



Friday 10th October 2025

Headteachers report of the week

This week, our Acorns 3 learners brought the spirit of Diwali to life with a joyful diya making activity. They rolled, shaped and painted their very own clay lamps, each one a glowing symbol of light, love and creativity.

The classroom was filled with excitement as learners explored the textures of clay, as they carefully moulded their diyas. As they worked, stories were shared about the Festival of Lights, how Diwali celebrates the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. Learners listened with wide eyes, connecting their creations to the deeper meaning of the celebration.

Our creative little artists went on to explore a deliciously fun way to celebrate Diwali by making rangoli patterns using food. Instead of traditional powders, learners used lentils, rice, spices and pulses to design vibrant, textured rangoli art.

From bright yellow turmeric to deep red chilli powder and green mung beans to white rice, learners arranged their ingredients into shapes and patterns. It was a sensory-rich experience that combined art, culture and play and the results were stunning!

As they worked, they talked about how rangoli is used to welcome guests and bring good luck during Diwali. Learners loved learning that something as simple as food could be transformed into something so meaningful and beautiful.

Best wishes

Jules





Diwali

This week, Acorns 3 celebrated the spirit of Diwali by creating their very own handmade diyas.

As learners made their diyas, we talked about the meaning of Diwali, how lighting diyas brings hope, happiness, and the promise of new beginnings.



Acorns 3 explored a colourful and creative way to celebrate Diwali by making rangoli patterns using food! Using everyday ingredients like rice, lentils, spices and pulses, they designed beautiful rangoli art full of texture and tradition.



Our learners took their imaginative play to a whole new level by combining toy cars with natural materials like rice, lentils and couscous. Using these grains to create textured roads, tracks and landscapes, learners explored movement, sound and touch in a wonderfully sensory-rich activity.



As they pushed their cars through soft couscous and bumpy lentils, they discovered how different surfaces affect speed and direction, turning playtime into a fun learning.

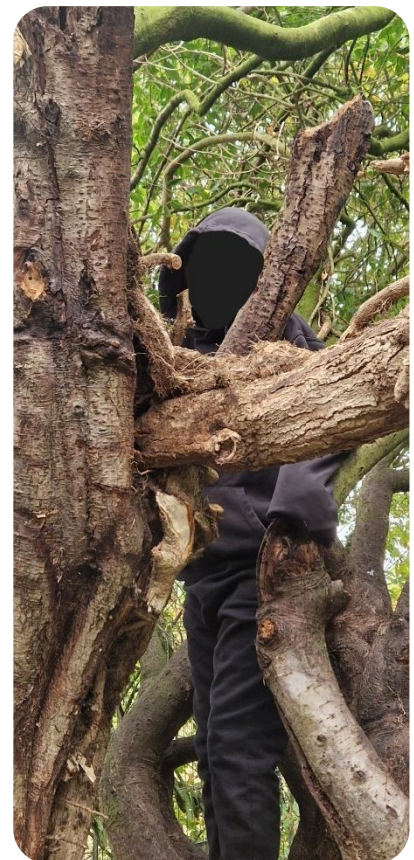
Shout Out



We're so proud to celebrate a fantastic achievement this week, several of our learners have been awarded their 25 metre swimming badges! Well done to Bobby, Joey and Ollie.



This week, our young explorers took to the trees. With careful guidance and plenty of encouragement, Acorns 3 enjoyed the thrill of climbing trees in Forest School.



As they found their balance and confidence, they grew in courage and coordination. Acorns 3 experienced Woodlands from a new perspective.



Our learners embraced the autumn spirit with a hands-on pumpkin carving activity. Surrounded by nature, learners worked together to scoop, shape and carve their pumpkins, turning them into spooky and creative masterpieces.

A wonderful way to celebrate the season, connect with nature and enjoy some messy memorable fun!

