



Friday 22nd May 2026

Headteachers report of the week

It has been another vibrant and enriching week across the school, with learners engaging enthusiastically in a wide range of learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.

Our Acorns 2 and Saplings 4 classes enjoyed their Forest School sessions, where they demonstrated impressive teamwork and creativity. Using natural materials they foraged from the school grounds, they successfully built a den and then had the exciting experience of cooking hot dogs over a campfire. This hands-on experience allowed pupils to develop practical skills, resilience, and a deeper understanding of the outdoors.

In Humanities, learners embraced a collaborative challenge, working together to construct towers using playing cards. This activity promoted problem-solving, patience, and perseverance, as well as encouraging learners to think critically about structure and design whilst supporting one another effectively.

A group of our learners also had the opportunity to visit Birmingham to take part in the Little Sticks event, an initiative launched at LIV Golf UK 2023. Through this programme, learners explored the game of golf while developing important life skills such as focus, determination, and teamwork. The experience was enriched by the influence of professional role models, and we look forward to integrating this programme into our PE curriculum.

Additionally, we are extremely proud of all the learners who participated in the Mini Marathon this week. They showed outstanding determination, resilience, and sportsmanship, encouraging each other and demonstrating a strong sense of achievement as they crossed the finish line.

Overall, it has been a week full of opportunity, challenge, and success. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and positive attitudes our learners continue to display in all aspects of school life.

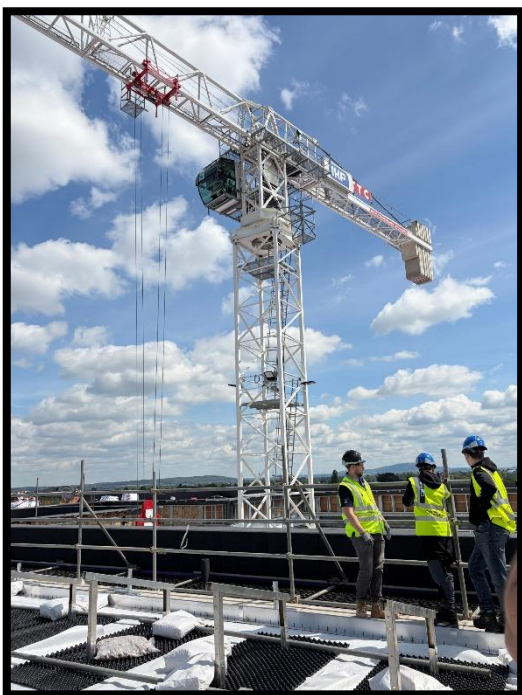
Best wishes

Jules





As highlighted in a recent newsletter, some of our learners were given the exciting opportunity to visit the Vinci construction site. We have very kindly been given some additional photos to share, giving you a closer look at the exciting opportunity they experienced.





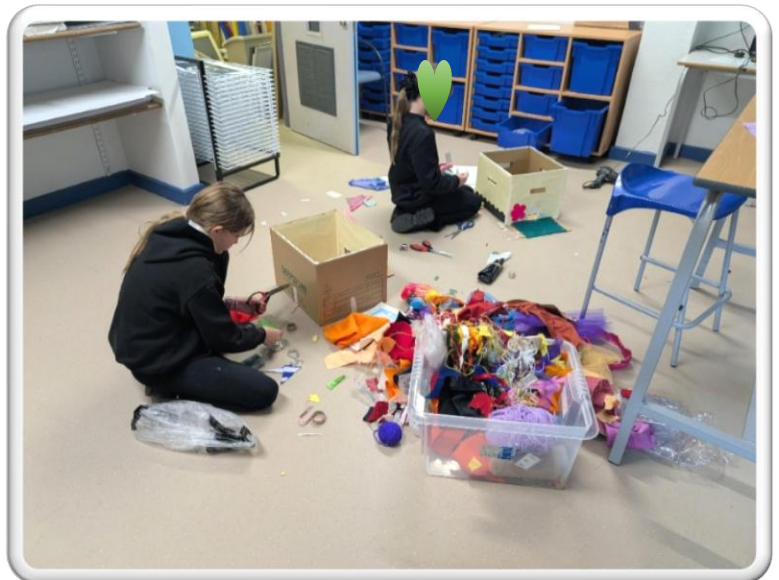
Creativity in progress

Learners have really been engaging in their Art classes this week.

