



Friday 3rd October 2025

Headteachers report of the week

This week, our learners had the incredible opportunity to join a live-streamed lesson hosted by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and wildlife presenter Steve Backshall. The session was part of WWF's Happy By Nature schools programme, designed to reconnect children with the natural world and inspire the next generation of environmental stewards.

Broadcast live from the enchanting Lost Gardens of Heligan, the lesson focused on the theme of forests, exploring their importance to people, wildlife and the planet. Steve guided learners through the wonders of a forest ecosystem both in the UK and around the world, highlighting the vital role forests play in biodiversity, climate regulation and human wellbeing.

Adding to the excitement, Steve also shared never-before-seen footage during a special segment on endangered species, sparking curiosity and thoughtful questions from learners.

Learners from around the world were able to engage directly with Steve, submitting questions and participating in live polls. It was a powerful reminder of how technology can bring conversation to life in the classroom and how every learner can be a part of the solution.

We're proud to be part of this inspiring initiative and look forward to future sessions that continue to educate and empower our learners.

Best wishes

Jules

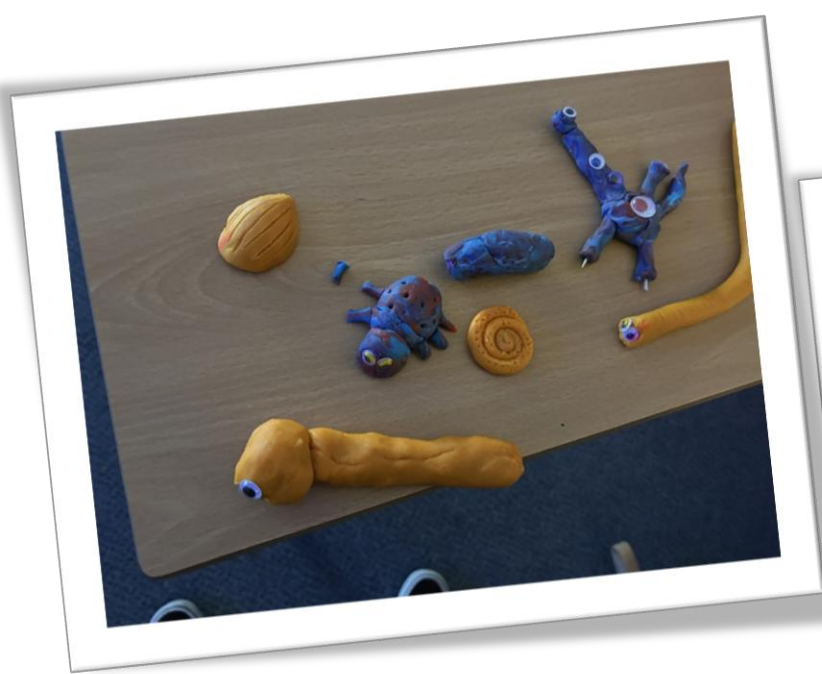




Nest enjoyed a special live-streamed lesson with wildlife expert Steve Backshall

“Every child deserves access to nature at school.”

– Steve Backshall



Acorns made an invertebrate (without a backbone) museum as part of their science lesson.

- Natalie D





Bobby explored the physical geography of the Alps Mountain range by creating a 3D model. Using materials like papier-mache, cardboard and paint



This week, our creative spotlight falls on Xander, whose incredible pixel art has been turning heads across the school. Using just a grid of squares and a whole lot of imagination, Xander has crafted a vibrant digital scene that blends retro charm with modern creativity.

We're proud to celebrate Xander's achievements and look forward to seeing what he creates next!



Woodlands National Poetry Day Competition 2025

Write a poem about anything you like! It could be around the theme of 'play' or whatever else you fancy writing about.

DO NOT WORRY ABOUT SPELLING, GRAMMAR OR PUNCTUATION – JUST HAVE FUN.

Give completed poems to Nat M by Tuesday (7th October 2025). They can be typed, written or spoken!

