



**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

## **Headteachers report of the week**

**Excitement is in the air as learners have been preparing the new Forest School area at Woodlands. This outdoor space, nestled among the trees, is set to become a hub for exploration, creativity and hands-on learning. The preparation process is as much a part of the adventure as the activities that will follow.**

**First, the learners work together to clear paths and tidy the area. There's a sense of teamwork as everyone pitches in, sharing tools and ideas. Some learners carefully mark out spaces for different activities, like a storytelling circle, a den-building corner and a bug hotel zone using natural materials they find on site.**

**As they prepare, learners observe the wildlife around them, spotting birds, insect and even the occasional squirrel. They discuss how to protect these habitats, showing respect for the environment and learning about local ecosystems. The process encourages curiosity and responsibility as learners think about how their actions can help nature thrive.**

**By the end of the day, the new Forest School area is taking shape, not just as a physical space, but as a community project built on collaboration, respect and a shared love of the outdoors. The learners' efforts lay the foundation for countless adventures and discoveries to come.**

**Best wishes**

**Jules**



# Sausage Rolls!

Morgan made sausage rolls for the first time today, he rolled out his pastry and seasoned the sausage meat. He carefully glazed cut them into even sizes and baked them.

They look so appetising

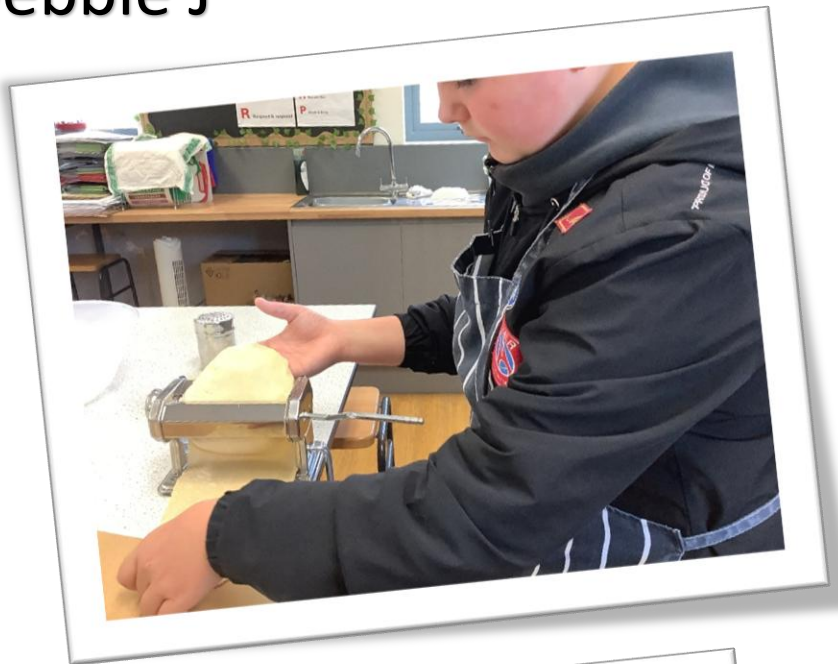
- Debbie J



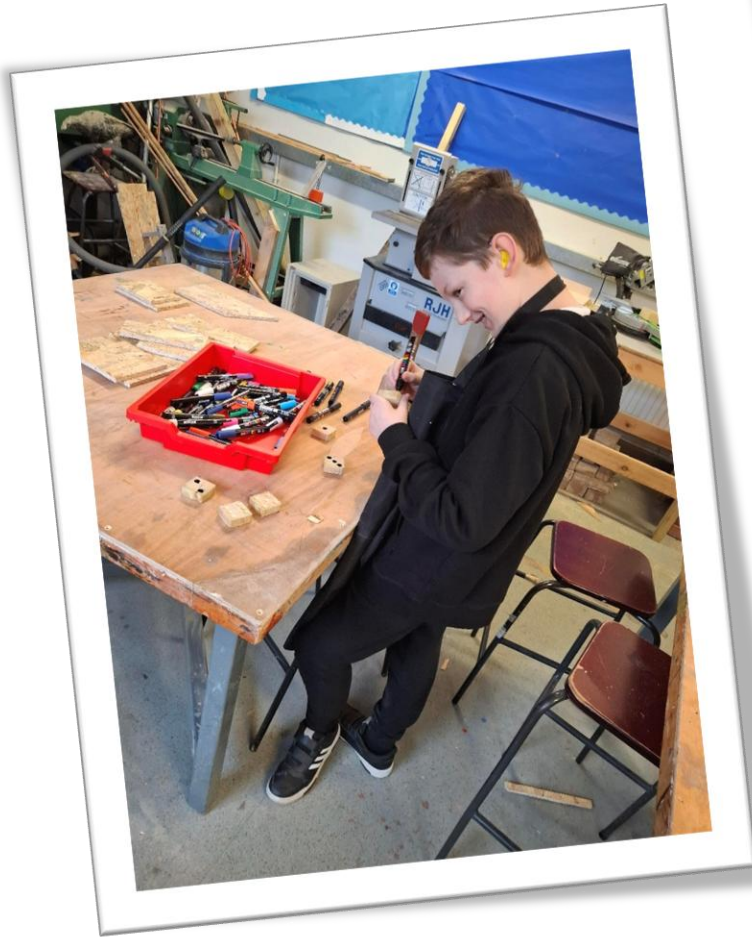
# Fresh Pasta

This week ks4 learners made fresh pasta for the first time using a pasta maker. They made tagliatelle and made a fresh tomato sauce sprinkling grated mozzarella on top.

- Debbie J



# Vocational Activities



Nest have been busy engaging well with vocational activities this week exploring woodwork. Trying out and experiencing new tools and equipment and how they work and finding out all the safety aspects involved.

- Katie

# Bottle Greenhouse

Xander has been involved in creating this amazing bottle greenhouse structure for the sensory garden  
- Katie





Nest using great teamwork in maths to find out the squared and cubed numbers up to 125.

- Katie



