



**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

## **Headteachers report of the week**

**In science this week learners with gentle hands met Willow, our school corn snake. The snake, sensing no threat, began to move slowly across the learner. There's a moment of stillness, a breath held, as the learner feels the cool, dry texture of scales for the first time. It's not slimy, not scary, just alive, and curious too.**

**The learners face shifts from nervousness to awe as the snake weaves its way around, reminding them that fear often fades when met with understanding.**

**This wasn't just a science lesson, it was a moment of connection, of bravery, and of growth. A reminder that sometimes, the most powerful learning happens not from books, but from the quiet courage of holding something unfamiliar and realising it is not so scary after all.**

**As we wrap up another exciting week at Woodlands, we're filled with pride at all the amazing things our learners have achieved. From diving into the world of circles, to taking part in Little Sticks and achieving awards in Nutrition and Health. Our learners have shown resilience, creativity and a love for learning in everything they do.**

**Best Wishes**

**Jules**





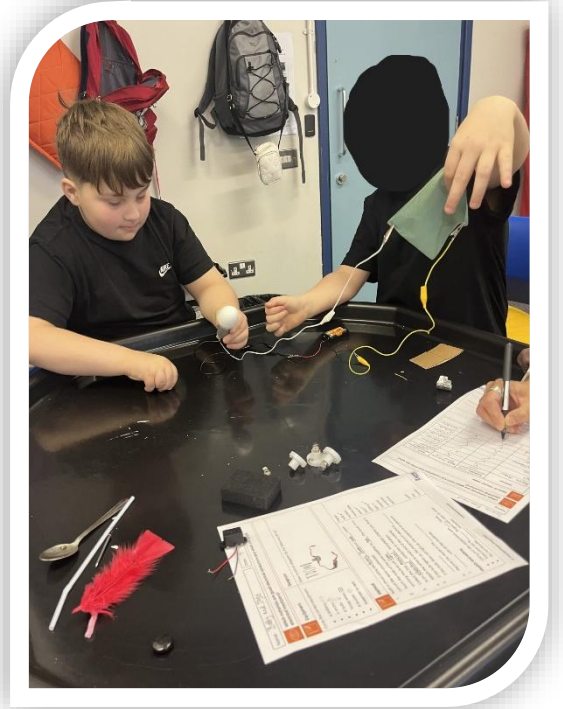
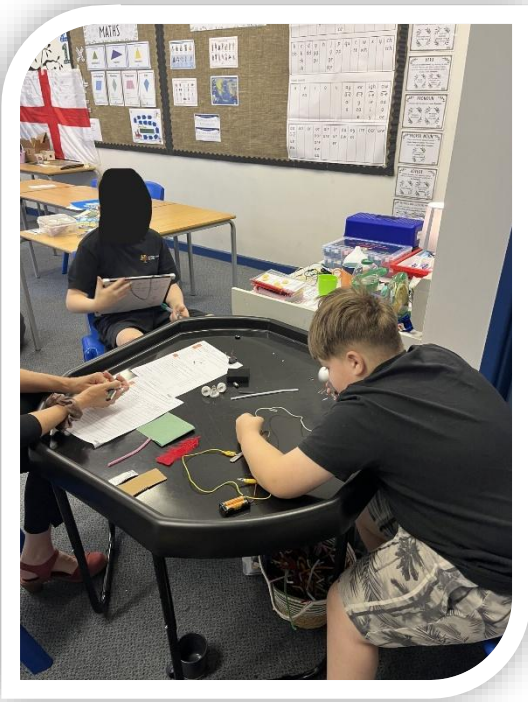
Riley put his artistic talents into action this week with some incredible art.

