

# Dear Parents and Carers

Issue 03

11<sup>th</sup> September 2026

We demonstrate our values of *Respect, Caring, Supportiveness, Tolerance, Perseverance, Forgiveness, and Trust* at Whixall C.E. Primary School and Nursery in all that we strive to achieve each day.

## PE

Mondays PE for Dragonfly Class (Nursery and Reception)

Wednesdays PE for Robin Class (Years 3 and 4), Year 1 children in Skylark Class  
Swimming for Year 2 (Skylark and Robin Classes) and Years 5 and 6  
(Peregrine Class)

Thursdays PE for Dragonfly Class (Nursery and Reception)

Fridays PE for Robin Class (Years 3 and 4)  
PE for Year 1 (in Skylark Class)

Children need to come to school dressed in their PE kits please on swimming and PE days.

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

Online applications for Secondary School places are now open  
Applications must be made online by 31st October 2026 (final day for applications) To apply please visit:

[Transferring to secondary school | Shropshire Council](#)

Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on **'Apply here'**.  
If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us, we are happy to help.

## Messaging

**Most communications are sent by email or text via ParentPay. Please make sure that you have registered via the details sent home to ensure you receive notifications, letters and news.**

Please ensure we have the most up to date contact information for you. Please let us know of any changes to your key details.

As a matter of routine, any injury above the neck means that a text is sent home as well as the 'bump note'. All other minor accidents will be recorded and a note sent home with your child.  
If anything is considered more serious than a minor injury, we will always ring you.

## 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.

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.

### Diary Dates

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> September   | Tots and Tales                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> September | Swimming for Years 2, 5 and 6<br><br>Meet the Teacher – there will be an opportunity to come into school to meet your child's class teacher and find out more about the year ahead. There will be a meeting for families at 3.30 p.m. – we are aware that some parents have children in more than one class, therefore staff will be on site until 4.30 p.m. for you to visit more than one class. If you are unable to attend the 3.30 p.m. session, then staff would obviously be very happy to see you after this. |
| Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> September  | Bikeability for Year 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> September    | Bikeability for Year 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September   | Tots and tales                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September | Swimming for Years 2, 5 and 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> September    | MacMillan Coffee morning -join us for tea and cake between 9.00a.m. and 11 a.m. to support this amazing cause.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> September    | Harvest Service at St Mary's Church at 9.30 a.m. everyone is welcome.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> September   | Tots and Tales                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September | Swimming for Years 2, 5 and 6<br><br>Flu Vaccines for children in Reception – Year 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> October      | Tots and Tales                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October    | Swimming for Years 2, 5 and 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> October      | Break up for half term                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November      | PD Day                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November     | Children return to school                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

### Contact Details

Can we please ask that you let the school office know if someone who is not on your named collection list will be collecting your child at the end of the school day. If we have not received a telephone call or email to inform us about the collection, we will ring you to confirm this before allowing your child to leave school. Thank you.

### **Holiday Club**

Holiday Club will run again during October half term.

Further details will be available nearer the time.

## SCHOOL GAMES

We are pleased to report that we have been awarded Gold Standard for our commitment to PE and Sports.



## Facebook

Our school has a Facebook account - [Whixall CE Primary School and Nursery](#)

We use the account to share some of the amazing things that the children undertake in school. Thank you.

## School Meals

Hot school meals are available daily at a cost of £2.65 (£1.85 for Nursery children) and payable via ParentPay.

**Please note children moving into Year 3 will need to pay for school lunches.**

*Your child may be entitled to free school meals if you are in receipt of certain benefits. Please apply, if you are eligible, for children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 even though they will receive universal free school meals. Please visit the site below to check if you are eligible to apply.*

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

Thank you.

## Toast

Toast is available to the children at first playtime at a cost of 10p per slice, this is payable via ParentPay.

Children in Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1 have free fruit on a daily basis.

**\*\* Please let us know if you do not want your child to have toast on a daily basis as some of our children may not understand and may order without you knowing. \*\***

Children are more than welcome to bring in their own healthy snacks, i.e. raw vegetables, fruit etc. to eat at playtime.

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 school. Thank you.

## Homework

Your child's homework is accessed via our online Seesaw program.

Spellings and homework are set on Seesaw each week.

New login details will be sent home with your child during their first week back at school.

Any queries please do not hesitate to contact the office.

## Reading

We really appreciate your support in your child's reading development. We understand that it is difficult to hear your child read every day, but if you could try to build in sometime during the course of the week to hear your child read as often as possible or to talk with them about their reading that would be really beneficial. Reading books will be sent home with your child's reading record diary. Please record every time you hear your child read in the reading record diary and send their reading book and diary back into school daily. Thank you.

### Wellies

Please can your child bring a pair of wellies into school (labelled with their name) that can be left in school.

We play outside at lunchtimes on the field as often as possible, and they will then also be available for use when they are taking part in Outdoor Learning.

Thank you.

### 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 remain hydrated throughout the day.

Thank you.

