



**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

## **Headteachers report of the week**

**Exciting times at Forest School! Our learners have been making the most of our new onsite area, and it's been a joy to see them conquering climbing trees with such enthusiasm and confidence. The fresh air and natural surroundings have truly brought out the best in everyone.**

**We were also thrilled to welcome the National Space Academy for an incredible master class. A huge thank you to Wendy for organising this unforgettable experience. The students had a blast making rockets and using formulas to calculate their maximum height. The highlight was definitely wearing real space suits – a dream come true for many!**

**Meanwhile, our Saplings 2 group have been busy in the Kitchen. They made delicious sausage rolls, learning about seasoning, glazing and rolling out the dough. Oaks 1 also tried their hand at making pasta – proving that practice really does make perfect.**

**Don't forget to join us for our Easter Bingo on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 1.30pm, we are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible.**

**Best Wishes**

**Jules**



# Forest School with the Nest



Arran was enjoying a 'sit spot' moment taking in his surroundings using his senses of what he could hear, see and feel while just taking a moment to enjoy our up and coming onsite forest school area

- Katie



Xander conquered a fear of climbing a tree  
as wasnt keen at first but did amazing!

- Katie



Massive shout out to Wendy who organised a National Space Academy Masterclass from Sarah for our learners that should have cost £1,000

## Artemis and Beyond



Learners looked at how rockets get into space, looking at the different forces.



They then made their own rockets, tested them outside with compressed air

Timed how long it took to go up and down, then used a formula to calculate the maximum height of their rocket in metres.





Next the learners looked at how to survive in space and what is needed, what it does to your body.



They then  
had the  
option to try  
on a real used  
space suit

Which Ryan,  
McKenzie,  
Arran and  
Kien did.  
- Wendy



Joint effort fresh pasta making  
from Scott and Shannon, practice  
makes perfect. – Debbie J



# Saps 2 sausage rolls

Rolling out, seasoning, glazing  
are just some of the skills required.

– Debbie J





# Career of the week

## Hairdresser

Hairdressers and barbers cut, shave, colour and style customers' hair.

**Average salary (a year):** £19,500 (starter) to £30,000 (experienced)

**Typical hours (a week):** 37 to 40 week (you could work evenings/weekends)

You can get into this job through:

### College

You could take a college course that will give you some of the skills and knowledge you'll need to start in this career.

Courses include:

- hairdressing
- barbering
- women's and men's hairdressing

You may be able to combine these courses with other subjects like make-up and nails.

Specific courses you could take to become a hairdresser include:

- Level 1 Diploma Intro to the Hair and Beauty Sector
- Level 2 Diploma in Men's & Women's Hairdressing
- Level 3 Diploma in Hairdressing

### Entry requirements

You may need:

- A minimum of one GCSE at grade 4 or above, good communication skills and a passion for hairdressing
- Level 1 Diploma in Hairdressing or three GCSEs at grade 4 or above for a Level 2 qualification
- You must hold a level 2 qualification in hairdressing and be working in a salon at least one day a week for a Level 3 qualification.

### Apprenticeship

You could do an apprenticeship to get into this job, for example:

- Hairdressing Professional Level 2 Intermediate Apprenticeship
- Barbering Professional Level 2 Intermediate Apprenticeship
- Creative Hair Professional Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship

These apprenticeships can take between 1 and 2 years to complete.

### 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 might be able to start work as a trainee hairdresser or barber and learn on the job.

Your employer would expect you to take a part-time course to get qualifications, either at a college or in their own training school.

You may also be able to work freelance and rent space in a salon or barbershop, though you'll usually have to supply your own equipment.

## **Skills and knowledge**

You'll need:

- customer service skills
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- the ability to work well with your hands
- active listening skills
- excellent verbal communication skills
- the ability to work on your own
- to be flexible and open to change
- the ability to learn through your work
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages confidently

## **Day-to-day tasks**

As a hairdresser or barber you could:

- talk to customers and discuss styling ideas
- wash, cut and style hair
- apply colours, tints, braids and hair extensions
- trim and shape beards and moustaches
- finish jobs using hair products
- order stock, take payments and make appointments

## **Working environment**

You could work in a salon, at a client's home, at a health spa, at an adult care home, on a cruise ship or in a barbershop.

