



Headteachers report of the week

I have been thinking this week about the wonders of learning. This term, our learners have been busy in the kitchen, discovering the joys of cooking. From following recipes to experimenting with flavours, they've learned valuable life skills and practical applications. One of the highlights was a mouth-watering chocolate fudge cake. The recipe was followed, ingredients mixed and then the science unfolded as the cake started to rise in the oven. The pride in our learners faces at their homemade delights is truly lovely to see.

Our science curriculum took an exciting turn with hands-on dissection activities. Through careful preparation and ethical considerations, learners were able to handle specimens with respect and precision. The dissection activities fostered critical thinking, observational skills, and a deeper understanding of biology, leaving a lasting impact on their scientific curiosity and knowledge.

Diverse learning experiences, enrich our learner's education, making it both engaging and practical. By connecting classroom lessons to real-world applications, we aim to inspire curiosity, critical thinking, and a lifelong love of learning.

Best Wishes

Jules





Acorns have been using their culinary skills making **Spanakopita** this week. Spanakopita is a traditional Greek savoury pie.

Acorns learned important life skills and reading and comprehension without even realising!!

- Learners followed a recipe and followed the step-by-step instructions improving their comprehension and attention to detail.
- Particularly so this week, cooking has introduced our learners to new vocabulary, including me!



Tasks like chopping, stirring, and measuring enhance our learners fine motor skills and hand eye-coordination. Not to mention we have thrown in some maths with precise measurements and counting steps.

The social and emotional element of cooking together in a group, promotes teamwork and cooperation. Clear communication is essential and supports learners develop their skills. As you can see Lexi is having a wonderful time with her friends.

Geography



Welcome to **Acorns Upper Course of a River** – An exciting journey learning about the course of a river from the first stage up high in the hills or mountains. Learners made a model of melting snow and rainwater forming streams to create rivers.



Chocolate Fudge Cake



Callum's Chocolate Fudge Cake is a testament to his creativity, patience and passion for baking. With a recipe in hand and determination, Callum set out to create a cake that was not only delicious but also visually stunning. I think we can say mission accomplished! Well done, Callum!

WARNING! - DISSECTION



This term our learners are having the opportunity to delve deeper into the world of biology through dissection.

Hands-on learning supports learners understanding and gives an appreciation of the complexity of various organs.



**COMING
SOON**

**THE CHALLENGE IS
ON**

**AS A SCHOOL WE WOULD LOVE TO BE
ABLE TO RAISE ENOUGH MONEY TO GAIN
6 MOUNTAIN BIKES AND HELMETS FOR
OUR STUDENTS.**

**We are having a market stall in
Wem on Thursday December 12th
STUDENTS WILL BE MAKING AND
SELLING THEIR GOODS TO MAKE AS
MUCH MONEY AS POSSIBLE**



PLEASE JOIN US FOR
XMAS
CRAFTS GAMES
BAZAAR

FREE ENTRY!

DECEMBER **19TH** 1.30PM - 3PM

AT WOODLANDS SCHOOL

GIFTS



FOOD





Career of the week

IT Service Engineer

Also called: Computer service and repair technician, IT engineer, IT service technician, IT support engineer, IT field engineer

IT service engineers install and repair computer systems and equipment.

Average salary (a year): £12,000 (starter) to £30,000 (experienced)

Typical hours (a week): 39 to 41 a week (you could work on call and or/on shifts)

You can get into this job through:

College

You could take a college course, which may help you find a trainee job. Courses include:

- Level 2 Certificate in IT Support
- Level 3 Diploma in ICT Professional Competence

Entry requirements

You may need:

- 2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3 (A* to D), or equivalent, for a level 2 course
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths and computing

Apprenticeship

You could do an Information Communications Technician or Digital Support Technician Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship.

You would learn how to install equipment and software, how to handle incidents and deal with requests for help.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- some GCSEs, usually including English and maths, or equivalent, for an intermediate apprenticeship
- 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths, for an advanced apprenticeship

Work

You could start work as an assistant IT technician after taking GCSEs or A levels and train on the job.

