Halloween-themed poster for a school disco. The background is dark purple. At the top, there are orange spider webs and spiders. The text is in various colors: orange, white, and green. At the bottom, there are two orange jack-o'-lanterns with black faces and hats.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Shobnall Primary School PFA

HALLOWEEN DISCO

FRIDAY 16th OCTOBER

KS1 3:45-5pm

KS2 5:15-6:30pm

Tickets £4 each
(includes a drink & bag of sweets)

<i>Pay Online</i>	<i>Pay Cash</i>
<i>Account name: Friends of Shobnall school</i>	<i>Tickets will be available to purchase from Monday</i>
<i>Account number: 03558088</i>	<i>12th October</i>
<i>Sort Code: 30-91-47</i>	<i>before & after school at the front gate</i>

Additional drinks, sweets & crisps will be available to buy at the disco

Also glow sticks, bracelets, party glasses, & tattoo station

Shobnall Primary & Nursery School



Do you have a child starting Reception in September 2022?

Come and discover what makes Shobnall so special – a warm, ambitious and inclusive school, proudly judged 'Outstanding' by Ofsted for over a decade."

Dave Adams – Headteacher



OPEN EVENING

**Thursday 12th November
from 4.30PM–6PM**

Come along to view our facilities and meet our dedicated staff team

Booking is not required



"Happy children, inspired learners"

Shobnall Primary and Nursery School, Shobnall Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, DE14 2BB.
<https://shobnallprimaryschool.co.uk/>





Discord is a hugely popular communication platform where young people can chat, play games and join communities built around shared interests. This guide explores some of the risks that can come with using it, including contact with strangers, inappropriate content, harassment and the potential for gaming and socialising to become a distraction from everyday life. It also encourages families to agree on clear expectations around screen time, helping young people enjoy the platform while making safer and more informed choices online.

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. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DISCORD

Launched in 2015, and with over 80 million daily active users, Discord has become one of the main ways gamers communicate – with text, voice, and video chat helping people connect around shared interests. For many young people, Discord can be a useful way to talk with friends, join communities, and explore hobbies. However, like any online platform built around communication, it also carries risks around strangers, inappropriate content, spending money, and time spent online. This guide looks at what parents and educators need to know.

AGE RESTRICTION 13+
(with a 17+ age rating on app stores)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A CHANNEL FOR EVERYTHING

While Discord is strongly associated with video games, it also hosts communities for almost anything you can imagine, such as books, music, influencers, cooking and sport. Some large servers focus on popular games like Minecraft or Fortnite, but many are private, invite-only spaces where friends or communities with shared interests can chat across phones, computers, and gaming consoles.

REAL-LIFE DISTRACTION

Like many social platforms, Discord can become a real-life distraction. Although it does not rely on endless scrolling in the same way as some apps, constant messages, group chats, and voice channels can keep young people engaged for long periods, especially in larger servers. As Discord is closely linked to gaming, it may also increase the time they spend playing games.

STRANGER DANGER

Users can choose to stay within private servers with only people they know, but joining public servers will most likely bring them into contact with strangers. Many users are just friendly enthusiasts, yet others could have harmful intentions, including grooming, extortion, or radicalisation. In these types of environments, anyone can claim to be another teenager, which can make it harder for young people to judge who is safe to talk to.

A HARASSMENT RISK

There is also a risk from people a young person already knows in the real world. Bullying in the real world can continue online, and Discord servers can make this feel more intimidating, especially if someone uses anonymous or multiple accounts to carry out threatening behaviours. Because Discord works across computers, phones, and gaming consoles, unwanted contact can follow young people into online spaces that should feel safe and private.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

This huge amount of choice can help young people "find their tribe", especially when they have niche interests. However, because users can create servers around almost any topic, younger users may still encounter unsuitable or distressing content. Even in spaces linked to child-friendly games, Discord cannot directly control every conversation, image, or video shared by other users.

A MONEY DRAIN

Discord is free to use, but users can still spend real-world money on it. This may include Discord Nitro, a monthly subscription that unlocks customisation features and larger media uploads, or purchases through the "shop" for profile cosmetics and game-related items. Small purchases can add up quickly, especially if spending controls are not in place.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE FAMILY CENTRE

Parents and carers should make use of Discord's Family Centre, which gives an overview of a younger user's activity while respecting their privacy. Messages are not shared, but adults can view an activity feed and receive weekly email summaries. Discord says this is designed to support conversations about online behaviour, rather than be about constant monitoring.

