



**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

## **Headteachers report of the week**

**Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope you all had a wonderful and restful break. As we embark on this new year, we are excited to continue our journey of learning, growth, and shared experiences together.**

**As we return to school, we are filled with anticipation for the new term ahead. This is a time for new beginnings, setting goals, and embracing the opportunities that lie ahead. Whether it's striving for academic excellence, participating in extracurricular activities, or building new friendships, there is so much to look forward to.**

**We are delighted to welcome new students and staff members who have joined our school community. We hope you find our school to be a place of inspiration, support and belonging.**

**As we look ahead to the coming months, we are excited about the possibilities and opportunities that await us. Together, we continue to create a vibrant and inclusive school environment where every student can thrive. Let's make this term one of achievement, growth and unforgettable experiences.**

**Once again, welcome back and best wishes for a successful and rewarding term.**

**Best Wishes**

**Jules**





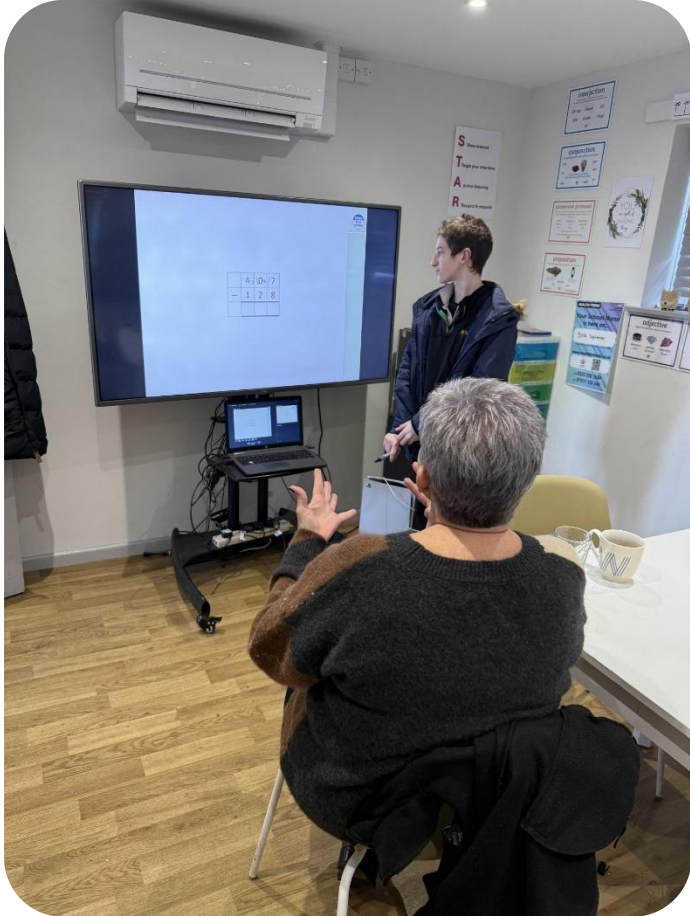
**Welcome back!**

# Making Flapjack



This week our learners had the delightful and educational experience of making flapjacks in the new school foodtech room. This hands-on activity not only taught them valuable cooking skills but also provided an opportunity to practice teamwork, follow instructions and understand the importance of nutrition.

# Introducing Teacher Arran



In our school, we believe in the power of peer learning and the importance of learners taking an active role in their education. Arran, a passionate and talented maths enthusiast, took the opportunity to step into the role of his teacher. (Wendy – looking on and doing the learning) Arran led the maths lesson for his classmates!



# Checking Answers



Noah absorbed Arrans lesson and got straight to work on his Maths. Here he is taking a moment to check his answers. Arran developed important skills such as communication, organisation and leadership.



# Career of the week

## Video Blogger

Vloggers create and post videos online about their life or specialist interests.

**Average salary (a year):** Variable

**Typical hours (a week):** Variable

You could work freelance/self-employed

You can get into this job through:

### College

You could take a college qualification to get practical skills in using editing equipment and software. Courses include:

- Level 1 Award in Video Editing and Production for Creative Media Industries
- Level 2 Certificate in Creative Digital Media
- Level 3 Diploma in Digital Content

A course that includes work experience will give you the chance to make contacts in the industry.

### Entry requirements

You may need:

- 2 or fewer GCSEs at grades 3 to 1 (D to G), or equivalent, for a level 1 course
- 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 for a T Level

### Apprenticeship

You could learn useful skills for this role by doing a Content Creator Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship, or Multi-channel Marketer Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship.

