



Friday 17th April 2026

Headteachers report of the week

This week has been filled with positive learning experiences and excellent engagement across the school. It has been wonderful to see learners so focused, creative, and motivated in a wide range of activities, demonstrating both independence and enthusiasm for their learning.

In classrooms, learners showed strong commitment to their work. Saplings 1 impressed us with their creative writing, producing character descriptions and then using AI to explore how technology can support and develop their ideas further. In Religious Education, learners explored the story of Zacchaeus, developing a thoughtful understanding of inclusion, forgiveness, and why Jesus' response was so important. In mathematics, learners showed excellent focus while working on Maths Whizz, engaging well with personalised tasks and building confidence in their problem-solving skills.

Practical learning also featured strongly this week. Vocational sessions saw Saplings 1 using tools such as saws and drills safely and responsibly, building valuable life and employability skills. Creativity was on display through art and construction activities, including an impressive Lego recreation of *The Monster Book of Monsters*, showing imagination, perseverance, and attention to detail.

Thank you to staff and families for your continued support. It has been a productive and rewarding week for everyone, and we look forward to building on this positive momentum.

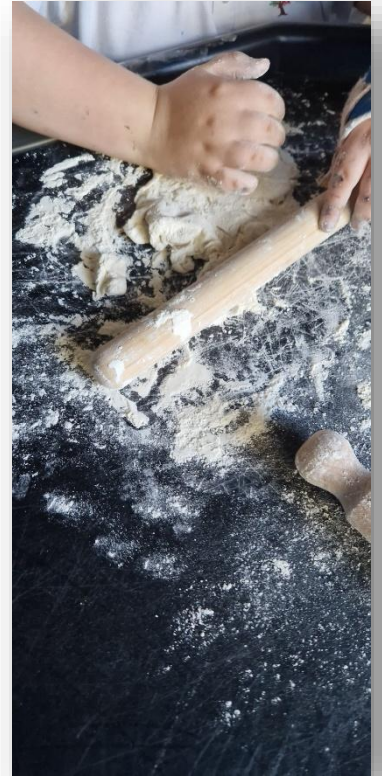
Best wishes

Jules





Acorns 3 began our new English topic book 'The Baker' by the Sea by Paula White.



We read the opening pages together and shared our predictions about what the story might explore.



To deepen the experience, we then made our own sensory dough inspired by the textures

and atmosphere of the seaside



setting. The children loved getting hands-on and using their senses to bring the story to life.

- Debbie G





This week, Charlotte created an incredible piece of artwork using Blo Pens. With careful control and growing confidence, she experimented with blending colours and using each breath thoughtfully to build her design.

The result was a vibrant, eye-catching piece that truly reflected her creativity and focus.

Charlotte's piece showed how creativity, focus, and curiosity can turn simple tools into something extraordinary.



Michael demonstrated excellent focus and determination while working on Maths Whizz this week. He engaged independently

with the activities, showing strong concentration as he worked through his personalised maths challenges.

Great work Michael!





This week, Primary took part in a Religious Education session focused on the story of Zacchaeus.



They explored why Zacchaeus was considered an outcast in his community and discussed the reasons behind people's negative views of him.





Learners in Saplings 3 made a variety of dishes, two made pizza experimenting with spices the final

flavours were warm to the taste buds. – Debbie J



Leo made cinnamon twirls, he has practiced these and perfected the final shape, the taste was delicious! – Debbie J

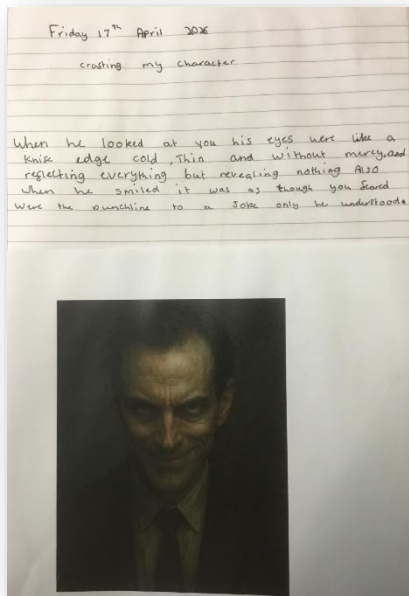
Kieran re-created The Monster Book of Monsters from the Harry Potter franchise using Lego. The iconic book, used by



Creatures lessons, inspired Kieran, who enjoyed bringing the design to life.