Lacey drew an amazing picture of an elephant and used paints to bring it to life.

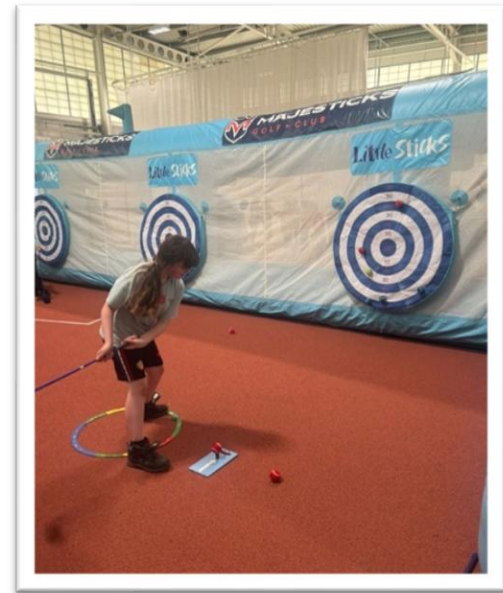
Lexi and Ruby also explored their creative side by decorating cardboard boxes.

They used a variety of different scrap materials to liven up the boxes and to save them from being thrown away.

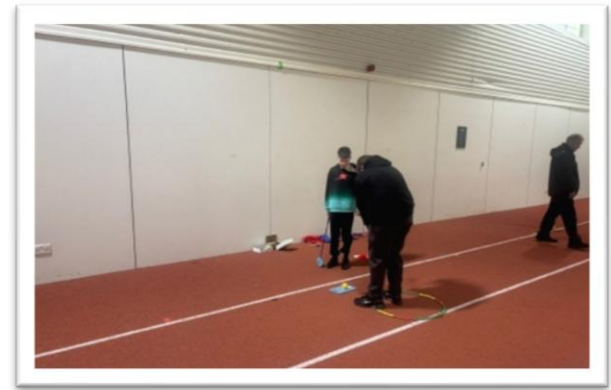
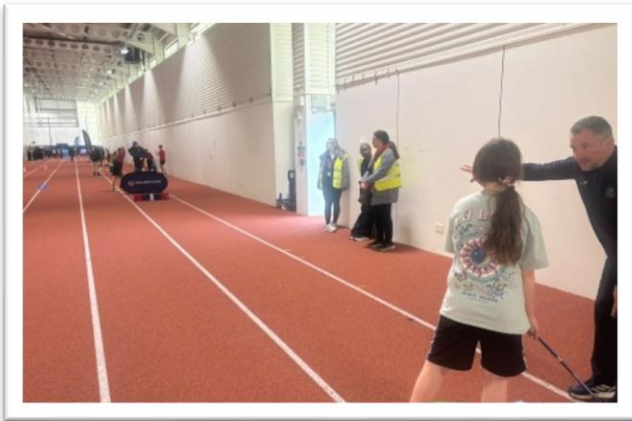




Learners visited Birmingham to participate in the Little Sticks event, an initiative launched at LIV



Golf UK 2023. The programme is



designed to unlock the potential of young people through the game of golf, using professional players such as Lee Westwood, Ian Poulter,



Henrik Stenson, and Sam Horsfield as role models.





