



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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9th October 2026

"Never argue with a fool, onlookers may not be able to tell the difference."

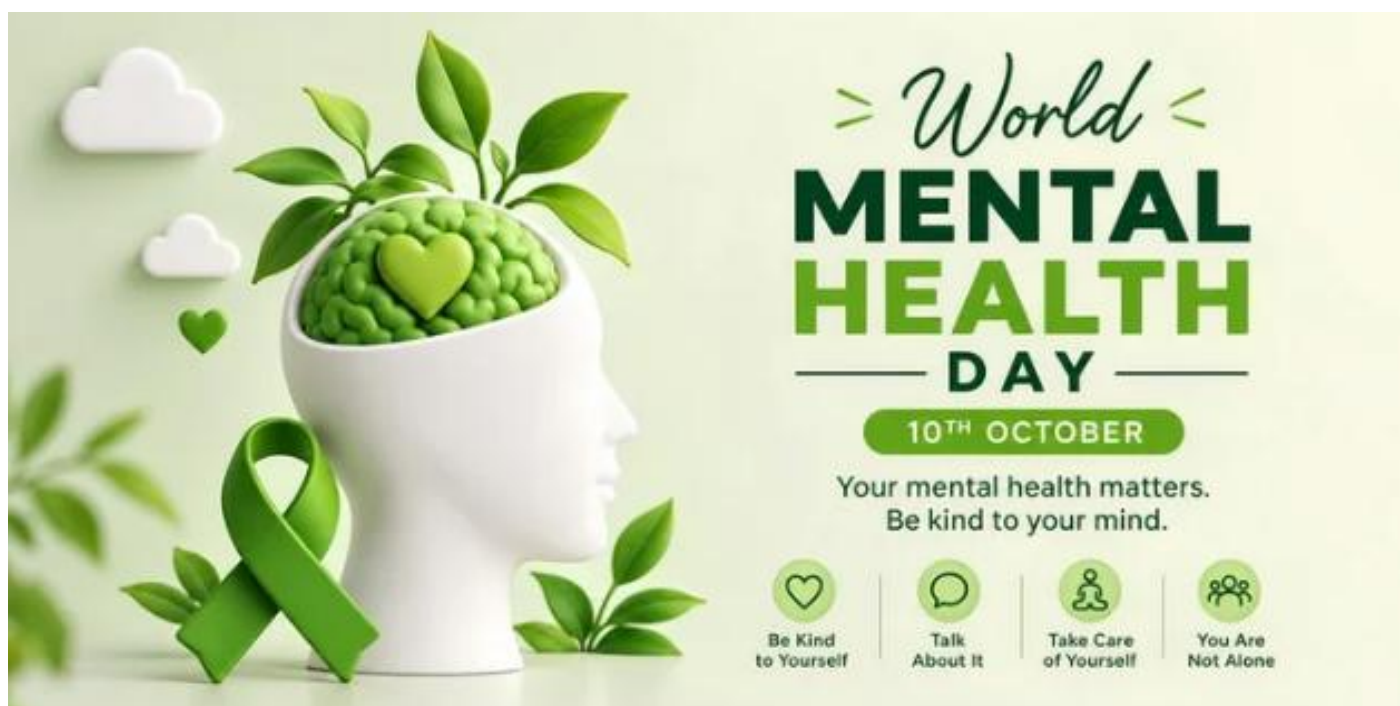
Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been another lovely week at Shobnall, with plenty to celebrate and lots to look forward to!

This week, we have been talking to the children about the importance of a smile, following World Smile Day last Friday. We've been reflecting on how something as simple as a smile can brighten someone's day, spread kindness and make others feel happy, welcome and valued. It costs absolutely nothing, yet can make such a difference! It's a lovely reminder of the importance of looking out for one another and showing kindness in everything we do.



Tomorrow, Saturday 10 October, is World Mental Health Day, an important opportunity to remind ourselves that looking after our mental health is just as important as looking after our physical health. At Shobnall, we want every child to feel safe, happy, valued and supported. We continue to place great importance on positive relationships, emotional wellbeing and helping children recognise and talk about their feelings. Whether it's taking time to listen, offering a kind word or simply checking in on someone, small actions can make a big difference. Please do take a moment this weekend to look after yourselves and those around you, too.