MANAGE TIME ONLINE

Agree clear expectations around when and how Discord can be used, especially during homework, bedtime, and family time. Encourage young people to turn off unnecessary notifications and leave servers that feel overwhelming. If Discord is mainly used alongside gaming, discuss healthy limits for both activities so that schoolwork, sleep, and offline friendships are not affected.

CHECK, TALK, REPORT

Review Discord's privacy settings together, including who can send them friend requests or private messages. Use this as a chance to talk to them about strangers, privacy, and personal information, making sure young people know to question suspicious behaviour, such as requests to keep conversations secret. Show them how to block and report these kinds of users and reassure them that asking for help will not get them into trouble.

REVIEW SPENDING CONTROLS

Talk openly about paid features such as Discord Nitro, profile cosmetics, and in-game purchases. Make sure the young people in your care understand that digital items still cost real money. Check payment settings on the device they use, avoid storing card details where possible, and consider adding approval requirements for purchases, particularly for younger or more impulsive users.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, and The New Statesman.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full references on your website

@wake_up_weds /www.thenationalcollege @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: 23.08.2024



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.



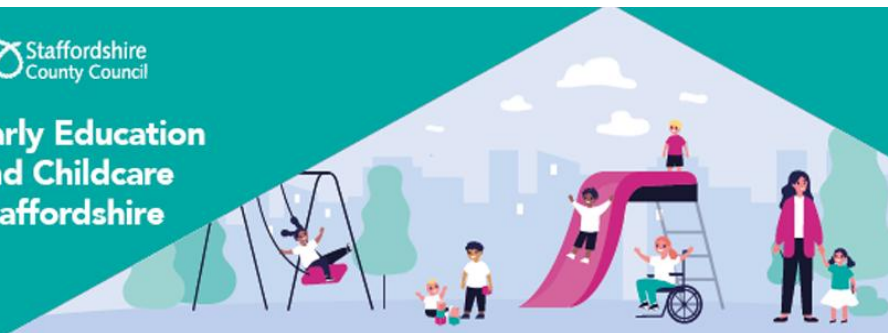
Reading Corner

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

The Haunting of Old Splinter

Written by Jack McKay

Like his mum, Adrian loves reading horror comics, and both he and his stepbrother Peter love listening to enigmatic, local eccentric Alfie tell strange stories. One such story is that of a creepy Wishing Claw connected to Old Splinter, the ruined mansion Peter's stepdad is renovating. When Peter makes a succession of scary discoveries in Old Splinter, he starts to wonder whether Alfie's stories might be true, and whether the Wishing Claw could be called upon to fix some of his family's problems...



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

Hot Lunch Options 28.09.26 – 02.10.26

WEEK 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main dish	Pizza bar Selection of toppings	Homemade Lasagne With Garlic Bread	Pork Sausage and Creamy Mash Meatballs for under 5's	Cheese and ham Pinwheel with Herby potatoes	Crispy Fish with Chips
Vegetarian Main dish	Pizza bar Selection of toppings	Quorn Lasagne With Garlic Bread	Quorn Sausage and Creamy Mash	Macaroni Cheese	Vegetarian Burger with Chips
Halal	As above	Lasagne & Garlic Bread	Chicken Sausage	Macaroni Cheese	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	Peas & Baked Beans	Carrots & green beans Salad bar	Broccoli & cauliflower Salad bar	Sweetcorn & carrots Salad bar	Peas & baked beans Salad bar
Desserts	Shortbread	Flapjack	5 Fruit crumble & custard	Chocolate Cake	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 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

KEEP FIT
AND ACTIVE



KEY

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

A WORLD OF
FUN WITH FOOD

"Allergens and intolerances"
All of our food is lovingly hand crafted
and prepared on site daily. We have an
allergen procedure in place, so please
ensure you make our catering team
aware of your allergens/ your child's
allergens prior to using the restaurant.
Our kitchens are used for
multi-purpose production so we
cannot guarantee the above dishes
are completely free from allergenic
ingredients or traces of these.