Hogwarts students in their Care of Magical



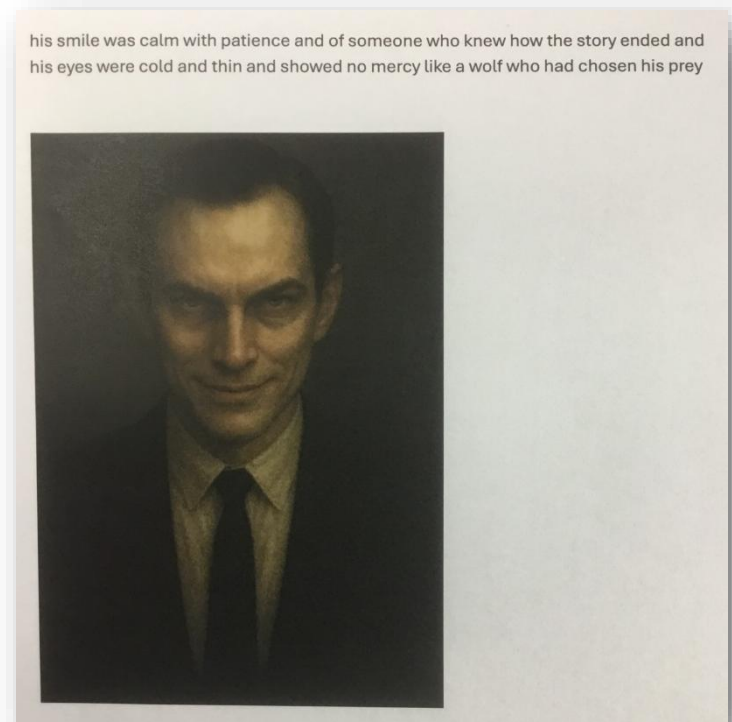
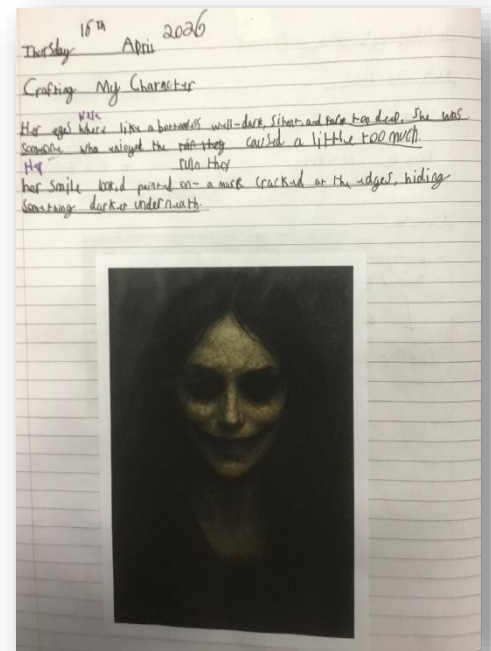


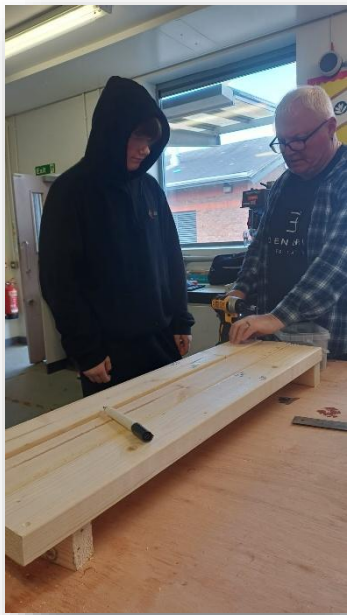
This week in Saplings 1, learners worked on writing a detailed description of a character. They explored the character's appearance, personality, and emotions, carefully

choosing words to bring their ideas to life.

Once their written descriptions were complete, learners used AI to input their work and see it transformed digitally. This supported their understanding of how technology can be used as a tool to enhance creativity and communication.

Learners showed great enthusiasm throughout the activity and enjoyed seeing their ideas develop in a new way, building confidence in both writing and digital skills.

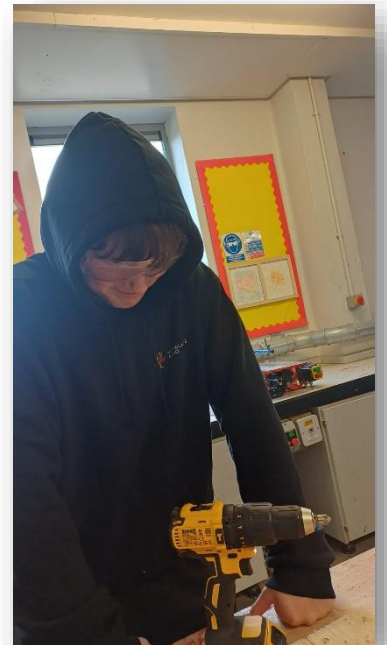




This week in Saplings 1, learners took part in a vocational session with Andy, using saws and drills to support a practical construction task.



With adult guidance, they practised using tools safely and responsibly, developing their confidence and independence.



Learners showed excellent focus while measuring, cutting, and assembling materials, working carefully to achieve their intended outcome. The session supported important life and vocational skills, including coordination, problem-solving, and following instructions.





It was great to see learners taking pride in their work and enjoying a hands-on learning experience.



