



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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2nd October 2026

"Progress over perfection."

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been another busy and enjoyable week here at Shobnall! Firstly, a huge THANK YOU to everyone who kindly donated items for our Harvest celebrations this week. Your generosity was wonderful to see, and all of the donations have now been passed on to the YMCA to support people within our local community. Unfortunately, Reverend Simon wasn't able to join us for our Harvest Assembly this year, but the children still came together beautifully to reflect, give thanks and think about the importance of helping and sharing with others.



Yesterday, we celebrated National Poetry Day, with this year's theme of 'Wonder'. Across school, children have been exploring, enjoying and sharing poetry and thinking about how words can capture the wonder we see in the world around us. It has been lovely to see such enthusiasm and creativity!

A couple of important reminders for families, please. PE is an important part of our curriculum and all children are expected to take part, wearing the correct PE clothing for their lessons. If there is a physical or medical reason why your child cannot participate, please send a note or speak directly with your child's teacher. Wherever possible, children who are unable to participate physically will still remain involved in the lesson as an observer so that they can continue to listen, learn and engage with the teaching taking place.



Finally, please continue to support us by providing healthy snacks and balanced packed lunches. Foods and drinks that are particularly high in added sugar can cause a rapid rise and subsequent fall in blood glucose, which for some children can affect energy levels, concentration and readiness to learn later in the day. Fruit, vegetables and other nutritious choices help children to have the sustained energy they need for a busy afternoon of learning.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend and see you again on Monday!

Reducing the Spread of Seasonal Illness This Autumn and Winter

As we approach that time of the year when coughs and colds begin, there are some simple but effective steps you can take to reduce the spread and help keep your child in school and learning this term.

Illness is the largest cause of school absence. Over 50 million days were lost in 2025/26 due to illness, almost half of all absence.

Simple things like regular hand washing, opening windows and supporting vaccination help keep children and staff healthy and support attendance. Doing these things **now** will reinforce good habits before illnesses start to circulate.



There are a range of materials available to support parents with health and attendance-related messages. We thought you might be interested in watching an animation on school absence due to illness [here](#).

Little Princess Trust Fundraiser

We are very proud of Zara, who recently donated some of her hair to the Little Princess Trust! She made this decision herself as she really wanted to do something to help other children. If you would like to make a donation yourself, please click on the link here: <https://littleprincesstrust.blackbaud-sites.com/fundraising/zara-marias-fundraising-page>.



Parent Flash Survey

As we reach the end of the first month of the new school year, we would really value your feedback on how your child has settled into their new class and how well our communication with families is working. This week, we are launching a very short Parent Flash Survey, consisting of just five quick questions covering your child's experience of settling in, communication from school and the use of MCAS (MyChildAtSchool). It should take less than a minute to complete, but your feedback will be really useful in helping us understand what is working well and where we might be able to make further improvements. There is also an optional comments box if there is anything else you would like to share with us. Thank you, as always, for taking the time to share your views and help us continue to improve.

PFA Reminders!

The **PFA Halloween Disco** is coming to Shobnall on **Friday 16 October!** We are looking forward to a *fang-tastic* 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 a small orange spider. 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:</i>	<i>12th October</i>
<i>03558088</i>	<i>before & after school at</i>
<i>Sort Code: 30-91-47</i>	<i>the front gate</i>

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

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



Looksmaxxing encourages people, particularly young men, to 'improve their appearance' through everything from grooming, skincare and exercise to far more questionable techniques. As this trend becomes increasingly visible on social media, this guide explores how appearance-focused content can affect boys' confidence, self-worth and body image, while exposing them to misleading or potentially dangerous 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 LOOKSMAXXING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Looksmaxxing is an online trend focused on improving one's physical appearance, particularly among boys and young men. At the milder end, it can involve grooming, skincare, diet and exercise advice, sometimes called "softmaxxing". At its extremes, or "hardmaxxing", it can promote unproven or dangerous practices and contribute to body image concerns, low self-worth, and mental health difficulties.

TARGETING MALE INSECURITIES

Although usually aimed at men, looksmaxxing can also reach boys by promising to improve their appearance and dating success. Forums offer 'objective', and sometimes brutal, views on attractiveness, while influencers may make appearance seem all-important. Advice ranges from useful tips on hygiene, skincare, and fashion to more concerning guidance.

