



Friday 27th February 2026

Headteachers report of the week

This week has been particularly special as we officially opened our new school library, a project that has been months in the making and one that truly reflects the heart of our school community. I am delighted to share just how transformative this new space has already been for our learners.

From the moment the doors opened, the library has welcomed learners with its calm, inviting atmosphere. Soft lighting, comfortable seating, and thoughtfully designed reading areas have created a warm and relaxing environment where every child can feel at home. It has quickly become a space where learners naturally slow down, settle, and immerse themselves in books.

Throughout the week, classes have taken turns exploring the new shelves filled with fresh titles chosen to inspire curiosity, imagination, and a love of reading. It has been wonderful to see children excitedly discovering new authors, recommending books to friends, and finding quiet corners to enjoy a peaceful moment with a story.

Our staff have also played a huge role in bringing the library to life. Teachers have begun planning reading sessions, small-group interventions, and storytelling opportunities that make full use of the space. The enthusiasm from learners and staff alike has shown just how important a welcoming reading environment is for developing confidence, empathy, and a lifelong passion for learning.

The new library is more than just a room filled with books; it is a nurturing space designed to support wellbeing, spark creativity, and celebrate the joy of reading. We are incredibly proud of what has been achieved, and I am excited to see the many ways our learners will continue to make this space their own in the coming weeks.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this project. Your support has helped create a truly special place for our school community.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