The subject is bold and iconic – Spider-Man

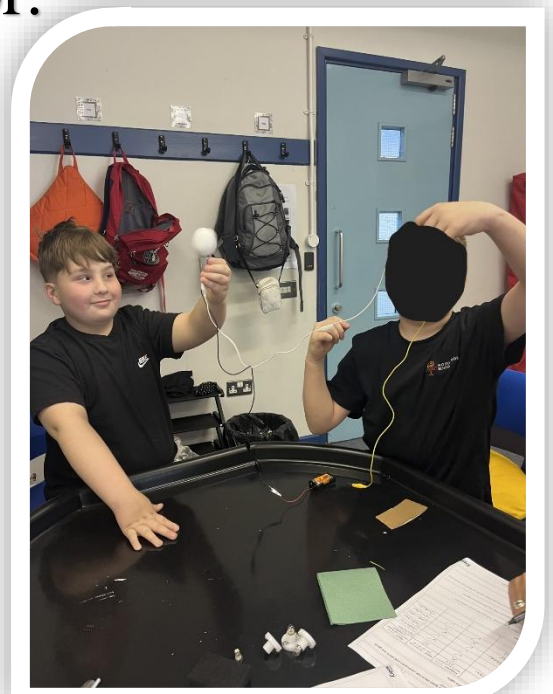
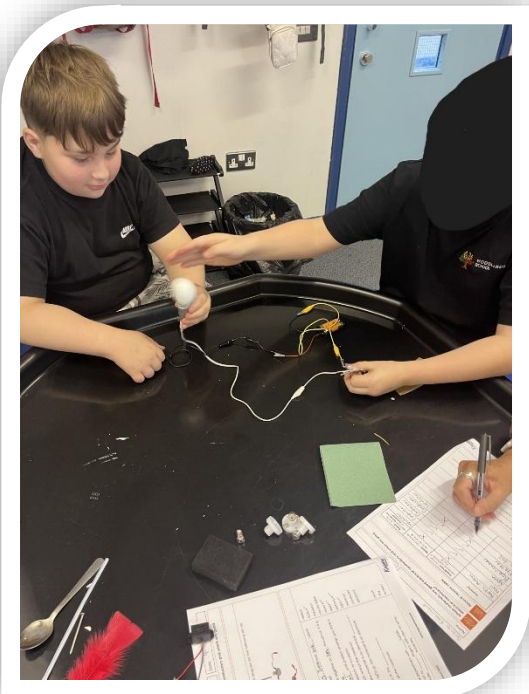


Acorns 1  
during PE have  
learned the  
techniques  
needed for high  
jump.  
- Sian





In acorns 2 Joey and Bobby have been conducting a science experiment about material that conduct and insulate electric. They built a simple circuit and used a motor to indicate if the circuit was complete. They chose materials to test and then predicted if they were a conductor or an insulator. They noticed that metal is a great conductor.





In acorns 2 Billy has been planting various seeds like potatoes, corn, cucumber and peppers in woodlands time.

Today he transferred the cucumber seedlings he's been looking after in class into the beds in the poly tunnel and gave all the plants a good watering.

- Sian



Ryan listened to staff and took on board what was said and had fun after perfecting his aim in the sports hall!