Your working environment may be physically active.

## **Career progression**

With experience you could:

- become a senior stylist, barber or salon manager
- open your own salon or barbershop
- get qualified to train or assess student hairdressers or barbers
- work freelance and rent space in a salon
- use your skills as a hair professional in the theatre, film or television industry

# Woodlands Shout Outs



- Shout out to Kieran and Taylor for a competitive game of UNO after a fabulous PSHE lesson about respect! – Magz
- Shout out for Leighton, working safely and responsibly – Debbie J
- Kodi achieved his 10m badge in swimming – a magnificent achievement considering he was a non-swimmer 4 weeks ago – Ceri
- Billy and Charlotte attended science this afternoon, demonstrating great engagement, teamwork and positive behaviour. – Ceri
- Shout out to Mason for an amazing week – he’s been an excellent role model – Magz
- Shout out to Arran and Xander for being team players in football – Wendy
- Shout out to Mason, Taylor and Kieran for their work in science. Outstanding effort and engagement - Linda
- Tyler ST (again) for consistent positive approach and great progress - Linda
- Shout out to Caleb for the positive effort towards science revision in anticipation for his GCSE’s - Linda



Woodlands school  
Part of the Marches Academy Trust



Woodlands school  
Part of the Marches Academy Trust

## *Easter Bingo*

Set your schedule and join us at

**Woodlands School**

**Thursday 10th April at 1.30pm**

Have fun with your family while playing bingo and  
winning cool prizes



## **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.

## **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)**

**Out of Hours**

**If you need to call School urgently, please ring**

**[07967 763324](tel:07967763324)**

# SEND MEET & CHAT FAMILY DROP-IN

Hosted by Shropshire Early Help



Are you a parent or carer of a child with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)? Join us for an informal drop-in session where you can ask questions, get advice, and explore the support available to you within Shropshire.

**Speak to a range of professionals who can help with:**

- Education, health, and Care Plans (EHCPs)
- School support and advocacy
- Health and Wellbeing for children with SEND
- Social care and family support
- Mental health and emotional wellbeing
- Advice for navigating SEND challenges.

Each session will have different professionals available, so come along, have a chat and find the help you need!

## SUNFLOWER HOUSE

**Wednesday 26th February 2025**

10:00am-12:00pm

Sunflower house, Kendal Road,  
Shrewsbury, SY1 4ES

## BRIDGNORTH LIBRARY

**Tuesday 25th March 2025**

1:00pm-3:00pm

Bridgnorth Library, Listley Street,  
Town Centre, Bridgnorth, WV16 4AW

## OSWESTRY LIBRARY

**Wednesday 9th April 2025**

10:00am-12:30pm

Oswestry Library, Arthur St,  
Oswestry SY11 1JN

## LUDLOW YOUTH CENTRE

**Wednesday 30th April 2025**

1:30pm-3:00pm

Ludlow Youth Centre, 65 Galdeford  
Road, Ludlow, SY8 1RT



## HAVE YOUR SAY!

Scan the QR code to suggest topics and activities for future drop-in sessions.

Spring Holiday Fun and Food in Shropshire

**Book Now!**

Spaces are available on the Spring HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) programme.

Over the summer holidays, eligible children and young people aged 4 (reception class age) to 16, are invited to attend free holiday clubs across the county.

To find out more please go to:  
[www.shropshire.gov.uk/haf](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/haf)

**HAF**  
Holiday Activities and Food

Shropshire  
Council



Woodlands Code is TKBBS

During 14<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025, HAF eligible children and young people are invited to take part in a range of fun free activities, happening at holiday clubs from across the country.