DUBIOUS ADVICE

Some advice moves into dubious territory. One example is "mewing", a tongue exercise claimed to create a more masculine jawline. The American Association of Orthodontists says evidence for its effectiveness is limited and warns that following such guidance could contribute to tooth alignment problems, bite issues, and speech difficulties.

EXTREME REMEDIES

Some DIY remedies are even more extreme and potentially dangerous. While fears of "bonesmaxxing" – which involves trying to alter the cheekbones using blunt objects for a more 'masculine' appearance – may sometimes be overstated in the media, other guidance can also cause harm. Unproven use of micro-needling and derma rollers, taking substances or medication without appropriate medical guidance, and overusing skincare products can all have potentially harmful consequences.

BODY IMAGE ISSUES

The pursuit of physical perfection can become obsessive and contribute to serious body image issues. Exposure to looksmaxxing content can encourage teenagers to tie their appearance to their value and self-worth, as well as making boys and young men feel they need to change perfectly normal aspects of their appearance. This can be associated with disordered eating, overexercising, or other obsessive behaviours that interfere with everyday life.

MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

As well as the physical consequences, body image concerns can be associated with mental health difficulties, such as depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, body dysmorphic disorder, and psychological distress. They can cause problems both at school and at home, with children and young people potentially avoiding social situations because they fear their appearance will be negatively judged by others.

A PATHWAY TO EXTREMES

Looksmaxxing has its roots in online ' incel' communities but has since become more mainstream on platforms such as TikTok. Algorithm-driven feeds may show users more extreme content as they interact with similar content. Some looksmaxxing spaces have also been linked with misogynistic, incel, and white supremacist ideologies.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH FOR CHANGES

Keep an eye out for concerning behavioural changes in children and young people. This could include an obsession with diet and exercise, spending more time on social media apps, becoming secretive with their phone, or a shift in how they interact with friends and family. If a young person suddenly becomes distressed by their appearance or adopts rigid or extreme routines, try to understand what may be behind the change.

LISTEN FOR THE LINGO

Like many internet communities, looksmaxxing groups and influencers use distinctive language. As well as "mewing", mentioned above, you might hear terms such as "Chad" (an attractive male), "hard" (a misogynistic term for a woman), and "mewing" (looking more attractive than someone else). Other examples involve adding "mewing" to another word, such as "mewingmaxxing" (using humour to extract women) and "starvemaxxing" (extreme dieting).

CHECK THE SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media algorithms are tailored to each user, meaning what appears on your feeds may be dramatically different from what children see on theirs. Try to get an idea of the content children and young people are consuming online, and use available parental controls where appropriate. TikTok, for example, provides tools that can help families manage or filter certain types of content.

TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN

Open communication can help children and young people recognise misleading influencers and harmful online communities. Discuss unrealistic ideas about appearance and explain that some creators benefit from controversial or extreme content. Talk about the risks of unqualified health advice and how people's insecurities can be exploited online, while making it clear that it's okay to speak openly about any concerns.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, Tech Radar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

[@wake_up_weds](https://www.wake_up_weds.com) [/www.thenationalcollege.com](https://www.thenationalcollege.com) [@wake.up.wednesday](https://www.wake_up_weds.com) [@wake.up.weds](https://www.wake_up_weds.com)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 30.09.2024



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 11+...

Girls Who Slay Monsters

Written by Ellen Ryan

There was a time when tales of Ireland's mythical goddesses – their astonishing powers, bravery, and unbreakable bonds with nature – were famous, in Ireland and beyond. But over time, these stories were lost, often replaced or rewritten to make room for male warriors and kings. Until now.

Girls Who Slay Monsters brings these heroes of Irish mythology back to vibrant, magical life. From Éire, Ireland's fierce namesake, and Bé Binn, a giant who overcame her bullies, to Badb, a gleefully gruesome death prophet, and Bé Mannair, a gender-fluid spy who challenged an entire army.

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/>



BREAKFAST CLUB

A great start to the day!



Please book and pay via the **MCAS app**

Prices



7.30am to 8.15am
£3.00 per child to attend

£3.00
per child



8.15am to 8.45am
FREE

FREE

 The gate for the free breakfast club will open at 8.15am. If you drop your child off earlier, then they will be charged £3.00.