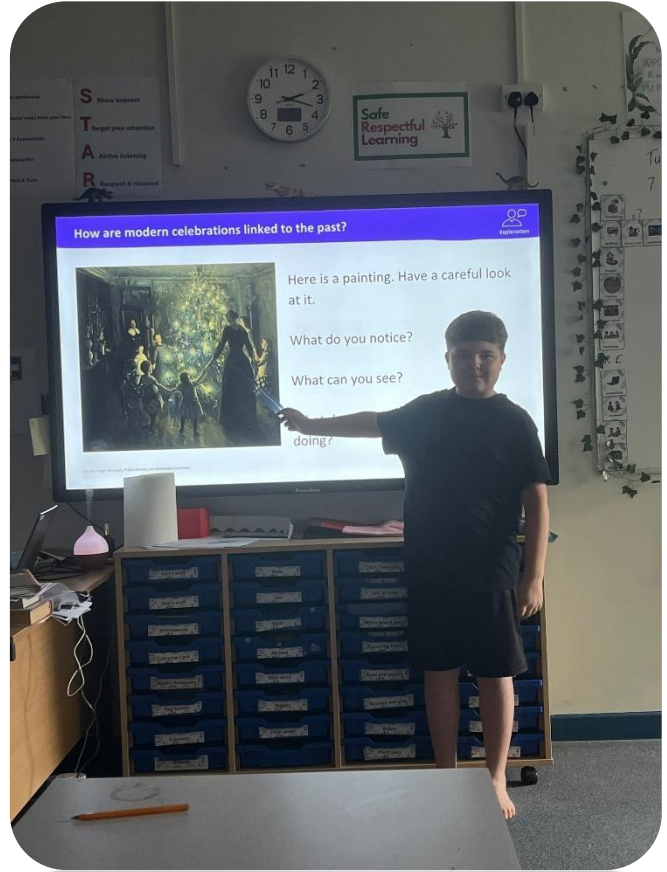
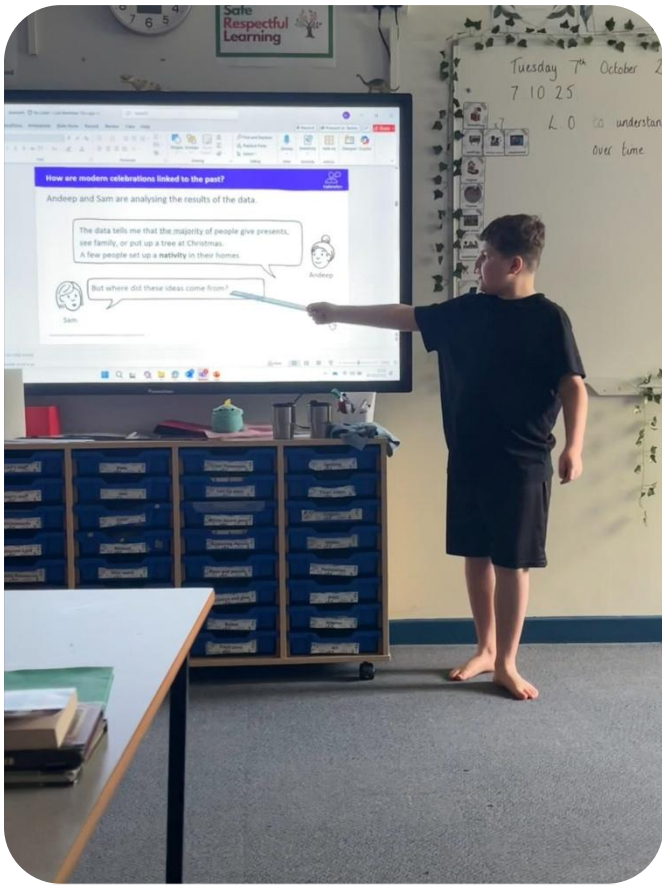




Saplings 2 made
Peppermint
creams dipped in
milk chocolate.

They are
practicing ideas
for the Christmas
Fayre.

- Debbie J



Who's this new teacher with the mighty ruler and dramatic flair? It's Oscar from Acorns 1, taking over RE class like he owns the place! With a booming "Let's talk Christmas!" he launched into a whirlwind lesson on festive traditions, faiths in the UK and a vote on how we personally celebrate making comparisons. His classmates thoroughly enjoyed his lesson and request he teaches again.

- Sian



Acorns visited Italy and made creamy pasta. They used their knife skills to chop up spring onions, garlic, mushrooms and ham.

- Sian



Things heated up in the kitchen when learners got it all on the stove -
Sian





It was Oscar's birthday and Acorns celebrated with a cappuccino cake
- Sian

In English we are reading Gullivers travels. We created persuasive posters to persuade people not to come visit the scary giant.

