



Friday 28th November 2025

Headteachers report of the week

This week has been an exciting one for science across the school! Our learners have truly embraced hands-on experiments, bringing theory to life in the lab and classroom.

From Olive Branch where learners discovered how different chemicals react when exposed to different conditions, to Acorns 1's parachute challenge, exploring the effects of air resistance. The enthusiasm and curiosity shown by our learners has been outstanding.

These practical sessions not only deepen scientific understanding but also encourage teamwork, problem-solving, and confidence in applying knowledge. It has been wonderful to see learners asking questions, making predictions, and celebrating their discoveries. A big thank you to our dedicated staff for planning such engaging activities and to our learners for their energy and creativity. Science is truly sparking imaginations at our school!

We are thrilled to announce that our Christmas Bazaar will take place on Thursday 18th December, 12pm – 2pm in the school gym. This festive event will feature stall, games, seasonal treats and unique gifts. It's a fantastic chance for our school community to come together and celebrate the season.

We warmly invite all families, friends and supporters to join us for an afternoon of fun and festivities. Your presence will make this event truly special!

Best wishes

Jules

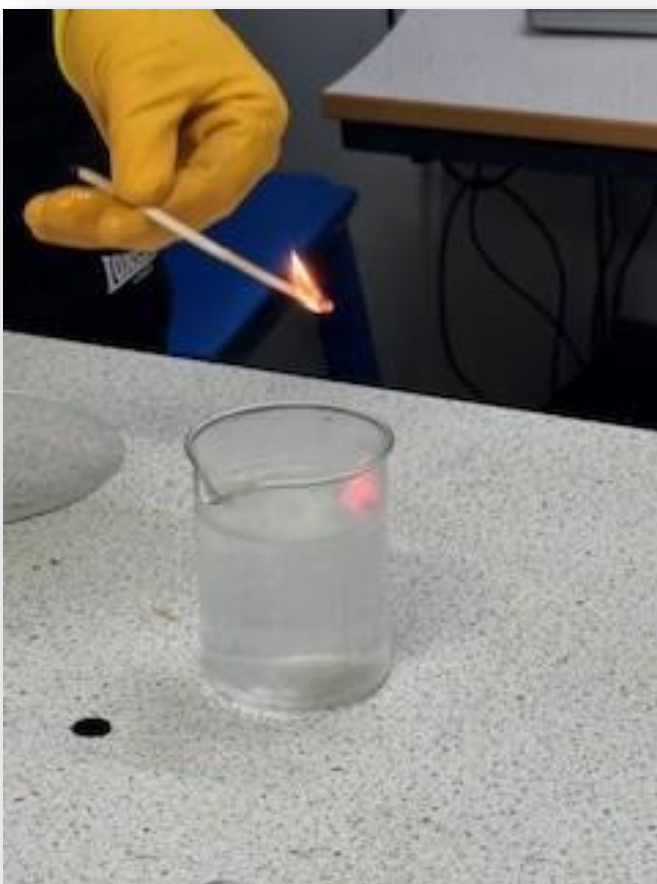




Olive in the Science Lab



This week, Olive Group had an exciting hands-on experience in the science lab. Learners carried out fascinating experiments exploring how different chemicals react when exposed to different conditions. This practical session helped bring classroom learning to life, sparking curiosity and confidence in scientific investigation. Well done to Olive Group for showing great teamwork and enthusiasm during the experiment!





Acorns 1 took science learning to new heights, literally! Acorns 1 designed and tested their own parachutes to investigate **air resistance**, also known as **drag**.





Ryan and Xander prepared chicken, seasoned it experimenting with a variety of flavours, they then cooked it checking temperatures and served it as a Chicken Burger. They both tasted delicious!

- Debbie J



Acorns 1 swapped science for a sweet treat and stepped into the kitchen to make delicious **Jam tarts!**

Learners loved getting hands-on with baking, learning how to roll pastry, cut out shapes, and carefully spoon jam into their tart cases.



Olive Group explored the exciting world of technology by engaging in hands-on computer activities. Learners worked on developing their digital skills, from navigating software to creating simple projects that encouraged problem-solving and creativity.

The session focused on building confidence with technology, understanding how computers help us in everyday life, and practicing safe and responsible use. Learners showed fantastic enthusiasm, collaborating with peers and sharing ideas as they worked through challenges.



Oscar enjoyed a calming and creative session in the sensory room using colored shape blocks. The activity encouraged exploration of patterns, colors, and spatial awareness in a relaxed environment.



Olive Group showcased their incredible creativity during Art. Learners explored a variety of techniques and materials, from bold brushstrokes to intricate patterns, producing artwork that was full of color and imagination.



The classroom buzzed with ideas as learners expressed themselves through painting and design, demonstrating confidence and individuality in their creations. Each piece reflecting unique personalities and artistic flair.



This week, our Year 10 and 11 learners had an unforgettable adventure as they tackled both an indoor climbing wall and an outdoor obstacle course at the park. The day was all about building confidence, teamwork, and resilience—and our learners rose to the challenge brilliantly!