Healthy children • Happy mornings • Ready to learn

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Fun Safe Friendly

3.30pm to 5.00pm

£5.00
per child

3.30pm to 6.00pm

£7.00
per child

Book and pay via the **MCAS app**



Hot Lunch Options 05.10.26 – 09.10.26

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



TO EAT MORE FRUIT

CHEF'S CHOICE
PLANT-BASED (VEGAN)

Run with F

Week 3
14/9, 5/10, 2/11, 23/11,
14/12, 18/1, 8/2, 8/3, 12/4,
3/5, 24/5, 21/6, 12/7

Chester guarantees the above menus are completely free from allergenic ingredients or traces of these.



main

Chermoula Chicken with Rice

Chermoula Quorn & Rice

Jackets/ Sandwiches

Dessert

Banana Bread

Mango Meringues

Fruit/Jelly

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	93.8%	Target
Reception	95.0%	Whole School 97%
Year 1	94.6%	
Year 2	94.2%	
Year 3	99.2%	
Year 4	99.6%	Overall (to date)
Year 5	97.7%	97.0%
Year 6	93.9%	
Overall	96.3%	



Nursery	Nusaybah M	Sultan A
Reception	Leo S-C	Elsie S
Year 1	Bella A	Logan S-B
Year 2	Zaynab A	Ava M
Year 3	Cooper Z	Sada C
Year 4	Alfie T	Rupert M
Year 5	Aleem A	Charlotte M
Year 6	Baaqir A	Olivia K



Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 02.10.26)	14	9	36	32
Position	3 rd 2 points	4 th 1 point	1 st 4 points	2 nd 3 points
Running Total	10	8	14	10

SHOBNALL SHOWCASE



Nursery

We have enjoyed learning about friendship this week and have had fun sharing different ways we can be a good friend.

"Share your squishy toys." (Muneeza)

"Make a picture and colour it for your friends that will make them happy." (Ayza)

"Give them a hug." (Zayan)

"My friends can play at my house." (Nusaybah)

It was fun taking part in various activities and games to develop our understanding of how to be a good friend. We worked together to roll marbles in paint which created some fantastic, colourful artwork highlighting the friendship links between us all.



This week marked the beginning of Autumn, and we learnt about the importance of Harvest. We shared books and listened carefully as we explored how the crops are harvested to give us food. Some of us brought in canned and packet foods to share with those that don't have a lot- a wonderful way to show kindness to others.

We also sang some wonderful rhymes and even made up some of our own dances with our favourite being the Harvest Samba!



Reception

It has been a wonderful autumn-filled week in Reception! The children have been busy exploring the changes happening all around us, spotting signs of autumn and noticing the beautiful colours appearing in our environment. We enjoyed collecting autumn treasures and using leaves to create colourful leaf rubbings, as well as making our own autumn transient art

using a range of natural loose parts. We also had lots of fun developing our practical skills by chopping vegetables and following a recipe to make delicious vegetable soup. As part of our Harvest Festival learning, we explored farming and looked at both new and old tractors and farming equipment, thinking about how farming has changed over time. It has been a busy week of exploring, creating, cooking and discovering, with lots of opportunities for the children to learn through hands-on experiences!

Year 1

What a fantastic week of learning we have had in Year 1! The children have worked incredibly hard across all areas of the curriculum and have shown great enthusiasm in their learning. In Maths, we have been ordering numbers on a number line and comparing numbers using mathematical vocabulary such as greater than, less than and equal to. The children have enjoyed applying their understanding through practical activities and problem-solving challenges. In English, we have been exploring syllables in words and continuing to develop our handwriting skills, with a particular focus on using capital letters correctly. The children have been working hard to improve their letter formation and presentation. In Science, we have been identifying and describing different materials and learning how to recognise objects based on the materials they are made from. The children enjoyed investigating a variety of everyday objects and discussing their properties. In History, we have been learning about Queen Elizabeth II, finding out about her life and discussing why she was such an important figure in British history. In Design and Technology, the children have been exploring and practising different balance poses, developing their coordination, control and understanding of balance. In Art, we have been creating and experimenting with different types of lines, using a range of techniques to produce creative and expressive artwork. It has been a wonderful week of learning, and we are very proud of all the children's hard work and positive attitudes.



Year 2

What a lovely and busy week we have had in Year 2! This week, we have been developing our maths skills by practising counting in 2s, 5s and 3s, and the children have been working hard to build their confidence with these. We have also continued our learning about the Great Plague, which the children have really enjoyed exploring. They had a fantastic time at Forest School, where they learned how to safely strike a fire, build dens and recreate scenes from the Great Fire of London – they particularly enjoyed getting into character and bringing history to life! In class, we have also been thinking about the things that are special to us and discussing why they are important. It was lovely to hear the



children talk so thoughtfully about special memories, gifts and objects that remind them of important people and moments in their lives. In our wider curriculum learning, we have been exploring different structures from around the world and designing our own structures, carefully labelling the materials we would use and considering how we could make them strong and stable. The children then put their ideas into practice during their free-choice activities, creating their own structures using a range of construction materials. It has been a wonderful week filled with creativity, curiosity, teamwork and lots of exciting learning!