### Shropshire Family Information Service

Cycling is a great way to keep active and boost your wellbeing. Why not plan a bike ride with the family,

Shropshire has some great family friendly cycle routes, check them out here: <https://orlo.uk/FufJf>

You can find more inspiration and a list of all things cycling on our Family Information Directory

<https://orlo.uk/nkm7E>

### Shropshire Larder - a resource for people in Shropshire

The Shropshire Larder is a community information resource, bringing together the support available in Shropshire for people on low incomes.

Take a look at their website for further information on the following:

- How to access emergency food
- Where to access low cost or free food in Shropshire
- Advice on eating well on a budget
- Where to get local help with money issues

<https://www.shropshirelarder.org.uk/>

### 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](#) 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/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/)

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

Shropshire Council

### Cost of Living Support

Increases in the cost of food, fuel and utilities will continue to affect most households across Shropshire this year. If you find yourself worried about money or you're struggling right now, you're not alone. But don't wait to get help. Shropshire Council and many support organisations are seeing rises in the number of people seeking help, and as winter approaches you may see more delays in getting responses.

The good news is that there's help available.

The website: [www.shropshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help/) was created in partnership with trusted community organisations to help you find the help you need, whether it's to get through a short-term crisis or to find more long-term support.

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.

## 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 Supporting Families through Early Help**

**Shropshire Together Community and Family Hubs**

# COFFEE & CHAT Wem

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month  
13.00-14.45

Wem Library, 3 High St, Wem, Shrewsbury SY4 5AA

You can get free information, advice and support on all aspects of family life, at our Early Help Family Drop-In. You can chat, have a coffee and see how we can help. We support families with children aged 0-19 years (up to 25 years for young people with special educational needs and disabilities) We aim to make it easier for you to ask for help and get support when you need it.

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

**Shropshire Libraries**  
Learn imagine discover

[shropshire.gov.uk/early-help](http://shropshire.gov.uk/early-help)

**Shropshire Council**

## WHITCHURCH PROSTATE SUPPORT GROUP

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month  
7-9pm  
Whitchurch Rugby Club

A confidential, supportive space for men living with prostate cancer

Whether you're newly diagnosed, in treatment, monitoring your psa, or adjusting after treatment, you are welcome here

### What?

Honest conversations with other men who understand  
Supportive, Respectful, judgement-free discussion

### Who?

Men with prostate cancer (any stage) or prostate concerns or monitoring



CONFIDENTIAL • RESPECTFUL • EMPATHETIC



# SHREWSBURY REPAIR CAFE

Your radio doesn't work?  
Your jumper has a hole in it?  
Your ornament is broken?

Bring it to the repair cafe  
Have it fixed & repaired  
Refreshments & cake

**Shrewsbury United Reformed Church Coleham Head**

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday every month  
10am till 2pm

[shrewsrepaircafe](https://www.facebook.com/shrewsrepaircafe)

Repairing the World One Item at a Time

## FAMILY GRAPEVINE

The Summer/Autumn 2026 issue of the Shrewsbury & Telford Family Grapevine is out now! It is full of useful information, with a guide to what's on for families, and the directory full of fun activities from toddler groups to sports clubs, plus childcare, party entertainers, support and lots more. For those who don't receive a print copy, you can either pick up a free copy at family venues, leisure centres and libraries across the area, or you can access the full issue on our website:

[The Unique Family Magazine - The Family Grapevine](https://www.familygrapevine.co.uk/)



# Bytesize News

A bright young teenager who had a keen and developing interest in IT, but was unaware of how to keep themselves safe online, was successfully encouraged to explore new opportunities in Computer Science.

Teachers at a secondary school were becoming increasingly concerned about a pupil who said they could hack into the school network. The student required close supervision when using laptops, yet despite this, they still attempted to download alternative browsers.

When asked if they knew that their actions could install viruses or malware, they revealed they practiced their technical skills at home on their own computer, Raspberry Pi and mobile phone, before trying them at school.

To support and guide the student, the Cyber Choices Prevent team met with them and began discussing multiple topics, such as online safety and the Computer Misuse Act.



The student engaged well with the Cyber Choices Prevent Team. They proceeded to meet a further two times to talk about the ethical use of technology, and the student completed online packages to reinforce their learning.

Due to the student's passion for IT, the Cyber Choices Team introduced them to websites and courses to develop their skills in ethical hacking. As a result, the student wishes to undertake a GCSE in Computer Science.

The school are pleased the risk and threat of illegal cyber activity by the student has been reduced, and the student has a promising future with new studies.

More info: <https://www.wmcyber.org/prevent/>  
For referrals: [cyberchoices@westmidlands.police.uk](mailto:cyberchoices@westmidlands.police.uk)

# CYBER CHOICES

KNOW THEIR DIGITAL WORLD

Education and awareness is key to our intervention work. There is no age limit to who we support.