Well done,  
Ryan!  
- Syrene

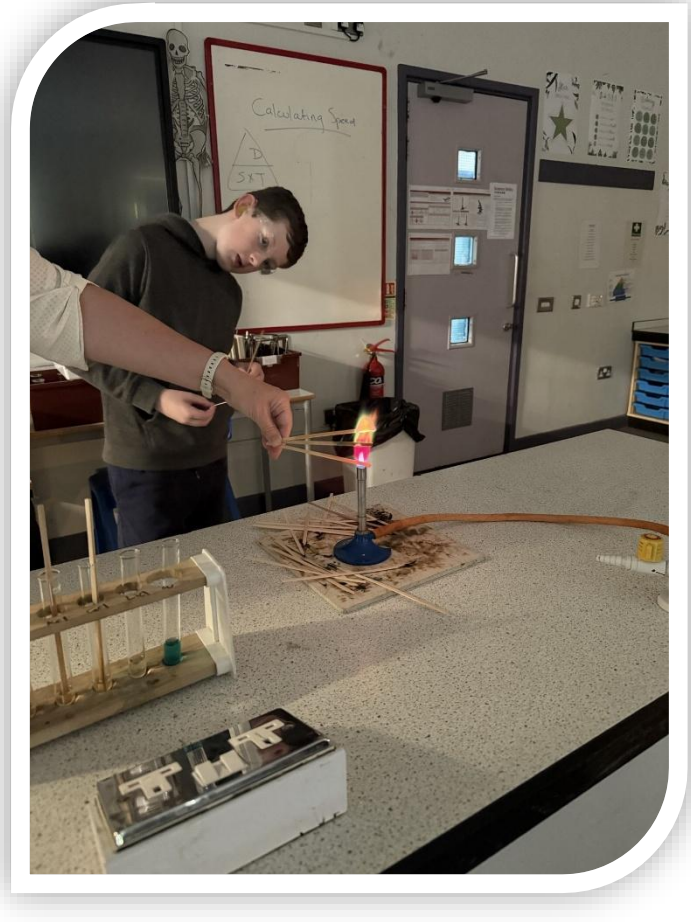
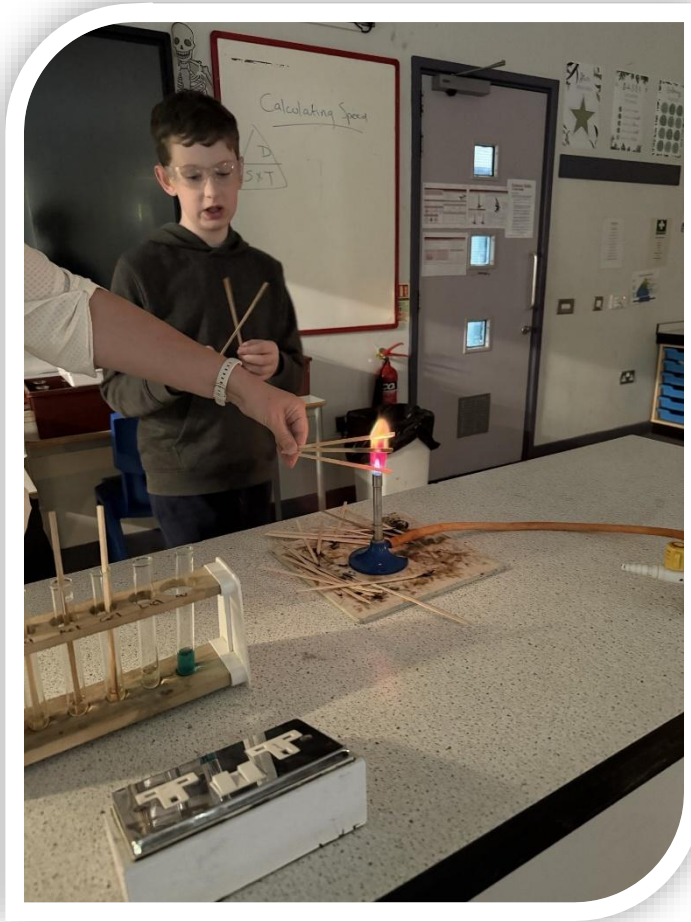


Tyler and Leo have practiced making Tiffin for the Summer Fayre, they are planning to make a variety of cakes and pastries.

- Debbie J



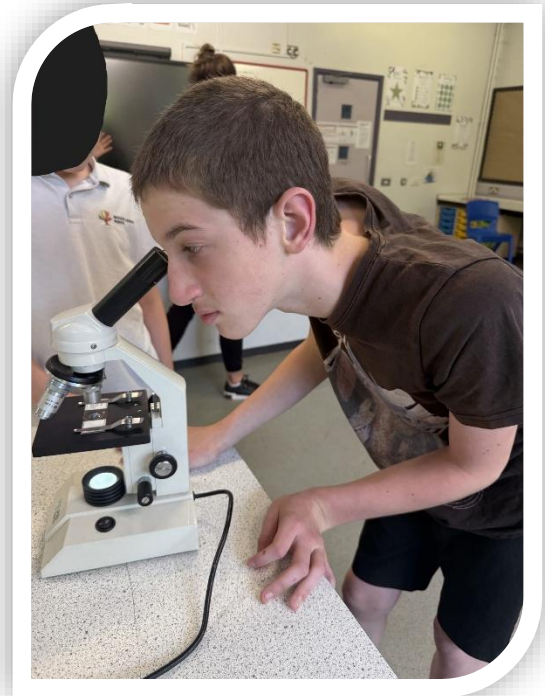
With guidance and encouragement  
Noah handled Willow our corn  
snake. Each movement of Willow  
is a lesson in grace and trust.