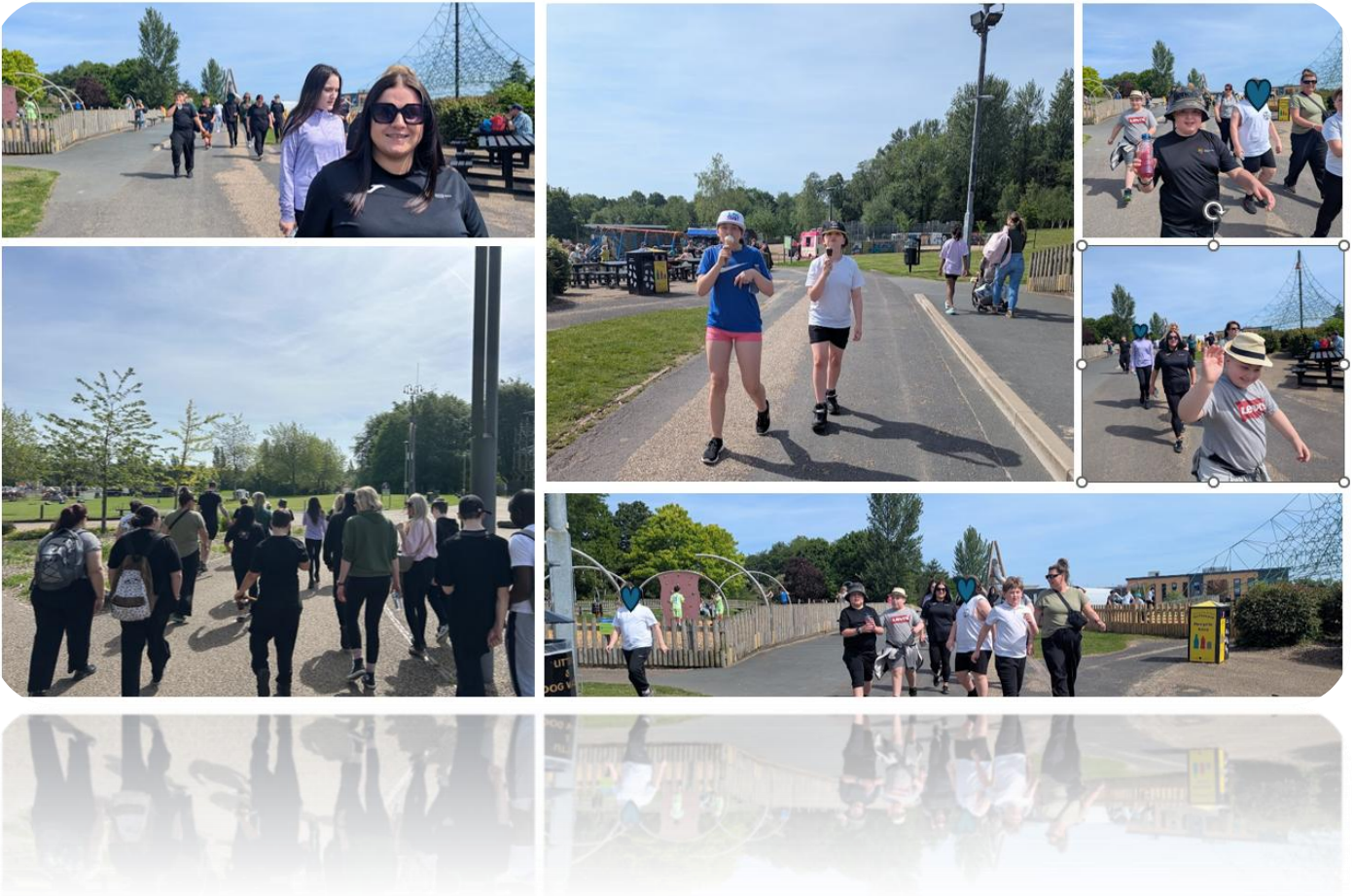
During the event, learners developed key life skills such as resilience, focus, and teamwork



through a range of engaging golf-based activities.

The Little Sticks programme looks at providing ongoing opportunities for skill development and personal growth within school.