On the climbing wall, learners pushed themselves to new heights, testing their strength and problem-solving skills as they navigated different routes.



Outdoors, the obstacle course brought plenty of laughter and determination, with learners supporting each other every step of the way.

It was fantastic to see everyone working together, cheering each other on, and celebrating their achievements. A huge well done to Year 10 and 11 for showing courage, perseverance, and a positive attitude throughout the day!



Fun for the whole family



Woodlands school
Part of the Marches Academy Trust



Christmas BAZAAR



THURSDAY

DEC

18

12 PM - 2PM

FOOD STALL | GAMES | HANDMADE GIFTS | CRAFTS AND MORE

Woodlands
School





Massive thank you to

Tesco

who very kindly this week gave Woodlands
prizes for the

Christmas Bazaar

**December 18th ! – Put the date in the diary, we
would love to see you all**



What's on in December Oswestry Early Help Coffee and Chat

Thursday 4 th December 2025	<p>Who can I talk to today:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Help team • Health Visitor clinic • Shropshire Domestic Abuse Service • Star Housing • Jess from the Parenting Team 	<p>Look what's on today....</p> <p>Stay and play. Join us for Christmas card making</p> <p>Jennifer from the 0-5 team will be on hand for any support</p>
Thursday 11 th December 2025	<p>Who can I talk to today:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Help Team • Jess from the parenting team 	<p>Look what's on today....</p> <p>Stay and play. Christmas tree finger painting & Christmas card making</p>
Thursday 18 th December 2025	<p>Who can I talk to today:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Help team • Health Visitor clinic • Neonatal Team Maternity & Neonatal Voices Partnership • Star Housing • Jess from the Parenting Team 	<p>Look what's on today....</p> <p>Stay and play. Join us for some Christmas themed messy play & Junk Modelling</p> <p>Fiona from the 0-5 team will be on hand for any support</p>

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

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you peace, joy, and well-being during this festive season and as we welcome the new year.
We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, 8th January 2026.



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



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

Tuesday 2 nd December 2025	<p>Who can you talk to today:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Help Team • Employment advisor • Stop Smoking 	<p>Look what's on today....</p> <p>Stay and Play - Christmas Crafts</p>
Tuesday 9 th December 2025	<p>Who can you talk to today:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Visitors • 0-5 early help • Shropshire domestic abuse service • Early help team • Employment Advisor • Stop Smoking 	<p>Look what's on today....</p> <p>Stay and Play - Christmas Crafts</p> <p>Fiona from the 0-5 team will be on hand for any support</p>
Tuesday 16 th December 2025	<p>Who can you talk to today:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Help Team • Employment advisor • Stop Smoking 	<p>Look what's on today....</p> <p>Stay and Play Sensory Session</p>
Tuesday 23 rd December 2025	<p>Who can you talk to today:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Visitors • 0-5 Early Help • Early Help team • Stop Smoking 	<p>Look what's on today....</p> <p>Stay and Play Christmas Party</p> <p>Fiona from the 0-5 team will be on hand for any support</p>
Tuesday 30 th December 2025	<p>Who can you talk to today:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Help Team • Employment advisor – Appointment only 	<p>Look what's on today....</p> <p>Stay and Play - New Year Crafts</p>

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



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

Shropshire Parenting Help and Support Line

01743 250950

Mon - Thurs, 9.30am - 4.30pm
Fri, 9.30am - 3.30pm

No judgment, just support. For **all** Shropshire families, including those whose children have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)



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

Sleep Tight Group Monday 12th January 2026 from 1.00pm to 3.00pm Virtually Via MS Teams

Sleep Tight Group Thursday 15th January 2026 from 9.30am to 11.30am Highley Primary School

Sleep Tight SEND Group Monday 23rd February 2026 from 1.00pm to 3.00pm Virtually Via MS Teams

Sleep Tight Group Tuesday 24th February 2026 from 9.30am to 11.30am Crowmoor Primary School

The groups run for 5 weeks 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 or call 01743 250950

Find out more here



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 one of our free virtual or face to face groups, our next groups start:

Understanding Your Child Group 12th January 2026 from 9.30am to 11.30am St Giles Primary, Shrewsbury

Understanding Your Child Group 13th January 2026 from 6.00pm to 7.30pm Little Explorers, Ditton Priors

Understanding Your Child SEND Group 14th January 2026 from 10.00am to 12.00pm Severdale Academy

Understanding Your Child Group 14th January 2026 from 1.00pm to 3.00pm Virtually via MS Teams

Understanding Your Child Group 14th January 2026 from 1.00pm to 3.00pm St Lawrence Primary, Church Stretton

Understanding Your Child SEND Group 15th January 2026 from 9.00am to 11.00am Clee Hill Community Academy

Understanding Your Child SEND Group 15th January 2026 from 1.00pm to 3.00pm Virtually via MS Teams

Understanding Your Child Group 16th January 2026 from 9.30am to 11.30am Highley Primary School

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
or call 01743 250950

Find more free online courses at:
inourplace.co.uk/shropshire



If you would like to find out about further help and support the Parenting Team offer please email

Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk

or call us on 01743 250950

All our services are free of charge to Shropshire Council residents.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD



S O L I H U L L A P P R O A C H

PARENTING HELP AND SUPPORT LINE

available

Monday to Thursday from 9.30am to 4.30pm

and

Friday 9.30am to 3.30pm

You can contact the Parenting Help and Support Line by calling

01743 250950

Parenthood can be extremely rewarding and enjoyable. It can also be demanding, frustrating and exhausting. The Parenting Team is here to help and support parents and carers to raise healthy, well-rounded children in a loving and stable environment.