A fantastic science lesson looking at different coloured flames when burning different liquid form

metals.

- Wendy

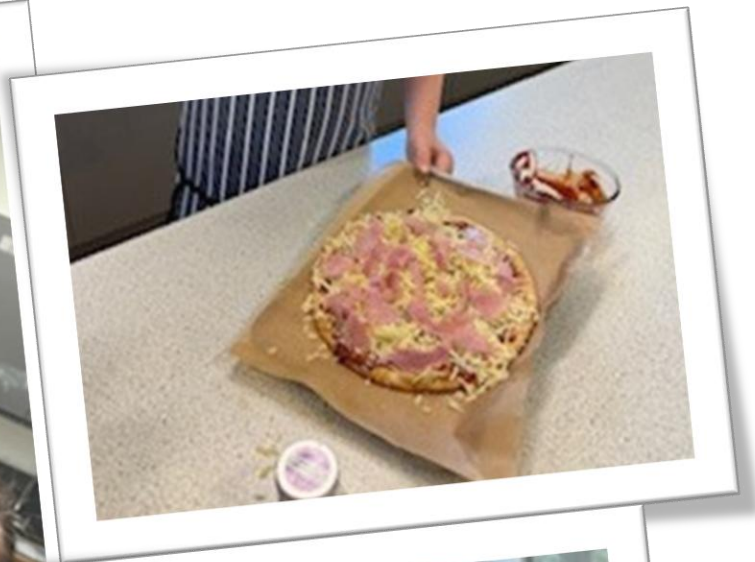
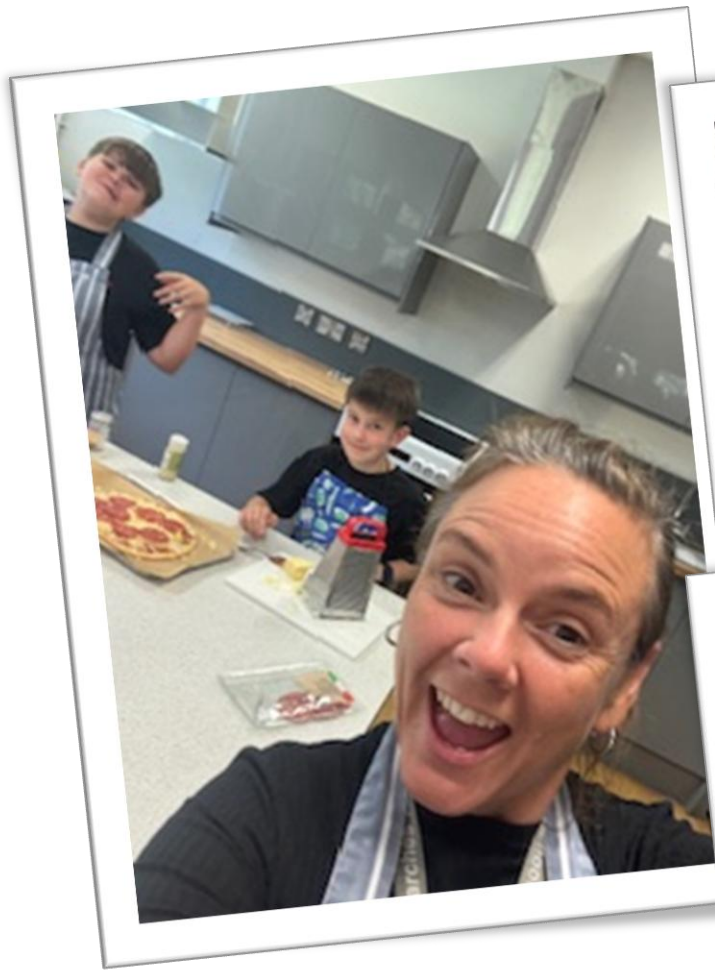




Ben took a group of learners to the Little Sticks Festival at George's Park National Football Stadium in Burton-Upon-Trent this week.