## WHO ARE WE?

The Cyber Prevent Team delivers the national Cyber Choices Programme, helping young people make safe, responsible, and legal choices online. Through education on cyber law, including the Computer Misuse Act, we support informed decision-making and raise awareness of the consequences of cyber crime.

We also encourage positive cyber opportunities by promoting skills development, training, and future education and career pathways, helping to prevent young people from being involved in cyber criminality.

## WHAT DO WE DO?

This programme is aimed at individuals who are at risk of, or on the cusp of, committing cyber-dependent crimes.

Cyber dependant crimes are offences that can only be committed with technology:

- Hacking
- Cheating/Modding online games
- Breaking IT rules
- DDoS or DoS - tools to impair systems and services
- Unauthorised access to computers, phones, networks, and devices

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Sign up to our webinar on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Visit our website



OR



Shropshire  
**family**  
Information Service

Info, advice and support,  
for families in Shropshire

Find us on:



Shropshire  
Council



NEIGHBOURHOOD MATTERS

Sign up to receive alerts from your local policing teams [www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk)



## The SEND Local Offer

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

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- 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

[local.offer@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:local.offer@shropshire.gov.uk) 0345 678 9063  
[www.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/)



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



# THE COM

ANYONE CAN JOIN THE CHAT...

## WHAT IT IS

Community 'Com' Networks are online groups involved in child sexual abuse, cybercrime and offline violence. However, not all cases involve all three.

The majority of those involved are children under the age of 18.

Perpetrators may target children who are discussing topics online such as mental health disorders, neurodiversity or self-harm but they are active on virtually all social media and online gaming platforms. Discord and Telegram are particularly popular.

The communities share extreme material which may include:

- Child sexual abuse
- Violence and gore
- Animal abuse or torture
- Misogynistic and 'incel' beliefs
- Extreme/violent pornography
- Racist and occultist materials
- Hacking tools and exploits

## INDICATIONS OF CONCERN

The following behaviours are indicators that a young person may be involved in an abusive relationship with a Com group:

- Self-harm (cutting letters/symbols is of particular note)
- Numbers, letters, symbols written in blood on walls
- Interest in extreme themes
- Disengaging in education
- Obsession with new online friends
- Unexplained injuries to pets or siblings
- Unexplained money or gifts

## HOW TO GET SUPPORT

Any concerns should be reported to one of the following for safeguarding and diversion support; reference "Operation Driftglen":

- Local police forces call '101' (non-emergency)
- School safeguarding lead (DSL)
- Local social services
- Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 (anonymous)
- Cyber Prevent/NCA/NCSC and/or CT Prevent



# YouTube

YouTube is one of the most popular platforms, available across many different devices - phones, tablets and Smart TVs etc. **YouTube is intended for users over the age of 13**, however, younger children can still access YouTube with consent from a parent/ guardian. There are different options available to access YouTube, depending on your child's age:

**1. YouTube Kids** – a separate app that includes a smaller selection of videos based on the age category you select: Preschool (ages 4 and under), Younger (ages 5–8) or Older (ages 9–12).

**2. Supervised accounts** – a parent-managed version of YouTube that allows you to control the content your child can access. You can select one of the following options:

- **Explore** - Generally for viewers aged 9+.
- **Explore more** - Generally for viewers aged 13+
- **Most of YouTube** - This setting includes almost everything except for videos marked as 18+.

Find out more: <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420>

## What do I need to be aware of?

Whilst YouTube can be educational and fun, it is important to be aware of the potential risks, such as:

- **Inappropriate content**
- **Excessive Screen time** – particularly due to the autoplay feature.
- **Unwanted contact / cyberbullying** – particularly via comments if your child is sharing videos.
- **Algorithms** – algorithms influence what we see to keep us engaged. This can lead to a user being exposed to large amounts of content about one topic/theme, which may not be helpful if it is negative.
- **Adverts** that may not be aimed at or suitable for your child's age.

## What can I do?

- Set up appropriate parental controls.
- Show your child the reporting and blocking tools available.
- Watch YouTube together or supervise use.

## Further information

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/youtube-app/>

## A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives

The Children's Commissioner has published this guide to help you support your child and make starting conversations about their online world easier. It's a useful read:

<https://assets.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/cc-what-i-wish-parent-guide.pdf>

## Online Safety Quiz

The NSPCC have created this quiz to test your child's knowledge on how to stay safe online. It's a great way to start a conversation with your child about their online life. You can access the quiz here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/quiz/>

## Nex Playground

Nex Playground is a new video game console, which features games to get kids active. The games have no ads, no violence and no chat features; however it does rely on purchasing either a yearly or quarterly game subscription.

You can find out more here:

<https://www.nexplayground.com/en-gb>

## WhatsApp Username

WhatsApp is introducing the use of usernames, so people no longer have to share their phone number. Wayne Denner provides an overview of the new features, what you need to consider and steps you can take here:

<https://www.waynedenner.com/whatsapp-username-what-parents-need-to-know/>