Learners have been working together to clear paths, remove fallen branches and tidy up the undergrowth in the new on site forest school area.



**Woodlands Trust**  
Learners have been using view finders to help them focus on specific views, these are in school and Nesscliffe Hill Forest. They then used iPads to take photos, The views can be distance or close, we have focused on pictures in July 2025 and the Autumn term 2025 as it was interesting seeing how trees change not only in colour but bearing fruit and seeds.

- Debbie J



# 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 our free face-to-face group  
Delivered by the BeeU and Parenting Team

**Understanding Your Child SEND**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025**

**9.45am to 11.45am**

**Woodlands School**

**Tilley Green, Wem, Shrewsbury SY4 5PJ**



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)



# Does your child struggle with their sleep?

## Free Sleep Tight Groups

Join us on one of our virtual or face-to-face groups 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

**SEND Group Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025 from 1.00pm to 3.00pm Virtually Via MS Teams**

or

**Group Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2025 from 9.30am to 11.30am 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.



# Coffee & chat



How can we help you?



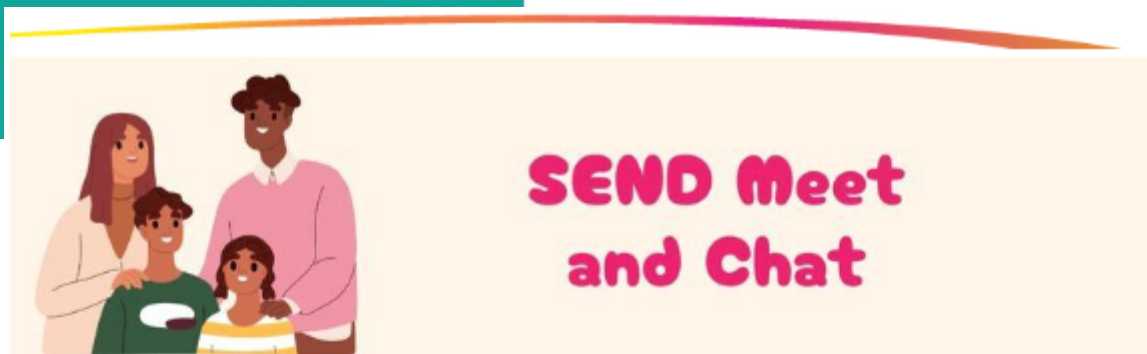
Free info, advice and support for your family  
[shropshire.gov.uk/early-help](https://shropshire.gov.uk/early-help)



You can get free information, advice and support on all aspects of family life, at our family drop-ins. Come along for a coffee and a chat, and find out how we can help you with things like:

- ♥ Family life
- ♥ Parenting support
- ♥ Domestic abuse support
- ♥ Money worries
- ♥ Housing support, and much more

There are drop-ins all over Shropshire find your nearest one here:  
<https://orlo.uk/Nt3iP>



## Autumn term SEND drop-ins

Our Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) Meet and Chat drop-ins are back for the Autumn term.

SEND Meet and Chat sessions are open to anyone in Shropshire supporting a child with SEND — whether you're a parent carer, family member, or professional.

Come along to ask questions, get practical advice, and connect with professionals who understand your journey. You do not need to have an official diagnosis to access this service.