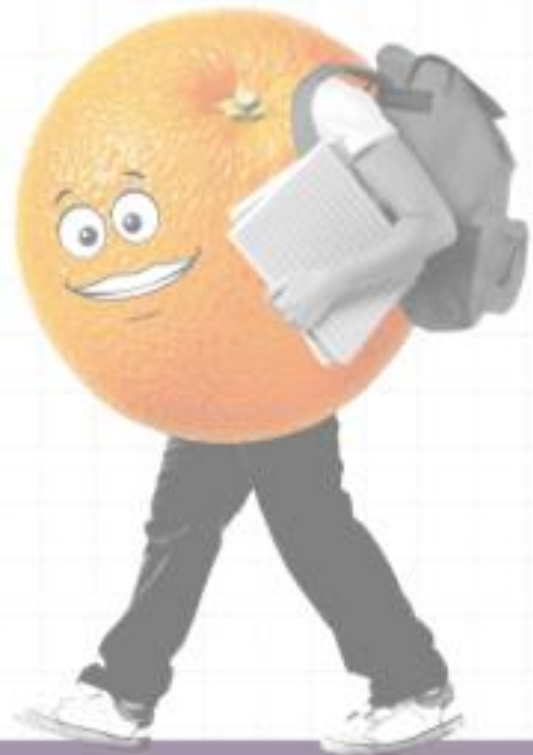
PLEASE NOTE that Thursday's menu is KFC Fake Away (see choices below).



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

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	84.6%	Target
Reception	98.9%	Whole School 97%
Year 1	96.7%	
Year 2	99.4%	
Year 3	99.0%	Overall (to date)
Year 4	92.9%	
Year 5	97.9%	97.0%
Year 6	95.7%	
Overall	96.8%	



Nursery	Alois C	Sultan A
Reception	Dottie K	Muhib H
Year 1	Aurora-Rose S	Hassnain A
Year 2	Darcey-Mai C-S	Simeon B-C
Year 3	Adam J	Ava T
Year 4	Teigan W	Jack P
Year 5	Reggie P	Noah H
Year 6	Amara I	Nancy M



Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 25.09.26)	9	14	31	46
Position	4 th 1 point	3 rd 2 points	2 nd 3 points	1 st 4 points
Running Total	7	7	10	7

SHOBNALL SHOWCASE



Nursery

We have had an amazing week in nursery exploring different types of families!

We have shown wonderful listening skills when our friends have shared all about members of their family. Some of our friends have lots of brothers and sisters, some have none, some have big families with lots of different people that live with them, some have a few. These differences are what make all our families special!

Did you know?

"My Auntie Imal lovelsssss Mocha." (Ayzal)

"My cats are called Fynn and Socks!" (Muneeza)

"My daddy is in Pakistan he is coming home soon." (Nusaybah)

"My sister goes to Reception!" (Laura)

We got creative using lots of different objects and materials to create representations of our families which turned out magnificently. It was great to see how we used the different resources in different ways which made our family creations even more unique.



Reception

This week in Reception, we have been exploring our amazing bodies and discovering all the wonderful things they can do! We've had lots of fun showing off our talents with a mini talent show and singing competitions, with some very confident performers taking to the stage! We have also been learning about our five senses and putting our sense of taste to the test by trying limes. The children decided they were very strong and sour, and there were certainly some funny faces being pulled! We've been learning to name the different parts of our bodies too, drawing around our friends and creating our own fantastic pictures of the human body. It has been a busy week full of exploring, learning and lots of laughter!

Year 1

It has been another busy and exciting week in Year 1!

In English, we have been learning about the alphabet and developing our understanding of capital and lowercase letters. We have been practising recognising and using letters correctly in our writing.

In Maths, we have been comparing numbers and learning how to use the correct symbols to show which number is greater than, less than or equal to another number.

In Geography, we have been exploring maps of our classroom. We used blocks and LEGO to create our own 3D maps before moving on to drawing and labelling the different features on a map.



In Art, we had lots of fun decorating our names in a graffiti style to create personalised covers for our sketchbooks.

In History, we have been ordering events on a timeline of the Queen's life, thinking carefully about what happened and when.

French Day was a real hit! The children particularly enjoyed our French food tasting, with Brie, baguette and pain au chocolat proving very popular. It was lovely to see everyone trying something new and enjoying the experience.

Overall, it has been a really good week, and we are so proud of how well the children have approached their learning. Well done, Year 1!

Year 2

What a lovely week we have had! The children have been busy learning and having lots of fun. In Maths, we have been learning to compare numbers using the words *"more than"* and *"less than"*. The children have been doing really well and are becoming more confident using these words. In English, we have been learning about nouns, verbs and adjectives and using them to make our own sentences. We have also



been practising using them when we talk. We had another lovely Forest School session, where the children enjoyed using the loppers safely, building dens, collecting natural materials and working together. In PE, we have been practising our fundamental movement skills, including running, stopping, balancing and changing direction. The children really enjoyed playing Pirates and Sailors and Crabs and Corals, and had lots of fun while practising their listening and teamwork skills. In Science, we have been learning about bridges and

looking at different bridge designs. The children enjoyed coming up with their own ideas for building a bridge, thinking about which materials they could use and how they could test how strong it is. They came up with some fantastic ideas! Well done everyone for another wonderful week!



