



Friday 15th May 2026

Headteachers report of the week

This week has been a particularly special one across the school, as we celebrate the incredible efforts of our learners who have completed their SATs. We are immensely proud of each and every one of them. Their dedication, resilience, and positive attitude throughout the assessment period have truly stood out. They approached each challenge with determination and have supported one another every step of the way, demonstrating not only academic commitment but also kindness and teamwork. As a school community, we could not be prouder of their achievements.

It has also been wonderful to see such high levels of engagement across all year groups. Classrooms have been full of energy, curiosity, and enthusiasm for learning. In Acorns 1, learners have been celebrating their hard work with a well-deserved trip, showing how perseverance is rewarded. Meanwhile, across the school, learners have been embracing opportunities to develop their skills in a variety of ways from creative projects like Kieran's impressive *Monster Book of Monsters* LEGO build, to strategic thinking during our engaging chess sessions.

Our learners continue to demonstrate a love of learning, whether they are tackling new challenges, working collaboratively, or supporting their peers. The quality of conversations taking place in lessons and the confidence learners are showing in sharing their ideas are testament to the positive learning environment we are so proud to foster.

Thank you to our dedicated staff, who go above and beyond to provide engaging and meaningful learning experiences, and to our families for their continued support. Together, we are creating a community where learners feel encouraged, valued, and inspired to succeed.

Well done to everyone for a fantastic week!

Best wishes

Jules

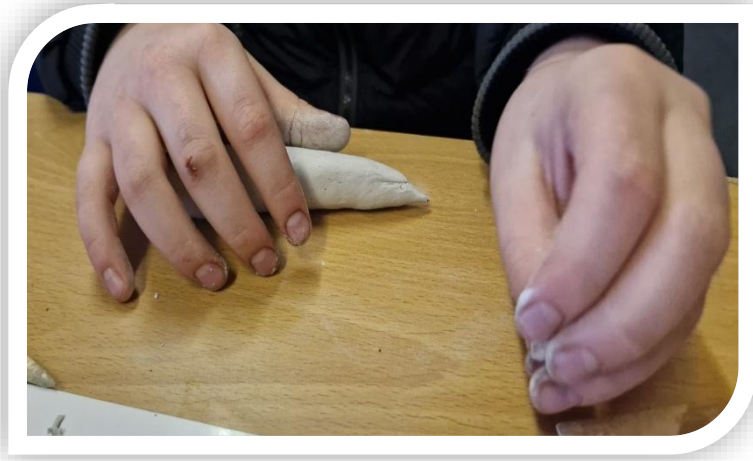


Jayden and Taylor had great fun feeding Willow a mouse after doing their classwork.



There were lots of interesting chats about snakes and their biology, despite Joseph and Anna not standing so close!

-Anna D



Acorns 3 have been busy creating sea-inspired clay pieces, seashells, sea creatures, and other ocean treasures as part of our English work on Annie Lumsden, the Girl from the Sea by David Almond.

- Debbie G



Spotlight on Art

Tyler ST drew these amazing pictures of a T-Rex's this week. What fantastic pieces of artwork! Well done Tyler!



