



Friday 17th October 2025

Headteachers report of the week

As we approach the end of a busy half-term, learners have been getting into the Halloween spirit with a range of fun and creative activities across the school. From spooky storytelling and pumpkin decorating to Halloween themed crafts and cake making, the atmosphere has been full of excitement and imagination!

These activities have not only brought smiles and laughter but also supported learning in areas such as art, design, literacy and teamwork. It's been wonderful to see learners expressing themselves, working together and enjoying the festive fun.

We're already looking forward to an exciting term ahead! Next term promises a wide range of enriching activities, festive events and learning opportunities for all our learners.

With half-term just around the corner, we'd like to thank all our learners, families and staff for a fantastic start to the school year. We hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved break, stays safe and returns refreshed and ready for the next chapter of learning.

Best wishes

Jules





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 😊.

And the Winner is...

It's a really entertaining, original and potentially controversial poem as you'll see and we're really proud of

Noah from Nest

for writing it. All entrants won a £5 voucher for our book fair in November and Noah was also awarded with a bar of his favourite chocolate.

- Natalie

Noah's Winning Poem!!



My poem

My opinion on pineapple
On pizza :)



The poem

- Pizza is epic
- Pizza is cool
- Pineapple on pizza will cause WWII
- Everyone knows fruit and pizza don't mix
- If you think I am wrong, you shan't exist





Shout out to all
the wonderful
entries

Anonymous

Woodlands School

At Woodlands School, the days begin,
With football boots and cheeky grins.
We kick and pass, we run and play,
The pitch is ours most every day.

It's not just games that make it cool,
It's more than just another school.
For kids like me who feel too much,
It's where we learn, connect, and touch.

Some lessons drag, I won't pretend,
Some teachers I would not call friends.
But still I come, and here I stay,
Because my girl is here each day.

We laugh, we talk, we hang around,
In quiet corners, love is found.
She makes the hard days feel alright,
She's my calm in every fight.

Woodlands helps us find our way,
Through storms and moods and messy days.
It's not perfect, but it's ours,
A place of healing, hope, and stars.

A place of healing, hope, and stars,
It's not perfect, but it's ours,
Through storms and moods and messy days,
Woodlands helps us find our way,
She makes the hard days feel alright,
We laugh, we talk, we hang around,
Some lessons drag, I won't pretend,
Some teachers I would not call friends.

I wish I had a lightsaber the best weapon ever,

I wish I had I lightsaber they are so cool

I wish I had a lightsaber they can cut through anything.

I wish I had a lightsaber the crystal is so shiny



shutterstock.com · 1387559195



Arran

Ode to Minecraft Diamonds

Beneath the earth, so dark and deep,
Where monsters crawl and miners creep,
There lies a gem, a gleaming prize—
A diamond shining in disguise.
Through caves and shafts, I swing my pick,
Past lava pools and stone so thick.
Redstone, iron, gold I find,
But still that diamond haunts my mind.
A flash of blue, my heart takes flight,
I've found the ore, my torch burns bright!
I dig with care, one block, then two,
And watch the treasure come into view.
Not just a gem—it's strength, it's power,
To build a sword or high-built tower.
Armor gleams in morning sun,
With diamond gear, the game's begun.
Enchant it well, with might and grace,
No foe shall match your armored pace.
From Ender's realm to Nether's flame,
The diamond holds eternal fame.
So here's to those who mine with pride,
Through every cave where creepers hide.
The rarest gift in blocky lands—
The diamond cradled in your hands. 💎

Olly N

Tommy

Thursday 25th September 2025

As I can write an ephrastic poem based on 'handscript
with the fall of Icarus'

A farmer ploughing his field his
mind at ease
A Shepherd and his sheep oblivious
to whats at sea

A Man sipping his tea
watches the boy flail
Ships on the water sail
along the current

The boy submit to
the wrath of death
he town overlooks
a humility



Nest this week took part in a seasonal pumpkin making activity, which provided a fantastic opportunity to explore creativity, fine motor skills and sensory engagement. They approached the task with enthusiasm and curiosity, showing great focus and enjoyment throughout.