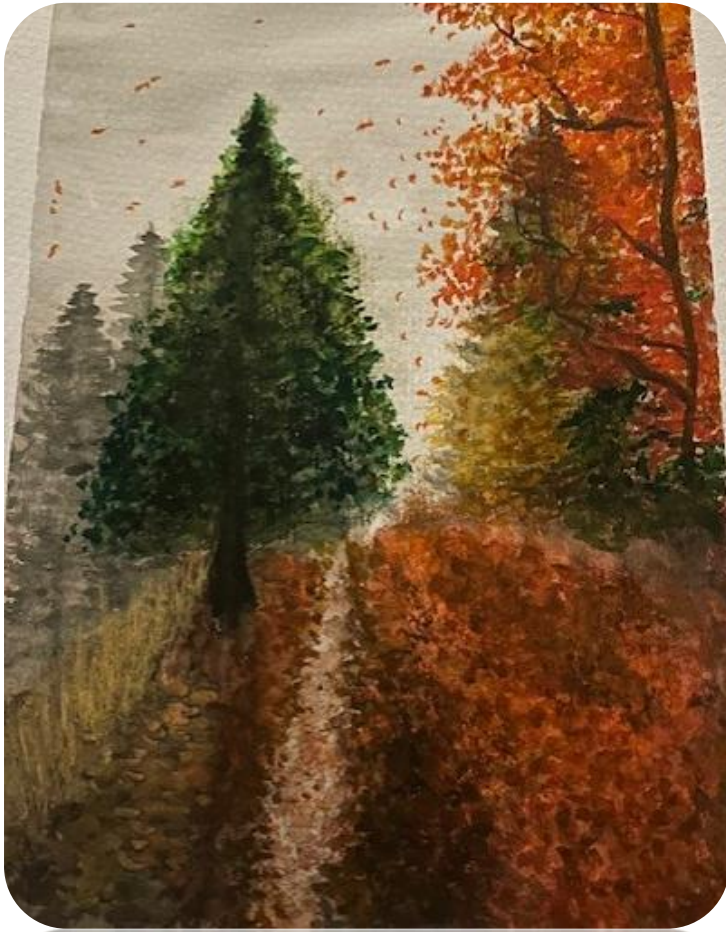
- Sian



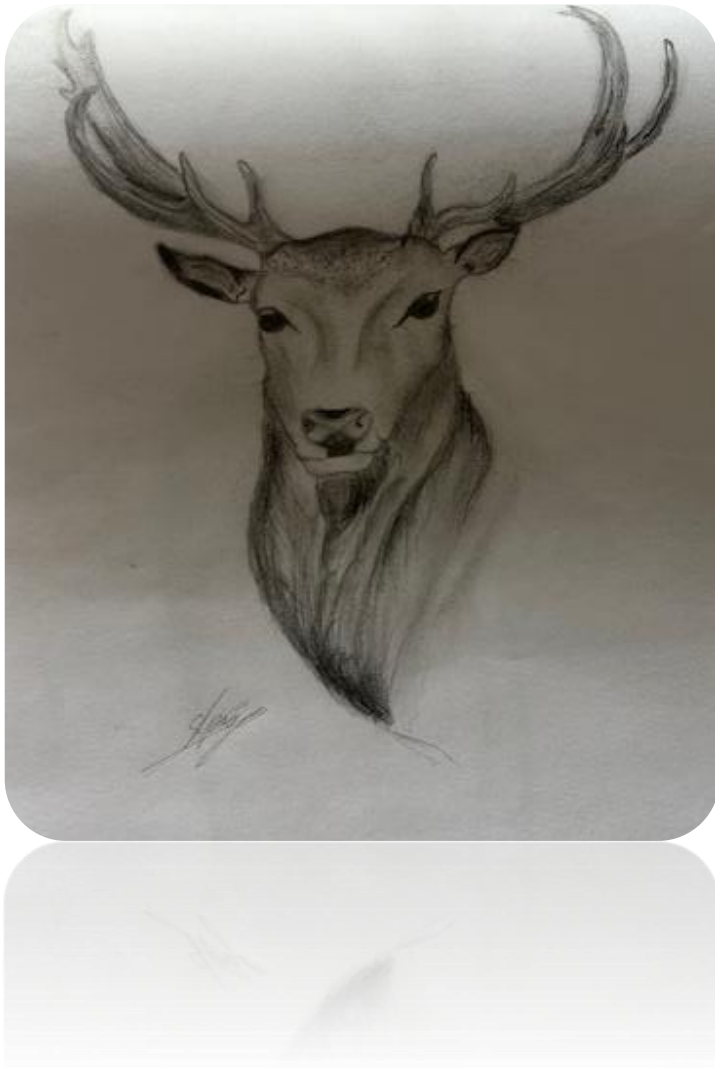
Sophie's Art Gallery



We're thrilled to shine a spotlight on one of our incredible talented learners Sophie, whose artwork has truly amazed us all! From a stunning horse full of grace to a charming dog bursting with personality.