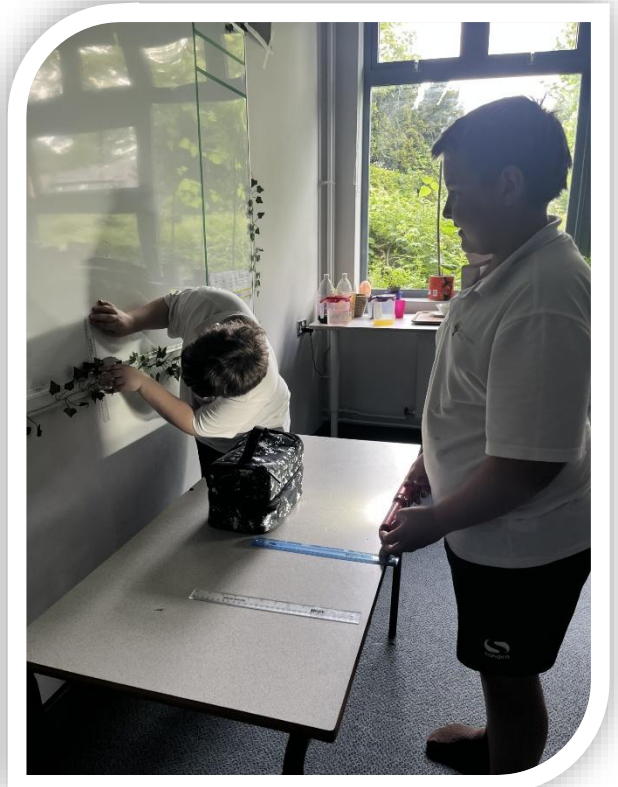
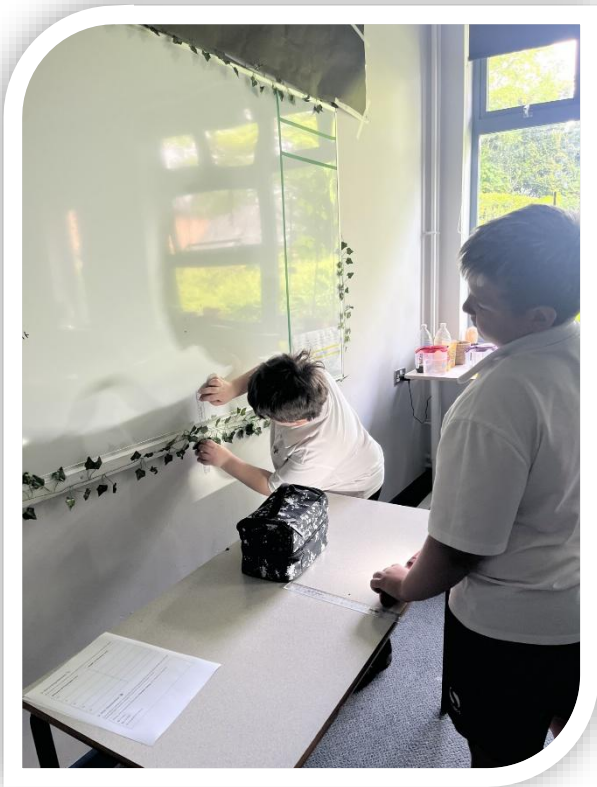
Charlotte impressed with this beautiful picture of a dog and many of us have a copy by our desks Well done Charlotte!



Acorn 2 explored batik in art, looking closely at how artists create patterns using wax before trying our own version with glue designs.

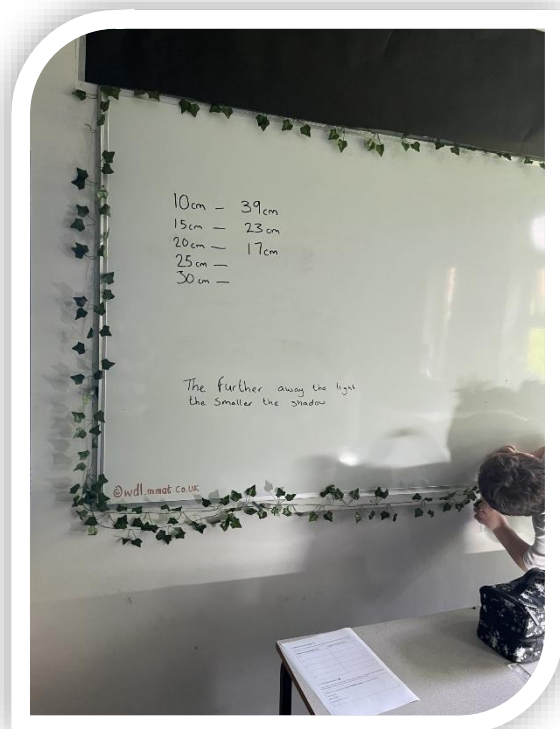
Learners carefully drew out their patterns and textures with glue, watching them dry into raised lines that will later resist the paint. The first step in creating their own colourful batik-style artwork, ready for painting in our next session.