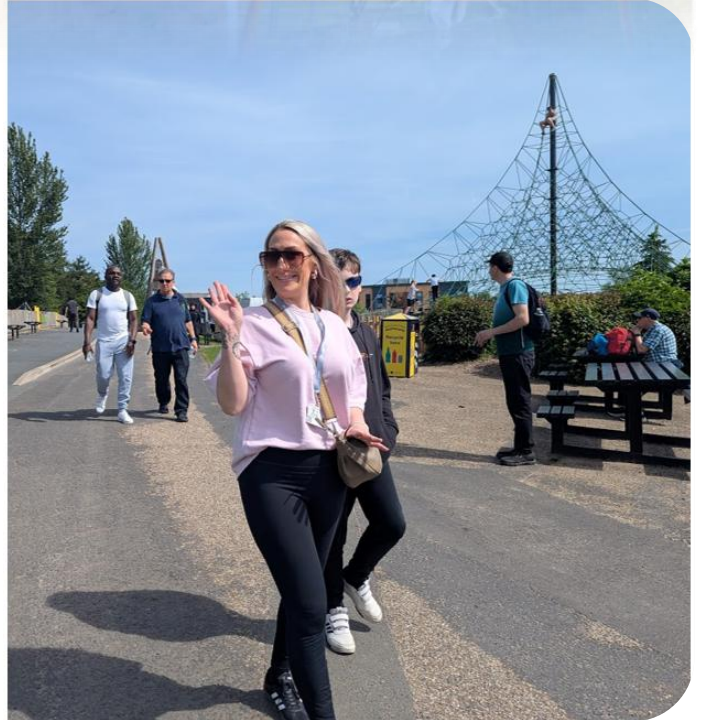
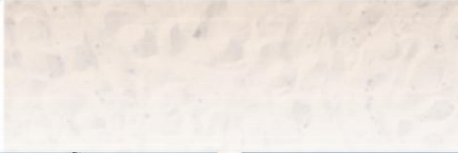


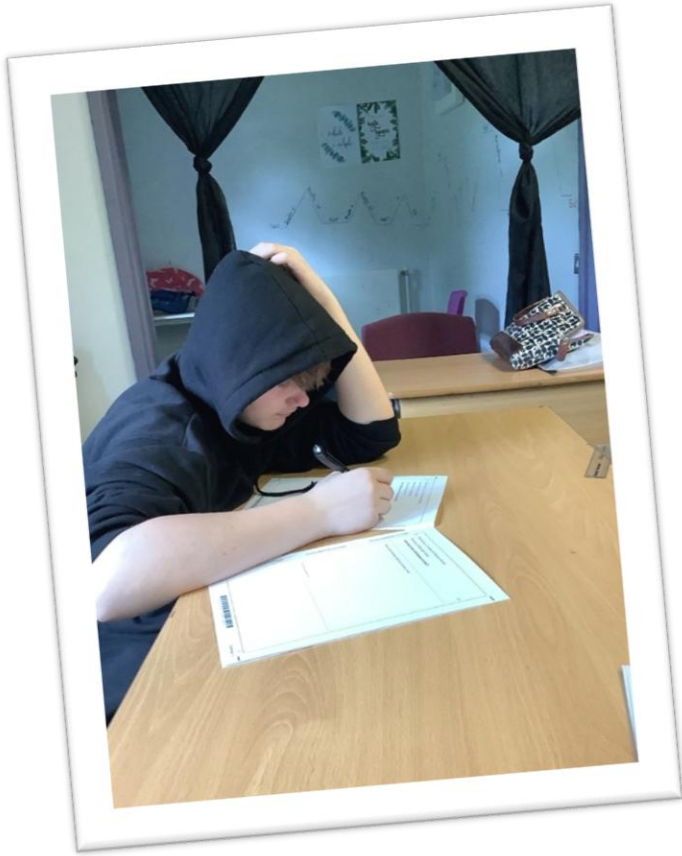
Learners did an amazing job taking part in the Woodlands Mini Marathon.

They showed great determination, enthusiasm, and resilience throughout the event, supporting one another and challenging themselves to do their BEST!

It was fantastic to see their positive attitudes and sense of achievement as they crossed the finish line.

Well done everyone!





Tyler sat his Entry Level 3 Maths assessment this week.

He has shown fantastic dedication in preparing for this test, revising thoroughly and working hard throughout.

We are very proud of your commitment and effort Tyler, Well done!

Thor gained his 5-metre swimming certificate in his first ever swimming lesson.

Thor proved to be a natural in the water and completed the 5 metres with ease.

Congratulations Thor!