Do you have any questions around your child's development and parenting?

Why not call our Parenting Help and Support Line where one of our trained Parenting Practitioners will be ready to listen.

(Please note the Parenting Help and Support Line will not operate on Bank Holidays)

If you have concerns about a child's safety or well-being, please call

First Point of Contact 0345 678 9021



Woodlands Shout Outs



- **Shout out to Destiny for helping Alison to tidy up the art room – Great work Destiny, well done!**
- **Morgan Leighton and Tyler were their BEST at Love to Stay – great behaviour boys – well done!**
- **Cody B handed in his phone – well done! Cody**
- **Shout out to Cody for engaging in his Maths! – Super proud of you Cody!**
- **Olive have been doing some great engagement this week – Fantastic work Olive! Well done!**
- **Matthew supported his peers with their learning – Well done Matthew!**
- **Olly N used his computer to express himself – Well done! Olly**
- **Oscar and Joey self-initiated an apology for being too rough when they were playing – WOW! Well done boys!**
- **Riley peer mentored Ryan – Amazing Riley very proud of you!**
- **Tyler H expressed genuine care and support for Leighton – We're all very proud of you both boys.**



Headteacher Awards



- **Leo Gu** – Completing your reading EL2 functional skills paper and engaging well all week in English
- **Leo Gu** – for showing kindness
- **Michael** – for looking after our school's appearance by clearing the window's
- **Morgan** – for coaching Natalie in football
- **Tommy** – demonstrating empathy and giving great advice and support to his peers
- **Tommy** – being respectful, helpful and engaged in learning
- **Tyler ST** – persevering in English even when he felt ill
- **Zane** – for engaging in Science experiments



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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TRACKING DEVICES

Bluetooth tracking devices like Apple's AirTag and Samsung's SmartTags have exploded in popularity, with millions sold each year. These small tools help people locate their lost items, but their discreet design has also made them attractive for more sinister purposes. From stalking to bullying, tracking devices present unique risks that trusted adults need to understand and address.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STALKING AND HARASSMENT

Because of their tiny size and unassuming appearance, tracking devices can easily be hidden in bags or clothing. They've been used to monitor individuals without their knowledge, with a lawsuit in the US labelling AirTags "the weapon of choice of stalkers and abusers". In the UK, use of tracking devices in coercive control and stalking cases reportedly rose by 317 percent between 2018 and 2023.

TOOLS FOR BULLYING

Tracking devices could allow bullies to follow or locate their targets even outside of school. This makes it difficult for children to find refuge, potentially extending the trauma of bullying into spaces – like home – that should feel safe and secure.

FALSE ACCUSATIONS

Because tracking devices are linked to user accounts, they could be misused to 'prove' ownership of someone else's possessions. Someone could, for example, plant a tracker on another person's belongings to falsely claim them as their own.

INVASION OF PRIVACY

These devices are designed to share location data with the user via other people's phones, which can unintentionally broadcast someone's movements without their consent. This makes them vulnerable to being monitored by strangers without realising.

DIFFICULT TO DETECT

Many tracking devices are designed to be discreet, but that also means they're easy to hide. Without proactive checking or the right tech to detect them, children and young people might not realise they're being tracked.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH FOR WARNING SIGNS

If a child's peers always seem to know their location – whether in person or hinted at online – it could be worth checking for tracking devices. Some, like AirTags, will eventually make a noise if separated from their owner. Listen out for a chirping sound.

CHECK LIKELY HIDING SPOTS

Common places where trackers may be planted include jacket linings, bag seams, pockets, or under bike seats. If you find one, take a photo of the serial number before disposing of it – this could help police trace the account it's linked to.

USE DETECTION APPS

Apple devices running iOS 14.5 or later will notify users of unknown AirTags nearby. Android users can install Apple's 'Tracker Detect' or the third-party app 'AirGuard' to scan for tracking devices from various manufacturers.

HAVE THE CONVERSATION

Talk to your child about what tracking devices are, what signs to look out for, and how they might be misused. Emphasise the legal consequences of using them to prank, harass, or monitor someone.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a seasoned technology journalist with bylines in Wired, TechRadar, The Guardian, The Evening Standard, The Telegraph, and The New Statesman. He specialises in consumer tech, online safety, and emerging risks in the digital landscape.