These can take up to 1 year and 6 months to complete, as a mix of workplace learning and off-the-job study

### Entry requirements

There are no set entry requirements, but it may help you to get in if you have:

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

## Volunteering

It's important that you get as much practical experience as you can.

You could:

- volunteer to create and edit videos for charities
- do a work placement in a digital marketing agency
- edit student or community film productions
- work on content for an employer's social media channels

[Do IT](#) has more information on volunteering opportunities in your area.

## Other Routes

You could build up your skills and knowledge using free online learning resources that show you how to create vlogs and edit video and sound.

You could also take [short courses](#) in video editing run by film schools and private training providers.

## More Information

### *Career tips*

You can get advice and tips online from other vloggers who have recently started up.

Many people start vlogging as a hobby alongside doing other paid work. This gives you the chance to get subscribers or followers while you improve your skills

### *Professional and industry bodies*

You could join the [Institute of Data and Marketing](#) for training opportunities and to make industry contacts.

### *Further information*

You can find some useful resources to help you build the film making skills you'll need from [Screen skills](#).

## Skills and knowledge

You'll need:

- knowledge of media production and communication
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
  - the ability to understand people's reactions
  - excellent verbal communication skills
  - thinking and reasoning skills to come up with new ideas
  - persistence and determination
  - the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
  - the ability to use your initiative
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages confidently

## Day-to-day tasks

- You could typically
- plan what to film and write scripts
- get permission to film people or locations
- make short films with a video camera or mobile phone
- use software to edit your videos and add text or special effects
- tag videos with web links for products you promote
- promote your vlog to get more followers
- answer viewers' questions
- analyse web tracking data on your channels to understand what works best
- keep up to date with other vloggers' activity and new technology

### **Working environment**

- You could work from home, in a creative studio or in an office.

## Career progression

- You could work for a retail, fashion or marketing company, managing a team of freelance vloggers or social media influencers.

# This Week at Woodlands



## Be your best!

**B**e brave.

**E**ngage positively.

**S**ensible and safe behaviours at all times.

**T**ake responsibility

- **The first enterprise session this week was a great success with some great ideas and leadership skills on show. – Brilliant positive engagement, fantastic work all!**
- **Primary have had a successful week – Well Done All – Superstars!**
- **Emilia has had 2 really great PSHE sessions this week – and a great Maths session – Great work Emilia – Well done!**
- **Saps 2 were very engaged during literacy and enterprise - Super effort Saplings 2!**
- **Morgan has had a really successful week this week – Really proud of you Morgan – Well done!**
- **Jodie has had a really good day today – Well done Jodie!**
- **Acorns 1 are smashing this week in school – Superstars!**
- **Olly Newbury came back to school positive and ready to learn and has shown real maturity this week. – Brilliant engagement Olly well done!**
- **Olly N had a very successful day of learning. He really enjoyed his swimming lesson too! – Wow, Wow, Wow Olly!! - Amazing**
- **Excellent engagement in English and Maths from Corey and Charlie – Fantastic boys – Great work!**





## **Headteacher Awards**

- **Acorns 2 - Michael H for Keeping calm and being brave while helping staff**
- **Acorns 1 - Saplings 2 – super engagement in his new class- well done Noah!**
- **Acorns 2 – Keeping calm and being brave while helping staff**

**Why not follow us on Facebook**

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

**Or**

**Take a look at our website!**

[www.woodlands.school](http://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](mailto:rachel.bates@wdl.mmat.co.uk)

## **Sending an Email to the Safeguarding Team**

**[safeguarding@wdl.mmat.co.uk](mailto: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.**

# Family First

FREE | WINTER 2025

**KEY  
PARENTING  
ADVICE**

*from  
Netmums'  
experts*

**VEGANUARY:**  
quick &  
easy plant-  
based  
recipes

**BECOME  
A NATURE  
DETECTIVE**

**LEARN**  
snowsport  
skills

**JOE  
WICKS**

*on helping families to eat better,  
move more and save money in 2025*

Proud to partner with  
**netmums**

**Uber Eats**

*Building a happier, healthier family lifestyle*

# FamilyFirst netmums

Here's your free copy of the UK's  
largest parenting title - Enjoy!

[CLICK HERE](#)

There are still **places remaining** for our free **Understanding Your Child from toddler to teen** and **Understanding Your Child SEND from toddler to teen** groups from January 2025 (poster attached).

These 10-week groups aim to:

- Promote understanding of children's behaviour within the context of developmental issues
- Promote the development of parent/child relationship
- Increase confidence and self-esteem in both parents and children
- Give parents a strategy for repair when things go wrong
- Promote reflective, sensitive and effective parenting

We are also offering free **SLEEP TIGHT groups** from January and February 2025 (poster attached).