Sophie's art work has brought colour, life and imagination to our school community. Each piece reflects not only skill and attention to detail, but also a deep love for art and storytelling through images.



Sophie your work has been proudly featured in our newsletter and we couldn't be more impressed by the creativity and dedication you've shown. Well done Sophie, you've inspired us all and we can't wait to see what you create next.



Tyler and Leighton have been showing fantastic focus and determination in their maths lessons. Whether they are solving tricky problems, exploring number patterns, or practicing their times tables, it's wonderful to see their confidence growing with every challenge.

Our learners have been building key skills in reasoning, problem-solving and mental maths. Their enthusiasm and perseverance have truly shone through. Well done boys, keep up the brilliant work!

Safeguarding Concern

We have been made aware that several titles in the Spy Dogs, Spy Pup, and Spy Cat series by Andrew Cope contain a weblink at the back of the book that no longer directs people to information about the books. Instead, the link has been compromised and now leads to inappropriate and unsafe material, containing pornographic content with no age restrictions.

We have removed copies of the book from our school library and classroom book corners.

Below are images of some of the front covers in the series to help you identify the books should you have any at home. We advise you remove them immediately.





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

We are proud to announce we have achieved our silver award in rail safety



CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations on achieving your Silver Rail Safe Friendly award.

Thank you for educating your young people about Rail Safety and keeping them safe.

Stuart Heaton

Stuart Heaton
Managing
Director



THE RAIL SAFE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

Discover our FREE rail safety videos and keep your children safe by visiting railsafefriendly.com

The Rail Safe Friendly programme has educated over **3 million young people** on the dangers of the railways.



SCAN ME

DON'T LET YOUR CHILDREN BECOME THE NEXT STATISTIC



"I implore you to listen to Harrison's story"

Simon Frazer, Principal, Guilsborough Academy

According to the **ORR Report**, April 23 – March 24 on UK railways:

12

people died in accidents while trespassing

58%

were struck by a train or tram

42%

were electrocuted

According to **Rail Safe Friendly**, July 25:

120+

companies support the programme

11,000+

schools in the UK have engaged

20,000+

UK schools still need to be reached



**Here's your free copy of the UK's
largest parenting title - Enjoy!**

<https://familyfirst.co.uk/issue4-25>

<https://familyfirst.co.uk/issue4-25-download>



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.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Free sessions</p> <p>You do not need a child to attend the session to access family help.</p> <p>Safe, comfortable, confidential and informal space to talk.</p> <p>Early Help Family support workers available to chat to every week.</p> <p>We look forward to seeing you</p> </div>
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	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Free sessions</p> <p>You do not need a child to attend the session to access family help.</p> <p>Safe, comfortable, confidential and informal space to talk.</p> <p>Early Help Family support workers available to chat to every week.</p> <p>We look forward to seeing you</p> </div>
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 Decemeber, 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



**SCAN
ME!**





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.



Shropshire
Supporting
Families
through Early Help



Shropshire
Council

Coffee & chat



How can we help you?



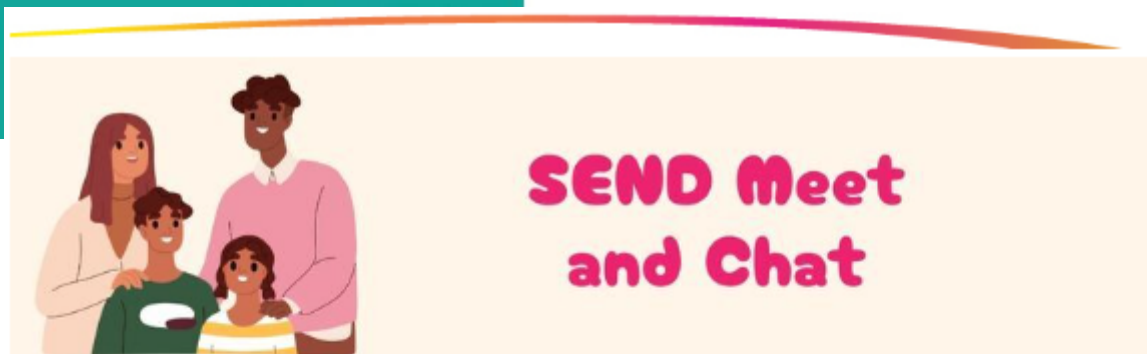
Free info, advice and support for your family
shropshire.gov.uk/early-help