Career tips

You may also find it useful to get an industry standard certification like:

- [CompTia A+](#)
- [Microsoft Certified Solutions Associate](#)
- [ITIL](#)

Further information: You can find out more about careers and training in computing from [techskills](#) and [The Chartered Institute for IT](#).

Skills and knowledge

You'll need:

- the ability to repair machines or systems
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- analytical thinking skills
- excellent verbal communication skills
- the ability to use your initiative
- knowledge of computer operating systems, hardware and software
- problem-solving skills
- the ability to work well with your hands
- to have a thorough understanding of computer systems and applications

Day-to-day tasks

In this role you could:

- cost and install new IT systems to meet security regulations
- upgrade existing hardware, software and networks
- document systems so others can provide ongoing support
- set up new PCs for people and train staff
- carry out on-site maintenance to prevent future problems
- log and prioritise faults and queries
- fix faulty equipment and testing systems
- put back-up systems in place

Working environment

You could work in an office, at a client's business, at a training centre, at a university or at a college.

Career progression

With experience, you could become a service supervisor.

With further training and qualifications, you could also move into network engineering, IT security, database administration, project management, training or technical sales.

Another option is to set up your own company, providing a service to local businesses and

This Week at Woodlands

Be your best!



Be brave.

Engage positively.

Sensible and safe behaviours at all times.

Take responsibility

- **Jack has engaged positively this week completing all his work- Great job Jack**
- **Lexi and Destiny have done some lovely writing – Super stars! Well done girls!**
- **Our football team managed themselves so well on a very long journey to their recent fixture. – Brilliant sensible and safe behaviour Team!! – Very proud of you all!**
- **Josh has had a great day of engagement, enthusiasm and reading – Great work Josh – Well done!**
- **Leo worked hard in Art, focused on his task – Brilliant engagement Leo – Well done!**
- **Leo and Ollie K read for 40 minutes with Jules – Fantastic engagement boys!! – Superstars!**
- **Mason and Mike did really well in their PSHE lesson with distractions around. – Sensible engagement – Great work boys well done!**

- Scott was really engaged with Maths first thing on Monday morning – Wow! Scott, you are really impressing staff this week – Well done!
- Willow was responsible taking on coefficients and problem solving in Maths! Then went on and did some amazing English!! – Amazing Willow!! Well done!!
- Leighton engaged in his English lesson for the whole lesson – Great work Leighton, well done!
- Callum was very helpful during a very busy food lesson, he helped with all the washing up and clearing away. – Wow, Wow, Wow Callum! Super Proud of you!

Our **Top 5**-point scorers

for Be Your **B E S T** last week are

Arran

Oscar

Tyler ST

Scott

Leo

Our **Top 5**-point scorers

for Be Your **B E S T** this week are

Scott

Leo

Willow

Arran

Xander



Headteacher Awards

- **Oaks 2 – Shannon for hard work, determination and fantastic work in English GCSE.**
- **Acorns 1 – Lexi for settling into Woodlands with gusto**
- **Acorns 1 – Olly N for growing independence**
- **Acorns 1 – Destiny for independent cooking skills making your own soup**
- **Acorns 2 – Noah Hu for being a brilliant team player at both football fixtures this week.**
- **Saplings – Leighton for being a brilliant team player at both football fixtures this week.**
- **Saplings 2 – Callum for being helpful during a very busy food lesson, helping with washing up and clearing away.**
- **Oaks 1 – Scott for all round engagement in your lessons**

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



Festive fun

There are lots of things going on in the run up to, and throughout, the Christmas holidays, including:

- Free board games days at Shrewsbury and Oswestry libraries
- A Christmas Family Fun Day at Wrekin Forest School
- The Owl Who Came for Christmas at the Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
- A Festive Christmas Tree Trail at Comer Woods, Bridgnorth

and loads more. We're adding new events all the time, so keep checking back!