- Sian

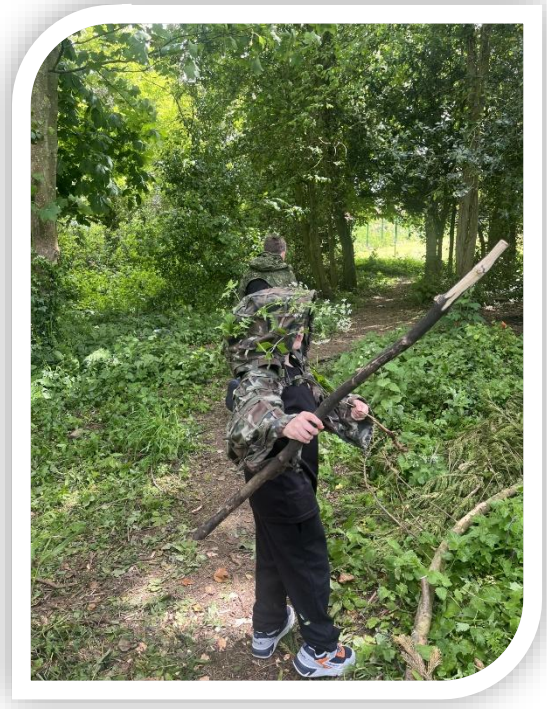
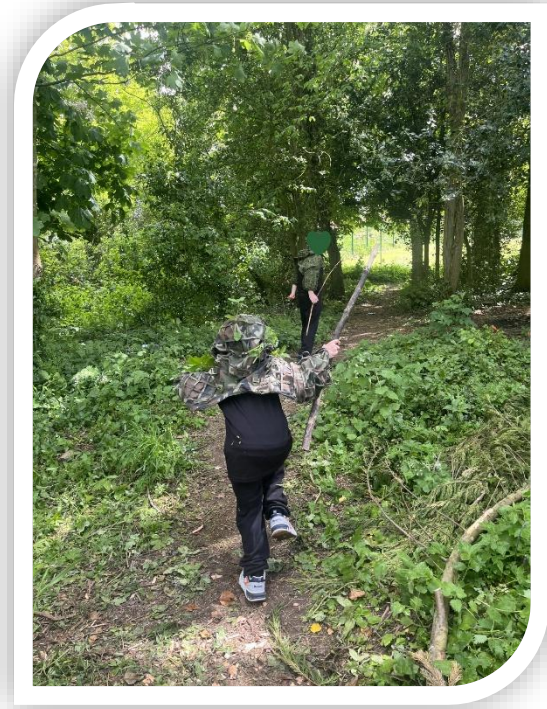


In Acorns 1 science today, learners explored how shadows change size by measuring them at different distances from a light source, discovering

that the closer the object is to the light, the bigger and blurrier the shadow becomes, and the further away it moves, the smaller and sharper it gets. A simple experiment that sparked lots of curiosity and careful measuring.

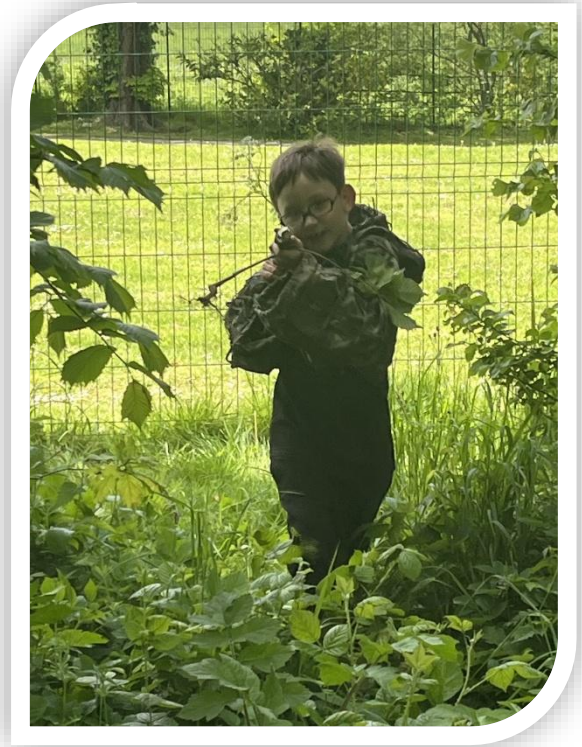


- Sian



Acorns 2 loved learning how animals hide in plain sight today, using their full hoods and tucking in close to the trees while adding bits of local foliage to blend into the woodland, and once everyone had perfected their disguises, we put their new camouflaging skills to the test with a fast paced forest game that had them disappearing into the landscape with impressive creativity.