Boo-tiful
work from
all our
spooky
stars!





Acorns 1 honing their fine motor skills during a forest school session carving pumpkin's 🎃

- Ceri





Mason and Taylor had a frightfully fun time getting creative with a Halloween cake activity! Each learner had the chance to decorate their own cakes, using themed toppings.





It is slightly early for celebrating Halloween 🎃 but this week we have been making small cakes and decorating them with scary faces for some fun before half term holidays.

- Debbie J





Acorns 3 have been reading Beegu by Alex's Deacon. We have created our own aliens out of clay, we also, described them verbally within class
- Debbie G

This is a safe space
– everyone is
welcome,
respected, and
valued here



Today our school came together to celebrate **Wearing Red Day**, a powerful reminder of the importance of unity, respect and inclusion, creating a vibrant sea of colour across the school.

The day sparked meaningful conversations about kindness, fairness and the importance of celebrating our differences.



Together we are helping to build a culture where everyone feels seen, heard and valued

Wear Red Day started in 2014 with 7,000 people taking part.

In 2024, the 10th Anniversary of WRD, 770,000 people joined us for the celebration

(10,900% increase which is a ridiculous figure but true)





Taylor and Jayden took part in a practical science experiment exploring how acids react when mixed with different substances, and whether those reactions are exothermic (release heat) or endothermic (absorb heat). This hands-on investigation helped learners understand chemical energy changes and how they can be measured.



Tyler also took part in a hands-on experiment to investigate the difference between exothermic and endothermic chemical reactions.

Using simple materials learners conducted a series of reactions and recorded temperature changes to determine whether heat was absorbed or released.



Acorns 1 exploring
bacteria in Science -
absolutely fascinating!
- Ceri





Saplings 4 applied the skills they have been learning expertly in a game of Dodgeball in PE
- James



Learners recently took part in a badminton session, showing great enthusiasm and energy throughout. The activity provided an excellent opportunity to develop coordination, teamwork and resilience in a fun and active environment.

During the session, learners practised serving and rallying, movement and positioning and teamwork and sportsmanship.



Acorns 1 have turned into fishes!
Congratulations
to Oscar, Michael and Kody on achieving your
distance badges 🙌 🙌 🙌
- Ceri



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 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

EVERY PAIR TELLS A STORY

**NATIONAL
MOVEMENT**

Bring a pair of shoes.

Each pair represents a child who has been failed by their local authority and the SEND system. This is a silent, fully inclusive event - no walking, no protesting. You are not required to stay, but you are absolutely welcome to join us.



In collaboration with The SEND Sanctuary UK and Let Us Learn Too

#EveryPairTellsAStory

@TheSendSanctuaryUK

Date: 3RD NOV'25
Time: 10.30 - 1PM
Location: Shropshire Council Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, SY3 8HQ



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.



Woodlands Shout Outs



- **Shout out to Corey for great engagement and work in maths – Amazing Corey, well done!**
- **Shout out to Leo Gu who regulated well and accepted an apology – Well done, Leo!**
- **Tyler ST was a fantastic role model this week ignoring disruptive behaviour of peers and carrying on with his work – Great engagement Tyler, Well done!**
- **Shout out to Willow for engaging well and regulating – We’re really proud of you Willow – Well done!**
- **Lacey A has engaged well in some great work in child development – Wow, well done Lacey!!**
- **Oscar did some amazing work in English – Superstar!**
- **Shout out to Kieran who has settled into Olive class, Well done Kieran!!**
- **Taylor, Jayden and Mason all completed their reading assessments – Well done! – Helen**
- **Matthew showed empathy to another learner who was upset and supported – Super proud of you Matthew, well done!**
- **Shout out to Lacey A for doing her reading assessment, great work!**
- **Primary have all had a lovely day and done great learning in the week, amazing work Primary, well done!**
- **Shout out to Saplings 4, for being great and engaged, Well done all!!**
- **Mason followed instructions and was sensible – Great work Mason!**
- **Sophie engaged in her lesson, Well done Sophie!**
- **Shout out to Lincoln for being very mature and helpful supporting staff. – Debbie G**
- **Corey and Harley completed their reading assessments this week – Amazing boys, well done!**
- **Lacey DJ engaged and wrote a peel paragraph in her lesson, great participation Lacey, well done!**
- **Shout out to Tyler and Leo Gu for their brilliant engagement and participation in lessons, Well done boys!**