In Humanities, learners worked together to build towers using playing cards. This activity encouraged problem-solving, patience, and teamwork, as they explored different strategies to create stable structures. It was a fun and engaging way to develop their resilience and collaborative skills.





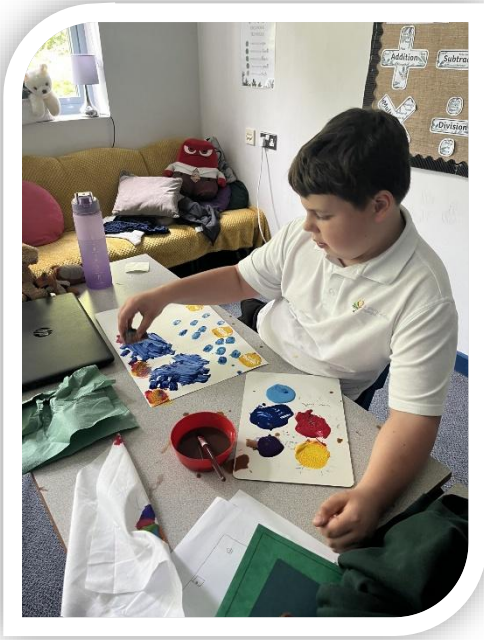
This week the school received confirmation that Ryan had been awarded NCFE Level 1 Explore Craft Resources and Ideas - Create, Present and Review Final Cookery Item. He has worked hard on his booklet, and practical skills and knowledge linked to the subject.

Here are some pictures of Ryan preparing and cooking his practice dishes ready for the final assessment which was formally observed.

– Debbie G

Ryan's
final meal:





This week, Acorns 1 learners explored colour and creativity by painting over their batik designs. They also focused on learning about repeating patterns and enjoyed creating and painting their own unique repeating pattern designs. The children showed great concentration and imagination throughout the activities. - Sian



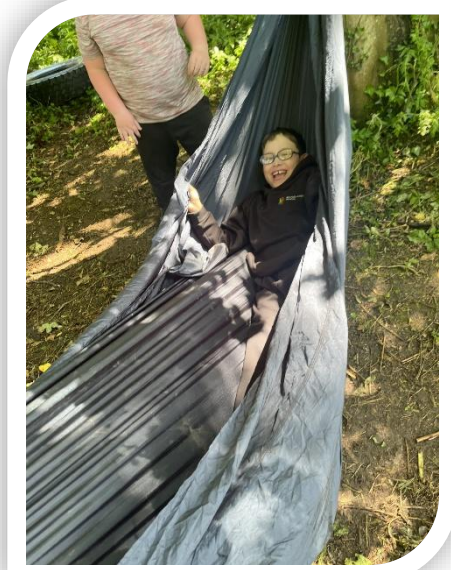
Spotlight on Forest School

This week learners in Acorns 2 have enjoyed a variety of exciting

outdoor activities. They had great fun relaxing and balancing in the hammocks, learned how to safely use a handmade mallet with an axe to chop wood under close supervision, and worked together in an energetic game of tug of war.

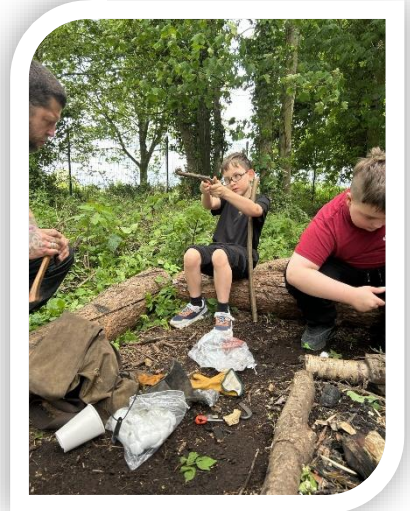
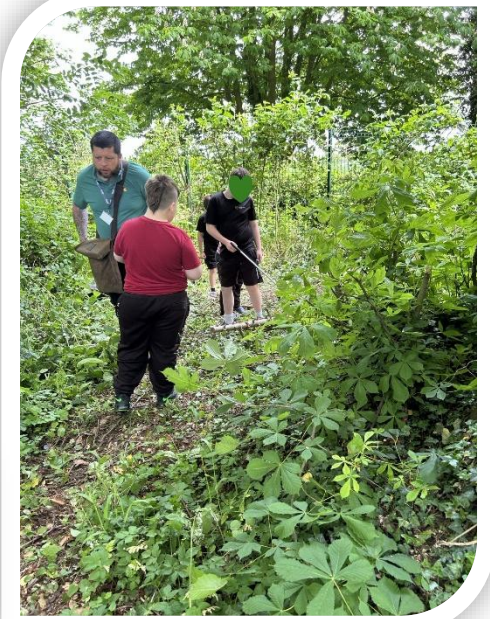
It has been a wonderful week full of teamwork, resilience, and outdoor adventure!