There is also lots of excitement building as the children look forward to taking part in our annual Quiggy Cup, held in loving memory of Hussein Quig-Diop, a former pupil of the school. This is always a very special occasion in our school calendar, bringing our children together through sport, teamwork and friendship, whilst remembering Hussein and celebrating his place in our school community. We are really looking forward to another wonderful event.

A big thank you to everyone who has already booked their Parents' Evening appointments. These meetings provide a valuable opportunity to celebrate your child's achievements, discuss their progress and consider their next steps together. If you haven't yet booked your appointment, please make sure you do so via MCAS as soon as possible. We really value these conversations and the partnership we share with you.

Finally, thank you to all the parents and carers who have already taken the time to complete our Parent Flash Survey. Your feedback is incredibly important to us and helps us understand what we are doing well and where we can make further improvements, particularly around communication and how children have settled into the new school year. There is still time to have your say if you haven't responded yet! It only takes a minute, and we would love to hear from as many families as possible.

Thank you, as always, for your continued kindness, encouragement and support. I hope you all have a wonderful weekend, with plenty of reasons to smile!

Site Safety and Punctuality Reminders

As part of our ongoing commitment to keeping everyone safe, please could we remind parents that the front school gate is locked at 9.30am each morning to help maintain a safe and secure environment for our children and staff. We would also like to remind parents and carers of the importance of punctuality and protecting valuable learning time. Please ensure that children arrive at school on time and that all non-emergency appointments, wherever possible, are arranged *outside* of the school day to avoid unnecessary disruption to their learning. We appreciate that some medical appointments cannot be arranged outside school hours, but ask that every effort is made to minimise time away from school. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.



Year 5 Whitemoor Lakes Meeting for Parents

There will be a meeting for children and parents on **Thursday 15 October 2026** at **3.30pm** in the Year 5 classroom about the forthcoming residential trip to Whitemoor Lakes. This is a great opportunity to discover more about the itinerary, essential information and to ask any burning questions that you may have. For parents who are unable to attend, a copy of the presentation and kit list will be uploaded to the class website page.

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 are on now and can 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.



A Halloween-themed poster for a school disco. The background is dark purple with orange spider webs and spiders at the top. At the bottom, there are two orange jack-o'-lanterns with black faces. The text is centered and uses various colors (yellow, white, green, orange) and fonts to create a festive and informative look.

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

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.



Reception Application Process

The application process for a reception place for September 2026 will open on **1 November 2026**. The easiest way for parents to apply is online. Further information can be found on [Staffordshire County Council Website](#). The closing date is **15 January 2027**.

The school office has a letter informing parents about the process, which we are happy to distribute to prospective families. If you would like a copy of this, please contact us.



YouTube continues to be a go-to platform for entertainment, learning and creativity, but its vast and largely unregulated content library presents ongoing challenges. This guide outlines how features like recommendations, Shorts and social interaction can shape young people's viewing habits, sometimes exposing them to inappropriate or extreme material. It also explores key safeguarding concerns, including stranger interaction, risky trends and the limits of automated moderation.

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 YOUTUBE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows about YouTube. The Google-owned platform allows users to upload and share videos globally, making it a readily accessible resource with free content on almost any topic. However, with over 20 million videos uploaded each day, not all material is suitable for younger audiences.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed across multiple device types, even without an account. While some videos are marked as 'age restricted', this relies on uploader honesty and automated moderation, meaning children and young people may still encounter unsuitable content if these measures aren't taken.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube includes social features such as comments and direct messaging. This means young users can interact with people they don't know, potentially exposing them to inappropriate language, cyberbullying, or unwanted contact. Young content creators may be especially vulnerable.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

Popular trends and challenges can be entertaining and widely shared. While many are harmless, some can be risky or harmful if copied. For example, the 'ice bucket' challenge has caused injuries when imitated.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos based on what a user has previously watched. While this can enhance the experience, it may also encourage binge-watching and excessive screen time, particularly when Autoplay is enabled. Without an account, users are shown trending videos, which are not always age appropriate.

EXPOSURE TO EXTREME CONTENT

The platform's algorithm often promotes content that attracts high engagement, which can sometimes include videos containing extreme viewpoints, misinformation, or risky behaviour. As children and young people watch more of this content, similar videos are likely to be recommended by YouTube's algorithm, therefore reinforcing the exposure.