# 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 Group 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025 from 9.15am to 11.15am at Crowmoor Primary School, Shrewsbury

Understanding Your Child Group 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025 from 9.00am to 11.00am at Clee Hill Community Primary School

Understanding Your Child SEND Group 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025 from 12.30pm to 2.30pm at Shrewsbury TBA

Understanding Your Child Group 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025 from 12.45pm to 2.45pm at Belvidere Primary School, Shrewsbury

Understanding Your Child Group 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 from 09.30am to 11.30am at Highley Community Primary School

Understanding Your Child Group 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 from 09.30am to 11.30am Virtually via MS Teams

Understanding Your Child Group 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 from 1.00pm to 3.00pm at St Lucia CofE Primary School, Upton Magna

Understanding Your Child SEND Group 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025 from 09.30am to 11.30am Virtually via MS Teams

Understanding Your Child Group 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025 from 1.15pm to 3.15pm at Christ Church CofE Primary School, Cressage

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



# Shropshire Parenting Help and Support Line

**01743 250950**

Mon - Thurs, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Fri, 9.30am - 3.30pm

No judgment, just support.

Sleep

Child  
Development

Babies

Teens

Behaviour

Family  
life

Toddlers

Help

Tweens

Find out  
more here



Shropshire  
Supporting  
Families  
through Early Help



Shropshire  
Council

# 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 Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025 from 12.45pm to 2.45pm**

**Virtually Via MS Teams or**

**Sleep Tight Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 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





# Wem

## SEN HUB

PARENT CARER

**COFFEE MEET-UP**  
**0930 AT WEM TOWN HALL**  
**(FIND US IN THE GALLERY)**

Friday 17th January  
Monday 3rd February  
Friday 28th February  
Monday 17th March  
Friday 11th April



Are you a parent carer or a young person with a diagnosis or special needs or learning differences, with or without a diagnoses.

Join us for a cuppa, company and chat with others experiencing a similar journal.



@Wem SEN Hub

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about BLUESKY SOCIAL APP

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

With an App Store rating of 17+ & Google Play rating Mature

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

While Bluesky has been around since 2019, it's suddenly taken off in a big way thanks to a significant exodus from X (formerly Twitter). Indeed, it looks and behaves a lot like Twitter before Elon Musk bought the platform. Bluesky has been touted in recent months as a safer, more open-minded alternative to X – but like any social media site, it still has its share of risks.

## NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

While most social networks allow accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through the implementation of group chats.

## INTERACTIONS WITH STRANGERS

Every account being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and move on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being conned by scammers, messaged by predatory adults or exposed to others with ill intentions. These hazards can be compounded by the fact that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide their real name.

## TROLLING AND BULLYING

While Bluesky currently feels a lot friendlier than X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying younger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

## DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION

Established news organisations have fact-checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and can often serve as breeding grounds for misinformation and disinformation. Bluesky will possibly be no different once it reaches a certain size, and children may not have the critical thinking skills to tell fact from fiction – or to discern an informative, honest user from a malicious one.

## ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE

Bluesky isn't designed with children in mind, and there aren't many parental controls on the platform. In an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's CEO originally said that the app would only allow users aged 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesperson later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally meant for an adult audience and suggests that making the platform more child-friendly might not currently be a priority.

## RAPID GROWTH

At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison with other social networks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in part to its smaller community. The app has recently been adding as many as a million users per day, and if that continues, there'll be more unpleasant users to handle, and moderators could struggle to maintain the pleasant environment Bluesky is currently known for.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER

Bluesky doesn't have much in the way of parental controls, but there are content filters which can hide sexual and graphic imagery. These are enabled by default for underage accounts but can be manually turned on in the 'Moderation' section of the app's settings. The 'advanced' Bluesky Moderation Service lets you restrict content even further, hiding – for example – self-harm content, extremist rhetoric, and even rude posts.

### ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING

Another tool that Bluesky uses to ensure a decent experience is muting and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls or bullies on the platform, encourage them to use this function, while also reporting the offenders to help make the platform a nicer place for everyone.

### LOOK OUT FOR FAKES

Impersonation is a problem on all social networks. While the consequences are usually benign, imposters sometimes attempt to scam or groom children by pretending to be a popular influencer or online personality. Bluesky is unique in that it can be connected to official domains, with users' handles linking to other sites; while this isn't widely used right now, it could be a reliable way to verify celebrities and public figures in future.

### KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

As with all social media platforms, moderation and content filters can only do so much; it's highly likely that a child will eventually face something unsavoury. For that reason, it's important to make sure that young people are aware of the risks and know how to handle the technology if anything they see on the app makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

## Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

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