They enjoyed meeting learners from different schools and taking part in a variety of activities





Saplings 2 have been enjoying Food Tech and making some delicious pizzas with a variety of toppings

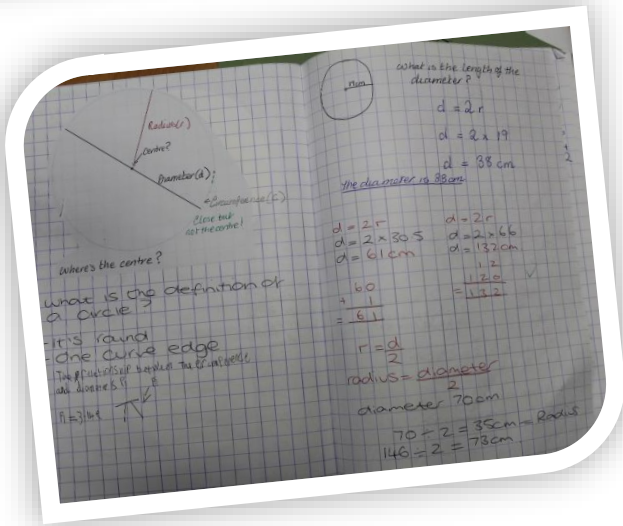
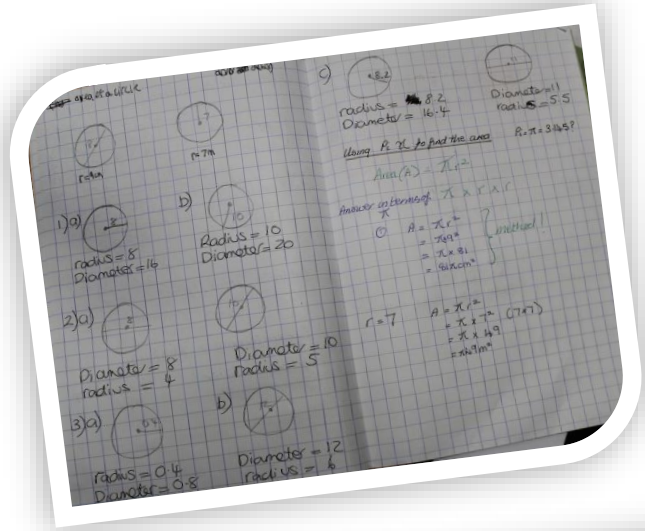
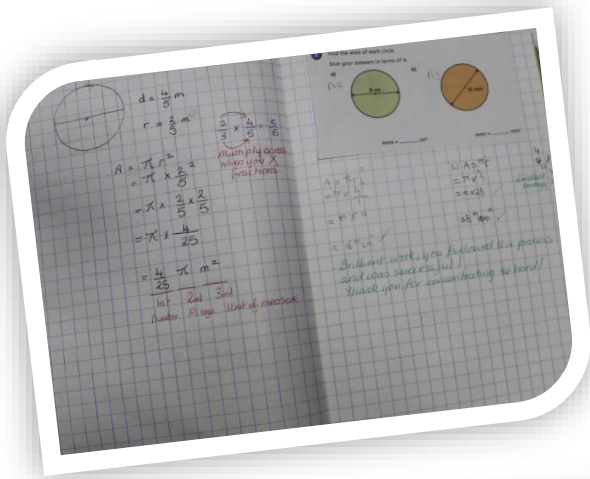


Congratulations to Scott and Caleb  
who have been working hard in  
class with Ben.

This paid off when they achieved  
their awards in

Nutrition and Health

Well done Scott and Caleb!