- Sian

Ultra-Comforting Hot Pasta



This week Acorns 2 and 3 discovered in cooking a quick swirl of crème fraîche and melted cheese turns hot pasta into a silky, tangy, ultra-comforting bowl of creamy goodness.

- Sian





Tyler has been super focused on his English lesson this week. Listening carefully to Ray's support while working on his story.

- Kellyanne

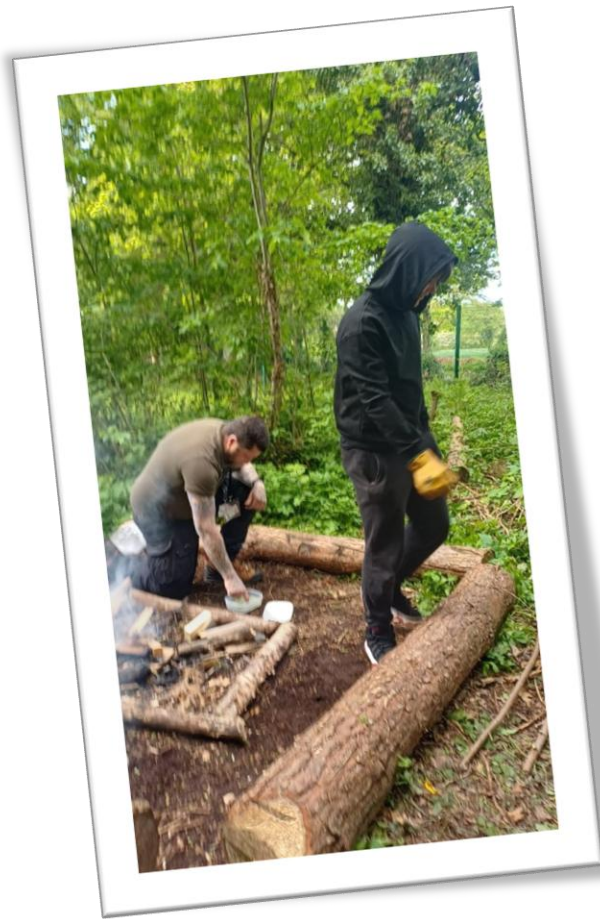
Great effort and dedication Tyler!