- Sian



Acorns 2 helped clean up around school helping to keep our school environment clean and tidy.

- Natalie D



Acorns 2 created a fire, and Ollie used a mallet, axe and sticks to create a musket from the war. –
Natalie D



Saps 4 had a fantastic Forest School session this week.



Learners demonstrated excellent teamwork and creativity as they built a den

using natural

materials they foraged from around the school grounds.

They also enjoyed cooking

hot dogs over the campfire, making the experience both

exciting and



memorable. Everyone was fully engaged throughout the session and developed a range of valuable practical and collaborative skills that will benefit them in the future.





Glimmers



Jayden R, Taylor, Charlotte and Leo Gi passed their Writing exams – Great work al, we're really proud of you, well done!

Matthew passed his Lesson 1 Maths exam – Well done! Matthew great work!

Lovely to see you Jake A and engaging in your lessons – Well done!

Lexia Certificates

Core 5:

- . Ollie C
- . Joey
- . Brady
- . Eliza
- . Abel
- . Tommy R
- . Bobby

Power Up:

- . Lexi
- . Aaron
- . Leo Gi



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...

- 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



- Taylor, Jayden R, Leo Gi and Charlotte for achieving their Entry Level 1 in Writing
- Destiny, Rocco, Noah Hu and Eliza for working hard in English
- Arthur, Arran and Lexi for completing their Entry Level 1 in Writing
- Matthew for genuinely being helpful and supportive in our school community
- Noah and Eliza for working hard in English
- Kieran for supporting another student by passing a message to the taxi driver when it needed to be moved
- Charlotte for supporting another student when struggling
- Saplings 2 for being great company, engaging games of chess and self-regulating many times this week
- Emilia for supporting staff who needed help & for holding a restorative conversation calmly with a Year 6 learner
- Kobie for helping Jules look after Willow the snake
- Ethan for being brave and overcoming his fears to touch Willow the Snake
- Eliza, Charlotte and Destiny for absolutely smashing it at little sticks
- Thor for achieving his 5m swimming award on his first ever swimming lesson

🎵 PARKING IS LIMITED. PLEASE BRING A PICNIC BLANKET & CHAIRS FOR THE MUSIC 🎵



LIFE OF RILEY CHARITY FUN DAY

PLEASE COME & SUPPORT OUR CAUSE - A GREAT DAY OUT FOR THE FAMILY

 **SATURDAY
11TH JULY**

 **12PM - 8PM**

 **BASCHURCH
VILLAGE HALL
SY4 2JN**

CASH PREFERRED 



ENTRY
£2
ADULT
£1
CHILD

ATTRACTIONS INCLUDE

FUN FAIR (RJ AMUSEMENTS) • INFLATABLES & TODDLER SOFT PLAY • LOCAL STALL HOLDERS • MASCOTS
FIRE ENGINE & POLICE CAR • SWEETS & SLUSH • BURGER VAN • BAR • COCKTAILS • BUBBLE TEA • RAFFLE
TOMBOLA & LUCKY DIP • FACE PAINTING • GLITTER TATTOOS • HAIR BRAIDING • BRICABRAC • ICE CREAM VAN.

... AND MANY MORE!