## Marvelous Maths

Leo took on the challenge of circles, not just drawing them, but understanding them, unraveling the mystery of radius, diameter and the ever-enchanted number  $\pi$ . Leo not only took on this challenge, but he independently became a mathematician, thinker and problem-solver as he wrote down his answers!!

Well done Leo! - Syrene



**WOODLANDS**

**FREE  
ENTRY**

# **School fair**

**11AM  
-1PM**

**THURSDAY  
24<sup>TH</sup> JULY**



**BOUNCY CASTLES  
MEGA SLIDE  
BBQ  
CAKES  
ENTERTAINMENT  
AND MORE!**

**FAMILY WELCOME  
JOIN US FOR FUN AND LAUGHTER**

**WOODLANDS SCHOOL**





## **CHANGE THE DATE!**

*Due to the Shrewsbury Food Festival, the S4T Parkrun **has been moved to Saturday the 5th of July!***

# Parkrun

**Get moving,  
feel great,  
and do  
something  
incredible!**



### **Who?**

Calling all Parents to bring their children along (in their PE kits) to walk or run the 5k course.

### **Where?**

The Quarry,  
Shrewsbury,  
Shropshire,  
SY1 1RN.

### **What do you need?**

PE kit, trainers, enthusiasm and a small donation!  
*(There will be collection buckets nearby)*

**Every  
step counts!**

Shrewsbury Academy students are stepping up to support S4T our school's food bank — and we need **YOU** to join the mission!

Join us for Parkrun on Saturday 5th July at 9.00am and help make a difference!

*All students under the age of 11 must run with an adult.*

There's also the [Actio activity offer](#) for those children and young people who are registered for [All In Programme](#)

The Kids Shropshire Autism Support Service have lots of places on their summer youth club for neurodiverse young people aged 12-17, to book a place please [complete this form](#).



**Kids** Disabled children say we can **Actio** We can grow

## Kids SASS

### Teens Actio Summer Events

**Age 12-17**

Activities to include - Lego, Baking, Crafts, Cinema and other Visiting Workshops to be confirmed

**Can you join us?**

**I can**  
Scan to book



**Belle Vue Youth Club Summer Programme**  
10.30-3.30

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025**  
Yoga & Pizza making

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025**  
Cinema Trip

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2025**  
Sandwich Making and Picnic

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2025**  
Leo's loco Circus workshop

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2025**  
Cinema Trip

**£12.50 per session**



**Summer Holiday Fun and Food in Shropshire**  
**Book Now!**

Spaces are available on the Summer 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)



## Meet and Chat - SEND drop ins for families

The informal Meet and Chat SEND drop ins are for parent carers to 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! The next session is on 22<sup>nd</sup> July in Ludlow but all drop ins are listed on our [Family Information Service Directory](#).

## A more comfortable way into Shrewsbury — Park and Ride supports every family

Planning a day out in Shrewsbury with your family this summer? If your child has special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), we know that getting into town can sometimes be a little tricky, that's where Shrewsbury Park and Ride can help.



From 28 June, buses run every 12 minutes at peak times, giving you more flexibility to travel when it works best for your family — no long waits, less pressure.

There's free parking at all three sites (Harlescott, Oxon & Meole Brace), and fares are low too — only £2 per standard return, £1 for concessionary pass holders, and children under 16 travel free (when accompanied by an adult).

All buses are fully accessible, with low floors, ramps, and space for buggies, wheelchairs, and mobility aids. Passenger assistance dogs, such as guide and hearing dogs, will always be carried free of charge.

So if you're heading into Shrewsbury this summer, let Park and Ride take the stress out of the journey — and help make your family's day out a little easier.

For more information visit [www.shropshire.gov.uk/public-transport/park-and-ride](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/public-transport/park-and-ride)

# Update from Kids – Shropshire Autism Support

The Kids Shropshire Autism Support service replaces the Autism West Midlands service. Parents and carers can find out more information and complete a self referral using this link:



[Shropshire Universal Autism Support Service - Kids](#) no diagnosis is needed for this service.