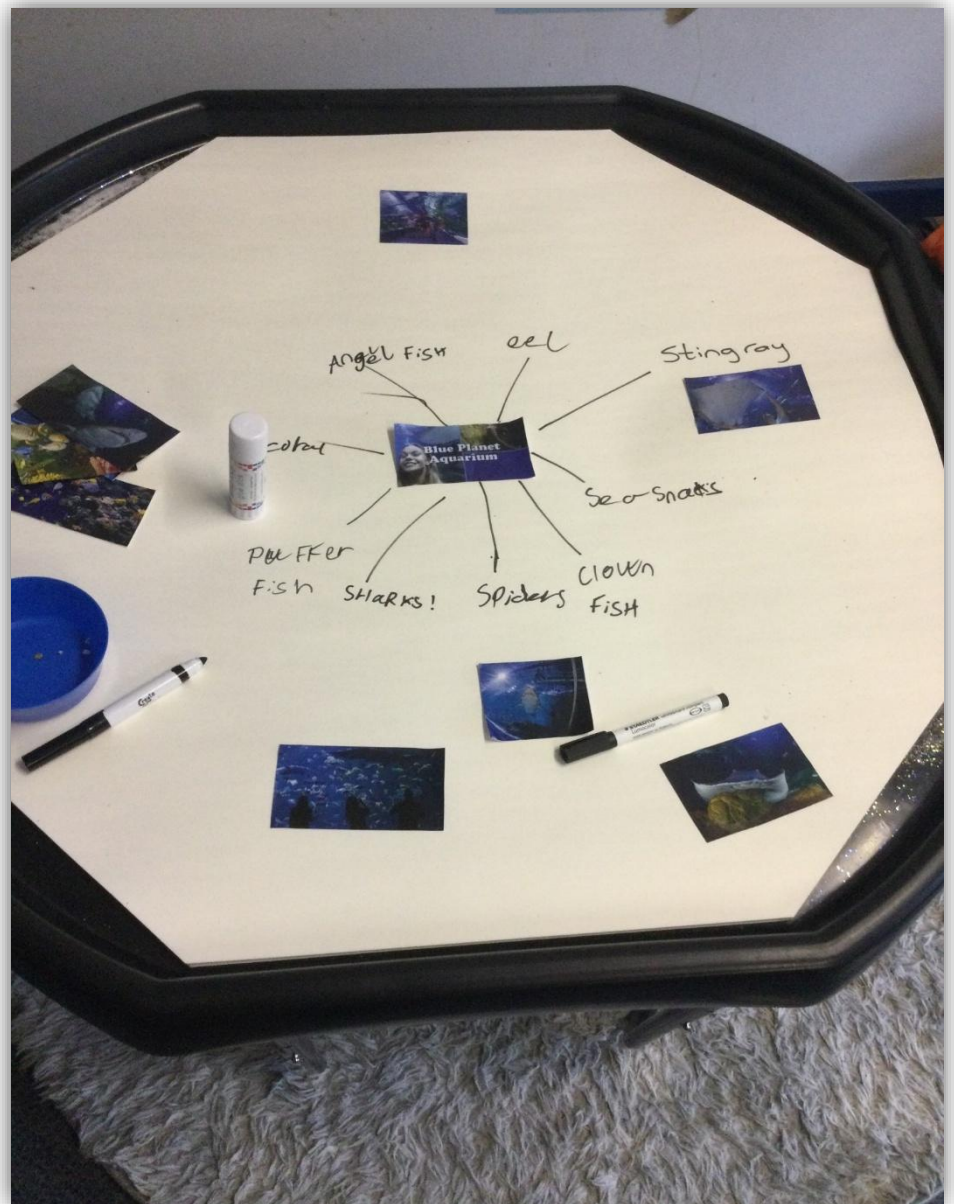
Best wishes
Jules



This half term, our class, Acorns 3 is diving into the topic of oceans. As part of our learning, we've been getting ready for our exciting trip to Blue Planet Aquarium!

We've been looking at creatures we might encounter and discussing what we hope to see when we are there.

- Debbie G





This week in Vocational, Michael worked with Andy to create something truly special, a wooden chair designed especially for his toys at home.

Michael showed fantastic focus and enthusiasm throughout the project. He carefully measured, sanded, and assembled each part of the chair, learning new skills and building his confidence with tools along the way. Andy supported him step by step, helping him bring his idea to life.

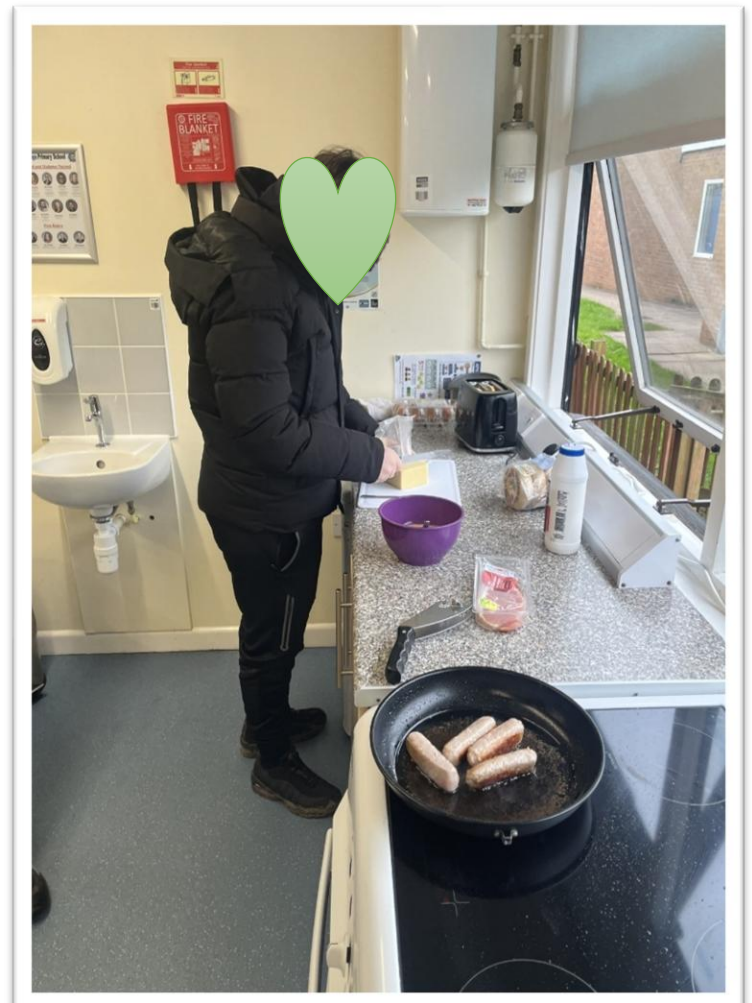
The finished chair is sturdy, well-made, and a brilliant example of the pride Michael takes in his work.