Tyler and Tommy have been developing their cheesecake

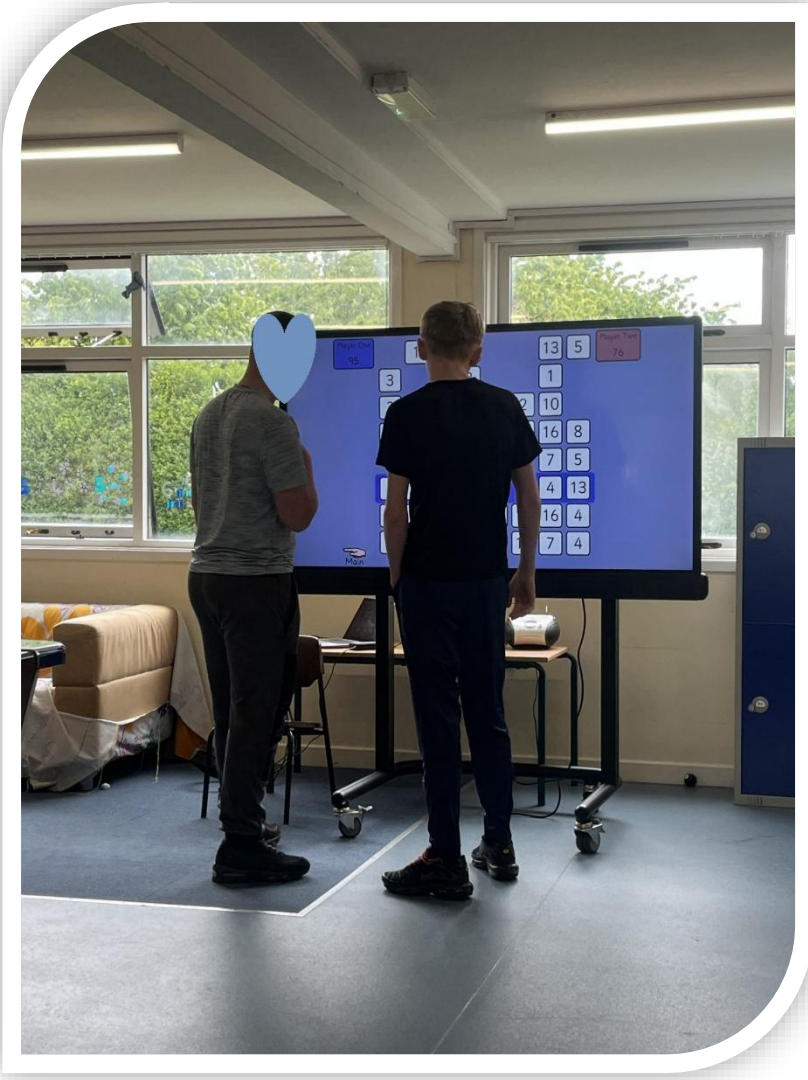
flavours, vanilla, chocolate and this week biscoff which has been the overall favourite. – Debbie J





During our Forest School session this week, learners had the exciting opportunity to learn how to safely light a fire. With careful supervision, they explored the importance of fire safety, including how to prepare the area, build a small fire, and understand its uses in the outdoors. The activity sparked curiosity and encouraged teamwork, as everyone worked together and shared ideas. It was a memorable experience that helped build confidence, responsibility, and respect for nature.

Our Orchard learners have been working hard on their maths, using the board to solve a range of puzzles.



They demonstrated excellent strategic thinking, tackling each challenge with focus and determination.
- Simon



Learners in Saps 4 have been exploring science this week by testing different substances to discover whether they are alkaline or acidic. They carried out practical investigations, made careful observations, and discussed their findings, building their understanding through hands-on learning. Great curiosity and teamwork were shown throughout the activity!

Well done – Saplings 4!



Acorns 1 recently celebrated the end of SATs with an exciting trip to the Crocky Trail. Both learners and staff had a fantastic time enjoying



the activities and making special memories together.



Acorns 1 have shown outstanding dedication and have worked incredibly hard in preparation for their SATs. Their efforts have been truly commendable, and it has been wonderful to see the support and encouragement they have given one another throughout this period.





A recent chess game brought plenty of excitement and strategic thinking to the classroom. Jayden and Taylor showed great focus, patience, and sportsmanship as they carefully planned their moves and challenged one another.

It was fantastic to see their growing confidence and problem-solving skills on display.

Well done!



Special Achievement

Shout Out

A big shout out to Kieran for successfully completing his fantastic LEGO project

– *The Monster Book of Monsters!*
His creativity, attention to detail, and dedication to bringing this imaginative build to life have truly impressed everyone.

Well done, Kieran!

– an amazing achievement!





Glimmers



Shout out to Harrison for great engagement in his Maths lesson and asking to do his qualification – Super proud of you Harrison!

Well done to Leighton who has been very positive about his English this week and engaging well – Great work Leighton

Shout out to Emilia who has been engaging well in English – Great work Emilia!

Tyler ST has also shown great engagement in Maths alongside Harrison and asked to his qualification as well – Brilliant work Tyler – Well done!

Lexia Certificates

Core 5:

- Eliza
- Ollie C

Power Up:

- Lexi
- Emilia



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

Coming Soon...