SHORT-FORM CONTENT IMPACT

YouTube Shorts - short, fast-paced videos - are designed for continuous viewing. This style of content can be highly engaging, but may also contribute to increased screen time and difficulties with maintaining focus over longer periods.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

YouTube Kids can help reduce young users' exposure to unsuitable content by filtering videos into age groups, such as preschool, younger, and older children. However, as moderation is automated, it should be used alongside active supervision.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

If a child in your care uploads content, consider setting videos to Private or Unlisted so they are only shared with trusted viewers. Disabling comments can also help reduce unwanted interaction from strangers.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Google Family Link allows adults to filter content, monitor usage, and manage younger users' screen time. Supervised Accounts offer a gradual step up from YouTube Kids, enabling children to explore the platform with appropriate safeguards.

WATCH TOGETHER

Spending time watching YouTube with the children and young people in your care can help you understand what they enjoy and guide your conversations about content. Tools like Downtime in Family Link can also help limit unsupervised viewing.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for publications including *Wired*, *Technistat*, *Tam's Guide*, *The Evening Standard* and *The New Statesman*.

[See full reference list on our website](#)

[#WakeUpWednesday](#) The National College

[@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: 22.04.2025



Year 7 Secondary School Applications

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



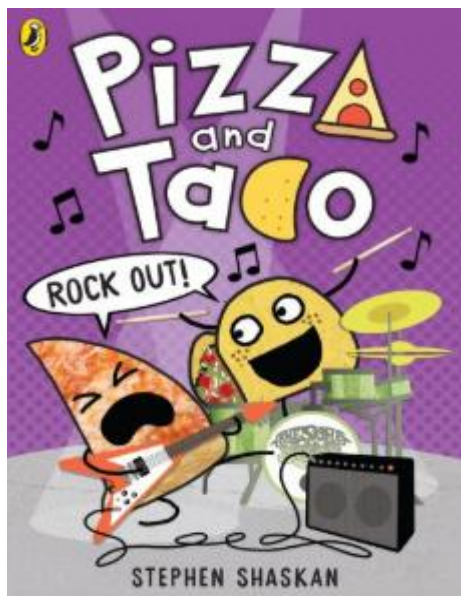
Shobnall Stars – After School Club Closure, Wednesday 4 November 2026

It is with regret that **After School Club** will not be open on **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 5+...

Pizza and Taco: Rock Out!

Written by Stephen Shaskan

Pizza and Taco are ready to ROCK OUT!

They have a cool band name! And some instruments-sort of. Songs? Well, even without mad musical skills, how hard can it be?

Pizza and Taco love music, so this should be easy! They make lists, and they have tryouts to get more band members.

They think they have all the ingredients to rock the scene. But maybe this garage band should stay in the garage...

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

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 12.10.26 – 16.10.26

WEEK 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main dish	Pizza bar Selection of toppings	Chicken Burger served with Herby Potatoes	Roast Chicken with Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potatoes & Gravy.	Chicken Tikka Masala 50/50 Rice	Fish cake served with chips
Vegetarian Main dish	Pizza bar Selection of toppings	Vegetable Burger served with Herby Potatoes	Quorn™ fillet with roast potatoes & gravy	Quorn Tikka Masala 50/50 Rice	Quorn Nuggets With Chips
Halal	As above	Halal Beefburger	*Roast chicken	Chicken tikka Masala	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 & broccoli Salad bar	Cauliflower & Baked Beans	Carrots & cauliflower Salad bar	Green beans & sweetcorn Salad bar	Peas & baked beans Salad bar
Desserts	Chefs Choice Homemade Cookie	Chocolate rice crispy cake	Jam & Coconut Cake	Strawberry whip	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




Week 1
31/8, 21/9, 12/10, 9/11,
30/11, 4/1, 25/1, 22/2,
15/3, 19/4, 10/5, 7/6, 28/6,
19/7

CHEF'S CHOICE
PLANT-BASED (VEGAN)

ON WITH F

all meals prepared with best quality
and 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.



