



**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

## **Headteachers report of the week**

**Our learners have been busy across all areas of school life. In the kitchen, some of our learners showed off their culinary skills by making delicious fajitas, learning about food preparation, teamwork and of course, enjoying the tasty results! Meanwhile, over in the Vocational Centre, our primary learners got hands-on with woodwork, guided by Andy. They drilled, built, and explored new skills with great enthusiasm and care.**

**A special shout-out goes to Taylor, who impressed everyone by confidently stripping down a chainsaw – a brilliant example of practical learning in action. Outdoors, Acorn 1 embraced nature with a fun and imaginative den-building session, showing fantastic collaboration and creativity.**

**After a demanding week of exams, our learners and staff were treated to a well-deserved breakfast of bacon and sausage butties – a small gesture to say thank you for their hard work and determination.**

**For those not sitting exams, the week was filled with enriching and exciting school trips. Learners enjoyed unforgettable visits to Chester Zoo, Rednal Combat, Waterworld and the Sports Village, each offering a unique blend of fun, learning and adventure. Our Year 6 learners also celebrated the end of SATS with a joyful trip to the park and Moreton Corbet, making memories to last a lifetime.**

**Finally, a huge congratulations to all the learners who received Headteacher's Awards this week. Your achievements, attitude and effort continue to make us proud.**

**Best Wishes**

**Jules**



# Making Fajitas with Acorns 2

Learners from Acorns 2 turned up the heat and got hands-on with one of the tastiest lessons of the term – making fajitas!





Learners chopped bell peppers, onions, tomatoes and their choice of toppings. Safety first everyone practiced proper knife skills and hygiene.

Fajitas are a Tex-Mex favourite made with grilled meat or veggies, served in a warm tortilla and topped with all sorts of tasty extras like salsa, cheese and guacamole. They're fun to make and even more fun to eat!



These colourful, customisable wraps are not only delicious but also a great way to learn about nutrition, teamwork and even a bit of chemistry.



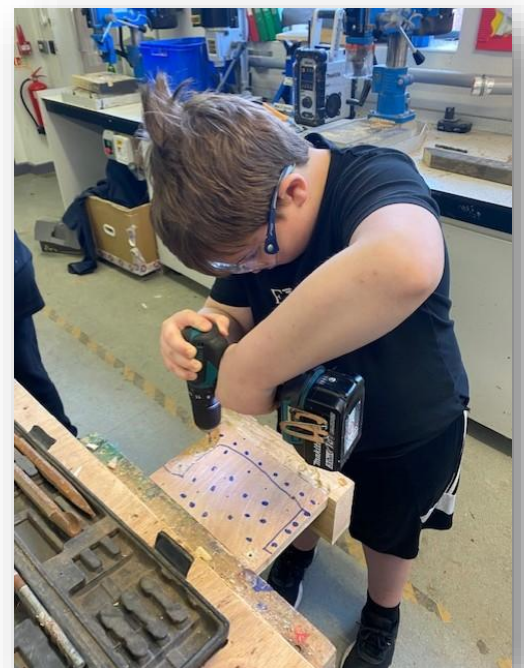
# Amazing Engineering



This week some of our primary learners had an exciting hands-on experience and the Vocational Centre, where they stepped into the world of engineering with Andy leading the way!



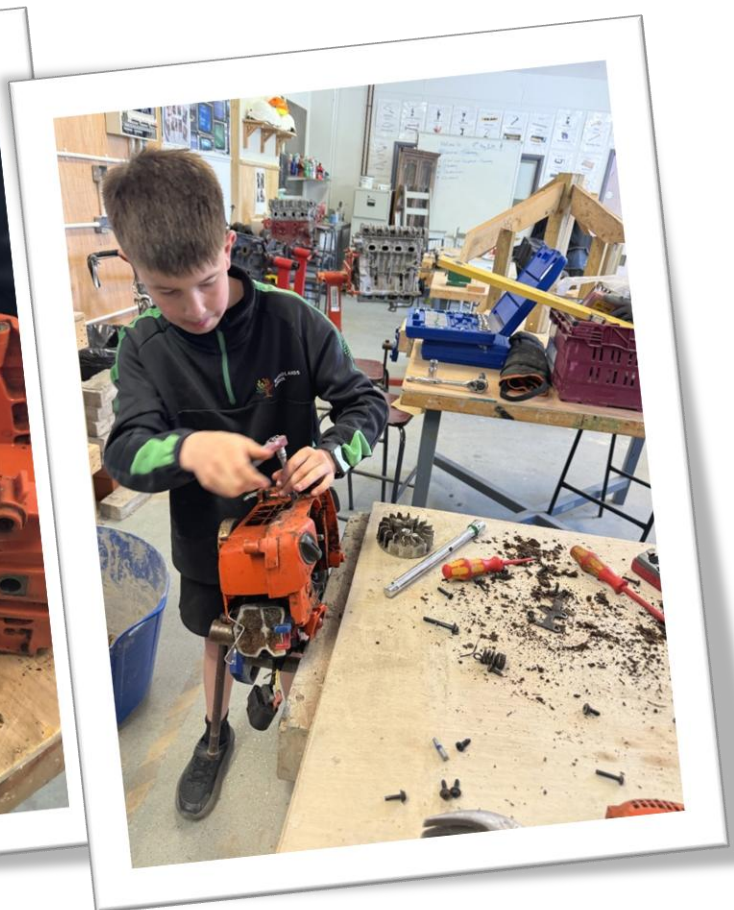
The session was packed with curiosity and creativity as learners got to grips with real tools and materials.