Year 3

Another week down in Year 3 and the learning just does not stop! In maths, the children have been working hard in our place value unit. They have been trying hard and working together to push themselves. I have been so impressed with the amount of children reaching the going deeper section. In English, the children have started to write up their explanation texts all about the lifecycle of a sunflower. The children have been using some fantastic tier 2 and tier 3 vocabulary to add detail to their writing. In science, the children conducted an experience testing how water affects the weight of rocks as

we continue to look at weathering. In art, the children went outside and took in our local environment to support their drawings and artwork. Super work year 3, keep it up!

Year 4

We have had another very fun week in Year 4 this week! In our PE lessons, we managed to do some OAA as well as some hockey so we have practised lots of physical education skills! We really enjoyed working together as a team to have a great lesson! We also completed our end of unit for place value, where lots of children showed excellent knowledge! We have begun moving onto Addition and Subtraction and it is clear already how much we are enjoying it! We have also done a deep dive into learning about how to create a persuasive leaflet in English,



we have been looking at many different countries such as Portugal, The Maldives and Brazil and have been exploring all of the exciting things we could write about! A highlight of the week for Year 4 was learning all about the Celtic leader, Boudicca! We created comic strips about her life and her rebellion and we really enjoyed learning about her as part of our Romans topic!



Year 5

Year 5 have had another productive week and have continued to show great enthusiasm in their learning! In Maths, we have started our new unit on addition and subtraction. The children have been learning mental strategies to help them solve calculations quickly and efficiently, as well as developing their confidence with the column method. In English, the children have written a description of an alien picture. They have been exploring the features they can use to make their writing more exciting, including expanded noun phrases,

similes and fronted adverbials. They have also been working hard to find interesting synonyms for adjectives to level up their vocabulary and make their descriptions even more effective.

In French, the children have been revising their numbers to 10 and learning head, shoulders, knees and toes in French. They have used this new vocabulary to help them read and write descriptions of monsters!

Year 6

Year 6 have had another great week this week! In Maths, we have been working hard on multiplying 1-digit numbers by 3-digit numbers and developing our skills with short division. In English, the children have written their adverts for their trainers, and they have been amazing! In Geography, we have been exploring world population, while in History we have been using primary and secondary sources to find out more about the past. It was also lovely to see the children who were selected to represent the school at the Dove Valley Netball Tournament on Thursday, where they represented us so brilliantly. A great week, Year 6 – well done!

Dove Valley Netball Tournament

A huge congratulations to our fantastic Year 6 netball team for winning the Dove Valley Netball Tournament! Competing against 12 teams, the team topped their group before winning the final 5–1! An incredible 16 goals scored and just 2 conceded throughout the tournament! What a fantastic team performance, showing brilliant determination, teamwork and sportsmanship from start to finish. We couldn't be prouder!



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
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



YMCA BURTON

One night can make
a lifetime of difference.

Please join us for this year's Sleepout on

Friday 6th November

- ▶ **Pirelli Stadium**
- ▶ **YMCA Village at Pirelli Stadium**
- ▶ **St Modwens Xtreme**

£10 adult / £5 under 18s*

(*must be accompanied by an adult)



www.burtonymca.org/Sleepout



fundraising@burtonymca.org



07754 045869



YMCA

YMCA enables people to develop their full potential in mind, body and spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.



OCTOBER ACTIVITY CAMP



MEADOWSIDE LEISURE CENTRE

Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October

PARENTS FIRST CHOICE FOR CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CAMPS



**EXTENDED HOURS
8.30AM – 5.30PM**



BOOK INDIVIDUAL DAYS



SIBLING DISCOUNT



**CHILDCARE VOUCHERS
ACCEPTED (+GOV TAX FREE)**



**VARIETY OF DIFFERENT
ACTIVITIES**

**ONLY
£30
PER DAY**



**BOOK
ONLINE**



SPORTS

PLAY WORLD

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ARTS & CRAFTS

& LOTS MORE!

www.tayplay.net/camps

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.