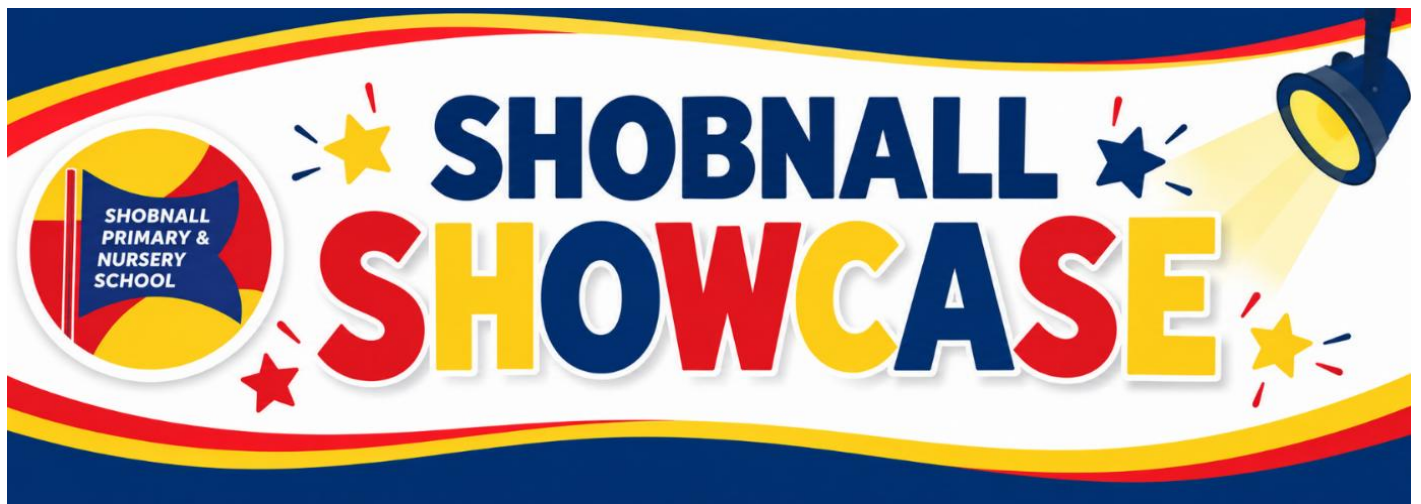
Nursery	91.7%	Target
Reception	96.3%	Whole School 97%
Year 1	98.3%	
Year 2	96.6%	
Year 3	99.1%	
Year 4	97.7%	Overall (to date)
Year 5	100%	97.0%
Year 6	94.0%	
Overall	97.3%	



Nursery	Nusaybah M	Ali A
Reception	EVERYONE!	
Year 1	Rory P	Kumayl H
Year 2	Aidan B	Gianna R
Year 3	Harvey K	Elliott T
Year 4	Khalia R	Shayaani R
Year 5	Ava O-R	Evie J
Year 6	Gordon Z	Alizah A



Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 09.10.26)	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



Nursery

We have had a fantastic week in nursery, full of fun, exploration and learning!

We have been busy looking for signs of Autumn, noticing the changing leaves, exploring the beautiful autumn colours and talking about the changes we can see in the world around us.

We have also enjoyed getting creative by making our own Autumn hedgehogs, using a variety of media and materials to explore different textures, colours and techniques. There was a lot of wonderful creativity and enthusiasm in our creations!

Outdoors, we have been developing our physical skills and coordination on the trim trail. We have been practising balancing skills, challenging ourselves and importantly, building confidence by trying new things and celebrate our achievements.

What a brilliant week of learning, creativity, exploration and confidence-building! Well done, Nursery!

Reception

Reception have had a wonderful time exploring stories, sharing experiences and learning all about how we grow and change. The children made their own paper bag puppets to help them tell stories about themselves and enjoyed making teddy bear-shaped toast to go alongside our story *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. After reading *The Three Little Pigs*, they became little builders themselves, having a go at designing and building their own houses. We have also been looking at photographs of ourselves as babies and talking about how we have changed as we've grown. The children have enjoyed sharing stories about their grandparents and discussing what happens as we get older. It has been lovely to see their confidence grow as they share their own experiences, listen to others and make connections between stories and their own lives!

Year 1

What a fantastic week of learning in Year 1! In English, we have been learning about Colourful Semantics, using the orange subject cards and yellow verb cards to help us write sentences with correct subject-verb agreement. In Maths, we have been using the part-part-whole model to explore number relationships and develop our understanding of how numbers can be split and combined. In Art, we have been creating pieces of music inspired by artwork, thinking carefully about how sounds can represent colours, shapes, and feelings. In RE, we have been discussing things that are special to us and creating items that reflect what is important in our own lives. In PSHE, we have been learning about neuroplasticity and how our brains can grow and change through practice. As part of this learning, we challenged ourselves by practising writing with both hands. A great week of hard work, creativity, and curiosity. Well done, Year 1!