Year 3

What a super week we have had in Year 3. The children have been working hard and being resilient when things have got tough which has been wonderful to see. In maths, we have started our place value unit. The children have been working hard at understanding counting in 100s and how many 100s are in 1000. In English, we have started our unit all about the lifecycle of plants. We have identified the different features of the text and learnt definitions to words such as germination and photosynthesis. In History, we went on a scavenger hunt pretending to be hunter-gatherers. The

children found wild berries and plants and had to find out whether they were poisonous and what season the plants grew. Finally, the children have loved learning all about Canada and speaking French. It has been wonderful to see how curious the children have been learning about a new country. Keep it up, year 3!

Year 4

We have had a busy, exciting week in Year 4 this week! We have been acing our work on rounding and number lines and have been working hard with our timetables practice in class! We started exploring persuasive language in our English sessions, learning facts all about Russia and getting stuck in learning key vocabulary and persuasive techniques! It has been so much learning more about our Science topic of Electricity, we have been experimenting with circuits and how to make them work and we have become real electrical engineers in class! Year 4 have also been working hard on our Hockey skills in PE and we are loving learning all about the skills involved. This Friday, Year 4 are dedicating lots of time to our French lessons to celebrate European Languages Day, we will be learning lots about our French speaking countries and doing some fun activities to celebrate!



Year 5

In Maths, the children have continued with our Place Value unit and have been learning how to round numbers to the nearest 100,000, 10,000 and 1,000. They have been developing their understanding of the value of digits and applying their knowledge to different problems. In English, we have now finished our 'Back to Basics' work and have started our exciting new unit, 'A Chilli Day'. This narrative is all about aliens! The children have been identifying the key features of a narrative and have explored/defined new vocabulary to help them develop their writing.



In Music, we have been learning all about Sea Shanties. The children have been using their bodies and cups to create different rhythms in a 4/4 time signature, which they have then performed alongside their singing. They have really enjoyed getting creative and working together to keep the rhythm! Well done, Year 5, for another brilliant week of learning and teamwork!



Year 6

Year 6 have had another fantastic week of learning! In Maths, we have continued to develop our understanding of the four operations and have also been exploring prime and square numbers. In English, the children have been investigating the features of adverts in preparation for designing their own shoes and creating persuasive adverts to encourage people to buy them. In History, the children have been creating informative double-page spreads exploring what life was like in Britain during World War II, using their research to present their knowledge in creative and engaging ways. Finally, it was lovely to see so many children dressed in French-themed outfits for

European Languages Day, and the children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in French lessons on Friday. Well done, Year 6, for another brilliant week of hard work, enthusiasm and creativity!

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, Lichfield Garrick	Thursday 3 rd December 2026, 10.00am
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
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



Parent Awareness Sessions - Autumn 2026

The Autism Inclusion Team is delighted to offer free, supportive sessions for parents and carers of children with an autism diagnosis who attend a Staffordshire school, including children and young people who have not yet been referred to our service.

Date	Time	Session	Location/Platform
Thursday 22.10.26	9:30 - 11:00	Understanding Autism	TEAMS - email: autism.training@staffordshire.gov.uk to book your place
	11:00 - 12:30	Raising Self-esteem	
	1:30- 3:00	Emotional Regulation	
Tuesday 03.11.26	09:30 - 11:00	Autism and Masking	Stafford Children's Centre 
Tuesday 03.11.26	1:00- 2:30	Reducing Barriers to Education	Stafford Children's Centre 
Wednesday 18.11.26	10- 12:30	Autism in the Early Years	TEAMS - email: autism.training@staffordshire.gov.uk to book your place
Tuesday 01.12.26	10:00- 11:30	Girls and Autism	Stafford Children's Centre 
Thursday 03.12.26	10- 11:30	Autism and Eating	TEAMS - email: autism.training@staffordshire.gov.uk to book your place

The Autism Inclusion Team is dedicated to driving cultural change that empowers educational settings and families to effectively support the teaching, learning and well-being of autistic students.

π MATHS BETWEEN THE PAGES

This year, the National Year of Reading 2026 is encouraging everyone to "Go All In" with reading by exploring the things we love most.

Books are full of adventures, facts, information and stories. But did you know they are also full of mathematics?



Become a Reading Detective & Maths Investigator!
Find numbers, shapes, measurements, patterns, data
and more hidden inside books about topics YOU love.
Choose a book, discover the maths, and share your
amazing findings!

John Taylor MAT

CEO: Mike Donoghue OBE MA (Hons), MBA, NPQH, NLE



Dear Parents/ Carers and Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that we announce that nominations are now open for the JTMAT Exceptional Achievement Awards (Autumn 2026) for which all John Taylor MAT pupils are eligible to be nominated for.