Headteacher Awards



- Eliza for a calm and settled start to the term
- Leo for a calm and settled start to the term
- Aaron for a calm and settled start to the term
- Tyler for an excellent physical description of a malevolent character.
- Cody for fantastic engagement in his interventions and lessons this week

Glimmers



Shout out to Aaron D – for great engagement this week!
- Well done Aaron

Brilliant engagement from Tyler ST - Great work Tyler!

Morgan attempted a Level 2 reading paper –
Well done Morgan!

Shout out to Emilia and Ryan for great engagement in Maths –
Well done!

Shout out to Oaks 3 for positive engagement and learning. Well done Lincoln, Matthew and Romeo



Dates for the Diary

- PCP Parents Evening
 - Online, by phone or in person
 - Thursday 9th July 3.30 – 5.30
 - Online, by phone or in person
- Sports Day – 20th July

Coming Soon...

- Mini Marathon
- Mini Stick Golf Festival – To be confirmed

Shropshire Parenting Help and Support Line

01743 250950

Mon - Thurs, 9.30am - 4.30pm
Fri, 9.30am - 3.30pm

No judgment, just support. For **all** Shropshire families, including those whose children have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)



Does your child struggle with their sleep?

Free Sleep Tight Groups

Join us on one of our virtual or face-to-face groups and:

- Find out why sleep is important for our health and emotional wellbeing
- Get support to help improve sleep and bedtime routines
- Meet other parents/carers to share and discuss experiences

**Sleep Tight Universal Group 24th April 2026 from 10.00am to 12.00pm
Virtually Via MS Teams**

**Sleep Tight SEND Group 12th June 2026 from 10.00am to 12.00pm
at The Keystone Academy, Squinter Pip Way, Shrewsbury, SY3 8XQ**

The groups run for 5 weeks excluding the school holidays and bank holidays.

Groups with SEND are suitable for parents/carers of Children who might have special educational needs and disabilities, no formal diagnosis is needed to attend the groups.

To book a place email Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk or call 01743 250950

Find out
more here





Shropshire Parenting Team – Family Leaflet

This leaflet provides information to all families, including those whose children have SEND, who would like to know more about the services we offer. Simply scan any QR code or follow the links to explore free support, groups and learning opportunities.

Our Services - Overview

[The Parenting Team | Shropshire Council](#)

Find out more about all our services on offer



Our SEND Services - Overview

[The Parenting Team | Shropshire Council](#)

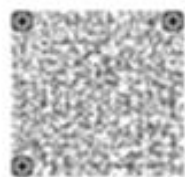
Find out more about our services within the SEND local offer



Understanding Your Child Groups

[Information to help families in Shropshire - Shropshire Together Community Directory](#)

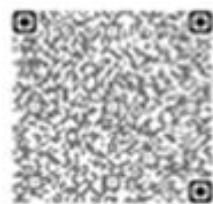
Find out more about free groups



Sleep Tight Groups

[Information to help families in Shropshire - Shropshire Together Community Directory](#)

Find out more about free Sleep Tight groups



Online Learning Pathways

[Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin | Togetherness - Togetherness](#)

Find out more about free online learning



Parenting Help and Support Line

[Shropshire Parenting Help and Support Line | Shropshire Together Community Directory](#)

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If you would like to find out about further help and support the Parenting Team offer please email

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All our services are free of charge to Shropshire Council residents.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD



S O L I H U L L A P P R O A C H

PARENTING HELP AND SUPPORT LINE

available

Monday to Thursday from 9.30am to 4.30pm

and

Friday 9.30am to 3.30pm

You can contact the Parenting Help and Support Line by calling

01743 250950

Parenthood can be extremely rewarding and enjoyable. It can also be demanding, frustrating and exhausting. The Parenting Team is here to help and support parents and carers to raise healthy, well-rounded children in a loving and stable environment.

Do you have any questions around your child's development and parenting?

Why not call our Parenting Help and Support Line where one of our trained Parenting Practitioners will be ready to listen.

(Please note the Parenting Help and Support Line will not operate on Bank Holidays)

If you have concerns about a child's safety or well-being, please call

First Point of Contact 0345 678 9021

Sending an Email to the Safeguarding Team

safeguarding@wdl.mmat.co.uk

- If you have any worries Parents/Carers or Students, please email the above address.
- Students, you can use your school accounts or personal email addresses.

Why not follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/WoodlandsShropshire/>

Or

Take a look at our website!

www.woodlands.school

Or

Join the conversation - We love hearing from you! Share your thoughts, questions, and suggestions with us.

rachel.bates@wdl.mmat.co.uk

If you need to contact us out of normal school hours, please either email on the above address

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.

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 'salt and ice challenge' has caused injuries when imitated.

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.

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.

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.

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, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



The National College®

See full reference list on our website

[@wake_up_weds](https://www.wake_up_weds.com)

[/www.thenationalcollege](https://www.thenationalcollege.com)

[@wake.up.wednesday](https://www.instagram.com/wake.up.wednesday)

[@wake.up.weds](https://www.youtube.com/wakeupweds)

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