Year 2

We have had a lovely week in Year 2, full of exciting learning opportunities! In Maths, we have started exploring addition and subtraction using tens and ones, helping us to develop our understanding of number and place value. We have also begun exploring Colourful Semantics, learning how to build sentences by identifying who is in a sentence, what they are doing and adding more detail to our ideas. In PE, we have

been developing our fundamental movement skills, focusing on improving our balance, coordination and control through a range of fun activities.

We have also had a fantastic Forest School session! The children enjoyed working together to build dens, cutting wood safely and exploring the outdoor environment to discover different habitats, linking beautifully with our science learning. We have also finished our first-class chapter book, *The Twits* by Roald Dahl! The children have thoroughly enjoyed listening to the story and have loved discovering all the funny, mischievous and sometimes disgusting tricks played by Mr and Mrs Twit. It has been wonderful to share a story together and see the children's enthusiasm for reading grow. Well done, Year 2, for another fantastic week of learning! We are so proud of all your hard work and enthusiasm. Have a lovely weekend!

Year 3

What a week of learning we've had in Year 3. In the maths, the children have flown through their work on place value. They've used concrete resources brilliantly to support their learning and have been able to independently complete their work which is fantastic. In English, the children have written a super draft of their explanation text all about the lifecycle of a sunflower. They've used tier 2 and 3 words expertly and I'm very proud of their writing. In history, we did some drama imagining what life would have been like for a Stone Age family. The children then used the drama to support their writing of a diary entry. In science, the children looked at how fossils are formed and thanks to Mr Kay were able to touch and hold different fossils. Keep up the hard work, Year 3!

Year 4

Another exciting week in Year 4 this week. We have worked hard on our first big write, which is a persuasive leaflet all about visiting lots of different countries. We have been practising our best handwriting in the hope of getting lots of handwriting pens soon! We have also been brilliant at learning about our Maths topic, and Year 4 are whizzes at using column method for addition and subtraction. We also had a go at our very first 4 v 4 Hockey game in PE this week and it has been lots of fun. We also had a go at creating Music and Art at the same time in Computing using ChromeLab - which we all thought was super. Also, we have done lots of hard work in Science again, learning about Electrical Switches and how they make circuits work. We have lots of things we need to work on next week in Year 4 so let's hope next week we can make it the best week possible!

Year 5

Another week, another collection of fantastic learning in Year 5!

In Maths, the children have been rounding to check whether their answers are reasonable, using inverse operations to check their calculations and tackling challenging multi-step questions. They have been developing their problem-solving skills and learning to check their work carefully to make sure their answers are accurate. In English, the children have been planning their own alien narratives. They have thought carefully about characterisation, considering what their characters might look like and how they might behave. They have also planned the structure of their stories, thinking about how they will introduce their characters, build tension and develop their ideas into exciting narratives.

In Computing, we have been learning about how search engines work. The children have explored indexing and web crawlers and have considered how search engines find and organise information. They have also been developing their ability to select appropriate search terms so that they can find the information they are looking for more effectively.

It has been wonderful to see the children applying their knowledge, taking on new challenges and continuing to build their confidence. Well done, Year 5!

Year 6

Year 6 have had another fantastic week of learning. In Maths, we have been focusing on long division, which some children initially found challenging, but they have shown great resilience and worked incredibly hard to improve their understanding. In English, we have begun an exciting new unit where the children are creating an information sheet about an animal of their choice. They have thoroughly enjoyed researching facts and gathering information to support their writing. In Science, we have been exploring light and investigating how shadows are formed, while in Art the children have been developing their understanding of perspective and

learning how to create this effect in their work. It was also wonderful to see so many children taking part in the Quiggy Cup on Friday, representing themselves and the school superbly through their enthusiasm, teamwork and excellent behaviour. Great week, Year 6!

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
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 jtmat-subjectexcellence@jtmat.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

SWIMMING

ARTS & CRAFTS

& LOTS MORE!

www.tayplay.net/camps

HAF fun this half term

Holiday Activities and Food funded for children and young people aged 5-16 who get targeted free school meals. Paid places also available.

SCAN ME!



visit staffordshire.gov.uk/haf

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.