- Mini Stick Golf Festival – Tuesday 19th May
- Mini Marathon – Friday 22nd May
- Secondary Sports Day – 20th July
 - Oswestry School – Full Day
- Primary Sports Day – 21st July
 - TBC location – Half Day
- Summer Fayre – 22nd July – 12pm – 2pm

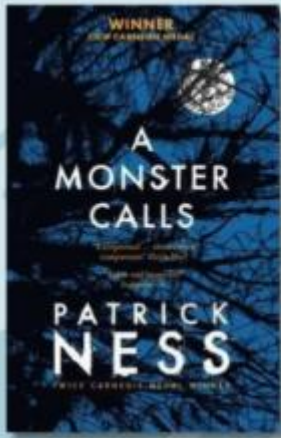


Headteacher Awards



- Noah H, Zane, Arran, Eliza and Lexi for achieving their Entry Level 1 Maths
- Charlotte, Noah Hu, Taylor, Jayden R, Destiny, Frankie and Ruby for achieving their Entry Level 1&2 Maths
- Jayden R for an enjoyable and challenging game of chess
- Kobie for sharing his Pokémon cards with everyone
- Frankie-Lee for fantastic English Lesson
- Charlotte for being really engaged in English
- Aaron and Zane for a positive English lesson
- Noah Hu and Eliza for working hard in English
- Michel, Jessica, Oscar and Oliver for just being amazing and completing their SATS this week
- Domenic for having a super week in school and really embracing his schoolwork – Well done!

A Book to Read



A Monster Calls

Patrick Ness



 BOOKMARK

 Reading Age: 11

 Interest Age: 11, 12, 13, 14

 Genres: Family, Scary, School

 Themes: Cancer, Death of a Parent, Mental Health, Nature

Patrick
Ness



Conor has the same dream every night, ever since his mother first fell ill, ever since she started the treatments that don't quite seem to be working. But tonight is different. Tonight, when he wakes, there's a visitor at his window. It's ancient, elemental, a force of nature. And it wants the most dangerous thing of all from Conor. It wants the truth. An extraordinary and heart-breaking tale of mischief, healing and above all, the courage it takes to survive.



Shropshire Family Info Service

Hello and welcome to the latest Family Information Service newsletter. Our job is to give you the info and resources you need to help your family life run a little smoother. We can help with:

- Childcare - finding it and advice on paying for it
- Local baby and toddler groups
- Events, clubs, activities, and fun things to do in the school holidays, for all ages
- Getting parenting and family support
- Finding health and wellbeing support

We cover everything and anything to do with family life, so if you have a question, chances are we'll be able to help, or if we can't, we'll point you in the direction of someone who can.

Find us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [X](#). Call 01743 254400 or email ShropshireFIS@shropshire.gov.uk



Understanding your child aged 0-5 years

Parenting can be full of ups, downs, big feelings and lots of learning - for both you and your child. Join the parenting team to talk about what's going on for you and your family. Together you'll make sense of tricky moments and share simple ideas that can make life calmer and more positive.

You will explore issues like:

- Communicating and building connection with your child
- Routines like sleep and bedtime, and any other routines you have as a family
- Understanding behaviour and big emotions
- Child development and how you can support it

Groups are aimed at parents of children aged 0-5 years and are free to attend.

Starts: Tuesday 5th May 2026 from 12:30pm - 2:30pm at Sunflower House, Kendal Road, Shrewsbury, SY1 4ES. All groups run for 10 weeks from the start date excluding the School Holidays.

To book a place please contact the Parenting Team by: Emailing: Parenting_team@shropshire.gov.uk
Or Telephone: 01743 250950



Preparing for school

Starting school is an exciting milestone – for your child and for you. Find out how everyday moments at home can help your child feel confident and prepared, whatever stage they're at.

Preparing for school – sometimes called school readiness – isn't about knowing the alphabet or being able to count to ten. It's about your child building the confidence, skills and habits that will help them to feel like they belong, make friends and get the most out of their learning opportunities. Find out more on the Best Start in Life website [Preparing for school - Best Start in Life](#)



Screen time guidance for under 5s

Juggling family life and raising children in a digital world can be challenging. Find out more about how to support healthy screen habits for children under 5.