Prizes will be awarded 😊.

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spoken!

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**All entries to
Nat M**

**You can
do this!**

**Have a go –
Write a poem**

Win a prize!

**Tuesday 7th
October**



Rocco and Aaron from Saplings 4 made pizza, seasoning their tomato topping then finishing with cheese and pepperoni. Next week they are going to make pizza but making their own dough to compare differences and tastes.

- Debbie J



16TH OCTOBER 2025

**WE'RE PROUD TO SUPPORT
YOUTH AWARENESS DAY...
WILL YOU?**

WEAR BLUE.

SHOW SUPPORT.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



LEARN MORE

**SUPPORTING CHILDREN ACROSS
SHROPSHIRE, TELFORD & WREKIN.**



Mrs Jane Trowbridge JP

High Sheriff of Shropshire

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am writing to ask for your support in an exciting youth led initiative across the county which I am spearheading to raise money **by the young for the young** with a panel of young people deciding which charities should receive the money which has been raised.

As a parent or guardian of a young person you will be aware of the difficulties and challenges affecting their generation. The hard facts speak for themselves: 1 in 4 young people struggle with mental health, 1 in 8 are NEETS (not in full time education employment or training), approximately 1 in 5 have a drug habit with drug related deaths increasing in recent years, exploitation is increasing in Shropshire by an alarming percentage – 1 in 5 young suffer abuse before reaching 24 years of age. Obviously, these figures are constantly changing but they highlight the numerous significant problems facing our young. There are many amazing local charities which provide excellent support for the young, but money is tight, too many charities are chasing too few grants, and many of these youth focussed organisations are struggling to survive. Put bluntly they need money.

The young in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin are hoping to make a difference and do something positive to help by encouraging all students of whatever age from Primary to Secondary school to go to their school or college on October 16th – Youth Awareness Day – wearing something blue and donate whatever they can afford. It is a bit like Red Nose Day except all money raised will go to local charities and the young themselves will decide how it is allocated between the charities of their choice. There is also an extended challenge to raise money after the 16th by holding cake sales, craft sales, events or challenges etc.

I am delighted to say that many schools have already indicated that they will be supporting the young and many businesses, charities and organisation have also offered their support, including the Police, RAF. Army and some parts of the NHS.

Please support your young and encourage them to go to school on 16th October wearing something blue to show support for youth and donate whatever you can afford.

Best wishes

Jane

Jane Trowbridge -High Sheriff of Shropshire 2025-2026



What's on in October at Market Drayton's Early Help Coffee and Chat

Tuesday 7th October 2025	Who can you talk to today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Help Team • Stop smoking clinic • Employment advisor 	Look what's on today... World Animal Day Let's celebrate World Animal Day with a special session full of giggles and fun.	Free sessions You do not need a child to attend the session to access family help. Safe, comfortable, confidential and informal space to talk. Early Help Family support workers available to chat to every week. We look forward to seeing you
Tuesday 14th October 2025	Who can you talk to today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Visitors • 0-5 early help • Shropshire domestic abuse service • Early help team • Stop smoking clinic • Employment advisor 	Look what's on today.... Smile4Life with the 0-5 team - Learn how to care for your baby's teeth from the very first tooth! Our friendly staff will share tips on healthy habits for little mouths. Stay and Play Fun A safe and welcoming space for little ones to explore, play, and learn through age-appropriate activities that support early development. Join us for a fun, relaxed, and engaging Stay and Play session	
Tuesday 21st October 2025	Who can you talk to today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Help Team • Stop smoking clinic • Employment advisor • Parenting Team 	Look what's on today.... Come and Celebrate Diwali Join us for a special Stay and Play session filled with light, laughter, and learning as we celebrate the Festival of Lights!	
Tuesday 28th September 2025	Who can you talk to today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Visitors • 0-5 Early Help • Early Help team • Blood Pressure checks • Stop smoking clinic • Employment advisor • Parenting Team 	Look what's on today.... Smile4Life with the 0-5 team - Learn how to care for your baby's teeth from the very first tooth! Our friendly staff will share tips on healthy habits for little mouths. Community and Family Hub Engagement Event - Many services available to talk today and activities available. Join us for a fun morning celebration the community and family hub. See Poster for details - All the family welcome.	