The Kids Shropshire Autism Support Service have lots of places on their summer youth club for neurodiverse young people aged 12-17, to book a place please complete this form <https://forms.office.com/e/ekVCHcje80>

We have a brand new [Facebook](#) page where we will be sharing all of our events and training along with other useful local information.

## Dates for your diary:

Connect, share experience and gain insight in a supportive, safe space.

Come for advice, friendship or relaxation and build a community of understanding.

Shrewsbury – Coffee and Connect Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 10:30am to 11:30am

Shifnal - Coffee and Connect Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 10.30am -12

Email: [kids.shropshire@kids.org.uk](mailto:kids.shropshire@kids.org.uk)

## The SEND Local Offer

The [SEND Local Offer](#) is a place for all parent carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities to go to access information to support them and their families.

It contains information on education, health and social care as well as sections on the early years and preparing for adulthood.

Have a look at the website and tell us what you think by filling out this [feedback form](#). You can also stay up to date by following the Local Offer on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



Shropshire Parent Council are very excited to share, that following the success of PACC's PFA Navigator service, from September they will be offering an all-age Navigator Service!

The Community Navigator Service will offer personalised signposting and information provision for families of 0-25 year olds with SEND in Shropshire.

Further information will be available in the next newsletter or on the PACC [Facebook](#) page.



The banner features the PACC logo on the left, which includes the text 'PARENT CARER COUNCIL', 'PACC', 'Championing your voice', and 'SHROPSHIRE'. To the right of the logo, the title 'PACC Community Navigator Service' is displayed in a white rounded rectangle. Below the title, a subtitle reads 'Offering personalised signposting and Information Provision for families of 0-25 year old's with SEND in Shropshire'. A central illustration shows blue silhouettes of various family members holding hands. Below this, a section titled 'What can I speak to a Navigator about?' lists 12 topics in three columns. At the bottom, a green bar contains the text 'Launching September 2025', 'Follow our main Facebook Page for Updates', and a white rounded rectangle with the text 'Information & Support | Influence & Change'.

**PACC Community Navigator Service**

Offering personalised signposting and Information Provision  
for families of 0-25 year old's with SEND in Shropshire

**What can I speak to a Navigator about?**

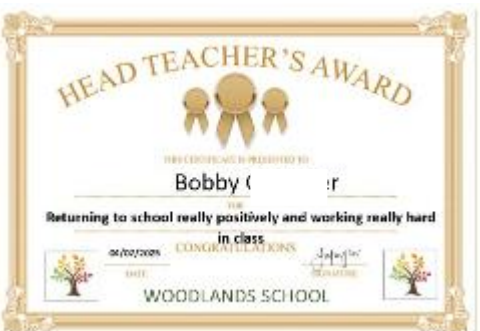
- Education
- Education, Health and Care Plans
- Annual Reviews
- Activity Plans
- Social Opportunities
- Finances and Benefits
- Staying Healthy
- Mental Health Support
- Being Part of the local community
- Housing Options
- Support for Parent Carers
- Support for Families
- Employment and Volunteering
- Help navigating the SEND system

**Launching September 2025**  
Follow our main Facebook Page for Updates

Information & Support | Influence & Change



# Headteachers Awards



# Woodlands Shout Outs



- Shout out to Tommy Harris, he followed instructions and sat at the table for the whole of lunch time. I'm very proud of him. – Helen D
- Shout out to Morgan for supporting his peers into lesson.
- Well done Corey for following staff instructions and being respectful and safe
- Shout out to Ollie for being calm and respectful
- Ryan and Romeo have been responsible playing football in the gym and respectful of staff.
- Simon had a great session with Bobby and Joey who joined them. They both engaged well.
- Shout out to Lacey DJ for taking responsibility and following staff instructions. Great engagement Lacey, well done!
- Willow had a great session with Charlotte, engaged well. Well done Willow!
- Romeo engaged well in lessons this week.
- Shout out to Mason who engaged in the Lexia reading programme with Magz
- Morgan has promotion and has taken the on-call roll!