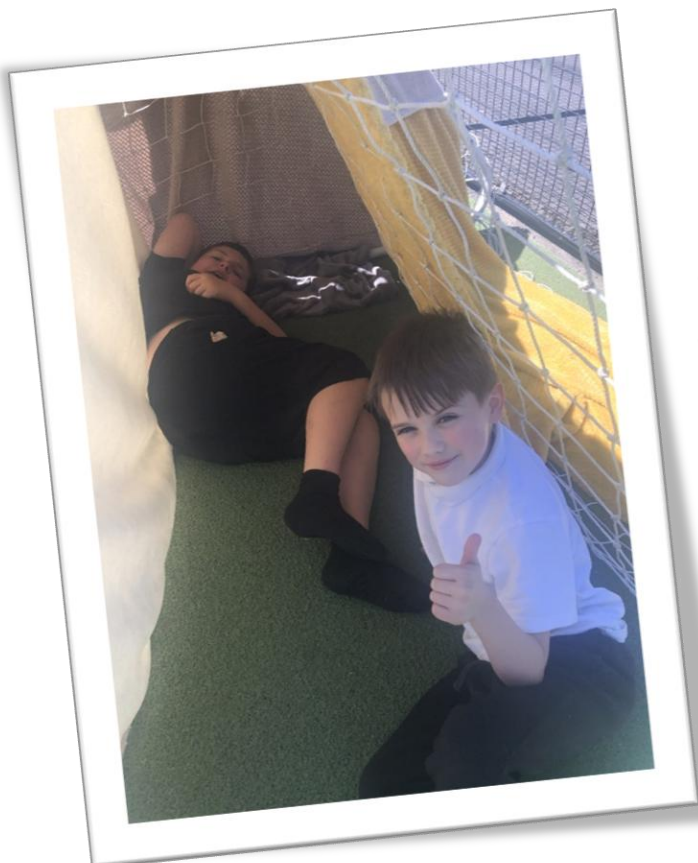


They learned  
how to drill  
safely,  
explored the  
basics of  
woodwork.

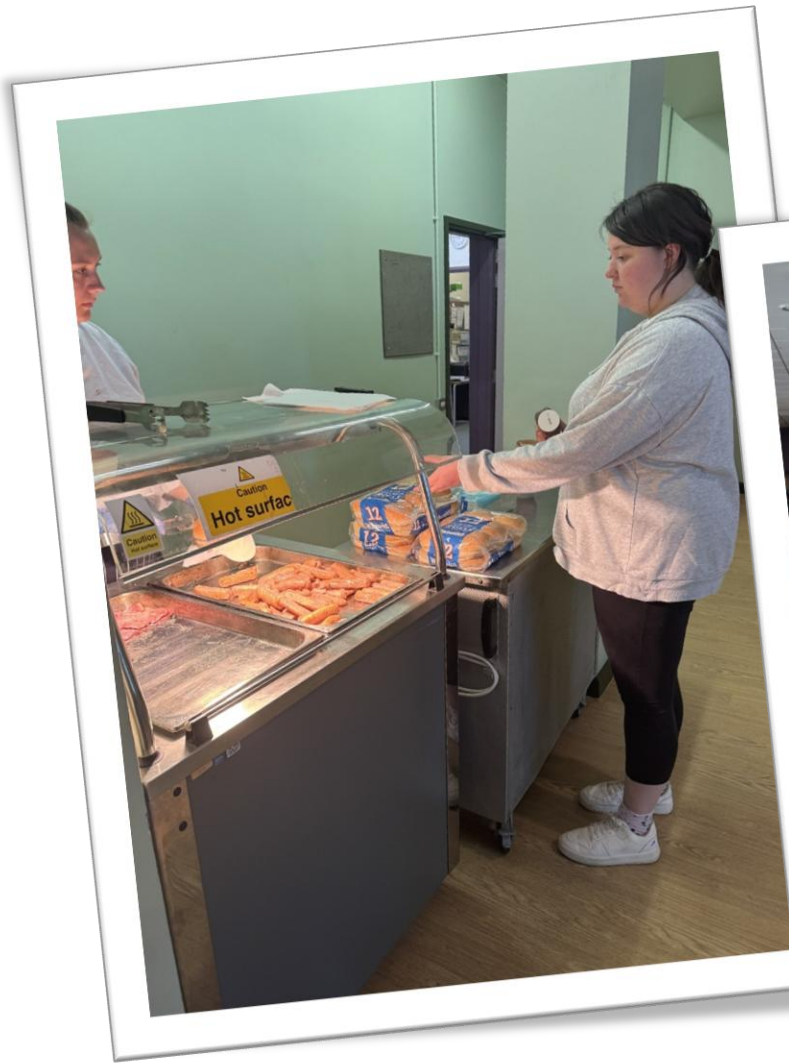
With safety goggles on, our young  
engineers showed fantastic focus  
and enthusiasm.