These 5-week workshops cover:

- Recognising the role of sleep hygiene to improve sleep
- Identifying causes of sleep issues and appropriate practical strategies to try
- Completing sleep diaries and identifying potential sleep issues

**Family Foundations** is a group for couples who are expecting a baby. Further information can be found by following the QR code on the poster.

Please do not hesitate to contact us directly if you have any questions: [parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk) or give us a call on 01743 250950

Kind regards

Parenting Team

Tel: 01743 250950

If you would like more information about Shropshire Council services, please [visit our website](#) or [sign up for email updates](#)





# 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 Child SEND Group Monday 27th January 2025 from 9.15am to 11.15am**  
at Wilfred Owen School, Shrewsbury, SY2 5SH

**Understanding Your Child SEND 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, SY39HG

**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](mailto:Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk)  
or call 01743 250950

Find more free online courses at:  
[inourplace.co.uk/shropshire](http://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 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 from 9.30am to 11.30am**  
at Keystone Academy, Shrewsbury, SY3 8XQ

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

**Sleep Tight SEND Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025 from 12.45pm to 2.45pm**  
Virtually Via MS Teams

**Sleep Tight Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk) or call 01743 250950

Find out  
more here



# Shropshire Parenting Help and Support Line

**01743 250950**

Mon - Thurs, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Fri, 9.30am - 3.30pm

No judgment, just support.





# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about JUSTALK KIDS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

JusTalk Kids is a child's version of the JusTalk app – a highly popular social networking platform – designed for users up to 13 years of age, allowing them to video call, message and participate in group chats. While adults can link their own JusTalk account to their child's and make use of parental controls, it's important to understand the risks associated with the app.

### SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS

While JusTalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a Kids' premium account or a premium family account. At a cost, this feature allows children to have access to more fun features such as games they can play with others in a call; exclusive stickers; a badge denoting them as a premium subscriber; and exclusive ringtones and themes.

### RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS

JusTalk Kids endeavours to allow children the sense of having a chat-based app while allowing parents to set controls (within the app or from their own adult JusTalk account). The basis behind this is positive; however, some children are challenging their parents by refusing to use JusTalk Kids, preferring to use the adult version without any restrictions in place.

### KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE

After downloading JusTalk Kids, parents can set a passcode which users must enter to add contacts. The parental controls help to manage which content can be viewed and who children can add as a contact: this then allows children to chat with friends in a controlled environment. However, prospective contacts don't have to know a specific username. In theory, someone could type in a random name and then add them as a friend.

### POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS

JusTalk and JusTalk Kids claim to be secure and encrypted, going so far as to state that even the developers themselves won't access your data. However, a security lapse in 2022 highlighted that messages were not in fact encrypted – leading to concerns around the security of the app and the transparency of the development team.

### CYBERBULLYING

Online chats can provide a sense of anonymity, leading some users to post things which they wouldn't normally say in person. Combined with the option of group chats, there's a risk that young people might join in with this kind of behaviour, escalating it further and potentially turning what should be a fun experience into something deeply negative.

### TOO MUCH SCREENTIME

A report by the UK Parliament Education Committee highlighted a 52% increase in children's screen time between 2020 and 2022 – as well as finding that 25% of children used their smartphones in a manner consistent with screen addiction. Introducing children to social networking apps when they're too young can lead to bad digital habits and a reliance on technology from an early age.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS

If parents allow their child to use JusTalk Kids, they should explain that they're putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to put their full name on the account and doesn't use a photo of themselves as their profile picture. This type of open discussion will help to ensure that a child is aware of the app's potential risks and knows how to reduce them.

### TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS

Young children could be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they must do so in a positive, respectful and responsible manner. While it can be easy to get caught up in a group chat, it's important to talk to others politely and call out any unpleasent behaviour. Discuss the importance of limiting their contacts to people they know in real life and use parental controls to enforce this.

### DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING

Some children might not understand the potential dangers of oversharing online. Set clear guidelines around what *is* and *isn't* safe to share on the internet, and discuss the concept of a digital footprint. Children need to understand that the things they say and share online can never be completely erased. Even if they delete it themselves, it can be saved and distributed by others.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Apps like JusTalk can sometimes lend themselves to bullying behaviours. Parents should monitor what their child is sending and receiving, check in with them regularly and encourage them to share their feelings (both positive and negative) at home. Remind them that they can block a contact if someone is treating them disrespectfully.

### 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.



The National College

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