- Raven House, Market Drayton Family Hub, 129 Cheshire Street, TF9 3AH  
Tuesday 23 September 2025, 2pm-4pm
- Bridgnorth Library, Listley Street Bridgnorth, WV16 4AW  
Tuesday 14 October 2025, 1pm-3pm
- The Lantern, Meadow Farm Drive, Shrewsbury, SY1 4NG  
Thursday 13 November 2025, 10am-12 noon
- Oswestry Library, Arthur Street, Oswestry, SY11 1JN  
Thursday 4 December 2025, 1pm-3pm

## Community hubs webpages promote wellbeing support for Shropshire



Shropshire Council and its partners have launched new webpages to highlight the community and family support on offer in hubs all over the county.

The community and family hubs are located in Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Bridgnorth, Market Drayton, Highley and Ludlow, with activities and guidance available to help families and residents stay healthy and connected.

There is a wide range of support on offer based on feedback from communities, from early help for families, domestic abuse support, help to stop smoking, information and housing and more, for all ages, as part of NHS integrated neighbourhood teams.

Whilst much of the support is already ongoing, the new webpages bring the services together to one online space, so people can easily search and find what they need.

[Find the pages and share with your communities.](#)



## Free CBT Courses

Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin NHS Talking Therapies offers free access to digital Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) and various courses to support mood and anxiety. These courses, run by trained psychological practitioners, use research-backed techniques to improve emotional wellbeing. They address issues like low mood, anxiety, intrusive thoughts, obsessive-compulsive difficulties, and trauma-related distress.

Courses are available in group settings with varying levels of participation. For those preferring self-paced learning, the Silvercloud digital CBT programme provides a private, supportive platform with online clinician assistance to help achieve personal goals.

**If you would like support with your mental health, you can make a self-referral by:**

- **Online:** Completing a self-referral form, or chat to our Limbic digital assistant via our website – [mpft.nhs.uk/stwtt](https://mpft.nhs.uk/stwtt)
- **Phone:** 0300 123 6020



# Headteacher Awards



- **Aaron D** for superb engagement in PE
- **Corey** for supporting younger learners to regulate
- **Morgan** for supporting younger learners to regulate
- **Eliza** for helping to hand out recipes, ingredients and supporting learners.
- **Leo Gi** for superb engagement and attitude to learning
- **Tommy** for making good decision and tackling level 2 maths papers.



# Woodlands Shout Outs



- LHugh ELC1 in maths and behaviour good
- Mason has shown great resilience and perseverance this week – Well done Mason!
- Shout out to all learners who went to Alderford Lake on Friday – BEST behaviour from all of you on the day and staff were proud to take you.
- Shout out to Alison for all her hard work organising and running the Alderford trips
- Sophie and Lacey DJ brilliant engagement in Maths, a pleasure to teach you – Syrene
- Shout out to Tyler H, we have our new lunch time sous chef, Tyler was very polite and engaged well supporting everyone to receive their dinner. – Super proud of you Tyler!
- Shout out for Hannah for getting learners to engage and updating staff with their achievements
- Matthew has engaged well in his maths lesson – Great work Matthew!
- Sophie has started her first child development lesson and really engaged – Well done Sophie!
- Emilia is doing really well in all her lessons – Well done Emilia!
- Shout out to Leo and Tyler for doing some informative practical maths by going around taking a survey about what everyone in school likes for their sandwich. – Great work Leo and Tyler
- Leo and Tyler have been engaged and ready to work in English – Amazing boys!
- Romeo, Emilia and Willow sat their reading entry Level 3 functional skills papers. – Wow! Well done!
- Corey supported in Forest School – Superstar!
- Morgan helped Alice locate Schem – Superstar!
- Leighton has been very polite – Superstar!

# Woodlands Shout Outs

- Mason had a brilliant PSHE lesson! Super focussed, well done Mason – Magz
- Shout out to Corey for alerting staff to learners going towards the wall
- Rhys and Lacey DJ have done their entry level 1 writing and Lacey did her entry level 1 reading this week – Brilliant work, well done!
- Lacey A and Matthew have had very positive lessons this week – great engagement – Well done!
- Shout out to McKenzie, Rio and Ollie K for some fantastic work!
- Massive shout out and thank you!! to Alison and Ryan for fixing the broken pot and thank you to Jules for the idea!
- Emilia has engaged well in maths – Syrene
- Jayden has shown good regulation in his session and asked to go back to lesson – Amazing – well done Jayden!
- Thomas has engaged amazingly and come into vocational and joined in with the lesson – Super proud of you Thomas well done!
- Lacey DJ has done some great learning and engagement this week – Great work Lacey!

## **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

# SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

## SNAP STREAK

**97**

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.



#### SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🔥 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.



#### SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.



#### SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.



#### ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.



#### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat 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.



## Advice for Parents & Educators

#### ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.



#### ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. 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.



#### BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.



#### USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.



#### 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.



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