



Friday 19th December 2025

Headteachers report of the week

As we come to the end of this festive term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful celebrations that have brought so much joy to our school community.

We were thrilled to welcome Santa to school, creating magical memories for our learners. A heartfelt thank you to the 4All Foundation for their incredible generosity in providing gifts and supporting this special visit.

Our Christmas Bazaar was another highlight, filled with creativity, laughter, and community spirit. Thank you to everyone who contributed, whether by donating, volunteering, or simply joining us on the day. Your support helped make the event a huge success.

Finally, our Christmas Lunch was a perfect way to bring everyone together. Learners and staff enjoyed a delicious meal, festive music, and plenty of smiles. It was a wonderful reminder of the importance of sharing these moments as a school family.

This is our last newsletter before Christmas, and I want to wish all our learners, families, and staff a joyful festive season and a happy New Year. Thank you for your continued support, we look forward to an exciting 2026!

Best wishes

Jules





This week, our school came together to celebrate the festive season with a traditional Christmas dinner. The hall was filled with laughter, music, and the wonderful aroma of roast turkey and all the trimmings. Learners and staff enjoyed a delicious meal, complete with vegetables, stuffing, and of course, a generous helping of gravy!

The atmosphere was joyful and inclusive, with everyone taking time to share stories, pull crackers, and enjoy the sense of community that makes this time of year so special. For many learners, this was a highlight of the term, a chance to relax, celebrate achievements, and create happy memories with friends and trusted adults.

A huge thank you to our catering team and staff who worked hard to make the day so special. It was a perfect way to end the term and spread festive cheer throughout the school.



Alt Text: A group of children sitting at a table

✓ Approve ✎ Edit



Christmas Bazaar

Our annual Christmas Bazaar was a wonderful celebration of festive spirit and community! The school gym was transformed into a winter wonderland, filled with stalls offering handmade crafts, delicious treats, and fun games for all ages. Learners, staff, and families came together to enjoy the event, creating a warm and joyful atmosphere.





The bazaar was not only a chance to spread Christmas cheer but also an opportunity to raise funds that will directly benefit our School Sensory Garden.

£120 raised
Thank you!

Congratulations to Taylor and family for winning the Christmas Quiz





Santa stopped by Woodlands and brought the festive magic with him! Big smiles, lots of laughter and plenty of Christmas cheer all round.

We are so grateful to the **4All Foundation** for your incredible support and partnership.

You've made this Christmas brighter for everyone!





Our learners have been investigating how different surfaces absorb heat by conducting an exciting experiment in science.

Using a light bulb as a heat source, they compared the temperature changes when the light was shined onto black and white surfaces.

The results were fascinating! Learners observed that the black surface absorbed more heat and became warmer much faster than the white surface, which reflected more light and stayed cooler. This hands-on activity helped learners understand concepts like **light absorption, reflection, and energy transfer** in a practical and engaging way.

It was fantastic to see learners making predictions, recording data, and discussing why colour affects temperature—bringing science to life in the classroom!



We are incredibly proud our learners Harley and Kieran who have shown phenomenal confidence and care while handling our resident corn snake, Willow. Their calm approach, gentle movements, and respect for Willow's needs have been truly impressive.

This experience has not only demonstrated excellent handling skills but also a deep understanding of responsibility and empathy towards living creatures. It's wonderful to see learners engaging with nature in such a positive and educational way.

Well done for setting such a fantastic example, your skills and attitude are something to celebrate!



Our primary learners enjoyed an exciting and educational trip to the Ironworks this week! The visit was a fantastic opportunity to explore art, creativity, and engineering in a unique setting. Learners were amazed by the incredible sculptures and installations, sparking lots of curiosity and discussion about how they were designed and built.



The day was filled with hands-on learning, as learners discovered the stories behind the artwork which supported their understanding of art and design. Learners returned inspired and full of ideas!



Headteacher Awards



- **Oscar – for Christmas decoration production, he has shown creativity, perserverance and organisational skills.**
- **Jayden – for independently reflecting and coming back to class and offering a sincere apology.**
- **Bobby – for great resilience and managing his own emotional regulation this term**

Glimmers



Zane joined everyone for Christmas Lunch in the main dining hall- We are incredibly proud of Zane and the strength and courage he has shown in the last few weeks, especially after today's amazing show of courage
- Helen

Adults supporting Zane to be able to do something he's never been able to do before. - Jules

Kieran has engaged well with his learning this week.