Well done, Michael, your hard work and creativity really shone through!



This week, Orchard have been busy in the kitchen creating a delicious breakfast feast! Learners took great pride in preparing sizzling bacon and perfectly cooked sausages, working together to make a warm, welcoming start to the day.

They set up, supported each other with cooking, and enjoyed learning new skills such as timing, turning food safely, and working as a team.

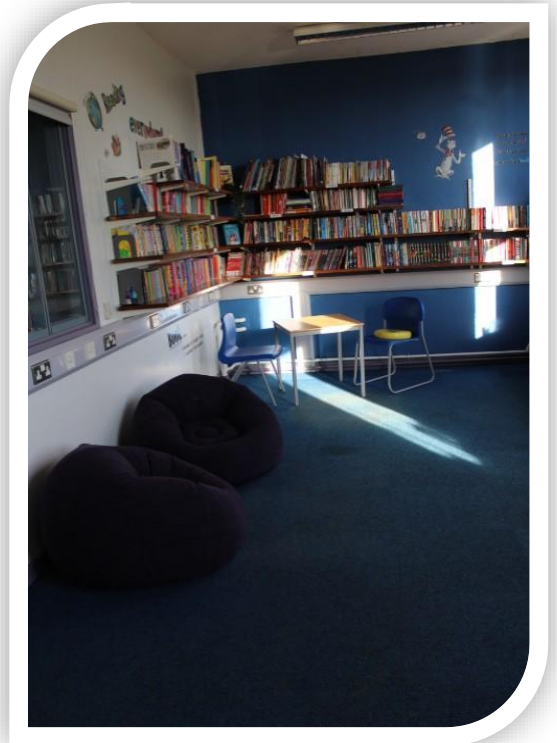
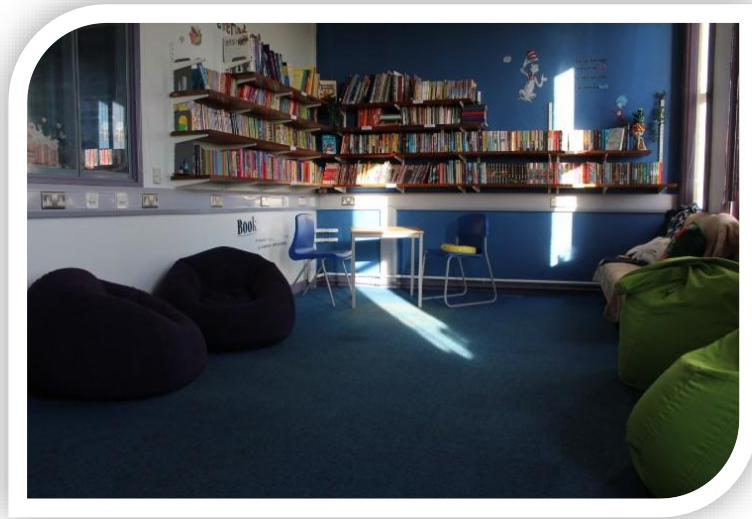


Bobby and Abel have
made Domenic very
welcome in Acorns
3. They all played
together and had a
lovely afternoon
- Debbie G

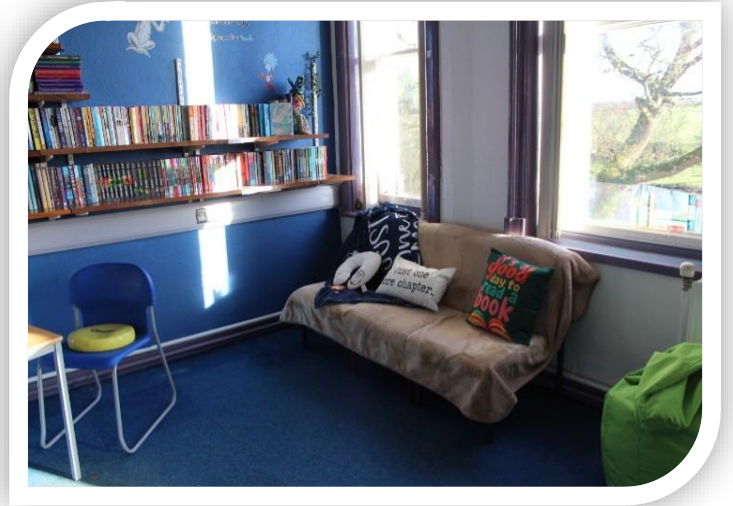
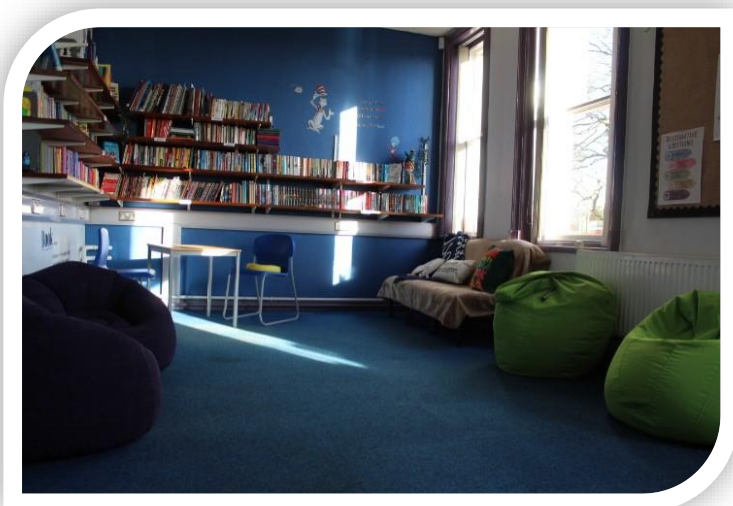
Welcome to
Woodlands
Domenic, it's lovely
to have you with us



Welcome to our new **School Library!**



Shelves are filled with exciting stories, fascinating non-fiction, and colourful picture books, offering something to spark every imagination. Whether learners want to explore new worlds, dive into a mystery, or simply enjoy a quiet moment, the library provides the perfect setting.





Saplings 3 prepared Homemade Burgers, adding onion and seasoning, shaping and grilling. They added sliced cheese slices to add flavour.

- Debbie J



Congratulations to Charlotte and Eliza for their wonderful creations at the local pottery painting studio!

Both learners enjoyed the experience and here are the wonderful end results!

– Well done, they look amazing!





Learners have been working really hard on the next step of our bottle greenhouse project this week. They've added bubble wrap to get everything ready for the bottles to go in!





Congratulations!

Ethan and Oscar from Acorns 1 have become the first learners to win prizes by completing their job roles!

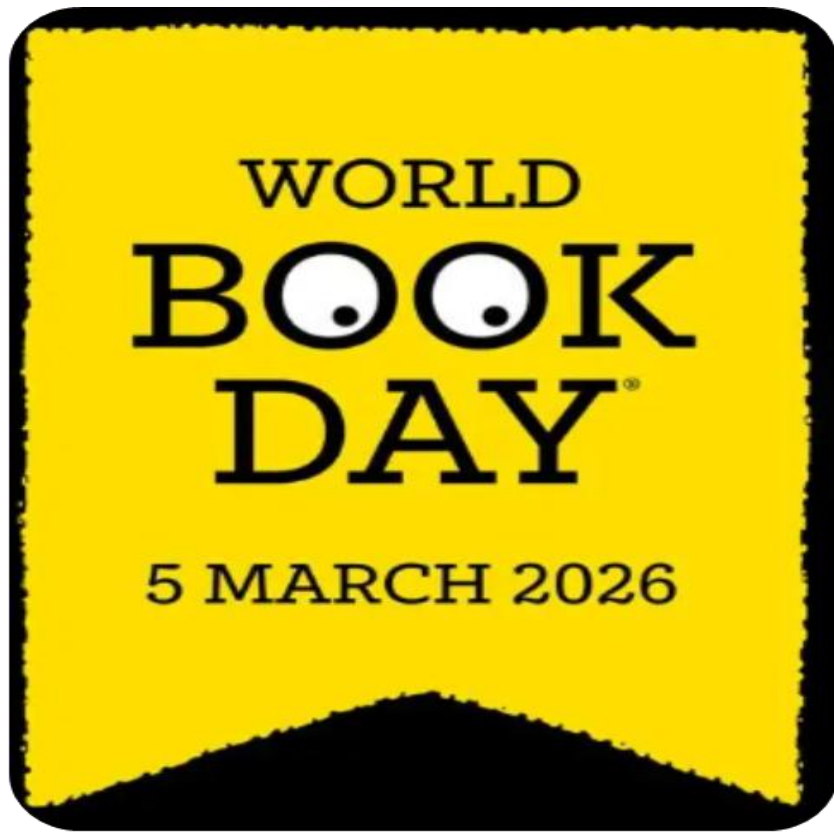
Ethan chose to be a stationary monitor and put away pencils and highlighters while Oscar chose to be an RE teacher and a Book Monitor! Oscar completed an RE powerpoint and laid out the morning routine books and put them away at the end of the lesson. – Well done boys!



Both of them received their chosen prize from the multiple that are ready to be won by completing a job role!

Who will be next?





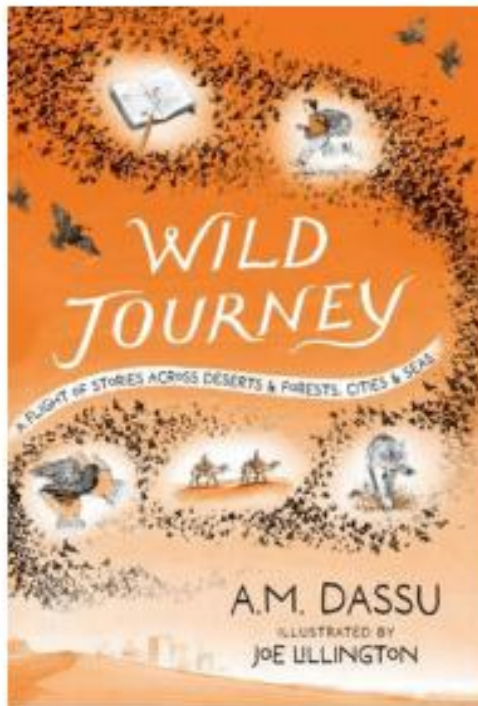
Thursday! This week

- Dress-up day for staff and learners (Costumes or 'wear something to read in' e.g. PJs / comfy clothes)
- Quiz in branches in the hall in the morning
- Hot chocolate, biscuits and story time in the afternoon

WHAT TO READ NOW

Feb-March 2026

Book recommendations for all ages



Wild Journey

by A.M. Dassu

illustrated by Joe Lillington

Q: Where did the idea for the book come from?

A: When I was asked to write this story collection, we thought journeys would be perfect because all of my books explore journeys in some way, whether they're internal or physical.

Q: Why did you decide to structure the book around a flock of starlings?

A: Starlings are just so interesting. They can live on their own. But then they do join massive murmurations of up to a million where they swoop and dance together in the sky for protection against predators.

Q: How did you pick where each of the stories is set?

A: The book then fell into place because of Starlings, because I then was able to choose the locations based on where they migrate.

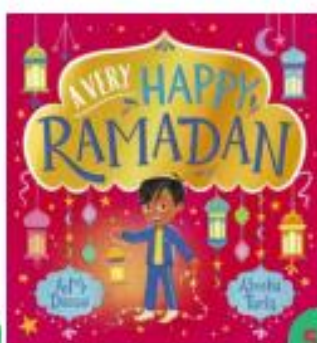
Q: Do you have a favourite character in the book?

A: I really loved writing the Wolf because it was something I've never done before. I had obviously to do a lot of research for it, but I kind of related to the wolf too, because as a mum, I would go out of my comfort zone to protect my children too.

More books by the same author



11+



5+



Listen to the full interview with A.M. Dassu here




BOOK CLUBS
IN SCHOOLS

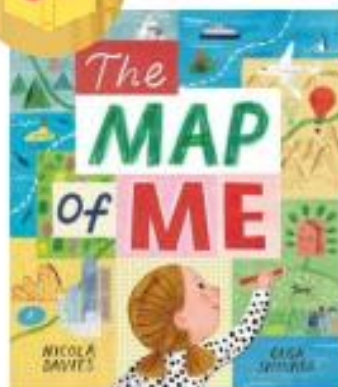
 **LoveReading**
+ KIDS BECAUSE BOOKS CHANGE LIVES



BOOK PICKS

Book recommendations for all ages

3+



The Map of Me

by Nicola Davies
illustrated by Olga Shtonda

A gentle story about moving, making connections and mapping a better world.

When a young girl moves to a new country, her mum helps her draw a map to understand her unfamiliar surroundings. They draw the new neighbourhood, new friends and the special places the girl has found, but important things from the past are missing like Grandma and Joe-Dog. So the girl makes the map bigger to include them.



**Adventuremice:
Mousehole to the
Centre of the Earth**
by Philip Reeve and
Sarah McIntrye

5+

When Uncle Bernie turns up with his incredible Mechanical Mole machine, the Adventuremice go on a mission!

Pedro and the crew burrow to an underground cave world, unlike anything they've ever seen. There are tiny, twisty trees, and even tinier pterodactyls! But there's also a HAMSTERSAURUS REX on the loose! Can they save the local cave mice and find a way home? They need a very clever solution!



Escape from the Child Snatchers

by Safiya Ahmed

Humza and his friend Ranj are on a mission to bring back Dani, Humza's brother who went missing in London two years ago.



9+

It's 1885 and after a long and eventful voyage from India, Humza and Ranj arrive in London and very quickly encounter the ruthless child-snatcher. A nail-biting adventure across London follows. Can the boys stay out of the clutches of the child snatcher? And can they ever find Dani and bring him back home?

7+



**Hari Kumar -
Ultimate Superstar**
by Rashmi Sirdeshpande
illustrated by Mamta Singh
Hari Kumar: 10 years old,
75% Indian, 25% French, and
100% going to be a
superstar. All he needs to
make it big is a lucky break.

Hari dreams of becoming a Bollywood legend, and when a school filmmaking competition appears on the horizon, he's convinced this is his lucky break. His ticket to stardom. The moment the world finally sees what he can do. What he's capable of. Told through Hari's own journal, readers get a front-row seat inside Hari's brilliant, autistic, ADHD mind.



BOOK CLUBS
IN SCHOOLS



LoveReading
4 KIDS BECAUSE BOOKS CHANGE LIVES



BOOK PICKS

Book recommendations for all ages

12+



Ghost Boys

by Jewell Parker Rhodes
illustrated by Setor Fiadzigbey

A powerful graphic novel version of the bestselling novel about a Black boy killed by a white police officer.

Twelve-year-old Jerome doesn't get into trouble. He goes to school. He does his homework. He takes care of his little sister. Then Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, watching his family trying to cope with his death, Jerome begins to notice other ghost boys. Each boy has a story and they all have something in common...



The Experiment

by Rebecca Stead

A sci-fi mystery that asks how we figure out who we want to be, and whether it's ever too late to change.

Nathan never understood what was 'fun' about secrets, probably because he's always had to keep a very big one. Although he appears to be a typical twelve-year-old, Nathan learned at an early age that his family is from another planet. Now, their time on Earth may be coming to an end. Nathan, his parents and nine other families are part of an experiment that suddenly seems to be going wrong.



10+

Beth is Dead

by Katie Bernet

Beth March has been murdered, and all her sisters are suspects... But the March girls aren't the only ones with a story to tell.



13+

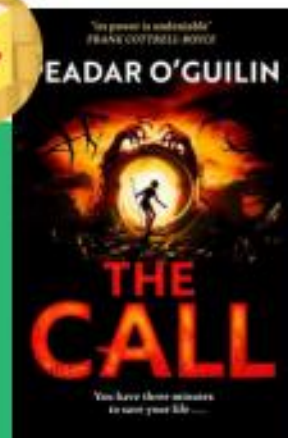
After a New Years Eve party, Beth is found dead. All the March sisters see Beth's body and wonder how - and who - could have killed their sweet little sister. And what was their motive? The March sisters have always been close, but will Beth's murder bring them closer together, or further apart? As each of the girls' motives are uncovered, the March sisters might not be quite as sweet as they seem...

The Call

by Peadar O'Guilin

The magical Sidhe have been expelled from their home and forced into the Grey Land. But now they've returned to take back what they lost.

All teenagers will be called, and when your time comes, you have to be ready to run or fight to the death. The vengeful Sidhe will grab you by surprise - you could be studying or hanging out with friends when suddenly you're pulled into their terrifying world, alone and hunted. Only one in ten will return alive - the rest subjected to a tortuous and painful death. No one believes Nessa can survive but she's determined to prove them wrong...



13+



BOOK CLUBS
IN SCHOOLS



LoveReading

4 KIDS BECAUSE BOOKS CHANGE LIVES



Coming Soon...



Thursday 26th March at 1:30pm

Woodlands School

Fun for family and friends and
prizes are to be won!

Save the date! We can't wait to see you!

Glimmers



Tyler ST has made excellent progress in Maths in the last six weeks, making a whole 9 month's progress – Amazing work Tyler!

Morgan has achieved full marks in his Entry Level 3 exam
– Wow! Morgan well done!

Angel and Lexi have had a positive self-restorative – Well done girls!

Corey was very close to full marks on his entry level exams
- Great work Corey!



Headteacher Awards



- **Leo Gu** for incredible Artwork
- **Matthew** for helping put up posters around the bungalow and having positive conversations



Dates for the Diary

- World book day
 - 5th March 2026 – Dress up day
- PCP Parents Evenings
 - **Thursday 12th March 3.30 – 5.30**
 - Booking open now**
 - Online, by phone or in person
 - Thursday 9th July 3.30 – 5.30
 - Online, by phone or in person
- Easter Bingo
 - Thursday 26th March 1:30
- Easter Holidays
 - 30/3/26 – 10/04/26



Shropshire Parenting Team – Family Leaflet

This leaflet provides information to all families, including those whose children have SEND, who would like to know more about the services we offer. Simply scan any QR code or follow the links to explore free support, groups and learning opportunities.

Our Services - Overview

[The Parenting Team | Shropshire Council](#)

Find out more about all our services on offer



Our SEND Services - Overview

[The Parenting Team | Shropshire Council](#)

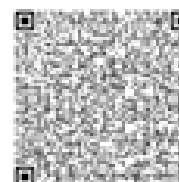
Find out more about our services within the SEND local offer



Understanding Your Child Groups

[Information to help families in Shropshire - Shropshire Together Community Directory](#)

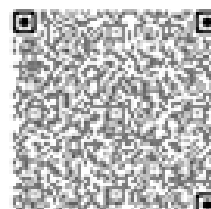
Find out more about free groups



Sleep Tight Groups

[Information to help families in Shropshire - Shropshire Together Community Directory](#)

Find out more about free Sleep Tight groups



Online Learning Pathways

[Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin | Togetherness - Togetherness](#)

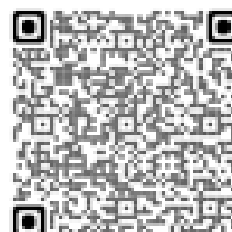
Find out more about free online learning



Parenting Help and Support Line

[Shropshire Parenting Help and Support Line | Shropshire Together Community Directory](#)

No judgment, just support. Call us for a listening ear.



Understanding Your Child

From Toddler to Teen

"I met others going through the same things. It really helped me feel less alone."

"The group boosted my confidence as a parent."

Join our friendly, relaxed group!

Parenting can be full of ups, downs, big feelings and lots of learning — for both you and your child! Come and join us as we chat about what's going on for you and your family. Together we'll make sense of tricky moments and share simple ideas that can make life calmer and more positive.

Upcoming Sessions (once a week over 10 weeks, excl. half terms and bank holidays)

- 13th April 2026 - 12.45–2.45pm – Belvidere Primary School, Shrewsbury (SY2 5YB)
- 13th April 2026 - 1.00–3.00pm – Ludlow Primary School (SY8 1HG)
- 15th April 2026 - 9.30–11.30am – Pontesbury Primary School (SY5 0TF)
- 15th April 2026 - 1.00–3.00pm – Wilfred Owen School, Shrewsbury (SY2 5SH)
- 15th April 2026 - 5.00–7.00pm – Online via MS Teams

What We'll Talk About

- Communicating and building connection with your child
- Routines like sleep and bedtime and any other routines you have as a family
- Understanding behaviour and big emotions
- Child development and how you can support it

Want to Join Us?

Email: parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk

Call: 01743 250950

Visit: [The Parenting Team | Shropshire Council](#)



Prefer flexible online learning?

Try our free online learning pathways at

[Becoming Togetherness - Togetherness](#)



Understanding Your Child with SEND

From Toddler to Teen

"I met others going through the same things. It really helped me feel less alone."

"The group boosted my confidence as a parent."

Join our friendly, relaxed group!

Join our friendly, free group for parents and carers of children with SEND. Connect with others, deepen your understanding of your child, and explore what's going well and what you'd like to change. Small changes make big differences!

Upcoming Sessions (once a week over 10 weeks, excl. half terms and bank holidays)

- 13th April 2026 - 10.00am-12.00pm – Online via MS Teams
- 16th April 2026 - 1.00pm-3.00pm – St Lucia's School, Upton Magna (SY4 4TZ)
- 17th April 2026 - 9.30am-11.30am – Whittington Primary School, (SY11 4DA)

SEND groups are for parents/carers of children who may have special educational needs or disabilities. No formal diagnosis is needed.

What We'll Talk About

- Communication and building confidence in your relationship with your child
- Exploring routines such as sleep and bedtime
- Understanding behaviour and emotional regulation
- Child development and ways you can support it

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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 Universal Group 24th April 2026 from 10.00am to 12.00pm
Virtually Via MS Teams**

**Sleep Tight SEND Group 12th June 2026 from 10.00am to 12.00pm
at The Keystone Academy, Squinter Pip Way, Shrewsbury, SY3 8XQ**

The groups run for 5 weeks excluding the school holidays and bank holidays.
Groups with SEND are suitable 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



Shropshire
Council

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)



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

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

1 VALUE ALL READING

When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.

2 WIDEN THE SELECTION

Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.

3 GIFT A BOOK

One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.

4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS

Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authorfy and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.

5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.

6 TALK BOOKS

There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.

8 GO DIGITAL

With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like PolyIno and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.

9 RECONNECT

There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever; it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.

10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

Meet Our Expert

Carl Pattison is a literacy advisor and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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