 **LIVE MUSIC**
THROUGHOUT THE DAY

FEATURING: NAKATOMI PLAZA ★ STATIC ★ JAY WELLER PRITCHARD

**BIG VALUE
BANNERS**

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY
 **Shingler
Group**

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Media & Print**



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



Shape youth services in Shropshire

Time to make a difference

We're looking for young people aged 16–25 to become Shropshire Youth Advisors — helping shape decisions that affect young people across the county. This is a chance to: share your ideas learn how decisions are made influence services and opportunities No experience needed — just an interest in making things better. This is for all young people in Shropshire to get involved.

This opportunity is open to all young people aged 16–25. No experience needed – just an interest in making things better.

Apply here: [Shropshire Youth Advisors - Expression of Interest](#)

Deadline: 29 May

If you would like any further information, please don't hesitate to get in touch
youthvoice@shropshire.gov.uk



Things to do this Half Term

School holidays incoming!

We know that the school holidays can be a struggle for some families – juggling work and keeping the children entertained can be a challenge, which is why every school holiday we put together a list of some of the fabulous events and activities happening in Shropshire for children, young people and their families to enjoy.

Take a look at our online directory for some of the boredom busting events happening this May half term.

[Things to do this half term.](#)



Finding school holiday clubs

Find a school holiday club

You may need a holiday club during the school holiday – but don't worry, we've got that covered too. Our online directory has information on the clubs running during half term, and can also help you plan in advance for the loooong school summer holidays too.

[Find a school holiday club.](#)



Fun at the splash park

Fun at the splash parks

There's some fantastic sunny weather on the way so why not visit a splash park. Pack a picnic and some sunscreen and have a great low-cost day out with the kids.

You can find a list of free splash parks on our Family Information Directory

[Shropshire's splash parks](#)



Open Farm Sunday

Fun at the farm

Shropshire has a proud history of farming, but have you ever wondered how food gets from the field to your plate?

Sunday 7 June 2026 is Open Farm Sunday. Farms across the county will be opening their doors so you can find out about the story behind our food and how farming affects our everyday lives.

Each event and farm is unique. Activities range from machinery displays, tractor and trailer rides, through to demonstrations, nature walks and much more!

Visit the LEAF website to see which farms are open by you, or have a virtual farm visit instead: [Open Farm Sunday](#)



Have a coffee and a chat

Let's have a coffee and chat

It's fair to say that all parents from time to time need some help and support with issues that impact on family life. There is help and support available in Shropshire through our Early Help coffee and chat drop ins – some of which are also stay and play sessions.

You can get free Information, advice and support on all aspects of family life, at our Family Drop-Ins. You can chat, have a cuppa and see how we can help you with:

- Family life
- Parenting support
- Domestic abuse support
- Money worries
- Housing support
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- and much more

To find your local drop in please visit our [Shropshire Family Information Service Directory](#).



Explore the Shropshire Hills

Long Mynd & Stiperstones Shuttle Bus

Hop on board the Long Mynd and Stiperstones weekend Shuttle Bus for a perfect day out in the heart of the Shropshire Hills. Go for a walk, take a picnic and explore the amazing natural beauty the Shropshire hills have to offer. Under 16s travel free and adult single tickets start from £2. The bus runs every weekend until Sunday 27th September 2026.

Find out more, including the route and timetable on the shuttle bus website

[Step aboard our weekend shuttle bus - a great way to explore the area](#)

Register Now!!

SUMMER

Healthy Lives Holiday Programme 2026

Activities for children and young people with SEND in Shropshire



The Healthy Lives Programme is PACC's Holiday offer. Healthy Lives offers a variety of activities to support physical and mental wellbeing, providing young people with SEND with opportunities to catch up with friends and be active.

Summer Activities are grouped for: 8 to 14 year olds, 14-25 year old's, 8 to 25 year old's and all-age family activities

How to register

1. Complete a Registration form- this will give you access to the whole year's activities.
2. A member of the team will contact you if we need further information.
3. You will receive an activity request email for each school holiday.
4. You will receive an email confirming allocated activities

The programme does not provide 1:1 support, a PA or Parent Carer needs to attend the sessions to provide support. The Healthy Lives programme is not suitable for children and young people requiring 2:1 or 3:1 support where behaviours that challenge are likely to occur when activities or the environment are not highly personalised.