Raven House. 129 Cheshire Street. Market Drayton
 TF9 3AH
 9.30 until 12.30



What's on in October at Oswestry Early Help Coffee and Chat

Thursday 2nd October 2025	Who can I talk to today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0-5 Team • Health Visitors • Shropshire domestic abuse service • Jess from the Parenting Team • Housing support 	Look what's on today.... Autumn Maths Activities – Come and join us for fun with counting and sorting. Early maths supports brain development, language skills, and confidence. It builds problem-solving abilities, prepares children for school, and helps them understand the world through everyday activities like counting, sorting, and measuring. Smile4Life with the 0-5 team - Learn how to care for your baby's teeth from the very first tooth! Our friendly staff will share tips on healthy habits for little mouths	Free sessions You do not need a child to attend the session to access family help. Safe, comfortable, confidential and informal space to talk. Early Help Family support workers available to chat to every week. We look forward to seeing you
Thursday 9th October 2025	Who can I talk to today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jess from the Parenting team 	Look what's on today.... Gruffalo activity session. Join us for story time with Cathy.	
Thursday 16th October 2025	Who can I talk to today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment support • Housing Support • Health Visitor • 0-5 team 	Look what's on today.... Smile4Life with the 0-5 team - Learn how to care for your baby's teeth from the very first tooth! Our friendly staff will share tips on healthy habits for little mouths. Autumn Themed Messy play Encouraging sensory exploration, creativity, and fine motor development through open-ended messy play activities.	
Thursday 23rd October 2025	Who can I talk to today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Support • DWP • Jess from parenting 	Look what's on today.... Junk Modelling Fun - Join us for a joyful journey of messy, creative fun! Let your little ones explore, build, and play with all kinds of exciting junk materials. It's a chance to get hands-on, spark imagination, and run wild with curiosity in a safe and welcoming space. Perfect for babies and toddlers to discover, create, and giggle together!	
Thursday 30th October 2025	Community and Family Hub Engagement Event	Many services available to talk today and activities available. Join us for a fun morning celebration the community and family hub. See Poster for details - All the family welcome.	

Oswestry Library. Arthur Street. Oswestry.
 SY11 1JN
 9.30 until 12.00





Are you a parent carer or a young person with special needs or learning differences (with or without a diagnosis)?

Here's where you can join us: Natter Matters sessions and family events

Natter Matters

Monday 8th September, 9.30am-11.30am Wem Town Hall

Stories and Crafts - Stories told by Jake Evans

Saturday 13th September, 1.30pm-3.30pm Wem Town Hall

Stories and Crafts - Stories told by Jake Evans

Saturday 11th October, 1.30pm-3.30pm Wem Town Hall

Natter Matters -Abi from PACC-Community Navigator Service

Monday 13th October, 9.30am-11.30am
Meeting Room, Wem Town Hall

Natter Matters

Monday 10th November, 9.30am-11.30am Wem Town Hall

Swimming - Whitchurch Swimming Pool

Date TBC (November), Sunday 11am-12pm

Natter Matters

Monday 8th Decmeber, 9.30am-11.30am Wem Town Hall

Please book on to events via the Wem SEN Hub Facebook Page

**WEM TOWN HALL
SEN EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**



Relaxed Screening of Hotel Transylvania

Tuesday 28th October, 1.30pm - Wem Town Hall

Wem Town Hall Halloween Crafts SEN Session

Friday 31st October 1pm-2pm

Relaxed Screening of Polar Express (PJs Welcome)