- Ollie K had an amazing PSHE lesson
- Ollie, Leighton and Xander took part in a successful follow-up visit from the Morris Property group.
- Leo engaged in some fantastic maths displaying confidence and pride.
- Ryan took responsibility and was honest
- Ryan walked away from conflict
- Emilia engaged well with her lesson with Charlotte
- Lacey DJ let staff support her and made good decisions.
- Brae showed great engagement and excellent work in History
- Olly N had a great day in his lessons
- Xander and Arran engaged well and worked hard.
- Matthew completed his phonics assessment, great work!
- Corey went through his Maths test and got everything right – Great work!
- Leo has had a positive day with Natalie with reading intervention, achieving stage 50!
- Ollie made some sensible decisions stepping away from conflict
- Riley stepped away when asked by adults
- Morgan is now the cover monitor and doing a great job!
- Entrepreneurship went really well and all engaged, Tommy and Riley worked well together.
- Welcome back Bobby, lovely to see you!
- Billy is engaging well and enjoying nerdly and wordle.
- Thomas engaged with other learners, played Uno and spoke to other learners.

## **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****

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APPLE IPADS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Tablets remain a staple of children's digital lives – and Apple's iPad is by far the most popular model. According to Ofcom, over half of younger children regularly use a tablet to play games, watch online content or access apps. With their broad functionality, iPads can be helpful tools, but without supervision, they may expose children to risks ranging from inappropriate content to screen overuse.

### COSTLY TO REPAIR

Unlike some child-friendly tablets, the iPad is not built for rough handling. Its slim design and high cost mean that a drop or spill can result in a costly repair. If a child is using the device regularly, a sturdy case and screen protector are strongly recommended to help prevent accidental damage.

### DATA PRIVACY

While Apple is known for strong privacy protections, a recent study found that many iOS apps aimed at children still share personal data. Over 40% of the tested apps sent at least one piece of user information to third parties, raising concerns about advertising and analytics being targeted at underage users.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The App Store and Safari browser provide almost unrestricted access to online material. Children may stumble upon age-inappropriate content, whether through apps, advertisements or online searches. Even recommended content algorithms can surface unsuitable material.

### BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS

Siri – Apple's voice assistant – can potentially override restrictions, especially with the newer text-based commands introduced through Apple Intelligence. Without safeguards in place, children may inadvertently access inappropriate topics simply by asking a question, bypassing certain filters previously set by adults.

### SCREEN ADDICTION

iPads can be highly immersive, and excessive screen time may affect a child's emotional and behavioural development. Signs of overuse might include mood swings, irritability, and difficulty focusing on non-digital activities.

### REDUCED ATTENTION & COGNITIVE IMPACT

Prolonged use of tablets has been linked with reduced memory, slower processing speeds and difficulties in concentrating. Research shows that children who spend excessive time gaming or consuming media on tablets may struggle with language development and executive functioning over time.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Family Sharing allows you to create a dedicated Apple ID for your child and manage their activity. You can approve purchases, control what content they can access, and set time limits – all done remotely from your own device. It's a simple but powerful way to maintain oversight.

### FILTER APPS, WEBSITES & IN-APP PURCHASES

Parental controls in iOS let you block explicit content in Safari, restrict app downloads, and manage in-app purchase permissions. You can also filter websites automatically to prevent access to adult material and disable the installation of certain app types completely.

### USE SCREEN TIME FEATURES EFFECTIVELY

Tools like Downtime and App Limits can reduce device overuse. Downtime allows you to block access during key times – such as before bed or during homework – while App Limits sets daily time caps on specific games or apps. Alerts help children anticipate when their time is almost up.

### PREVENT UNAPPROVED SPENDING

Children can accidentally (or intentionally) make purchases within apps. Activating Ask to Buy under Family Sharing ensures you receive a notification to approve any app or in-app purchase. This stops surprise charges and allows you to discuss purchases together before they're made.

### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is a seasoned technology journalist with over a decade of experience. Formerly a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly now writes for publications including WIRED, Forbes, TechRadar, and Tes. With a deep understanding of online safety, she brings a valuable perspective to parenting in the digital age.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College