



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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4th September 2026

"If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then you are an excellent leader."



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! I always find that there is something special about September. A new school year brings with it a real sense of possibility – fresh energy, new opportunities and, for every child, the chance to take another step towards a happy and successful future.

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to school this week and to see our classrooms, corridors and playgrounds full of life once again! A particularly warm welcome goes to all of the children and families who are joining our school community for the first time. We hope that you very quickly feel at home and become part of everything that makes our school such a special place.

The start of a new academic year is always an exciting time. New classes, new teachers, new friendships and new challenges lie ahead, and we are incredibly excited about everything that this year will bring. Our staff have worked hard over the summer and during our INSET days to make sure that we are ready to give every child the very best possible start to the year.

As always, our ambition is simple: for every child to feel happy, safe and valued; to enjoy coming to school; and to be encouraged and supported to achieve their very best. Alongside all of the learning that will take place, there is already so much to look forward to this year – from trips and visitors to sporting opportunities, performances, OPAL play, clubs and all of those special moments that make primary school life so memorable.

Thank you, as ever, for your continued support and partnership. A new school year is a journey that we take together, and I am very much looking forward to seeing what our children achieve over the months ahead. Here's to a happy, successful and exciting 2026/2027 school year!

Home School Agreement

At Shobnall Primary & Nursery School, we recognise each child as an individual and aim to give all children every opportunity to realise their full potential. We believe that a close partnership between the school, governors, parents and pupils is essential if we are to achieve this aim.

We have discussed this with the children during assembly this week so that they know what they agree to and what staff and governors agree to when working in partnership. We would like all parents to view this document which can be accessed [here](#) so that everyone feels assured what the expectations are for everyone.



School Photographs – Wednesday 16 September 2026

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 **8.15am** so that your little ones can have their photograph taken with their siblings.

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

We would like to formally invite you to our forthcoming **Open Evening on Thursday 6 November, 4.30pm to 6.00pm**. 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!



National Read A Book Day – 6 September 2026

National Read a Book Day is observed annually on 6 September. National Read a Book Day invites us ALL to grab a book we might enjoy and spend the day reading.

Reading improves memory and concentration as well as reduces stress. Older adults who spend time reading show a slower cognitive decline and tend to participate in more mentally stimulating activities over their lifetime. Books are an inexpensive entertainment, educational tool and time machine too!

Don't keep what you're reading to yourself. Share the experience! Read aloud either to children or to grandparents. Read to your pets or to your stuffed animals and plants!





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**.



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.

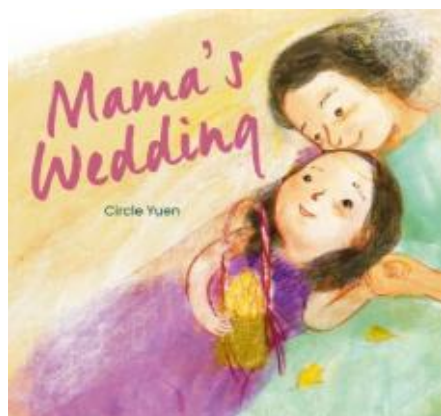
FREE Uniform!

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 3+...



Mama's Wedding

Written by Circle Yuen

Mama's Wedding is a tender, beautifully layered picture book about big changes, blended families, and the quiet courage it takes to embrace something new. When Ruby and her little sister Cindy are asked to be Mama's flower girls, Cindy is thrilled - but Ruby isn't so sure. As the day unfolds, Ruby wrestles with questions about love, family, and where she belongs. With gentle support from Granny, Daddy Daniel, and Mama's new husband, Alex, Ruby begins to understand that love doesn't disappear - it changes and grows. A heartfelt read for families navigating transitions, filled with empathy, hope, and the magic of new beginnings.



Skin betting is an emerging trend where players gamble using in-game cosmetic items that can carry real-world value. This guide helps parents and educators understand how these systems work, why they appeal to young people, and how easily they can blur the line between gaming and gambling. It also highlights key risks, including unregulated platforms, social pressure and influencer promotion, while offering practical advice on spotting warning signs and putting safeguards in place. Supporting adults to have informed, open conversations, it aims to promote safer, more positive gaming experiences for children and young people.

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 SKIN BETTING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

'Skin betting' is the term used when players gamble using virtual in-game items, such as weapon 'skins' or character cosmetics. Although these items appear purely decorative, some can hold significant real-world value. Research suggests that children as young as 13 have engaged in this type of betting, often on sites with limited age checks or safeguards, blurring the line between gaming and gambling.

UNREGULATED PLATFORMS

Skin gambling typically takes place on third-party websites that are not licensed or regulated. These platforms often lack age verification, making them easily accessible to children. By linking their gaming accounts, users can deposit skins, place bets, and withdraw winnings as cash or higher-value items – often without adults being aware these activities are happening.

REAL-WORLD VALUE

Skins may look like simple cosmetic upgrades to in-game items and characters, but some are worth hundreds or even thousands of pounds. They can be traded or sold on online marketplaces, meaning they function much like real money. When young people bet with skins, they are risking items of genuine financial value, even if no physical cash is exchanged directly.

INFLUENCER PROMOTION

Some gaming influencers and streamers have promoted skin betting sites in their content. This can make the behaviour appear normal or even desirable, potentially encouraging younger audiences to engage in these activities without fully understanding the risks involved.