Some confirmed activities for summer include:

- Cycling
- Gym
- Pool Parties
- Zoo trips
- Farm trips
- Trampolining
- Canoeing
- Kayaking
- Animal Experiences
- Cinema
- Music
- Guitar and Drum lessons
- Forest School
- Fire Safety
- First Aid
- Pottery Painting
- Challenge Zone
- Building Challenge
- PACCfest
- Independence sessions

Locations include:

- Bridgnorth
- Condover
- Kidderminster
- Ludlow
- Market Drayton
- Oswestry
- Shrewsbury
- Staffordshire
- Telford
- Wem
- Whitchurch

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 MINECRAFT

As the best-selling game in history, Minecraft has made a name for itself by empowering audiences of all ages to harness their creativity. Originally an indie hit, it's become a cultural phenomenon with merchandise, spin-off titles, and wider media adaptations. Even if you don't know your Creepers from your Endermen, this guide will explore the risks of Minecraft in 2026 and explain how to support a safe gaming experience for the children in your care.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVER COMMUNICATION

Many players enjoy Minecraft with others, including friends and unknown players online. In-game text chat is commonly used to coordinate building projects and gameplay, and this can extend to adding friends to voice chat. While often harmless, this creates risks around contact with strangers, and in some cases server hosts may expose IP addresses (if hosting independently), which raises privacy and security concerns.

GRIEFING BEHAVIOUR

Some players deliberately damage or destroy other players' creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying that can undo hours of effort and cause frustration or distress to affected players. Although many servers treat griefing as a serious offence, enforcement varies. Children who prefer to build independently may feel safer working on private worlds or controlled servers.

ADDICTIVE GAMEPLAY LOOPS

Minecraft's creative focus can make it easy for players to lose track of time. The cycle of gathering resources and building projects can be highly engaging, which may challenge agreed screen-time limits. If not managed effectively, this can impact children's sleep, schoolwork, and real-world social interaction.

SCARY GAME ELEMENTS

Although often compared to digital construction toys, some gameplay modes include hostile creatures with unsettling sounds and sudden encounters. While there is no graphic violence, younger players may still find zombies, spiders, or dark environments frightening. These experiences can lead to anxiety or reluctance to play, depending on the child's age and sensitivity.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Minecraft requires a one-off purchase after a free trial, usually around £15, but additional spending is possible. Players can buy cosmetic content or subscribe to Minecraft 'Realms' for private servers. Without supervision, children may make unintended purchases. Subscription services and add-ons can also increase overall costs over time if not monitored.

ONLINE INTERACTIONS

Playing with others can introduce broader online safety concerns, including exposure to inappropriate language or behaviour. Some players may attempt to move conversations beyond the game, which can increase risks to children's safety and welfare. Children may not always recognise these situations, meaning guidance and ongoing conversations about safe interactions are essential.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE SUITABLE GAME MODES

Creative or Peaceful modes remove hostile creatures and reduce the pressure during gameplay. These options allow children to focus on building and exploration without fear of attack. They are also ideal for shared play between adults and children, creating a calmer environment to learn the game and enjoy collaborative projects.

USE PRIVATE SERVERS

Setting up a private server helps control who can join a child's game. Access can be limited to trusted friends through passwords or invitations. This reduces the likelihood of unwanted interactions and gives adults greater oversight. While some options involve a subscription fee, they offer a safer and more controlled multiplayer experience.

DISCUSS ONLINE STRANGERS

Children should understand that not everyone they meet online is who they claim to be. Clear guidance about not sharing personal information is essential. Encourage children to report any worrying or uncomfortable interactions and reassure them that they can seek help without fear of punishment. Open, ongoing conversations help build their confidence and awareness of these issues.

SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

Agree on clear rules around purchases before letting children play, and use device settings or platform controls to restrict spending within agreed limits. Explaining that in-game currency uses real-world money can help children make informed decisions. Regularly reviewing purchases together can also prevent unexpected costs and encourage responsible behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes spent 7 years in games media, before moving into the games industry via PR and marketing. A parent himself to a Minecraft-loving son, he understands why it's so important to stay safe online.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website