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



- Tyler ST passed his entry level 2 in maths and his entry level 1 in reading and writing – Amazing! Well done Tyler!
- Shout out to Tommy for great engagement with Simon – Great work Tommy!
- Shout out to Michael, and Morgan for being respectful to another learning – Well done boys
- Shout out to older learners who were supportive of staff and another learner – We're really proud of you all, Well done!
- Tyler H followed instructions and completed asks – Great work Tyler, well done!
- Lacey A showed great engagement and completed all her work! – Superstar, well done Lacey!
- Leighton cooked! AND washed up!! – Fantastic! Leighton well done!!
- Shout out to all of Oaks 3, brilliant this week – Great work all, well done!
- Tyler ST engaged in all his learning even when his peers were not – Wow! Tyler brilliant work!! – Well done!



Headteacher Awards



- **Eliza** for a superb attitude towards her learning in all lessons
- **Jayden** for remaining focused during a difficult English lesson when studying Ballads
- **Mason** for remaining focused during a difficult English lesson when studying Ballads
- **Taylor** for remaining focused during a difficult English lesson when studying Ballads



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**

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

DEALING WITH TRAUMATIC & CHALLENGING EVENTS

Children and young people may face a wide range of traumatic or challenging events – from bereavement and illness to bullying, family breakdowns, or witnessing violence. These experiences can affect their mental health, behaviour, relationships, and academic progress. With the right support from trusted adults, children can begin to feel safe, rebuild resilience, and develop healthy coping strategies. This guide offers practical and empathetic ways to provide support and promote positive outcomes.

1 A PREDICTABLE ENVIRONMENT

Children who have experienced trauma often feel unsafe or uncertain. Creating routines, setting clear expectations, and maintaining consistency can help restore a sense of security. This structure offers reassurance and helps children feel more in control of their surroundings.

2 USE LANGUAGE THAT MATCHES THEIR AGE

Speak clearly and sensitively, choosing words that are appropriate for the child's age. Avoid overwhelming them with too much information at once. Offer gentle, honest explanations and focus on reassurance, especially when talking about difficult or sensitive subjects.

3 TRAUMA AND THE BODY

Mention briefly that trauma can show up in physical ways, such as changes in sleep, appetite, concentration, or as physical aches and pains. Consider this before labelling behaviour as 'difficult' or 'lazy'. Some children may become withdrawn, while others may be more outwardly challenging. Highlight that there's no 'one way' children respond.

4 AVOID RETELLING OR RELIVING TRAUMA

Children sometimes get asked to explain or repeat their experience multiple times. Striking a balance of when to listen and when to gently redirect can help to avoid unnecessary re-traumatisation. Acknowledge, but don't probe for detail unless safeguarding procedures require it.

5 AVOID DISMISSING OR MINIMISING FEELINGS

Seemingly well-meaning comments like "It's not that bad" or "You're okay" may shut down children's emotional expression and are often not helpful. Instead, acknowledge what they're feeling, even if it seems small. Validating a child's emotions helps them feel seen and encourages open communication in future.

6 UNDERSTAND HOW THEY'RE FEELING

Many children don't have the words to express their emotions, especially during distress. Supporting them to name what they're feeling – such as angry, scared or sad – builds emotional literacy. Tools like emotion charts, drawing, or storytelling can help externalise feelings in a safe, manageable way.

7 BE AWARE OF YOUR OWN RESPONSES

Children pick up on adult emotions and reactions, often mirroring them. Staying calm, even in challenging situations, helps children feel more secure. Practising your own self-regulation is an important way to model healthy stress management and encourages children to do the same.

8 SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

While many children benefit from everyday emotional support, some will need more specialised help. If symptoms persist, worsen, or disrupt their daily life, consult with school safeguarding leads, a GP, or a mental health professional. Early intervention can prevent long-term difficulties and support healthy recovery.

9 MAINTAIN CONNECTION

Isolation can worsen the impact of trauma. Encourage involvement in group activities, praise their efforts, and ensure they feel like a valued part of the school or family community. Meaningful connection with trusted adults and peers builds resilience and a sense of belonging.

10 BE PATIENT – HEALING TAKES TIME

There's no quick fix for emotional recovery. Children may have good days and setbacks, and progress may not always be visible or linear. Your ongoing support, patience, and presence can help them move forward at their own pace, knowing they are not alone.

Meet Our Expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school by integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture, and systems. She has been a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



The National College®