

Dear Parents/Carers

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.



We hope you and your family enjoyed a very happy Christmas.

We wish you a happy and healthy 2025 and look forward to seeing you again on Monday 5th January.

PE

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

- Monday — Bumblebee Class (Nursery), Dragonfly Class (Reception) Robin Class (Year 3)
- Tuesday — Skylark Class (Year 1), Mayfly Class (Years 1 and 2)
- Wednesday — Red Kite Class (Year 4), Peregrine Class (Years 5 and 6)
- Thursday — Skylark Class (Year 1) Mayfly Class (Years 1 and 2), Robin Class (Year 3) Peregrine Class (Years 5 and 6)
- Friday — Bumblebee Class (Nursery), Dragonfly Class (Reception) Red Kite Class (Year 4)

We are aware that it has been in the local news that Market Drayton swimming baths are reopening next week but we haven't had any information yet about school sessions restarting—as soon as we hear anything, we will let you know.

*** School Admissions Dates ***

Applications for Reception School Places

Children born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 can start primary school from September 2026

The deadline for submitting an on time application is Wednesday 15th January 2026

To apply please visit: <http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

click on: Apply to start or transfer school.

then click on: Starting infant or primary school

If you have any queries with your application please contact the school office.

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 the **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.

WHIXALL SCHOOL

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.



Coat, hat, gloves and wellies



Can we please ask that during the cold weather your child brings a coat, hat and gloves to school each day. If your child does not already have a pair of wellies in school (labelled with their name please) can we ask that you send a pair in that can be left in school.

We like to take the children out at playtimes whenever the weather allows.
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.](#)

Any queries please contact the school office.

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.

Would you like to read our Online Safety newsletter in a different language?

You can use the translate tool on our web version:

<https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/january-2026-primary/>

Reading Books and Reading Records

Can your child please bring their reading book and reading record to school each day so that we can record when they are reading in school. Thank you for listening to your child read at home, it is making a big difference. .



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 9.15am, we will telephone you and follow-up with a text message. If we have still not heard from you by 10.30am we will telephone and text again as this becomes a safeguarding concern. Please do not pass on messages via the school gate about your child's absence – it important that you contact the school office.

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.

Thank you for your support.

Playing games online

Does your child play games online? We have outlined some risks that you should consider:

Chatting to strangers / risk of inappropriate language

Some games will allow communication via text chat, direct messages or chatting. Some games do offer the ability to switch communication off and/or the option to restrict bad language, so make sure settings appropriate to your child are applied. If your child is playing online with strangers, then you need to be aware that there is a risk of grooming. Some games do allow you to restrict communication to 'friends only,' however you would need to monitor that their online friends are real life friends. It can be difficult to moderate online chat so ensure your child knows how to block and report other players.

Cyberbullying

It can be very easy online for children to behave in a way that they would not if they were face to face. Talk to your child about how they speak to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect. Other forms of cyberbullying whilst playing games could be excluding others, criticising the ability of other players and ganging up on others.

In app purchases

Many games include the option to purchase additional items/ subscriptions so ensure you do not have payment cards saved or set up restrictions/ a password to approve purchases.

What can I do?

Set up parental controls - as well as setting up appropriate parental controls through the game's settings, ensure you have set them up on the console/device your child is playing on.

Check age ratings - before buying the game, check that your child is old enough to play it. All games will either have a PEGI rating or be rated by the App Store/Google Play.

Chat to your child regularly about the risks above so that they are aware of what can happen online and remind them to always talk to you or a trusted adult if they have any concerns

Further information

CEOP provides further guidance and support regarding this topic:

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/>

Family Smart Start

Family Smart Start is a free toolkit designed to help you and your child navigate the milestone of getting their first phone. The toolkit provides support on how to set up their new phone, how to talk to your child about digital safety and a template family agreement.

Find out more here:

<https://familysmartstart.com/>

Support for parent carers of children with SEND

Shropshire's Local Offer

Having access to good quality information to help you understand the world of SEND is important when making decisions about your child's life.

This is where websites such as the [Shropshire's SEND Local Offer](https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/) can help you.

The SEND Local Offer

Lots of information and support for children and young people with SEND and their families, including:

- Education
- Health and wellbeing
- Family support
- Social care
- Preparing for adulthood
- Early help
- Things to do
- Education, health and care plan (EHCP)
- Travel and transport
- Financial support

localOffer@shropshire.gov.uk 0345 678 9063
www.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/



If you need help accessing the Local Offer please speak to your school or local library.



all about family

www.allabout-family.co.uk/national-magazine

A digital newsletter with lots of information to share with your children.

Shropshire Supporting Families through Early Help

COFFEE & CHAT

Wem

3rd Thursday of each month
1.30pm until 3pm
Wem Library, 3 High St, Wem,
Shrewsbury SY4 5AA

All families within the local area welcome

Free information, support & advice around:

- Family Life
- Housing & Finance
- Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)
- Parenting Support
- Training & Employment
- Domestic Abuse Support
- And much more...

Shropshire Libraries Learn imagine discover

shropshire.gov.uk/early-help

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED
PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN SEALED CUP/TRAVEL MUG

Shropshire Council

Worrying About Money

Worrying about Money? Please use the link below to find guidance and advice regarding money worries that may be affecting you and your family:

<https://www.worryingaboutmoney.co.uk/shropshire>

Leaflets are also available from:

<https://www.foodaidnetwork.org.uk/cash-first-leaflets>

Shropshire family Information Service

Info, advice and support, for families in Shropshire

Find us on:

Shropshire Council