Budgeting for Christmas

We know Christmas can be a really expensive time of year so here are our top tips for keeping the costs down.

- Are you receiving everything you are entitled to? Turn2Us is a charity who believes everyone in the UK should have financial security so they can thrive. They offer a free benefits calculator and grants search on their website. It only takes a few minutes to check if you are missing out on something you could be entitled to. <https://www.turn2us.org.uk/>
- Credit unions are not-for-profit organisations that provide savings, loans and a range of services to their members. There are two Credit Unions in Shropshire, Fair Share Credit Union <https://www.fairshare.uk.com/fairshare-500-christmas-loan/> and Just Credit Union <https://justcreditunion.org/loans/saver-loans/> Both offer Christmas loans to help you pay for this year and save towards next Christmas.
- You can get support with housing, energy and food costs through [Shropshire Council's Cost of Living website](#). You can be referred to the foodbank by a professional who knows you, such as your housing association, GP, support worker or school. [They can also refer you for a Christmas Food and Gift Hamper](#) and schemes such as [Santa's Little Stars](#) who provide wrapped age-appropriate Christmas presents to children all over the county
- [Our Family Information Directory](#) has lots of free or low cost activities and events to make Christmas fun.



Understanding your child

From toddler to teen

- Would you like to know more about your child's development?
- Do you need help and support to understand your child's behaviour?
- Would you like a chance to meet with other parents and carers with children of a similar age?

Join us for one of our free virtual or face-to-face groups, our next groups start:

**Understanding Your ChildSEND Group Monday 27th January 2025 from 9.15am to 11.15am
at Wilfred Owen School, Shrewsbury, SY2 5SH**

**Understanding Your ChildSEND Group Monday 27th January 2025 from 12.30pm to 2.30pm
Virtually Via MS Teams**

**Understanding Your Child Group Wednesday 29th January 2025 from 9.30am to 11.30am
at Meole Brace Primary School, Shrewsbury, SY3 9HG**

**Understanding Your Child Group Friday 31st January 2025 from 9.15am to 11.15am
Virtually Via MS Teams**

**Understanding Your Child Group Friday 31st January 2025 from 1.15pm to 3.15pm
at Christ Church Primary School, Cressage, SY5 6DHH**

All our groups run for 10 weeks from the start date excluding the School Holidays.

SEND groups are 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 more free online courses at:
inourplace.co.uk/shropshire

Find a list of
local groups
here



Does your child struggle with their Sleep?

Free Sleep Tight Groups

Join us on one of our virtual or face-to-face groups which run for 5 weeks 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
- Our next groups start:

Sleep Tight SEND Thursday 16th January 2025 from 9.30am to 11.30am at Keystone Academy, Shrewsbury, SY3 8XQ

Sleep Tight Wednesday 22nd January 2025 from 12.45pm to 2.45pm at Crowmoor Primary School, Shrewsbury, SY2 5JJ

Sleep Tight SEND Wednesday 5th March 2025 from 12.45pm to 2.45pm Virtually Via MS Teams

Sleep Tight Thursday 6th March 2025 from 9.15am to 11.15am Virtually via MS Teams

SEND groups are 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



01743 250950

Shropshire Parenting Help and Support Line

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

No judgment, just support.



Find out
more here



Shropshire
Council



Shropshire Winter HAF (Holiday Activities & Food) Programme 2024 - OPEN FOR BOOKINGS!

We are delighted to announce that bookings for the Shropshire Winter HAF (Holiday Activities & Food) Programme are now open. Please help promote the programme and share this information with families, colleagues and your networks.

Shropshire Council are working in partnership with local schools, voluntary and community organisations, and childcare providers to run exciting holiday clubs this Christmas holidays.

During 23 December 2024 and 3 January 2025, eligible children and young people are invited to take part in a range of fun free activities, happening at holiday clubs from across the county.



IQUUO – Code to access HAF for Woodlands School

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

SNAP STREAK
97
DAYS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger *does* connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUp
Wednesday®

The
National
College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>

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