- Shout out to Emilia for giving really mature advice to young learners who were out of their lesson – Well done Emilia, we are very proud of you!
- Well done to Tyler Ho for taking responsibility and engaging with staff



Headteacher Awards



- **Aaron Do** for wonderful manners
- **Corey** for your attitude and work ethic in Maths
- **Jayden** for completing your reading assessment
- **Lacey DJ** for fully participating in her catering lesson and making a tasty pizza!
- **Mason** for completing your reading assessment
- **Taylor** for completing your reading assessment



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 MEMES

Memes may look like simple jokes, but, for many teenagers, they form a shared cultural language. Quickly created and reworked, they spread across social media platforms as images with text or short videos. Nearly eight in ten teenagers share memes (79%, YPulse), making them part of daily life. While memes encourage creativity and participation, they can also spread misinformation or reinforce harmful stereotypes.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SPREADING MISINFORMATION

While memes help to communicate complex topics, they can also spread misinformation. Memes may sometimes include content presenting false facts or biased viewpoints, especially around health, politics, or current events and, as they're designed to be shared quickly, young people may not question their accuracy.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Memes are widely circulated, and not always age-appropriate, meaning young people may encounter explicit language, sexual content, or graphic imagery, even without searching for it. As memes spread fast on platforms like Instagram, TikTok, or WhatsApp, it's nearly impossible to filter them completely.

MASKED MESSAGES

Some memes are designed to be confusing or layered with hidden meanings, making them hard for parents, and, sometimes, other young people to understand. Online groups often create these memes to look like inside jokes, but they can sometimes conceal offensive, harmful, or misleading content.

HIDDEN HARMS & LOSING SENSITIVITY

When serious topics like violence, racism, or mental health are turned into jokes, children and young people may become less sensitive to these issues over time. While a funny meme may seem light-hearted, it can carry messages that belittle certain groups, encourage risky behaviour, or mock personal struggles. Repeated exposure through memes can make harmful behaviour seem normal or less important. Over time, this can blur their understanding of what is funny versus what is discriminatory, harmful, or damaging to themselves and others.

PERMANENT DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Unlike spoken jokes, memes leave a trail. Created or shared memes can resurface later and be misunderstood, even if intended as harmless. Once online, memes may be copied, saved, or spread beyond a young person's control - digital actions can follow them into their future, shaping how they are perceived by peers, teachers, or even employers long after the original meme has been shared.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Talk regularly with young people and try to understand their online world - discuss what they find funny about the memes, and why. By listening without judgement, you build trust, making it easier for them to come to you if they see something harmful. Open conversations also help children and teens think critically about the messages behind memes rather than simply accepting them at face value.

MODEL HEALTHY BOUNDARIES

Show children and teens positive online behaviours, such as taking breaks from screens, avoiding late-night scrolling, and engaging in offline activities. Setting clear routines around screen time at home can help to reinforce healthy boundaries and reduce the risks of overuse. By modelling balanced technology use, adults can help children and young people see that digital entertainment, including memes, should be just one part of life.

TEACH DIGITAL LITERACY

Help children and young people learn to question where information comes from and whether it's reliable - developing media literacy skills prepares young people to understand and navigate through their future online lives. Show them how memes can sometimes exaggerate or misrepresent facts for laughs, and encourage them to check credible sources when memes claim to present truth.

FOSTER EMPATHY ONLINE

Remind children and young people that memes should never come at someone else's expense. Encourage them to think about how a meme might make another person feel before sharing or creating it. Highlight examples of positive memes that celebrate creativity without hurting others. Fostering empathy, respect, and kindness in digital spaces will help them become more aware of promoting a safer, more supportive online culture.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Cristina Moreno-Almeida is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Culture at Queen Mary University of London. She specialises in memes, online networks, and youth culture, examining how digital spaces shape identity and everyday life.



The National College