SOCIAL STATUS PRESSURE

In games such as Counter Strike: Global Offensive (CS:GO) and Fortnite, rare skins can act as status symbols. Young players may feel the pressure to own high-value items to fit in with peers. This can lead them to take risks – such as using gambling sites – to obtain desirable skins, similar to how branded goods can influence behaviour offline.

LIMITED OVERSIGHT

Skin betting can take place both in-game and on external websites that parents and educators may not be familiar with. Because skin betting does not always resemble traditional gambling, it can go unnoticed until significant losses have occurred, in both terms of money.

GATEWAY BEHAVIOURS

Skin betting mirrors many aspects of traditional gambling, including chance-based outcomes, reward systems and excitement. Early exposure to these mechanics can normalise betting behaviours before children and young people even reach legal gambling age. Research indicates that this may increase the likelihood of developing unhealthy habits later, particularly if early wins create a false sense of control or skill.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UNDERSTAND IN-GAME ITEMS

Familiarise yourself with the games young people are playing and learn whether they include tradeable or sellable items. Titles like CS:GO and Rust are known for skin marketplaces, but similar systems are increasingly common across games.

LOOK FOR WARNING SIGNS

Be alert to changes in behaviour, such as secrecy around gaming, a strong focus on acquiring specific skins, or a sudden loss of in-game items. These could indicate involvement in skin gambling and provide an opportunity to start a conversation about it.

DISCUSS VALUE AND RISK

Help children and young people understand that cosmetic items like skins can carry real-world value. Explain that losing them through betting is comparable to losing money, therefore reinforcing the connection between in-game actions and real financial consequences.

USE CONTROLS AND SAFEGUARDS

Make use of parental controls and platform settings to restrict trading, purchases, and access to external websites. Where possible, disable marketplace features on games and monitor young people's account activity to reduce the risk of unauthorised transactions.

Meet Our Expert

Nathan David is Head of Foundation and Programme Lead for Exports Coaching at The University Campus of Exports.

Rubba Goodbert is a Senior Lecturer and Head of Events at the University Campus of Exports, as well as President and Co-Founder of the Videogames and Exports Foundation.

See full reference list on our website.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

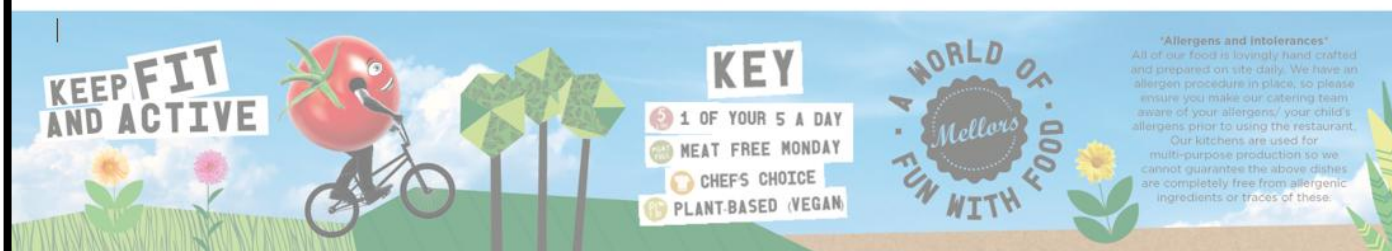
Social Media Links:

- X: @wake_up_weds
- Facebook: /www.thenationalcollege
- Instagram: @wake.up.wednesday
- Twitter: @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: 15.07.2026

Hot Lunch Options 07.09.26 – 11.09.26

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



Staff News

There have been a few changes to our staff team over the summer. We said a fond farewell to Mr Attwood, who has left Shobnall to pursue his own business venture, and to Mrs Welch, who has retired so that she can focus on her health and enjoy spending more time with her family. We wish them both every happiness and success for the future and thank them for everything they have contributed to our school.



Miss Lord has now begun her maternity leave, and we send her all our very best wishes as she prepares for the exciting arrival of her little one. We are also delighted to share some lovely news from Mrs Lukman, who welcomed a beautiful baby boy over the summer! We send Mrs Lukman and her family our warmest congratulations and hope they are enjoying this very special time together.

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.



SHOBNALL SHOWCASE

**The Shobnall Showcase
will return next week!**



**It will include news about each class's
activities and learning, as well as:**



Class News

Activities
and learning
from across
the school



Headteacher's Awards

Celebrating
our amazing
pupils



Team Champions

Which team
will be
on top?



Attendance Stars

Celebrating
our brilliant
attendance

READY • RESPECTFUL • SAFE

Diary Dates 2026-2027

Event	Date/Time
INSET Day	Tuesday 1 st September 2026
INSET Day	Wednesday 2 nd September 2026
School Reopens for Pupils	Thursday 3 rd September 2026
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 23 rd October 2026
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 2 nd November 2026
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 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
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
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
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

4 weeks

FAMILY FOOD SENSE *Course*

Want to feel more control of your family mealtimes? We provide a supportive and fun 4 week course to help you source, plan and prepare nourishing affordable meals that your whole family can enjoy.

WHEN:

Starting Monday 14th September

WHERE:

East Staffordshire Family Hub
Waterloo Road
Burton-on Trent
DE14 2NJ

TIME:

9.30-10.30am

WHY JOIN US?

- Build confidence
- Save money
- Plan meals the whole family can enjoy (tackling food battles and fussy eating)
- Find out how to zone your kitchen to reduce stress and food waste
- Safe, inclusive and non-judgemental environment

4 x 1hr sessions

FREE – 8 PLACES

How to book your place

- ☎ Scan the QR code
- ✉ jo@mealtimesmatter.org



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 ♥