Digital screens are a part of modern life, but finding the right balance between screen time and other activities for young children can be tricky. That's why we've created this evidence-informed guidance to support parents and carers in shaping healthy screen time habits for little brains. Find out more on the Best Start in Life website [Baby and toddler screen time guidance - Best Start in Life](#)



Switched on to privacy

Switched on to Privacy is a campaign from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to help parents and carers of 4 - 11 year olds talk to their children about online privacy.

Just as parents would talk with their children about road safety or speaking with strangers, online privacy is another life skill children need as they grow up. Small, regular conversations can help children understand what personal information is, how it's used, and how to make safer choices online. Find out more here [Switched on to privacy | ICO](#)



Setting up your young person's first phone

Getting a first mobile phone is an exciting milestone for young people and an important step towards independence. It can also feel overwhelming for parents and carers, as phones open up access to the online world as well as new responsibilities. Taking some time to set up the device properly and talk through expectations can help your young person build healthy, safe habits from the start.

This guidance is designed to support you in making confident decisions and putting practical measures in place to help keep your child safe while they enjoy the benefits of their first phone. Find out more here [First-phone-checklist.pdf](#)



Understanding your brain (for teenagers only!)

During puberty, your brain goes through a period of rapid growth and change. These shifts can sometimes feel confusing, but they also bring exciting new perspectives. This short pathway is a great starting point for teenagers who want to understand how their brain works, how it's changing, and what that means for emotions, relationships and everyday life.

Follow short bitesize content with information about brain development, emotional health and relationships. It will help teenagers understand how the teenage brain changes in adolescence, how it affects sleep and social connections and how to take care of their mental wellbeing during this important stage of development.

Join the learning pathway for all preteens and teenagers: a journey of understanding emotional health, relationships, brain development and how to support your mental wellbeing.

[Understanding your brain \(for teenagers only!\) - Togetherness](#)



Understanding your feelings (for teenagers only!)

Puberty brings rapid changes to your brain, which can affect how you feel, think and behave. This pathway is a great place to start for teenagers who want to understand their emotional health, exploring why certain feelings arise, how to manage them and how to take care of themselves during this important stage of growing up.

Designed by our clinical child psychologists, psychotherapists and health practitioners, this pathway is practical, relatable and easy to follow. In bitesize stages, they'll learn how the teenage brain differs from an adult's, how emotions shift during puberty and how to express and process difficult feelings. The tools and techniques in this pathway are designed to help teenagers feel more confident and connected as they move toward adulthood.

Join our learning pathway for all preteens and teenagers: a journey of understanding emotional health, why you feel the way you do and how to manage these feelings.

This course is free for any young people in Shropshire using the access code DARWIN18

[Understanding your feelings \(for teenagers only!\) - Togetherness](#)



A Bigger, Better Digital Library Collection with BorrowBox

Did you know that you are now able to borrow eBooks and eAudiobooks via our bigger and better [BorrowBox](#) service.

BorrowBox is the UK's most popular platform for eBooks and eAudiobooks, with the widest range of content and the most intuitive interface available.

On your phone, on your iPad, on your home computer, BorrowBox means the doors to your local library never close, and you can borrow from Shropshire Libraries 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The range of titles available on BorrowBox is extensive so we are sure you'll find something fantastic to borrow!

The BorrowBox app incorporates a dedicated eBook reader and eAudiobook player and is available now from the App Store and Google Play. Install it on all your mobile devices for free.

Useful links

Here's a handy guide to get you started: [How to Get Started on the BorrowBox App](#)

Jump straight in and discover BorrowBox now: [Shropshire Libraries - BorrowBox](#)

Don't forget, you will need your library card number and [PIN](#) to access this service.

Shropshire
family
Information Service

What do you think?



Like what you see?

What do you think of our newsletter? Do you find the info in it useful? What would you like to see more, or less, of? Got any ideas to make it even better? Take our super short survey and let us know. Seriously, it's only four questions long - [FIS newsletter feedback form](#). Thank you!