The awards are an opportunity for young people to be recognised and celebrated for their achievements, and pupils may be nominated based on the following criteria:

Primary Aged Pupils (Early Years, KS1 & KS2)	Secondary Aged Pupils (KS3, KS4 & KS5)
▪ County, National or International status in any given activity in the last 18 months ▪ Grade 1 or above at KS1, or Grade 3 or above in music or singing at KS2 ▪ Performing in televised programme/ film or National stage production ▪ Fundraising for a charity over £2000 ▪ Success in overcoming adversity	▪ National or International status in any given activity in the last 18 months ▪ Grade 8 or above/ Diploma in music or singing ▪ Performing in televised programme/ film. ▪ Fundraising for a charity over £5000 ▪ Success in overcoming adversity

Please complete the online form via this link:

[John Taylor MAT- Exceptional Achievement Award Nomination Form \(Autumn 2026\) – Fill in form](#)

The form will ask you to complete a short paragraph; as a guide, **please work to a minimum of 50 and a maximum of 250 words** for the nomination to be fully considered. Please be as specific as possible and provide a good amount of information regarding the achievement.

Once you have made your nomination, please be advised that, if successful, you will be invited to attend an online presentation ceremony, where Mike Donoghue OBE, CEO, will speak about each of the incredibly talented recipients, who will then be presented with a very special gold pin-badge and certificate from their Headteacher in school; parents will be welcomed to attend via Teams.

Please be advised that the presentation is scheduled for **Friday 11th December 2026 at 9:00-10:15am**; once you submit your nomination, please hold space in your diary to be available to attend.

Please be advised that we may request supporting evidence regarding your nomination, which you should provide to the student's headteacher.

Please be advised that, regretfully, we cannot accept nominations for students who have previously been successful in securing an award in a very similar activity/ discipline; we understand that you will be incredibly proud, and have every right to be, particularly where progress has been achieved in a given activity where the young person has already displayed a great talent, however, they will be ineligible to receive another award on this basis.

We very much look forward to seeing our school community embrace this opportunity and celebrate those who achieve the award. The deadline for nominations is **4pm on Wednesday 18th November 2026** and we will be in contact with all who have made nominations shortly after that date to notify whether their nomination has been successful.

If you have any enquiries, please email jtmata-subjectexcellence@jtmata.co.uk

Sent on behalf of Gill Martin and Lisa Farmer, Directors of School Improvement, John Taylor MAT.



**SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE
SCHOOLS & GPs**

NHS

CAMHS

CRISIS & INTENSIVE SUPPORT TEAM

Support • Advice • Guidance



**AVAILABLE
7 DAYS A WEEK**



9:00am – 10:00pm



CALL NHS 111 → OPTION 2

Before directing any child or young person under 18 to A&E



STOP & CALL FIRST

If you are concerned about the mental health of a child or young person under 18, please contact our CAMHS Crisis & Intensive Support Team to speak to a CAMHS Practitioner **before** directing them to hospital.



OUR AIM

To reduce avoidable attendances at local A&E departments and ensure children and young people receive the **right support**, in the **right place**, at the **right time**.

HOW WE CAN HELP



Mental health advice and guidance



Risk assessment support



Clinical support and intervention



Assistance in determining whether an A&E attendance is appropriate



AFTER 10PM

Calls will be answered by a call handler who will ensure CAMHS receives the information for appropriate follow-up the next morning.



NHS 111 – OPTION 2

CONTACT CAMHS BEFORE REFERRING UNDER 18s TO A&E



Healthy & Nut-Free Snacks at School



Helping our children stay healthy,
happy and safe

We are introducing/continuing our healthy snack policy to encourage good eating habits and help keep all children safe at school.



What can my child bring?

Please choose healthy, nutritious snacks, such as:



Fresh fruit



Vegetables



Dried fruit



Wholegrain
crackers



Breadsticks or
other wholegrain
options



Cheese or other
suitable healthy
options



No nuts, please

Our school is a nut-free environment.

Please do not send snacks containing nuts or nut products. This includes foods such as:



Peanuts



Mixed nuts



Nut bars



Peanut butter



Products
containing nuts

Please check food labels carefully before sending snacks into school.



Please avoid

To support healthy choices, please do not send:



Sweets



Chocolate



Crisps



Cakes



Biscuits



Sugary snacks



Thank you for your support

By choosing healthy, nut-free snacks, you are helping us create a safe and healthy environment for every child.

Thank you for working with us to support our school community.