Saturday 20th December, 1.30pm, Wem Town Hall

please book for these events directly with Wem Town Hall

You can also find us at

Wem Market every Thursday until 9th October

Wem Car boot - Sunday 14th September
9.00am-12.00pm Wem Recreational Ground

Quiet Space during
Wem Christmas Lights and Festival
1pm-6pm, Wem Town Hall



**Events coming in the
New Year**

The Animal Family
and
Keystage Circus

As part of the Telford & Wrekin Start for Life initiative, there are FREE places available for **Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin** PARENTS/ PARENTS TO BE to attend a Baby and child **First Aid and Accident Prevention** class run by

MINI FIRST AID + SHROPSHIRE



DRINKS AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

FIND YOUR NEXT CLASS:

[HTTP://bookwhen.com/mfashropshirecombined](http://bookwhen.com/mfashropshirecombined)



FREE GIFT PER FAMILY ATTENDING
Terms and conditions apply





ADDITIONAL NEEDS EVENING

Saturday 25th October 2025
6:00pm – 8:00pm



- No music played (only essential announcements)
- Guest numbers capped to reduce queuing
- Friendly team on hand to assist guests and families
- Flotation devices available to use
- Ride slides with a carer
- All rides and attractions open (excluding the Nucleus and Outdoor Pool)



AUTISM FRIENDLY

Tickets now available online
Booking is essential

Book online at:

www.waterworld.co.uk/#upcoming

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?



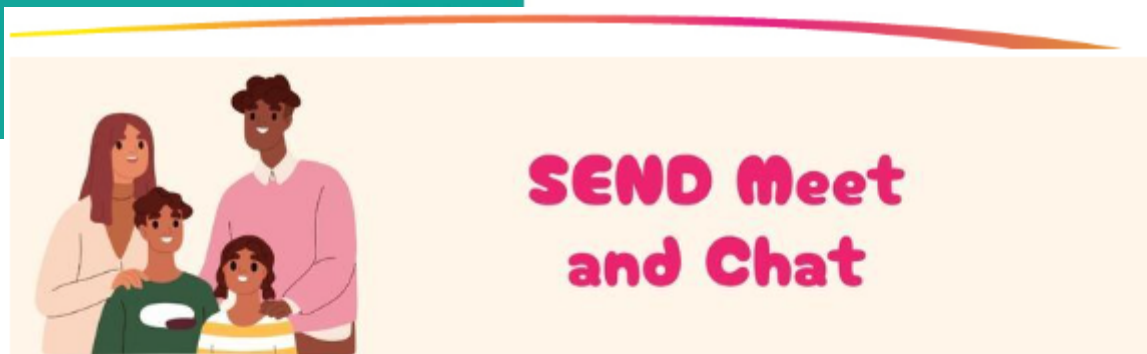
Free info, advice and support for your family
shropshire.gov.uk/early-help



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
- **Phone:** 0300 123 6020

Woodlands Shout Outs



- Shout out to Morgan for helping with food in the dining hall and the lists – Great job Morgan!
- Zane and Matthew have completed their Salford tests – Brilliant work boys, well done!
- Noah Ho engagement in art lessons – Amazing, Noah well done!
- Kieran apologised, taking responsibility and had a positive day – Proud of you for apologising Kieran well done!
- Shout out to Sophie for positive engagement and completing her Entry level 1 writing paper.
- Emilia and Sophie had a fantastic Just Dance session at the end of their child development lesson. – Great work girls!
- Emilia and Romeo were respectful and waited for doors to be opened for them – Proud of both of you, well done!
- Shout out to Lincoln who has been in all his lessons – Well done!
- Brae has engaged well with his English and done his base line – Great work Brae.
- Lacey has been amazingly helpful and made all staff labels! – Amazing Lacey
- Shout out to our Woodlands football team who won 4 – 2!! – Well done boys!!
- Shout out to Cody who engaged in the football and took part, we're so proud of you Cody!
- Shout out to man of the match – our very own Riley!!!
- Rhys engaged positively with reception, very polite and patient – super proud of you Rhys, well done!
- Matthew showed his strategic thinking and negotiation skills during a lively session of Monopoly. Shout out to Matthew who calmly played on when Maddy N took all his money – Super proud of you Matthew!