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

Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk

or call us on 01743 250950

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 ONLINE GROOMING

Online grooming is when someone builds a relationship with a child or young person online to gain their trust for the purpose of sexual abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, or criminal activity – such as county lines or financial scams. According to the NSPCC, police in the UK recorded over 7,000 offences involving sexual communication with a child in a single year – an increase of 89% since 2017/18.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STRANGERS USING FAKE IDENTITIES

Groomers often pose as children or teenagers online to build trust. They may create convincing fake profiles, share photos stolen from real people, or mimic the interests of the child. By pretending to be someone their age, they make conversations feel safe and relatable. Over time, they may ask for personal details, photos, or suggest meeting in person, exposing children to significant emotional and physical harm.

EXPLOITATION THROUGH GIFTS AND FLATTERY

To gain trust quickly, groomers often send gifts, gaming credits, or money. Alongside material offerings, they use excessive compliments, affection, and attention to create emotional dependency. These tactics make children feel valued and special, lowering their defences. Once trust is secured, groomers may escalate their requests, often asking for photos or private conversations, making the child feel pressured or indebted to continue.

GROUP CHATS AS HIDDEN PATHWAYS

Unmonitored group chats on platforms like WhatsApp or Discord provide a cover for groomers. They can watch how children interact, identify those who seem vulnerable, and then move conversations into private messaging. This transition makes detection difficult for trusted adults. The seemingly harmless group setting often masks the presence of predators, giving children a false sense of security.

THE RISE OF SEXTORTION

Sextortion involves pressuring children into sharing explicit content, then blackmailing them for more. Offenders may claim to have hacked a child's device, threaten to share images with friends or family, or demand money. Many victims remain silent out of fear and shame. This growing crime is particularly dangerous because children often feel trapped, believing there's no safe way to escape the situation.

GAMING PLATFORMS AS GROOMING GATEWAYS

Games like Roblox, Fortnite, or Call of Duty, which include live chat features, are frequent targets for groomers. Conversations often begin casually during gameplay and can become manipulative over time. Groomers may offer in-game gifts, credits, or exclusive add-ons to build rapport. Children using headsets or private chat features are especially at risk, as conversations are harder for adults to monitor.

CRIMINAL & RADICALISATION RISKS

Grooming is not always sexual. Some offenders manipulate children into criminal activities such as drug running or online fraud. Others attempt to radicalise young people with extreme ideologies. Groomers often use fear, money, shame, or promises of belonging to control their victims. These forms of exploitation can be just as harmful as sexual grooming, and often leave lasting psychological and social consequences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS REGULAR

Rather than having one "big talk" about online safety, weave conversations into everyday life. Ask questions about children's online friendships and interests. Share real-life examples to make discussions relatable and encourage honesty instead of secrecy. When children feel comfortable discussing their digital lives, they are far more likely to share concerns or admit when something feels wrong, reducing the chance of risky interactions going unnoticed.

UNDERSTAND THE PLATFORMS CHILDREN USE

Take time to learn about the apps, games, and social platforms children are on. Familiarise yourself with privacy settings, parental controls, and group chat features. Use resources like The National College guides or conduct quick searches to stay updated. By understanding how these platforms operate, you'll be better equipped to set boundaries, guide safe use, and notice any unusual or concerning online behaviour early.

CREATE A "TELL ME" CULTURE

Children often keep silent because they fear being punished or losing access to their devices. Reassure them that coming forward with concerns won't get them into trouble. Emphasise that you are there to help, not judge. Creating a safe, open environment encourages children to speak up if something feels wrong, and helps to ensure they don't suffer in silence when facing potential grooming risks.

STAY ALERT TO WARNING SIGNS

Be attentive to both behavioural and digital red flags. Sudden secrecy, mood swings, or new online contacts may signal a problem. Watch for unexplained gifts, new social media profiles, or changes in sleep patterns. Increased anxiety or reluctance to attend school can also be indicators. Regularly checking in and showing interest in those whom they communicate with online help prevent small issues from escalating into serious risks.

Meet Our Expert

Staffordshire Police is dedicated to keeping people safe and tackling crime across both the physical and digital world. The force continues to strengthen its digital investigation and safeguarding capabilities to protect children and vulnerable people online, working in partnership with local, regional and national organisations, schools, and the wider community.