Sophie took a moment to say thank you to staff for their support

Tyler H has shown great progress in following instructions and complying with reasonable requests
- Well done in showing respect and responsibility

Primary were fantastic on their recent iron works trip. They engaged fully, showed great enthusiasm and represented the school brilliantly. Their positive attitude and willingness to participate made the day enjoyable for everyone.

Olive have participated enthusiastically in their activities, showing great focus, teamwork and a positive attitude

Dates for the Diary

- Learners Return to School
- Monday 5th January
- February Half-term
- 16/2/26 – 20/2/26
- PD Day
- Monday 23rd February



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

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

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.

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



Winter Holiday



Programme

December 2025

Sports, arts and crafts, quizzes, dance, games, drama and more

Grange Primary School, Shrewsbury: 22nd, 29th, 30th and 31st, 9am - 1pm

Harlescott Grange Community Hub, Shrewsbury: Winter Party Day, Monday 22nd, 9am - 4pm

Longlands Primary School, Market Drayton: 22nd, 29th, 30th and 31st, 9am - 1pm

Lower Heath CE Primary School, Whitchurch: 30th and 31st, 9am - 1pm

Pontesbury Public Hall: 22nd and 29th, 8.30am - 4.30pm

Sir John Talbot's School, Whitchurch: 22nd, 29th, 30th and 31st, 9am - 1pm

Tilstock CE Primary School CE, Whitchurch: 22nd and 29th, 9am - 1pm

Bushcraft trips: foraging, shelter building, fire-craft and navigation

For primary school children, leaving from Longlands Primary School: 23rd and 30th, 9am - 5pm

For secondary school children, leaving from Sir John Talbot's School: 22nd and 29th, 9am - 5pm

Book a place now at

4-all-foundation.classforkids.io

Please email HAF@4all.foundation to enquire about eligibility for free places (including for children who are eligible for Free School Meals).



Non-funded places are £8 for half-day sessions, including lunch, and £16 for full-day sessions, including breakfast and lunch

**Foraging, fire-craft, navigation,
shelter building and much more**

**Leaving from the entrance of
Sir John Talbot's School**

Monday 22nd and Monday 29th December

9am to 5pm

Open to all secondary school pupils

Book a place now at
4-all-foundation.classforkids.io

Please email HAF@4all.foundation to enquire about eligibility for free places (including for children who are eligible for Free School Meals).

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

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



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

Let's connect this CHRISTMAS (SOME WAY)

By now you'll have seen our collaboration with Musicalternative for this year's National Online Safety Christmas song. If you feel like joining in – perhaps with your family or with your class – we've reproduced the lyrics here for you!

1 We don't want a lot for Christmas,
There's nothing we really need
And we don't care about the presents
Underneath the Christmas tree
We just want a screen-free day
Unless we're calling family far away
What more can we say?
Let's connect this Christmas, some way

2 I don't want a lot for Christmas
But here's some other things I'd like (I'd like)
Offline school from now till summer
Time outside to ride my bike

3 And I don't want to spend this Christmas
Surrounded by a million screens
Unless they're showing happy faces
The fam on Zoom or my friends on Teams

4 The iPad's great to stay in touch
With people we don't see that much
So what more can we say?
Let's catch up this Christmas, some way

5 And I won't ask for much this Christmas
Not even a PS5 (or a)
iPhone ProMax, Switch OLED,
A million-terabyte hard drive

6 It's time for some fun with mates
But TikTok, Insta they can wait
As for family, what do ya say?
Let's hang out for the Christmas holiday

7 All the screens are shining so brightly
everywhere (oh it's Christmas)
And the sound of high-pitched ringtones
fills the air (and mince pies)
And everyone's distracted (stockings)
My mental health's impacted (presents)
Can't we use devices so we're ALL connected?
Sharing memories that we've all collected?

8 Oh, I don't want a lot for Christmas
This is all I'm asking for (and I)
Just wanna spread some smiles
Show some kindness, let's make sure
Nobody feels on their own
Share so everybody knows
Through a screen, or face to face
Let's connect this Christmas, some way

9 Connected this Christmas some way,
please let's be
Connected this Christmas some way
Connected this Christmas some way
Connected this Christmas some way



National
Online
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday