

*Dear Parents/Carers*

# WHIXALL SCHOOL NEWS

We demonstrate our Values of **respect, caring, supportiveness, tolerance, perseverance, forgiveness, and trust**, at Whixall C.E. Primary School in all that we strive to do each day.

## Our Harvest Service

Thank you so very much for your contributions of non perishable food to donate to the Whitchurch Food bank, and for your support with the voluntary collection; donations will be sent to the Farm Crisis Network.

It was lovely to see so many families joining in with our wonderful Harvest Service, thank you.



## PE and outdoor learning

Please find below the days that each class will have their PE lessons. Children will need to come into school in their PE kits.

Wednesday—Swimming for Skylark Class (Year 1), Mayfly Class (Year 2), Peregrine Class (Years 5 and 6)

PE for Dragonfly Class (Reception) and Bumblebee Class (Nursery) and Robin Class (Years 3 and 4)

Thursday - PE for Dragonfly Class (Reception)

Friday – PE for Bumblebee Class (Nursery) and Robin Class (Years 3 and 4)

**If children could bring their outdoor learning clothes into school please and leave them in school, that would be appreciated. It would also be appreciated if all children could bring a pair of wellies into school please .**

## Diary Dates

Tuesday 15th October—Peregrine Class to Thomas Adams to see the dress rehearsal of 'Guys and Dolls'

Wednesday 16th October—Swimming for Skylark, Mayfly and Peregrine

Thursday 17th October—Phonics workshop for families of children in Dragonfly and Skylark Classes

**Wear it pink**

Friday 18th October— Year 6 to tennis event in Shrewsbury

Thursday 24th October—Break up for half term.

Friday 25th October—PD Day

Monday 4th November—Back to School

**If you are concerned about someone's safety**

**In an emergency dial 999, but for other calls to the police please ring 101.**

**To report a safeguarding concern by phone ring our First Point of Contact team on 0345 678 9044 Monday to Thursday, 9am to 5pm, and Friday 9am to 4pm. If you have urgent adult safeguarding concerns outside of these hours, please phone the Emergency Social Work Duty Team on 0345 678 9040.**



## Holiday Club



Holiday Club will run again during October half term on Friday 25th, Monday 28th, Tuesday 29th, Wednesday 30th and Thursday 31st October  
Bookings are now available via sQuid.

### Drop off system

Just a reminder about the arrangements for our morning drop off system.

The gate at the top of the layby is open at 8.20 a.m. where a member of staff is on duty. Can we please ask that children are dropped off as quickly and safely as possible to ensure that waiting time is kept to a minimum.

At 8.30 a.m. the second gate is opened, please do not stop at the second gate if there is space in front of you to wait to drop your child off at the first gate.

Please do not park on the road to walk your child into school.

If your child is in Nursery and you wish to park on the road to walk your child to the playground gate, then can we please ask that you arrive after 8.45 a.m.

A reminder that school starts at 8.45 a.m. and Nursery starts at 9.00 a.m. although we are happy for Nursery children to be dropped off with siblings.

We do understand that families need to drop off promptly to get to work and thank you for your patience.

We will continue to monitor the situation.

### Child Absence

Please telephone school (01948 880330) by 9.00am if your child is unwell and will not be attending that day. If leaving a message, can you please provide the exact reason why your child is absent. If we have not heard from you by 9.30am we will text you and then follow-up with a telephone call if we have still not heard from you by lunchtime.

We shall also be contacting parents of Nursery children who do not attend, for whatever reason, on days that we are expecting them. This is a health and wellbeing safeguarding check.

### INTERNET SAFETY

*If you or your child experience any form of content on the internet that may be harmful, this can be reported using the following link:*

[Report Harmful Content - We Help You Remove Content](#)

### Water Bottles

Please can children bring a water bottle, labelled with their name to school each day.

If your child is bringing juice to drink with their lunch can they also bring a bottle with water in so that they can stay hydrated throughout the day.

Thank you.



We are taking part in Wear It Pink Day

Thursday 17th October

Can children please wear something pink, i.e. t-shirt, tutu, cap, bobble hat or scarf etc for a donation of your choice to raise money to help make life-saving breast cancer research and vital support happen. Thank you.

**\*\*\* School Admissions Dates \*\*\***

**Applications for Secondary School Places**

**Applications must be made online by 31st October 2024 (final day for application)**

To apply please visit: <http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/school-admissions>  
click on: Apply to start or transfer school, and then transferring to secondary school.  
If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact school, we are happy to help.

**Free School Meals**

Your child may be entitled to free school meals if you are in receipt of certain benefits.

**Children in Nursery to Year 6 may be eligible**

Please visit the site below to check if you are eligible to apply

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Thank you.

**School Transport**

Your child may be eligible for school transport if they are in Reception Class to Year 6 and fulfil certain criteria.

Applications can be submitted online at

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/school-transport/available-support/>

Scroll down and click on Primary.

Thank you.

**Clubs**

**Clubs for this half term will be as follows:**

**Mondays: Netball and Craft**

**Tuesdays: Code and Church**

**Wednesdays: Sports and Cookery Club (please note that cookery club is for Year 6 children only—the cost for this club is £3 per week)**

**Thursdays: Homework and Film Club**

**Fridays: Games Club**

**We are offering wrap around care after our normal school clubs from 4.30 p.m. until 6.00 p.m. These must be booked and paid for in advance by 3.00 p.m. of the Friday of the previous week (booking will close at 3 p.m.)—our apologies but unfortunately until the club becomes established, we cannot accept bookings in any other way.**

**Clubs will therefore be organised as follows:**

**3.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. Usual club - (please see above) at £2.00 per session these are booked and paid for in the usual way.**

**4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. - £4 per session payable under the booking section of sQuid**

**4.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. - £6 per session payable under the booking section of sQuid**

**If anyone wishes their child to access late club during the week beginning 21st October please book by Friday 19th October 2024.**

## Instagram: new Teen account features

**You must be over 13 years of age to set up an account.** Instagram is used to post photos and videos as well as send direct messages, make voice/video calls and send disappearing messages. Users can also upload to 'Stories' (which disappear after 24 hours), broadcast live and upload reels (short videos).

### Teen accounts – NEW feature

Instagram have introduced Teen Accounts to try and create a safer experience for them. With a Teen Account, who they can contact is limited and the content they access will be set to the most restrictive setting to reduce exposure to sensitive content. If a teen would like to override any of these settings, then they will need their parent's permission by setting up parental supervision. These changes will be in place for all new users straightaway so any users that sign up that are under 16 will automatically be given a Teen Account. Existing users will be moved over to Teen Accounts over the next couple of months (in the UK).

### Supervision settings – new features

Instagram already offers a supervision facility, but they have added to the features to include:

The ability to see who your child has messaged in the past week (you will not be able to see the contents of these messages)

The option to block your child from accessing Instagram at certain times e.g. during school or at night.

The ability to see what topics your child has chosen to see.

Read the press release from Instagram, which outlines all the upcoming changes:

<https://about.fb.com/news/2024/09/instagram-teen-accounts/>

### You may not be seeing everything!

Did you know that you can hide your stories and live videos from specific people so your child could be uploading content but restricting your account from viewing it?

### Safety Features

Ensure your child knows how to report posts and people, how to unfollow and block people, delete and turn off comments. View here:

<https://help.instagram.com/269765046710559>

Make sure your child understands that there is a risk that content they upload can be shared with others without their permission as other users can screenshot it.

### More information

Visit the family centre to learn more about the features available:

<https://familycenter.meta.com/uk/>

## Learn Through Play with Sesame Street

The Sesame Street website has a whole host of resources, activities, and games from supporting with learning ABCs to discussing tough topics such as grief.

<https://sesameworkshop.org/>

## Staying safe online with Google Families

Google have a one stop resource to help you and your family stay safe online. It includes how to set up parental controls and important steps on how to keep your children safe online. You can find out more here:

<https://families.google/>

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD  
SOLIHULL APPROACH

## Understanding your child

Free courses for Shropshire families

“ This course has given me confidence as a parent and helped me to improve our relationship. I wish I had done it sooner! ”

## Understanding Your Child

Would you like to know more about your child's development?

Would you like support to understand your child's behaviour?

Want to meet other parents and carers?

Then this FREE 10 week course is for you. It will help you to understand your child, yourself and your parenting style better. Giving you practical tips to improve your relationship and a chance to talk about challenges within a supportive peer group setting.

Throughout September and October there will be courses starting in Oswestry, Whitchurch, Market Drayton, Shrewsbury, Cressage, Church Stretton and Ludlow. Find out more about the course and how to book your place

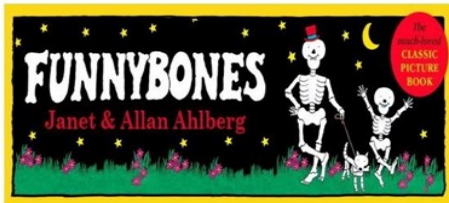
here: <https://orlo.uk/LyqVC>

**Wem Library**  
Tuesday 29th October 2024  
2:30pm to 3:30pm

Join us for a Spooky

'Funnybones'

Storytime & Craft session.



Free drop in event.  
Children must be accompanied by an adult.

www.shropshire.gov.uk/libraries  
Follow us on Twitter @ShropLibraries  
wem.library@shropshire.gov.uk  
01939 236995  
www.shropshire.gov.uk

SHREWSBURY HIGH SCHOOL  
GDST  
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

An Evening with Louise Minchin

Hear the story of the fearless adventures of an extraordinary woman

an evening with The Reverend Canon KATE BOTTLEY

SHREWSBURY HIGH SCHOOL  
GDST  
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Join us for an evening with much loved TV and Radio personality and the nation's favourite vicar, The Reverend Kate Bottley.

Tuesday 12th November 2024  
DOORS OPEN AT 6.45PM FOR A 7.00PM START  
The New Hall, Town Walls, Shrewsbury, SY1 1TN

Refreshments and book signing  
Tickets Adults £20 | Students £10 | SHS Students £5  
Available from School Office and Eventbrite. Email: [g.parish@shr.gdst.net](mailto:g.parish@shr.gdst.net)  
shrewsburyhigh.gdst.net

Wednesday 16th October 2024

DOORS OPEN AT 6.45PM FOR A 7.00PM START

The New Hall, Town Walls,  
Shrewsbury, SY1 1TN



Refreshments and book signing

Tickets Adults £20 | Students £10 | SHS Students £5

Available from School Office and Eventbrite. Email: [g.parish@shr.gdst.net](mailto:g.parish@shr.gdst.net)

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