Headteacher Awards



- **Aaron Do** for being engaged and listening to instructions
- **Bobby** for achieving your 25 metre swimming badge
- **Brae** for a positive start on his lexia assessment
- **Jayden** for being brave, taking responsibility, displaying safe and sensible behaviour and engaging well in a restorative
- **Joey** for achieving your 25 metre swimming badge
- **Matthew** for good engagement in your maths this week
- **Ollie C** for achieving your 25 metre swimming badge
- **Rocco** for being engaged and listening to instructions
- **Ryan** for taking responsibility and apologising to another learner
- **Taylor** for being brave, taking responsibility, displaying safe and sensible behaviour and engaging well in a restorative.
- **Zane** for amazing engagement this week



Sending an Email to the Safeguarding Team

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

Or

**Join the conversation - We love hearing from you!
Share your thoughts, questions, and suggestions
with us.**

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 EA SPORTS FC 26



Our guide looks at the risks surrounding EA Sports FC 26 and our top tips to minimise them. This marks the third year since EA left the FIFA licence, and the game is mostly unchanged from last year. While Kick-Off mode is great for playing with friends and Career Mode allows players to fulfil long-term ambitions as a manager or player, Ultimate Team remains the main draw for many players – and it can get out of hand in terms of how much money players can invest.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

As was the case with the last two EA Sports FC games and the FIFA series before it, the franchise rolls out once a year with updated squads and new features. This can make it expensive to keep up with, particularly when so many dedicated players are keen to get their hands on the latest edition.

VOICE CHAT

Voice chat can be enabled across all platforms, meaning young people can speak to anyone they play with or against. While it can be switched off, some children will no doubt want to speak to their friends while they play. This also means they may encounter strangers much older than them, which can expose them to inappropriate language or behaviours.

IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is the big draw for EA Sports FC, letting players spend real money on packs that they can open to build a squad of the world's best players. They're not always easy to obtain, and new, improved versions of players will be regularly added as limited-time offerings. Young people could feel pressured into spending money and experience fear of missing out.

SCAMMERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is managed by EA itself, but that hasn't stopped scammers from looking to dupe players out of money and in-game coins. Some scammers sell their accounts, which is a violation of EA's terms of service, while others will 'sell' coins – something the developer is still working to crack down on. Some try to gain access to others' accounts, potentially giving them access to payment information.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

While EA Sports FC is potentially addictive, thanks to its fast-paced gameplay and mirroring of the real-world skill and glamour of football, Ultimate Team's focus on limited-time rewards and the lottery of winning packs can make it feel closer to gambling than gaming, which may lead to addiction and impulsive spending of money.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR

The annual-release cadence aligns with the return of the school year, and can be a great way to incentivise good behaviour at the start of term. If children are applying themselves and preparing for a new year of school, or were particularly well behaved in the summer, EA Sports FC 26 could make a great reward.

LIMIT SPENDING

If you're worried about children accidentally spending real money in Ultimate Team, whether in game or on the EA Sports FC companion app, don't link a payment card to their account. Reclaiming funds can be a mountain to climb, and the dopamine hit of opening flashy packs with slick animations means one purchase can lead to another very quickly. It's also worth adding a prepaid card if you'd prefer them to make their own choices with their budget.

MONITOR VOICE CHAT

As in-game chat is open, be sure to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to call, to allow them to play without fear of outsiders.

BE VIGILANT

As with last year, there are ways to keep scammers at bay. Ensure passwords are locked down, and consider using a password manager application to keep them secure. EA will never contact players through the game itself, so be vigilant with incoming messages, and block and report suspected spam. EA will contact players by email if needed, but they will never ask for usernames or passwords. Players should also avoid buying in-game currency from unofficial websites – doing so can lead to accounts being banned and could cost players money in the process.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.