**Taylor helped Andy to strip  
down a chainsaw in Vocational  
- Helen D**



**Den building outside  
with Acorns 1  
Well done boys  
- Helen D**



**A well-earned treat: Butties for  
our brilliant learners and staff!**

**- Helen D**



Corey has shown maturity and engagement in activities that helped him regulate and prepare for his future.

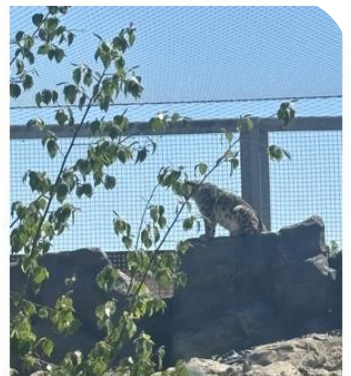
- Elly



## Chester Zoo

While learners were concentrating hard on their exams, another group of learners had the chance to explore a different kind of learning environment – Chester Zoo!

The trip offered a unique opportunity to get up close with some of the world's most fascinating animals. From majestic elephants and curious meerkats to slithering snakes and soaring birds, learners were immersed in the wonders of the natural world.



# Rednal Combat -



Set against the backdrop of the great outdoors, learners geared up for a thrilling experience of teamwork, strategy and adrenaline-fueled fun.

From tactical missions to friendly fire (all in good fun!), the day was filled with laughter and a healthy dose of competition.



# Sports Village



Learners had the opportunity to get active and enjoy some friendly competition. The Sports Village provided the perfect setting for learners to unwind, stay healthy and build confidence outside the classroom.



# Post SATS trips to the park and Moreton Corbett – Maddy N





# Headteachers Awards





# Woodlands Shout Outs



- Shout out to Leo he was very polite and helpful on the Waterworld trip, he really enjoyed it – Debbie J
- Shout out to all Year 11's who have tried hard on their GCSE biology and maths papers this week
- Shout out to all Year 6's who have tried hard on their SATS this week
- Shout out to Taylor and Tommy for fantastic engagement on the trips all week they represented the school amazingly and I am so proud of them for how they behaved - Magz

## **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)**

**If you need to contact us out of normal school  
hours, please either email on the above address**

**or call Rachel Bates on **07967 763324****

## Shropshire Universal Autism Support Service

### Kids will be offering the following support to families:

- The 'Healthy Parent Carer' programme, designed to reinforce parent carers' resilience. This programme aims to improve health and wellbeing among parents of children with additional needs and disabilities through:
  - Promoting greater empowerment, resilience and confidence of parent carers;
  - Taking small steps that are associated with better health and wellbeing;
  - Encouraging setting achievable goals and taking a problem-solving approach.
- 'Riding the Rapids' programme to support parent carers' understanding of behaviour and implement support strategies. The course enables parents to understand their child's behaviour in the context of their additional needs, and apply strategies to support positive behaviours. It also helps parents to develop stress management strategies and confidence in managing their child's behaviour. The course is collaborative, so that parents develop tools they can take with them and continue to apply once the intervention is complete. Riding the Rapids differs from other parenting groups as it is applicable to children with a range of disabilities, and has been adapted to meet the needs of particular groups of children with additional needs.
- Coffee mornings and drop-in sessions
- One-to-one support
- Child/young person 'Understanding me' group sessions.

### Bespoke workshops that cover:

- ASD Vs ADHD (3 hours)
- Neurodiversity (Specifically Autism, ADHD and Demand Avoidance)
- Girls and the Autistic Spectrum
- Demand Avoidance
- Sleep
- EBSA

## Shropshire Autism Support Service



Shropshire Council have announced that the national charity Kids, have been awarded the contract to deliver the Shropshire Universal Autism Support Service from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025. This is the service previously delivered by Autism West Midlands.

Kids will continue to offer support to families without the need for a formal diagnosis and positively the age range for the service has been increased by 1 year to 0-19 years. The services will also provide training for Shropshire practitioners to increase the understanding of autism and how to effectively support autistic children and young people and their families.

[READ MORE](#)

# Shropshire Parenting Help and Support Line

**01743 250950**

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

No judgment, just support.



Find out  
more 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 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



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT



Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

### GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by erasing hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

### ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

### PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

### ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms. Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

### HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

### TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

### RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

### PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 6 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College