

Dear Parents and Carers

Issue 02
4th September 2026

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

Dear Parents and Carers

Whether you have been part of our school community for many years or just for a few days, we wish you a warm welcome to the new academic year.

This week it has been wonderful to see our children's positivity and to see them reconnecting with their friends – it is so lovely to be back at school. The children who are new to our school have settled amazingly. Similarly, our Year 6 children have been setting an excellent example to the rest of the school.

We warmly welcome Miss Johnson and Miss Williams to our school as well as Mrs Perks as our administrator.

PE - Arrangements for PE for this term are as follows:

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)

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

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.



Swimming Sessions

Swimming sessions resume on Wednesdays for children in Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6 for 10 weeks.

A letter has been sent to families of those children with more details.

Payment is made via ParentPay. Thank you.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 8 th September	Tots and Tales
Wednesday 9 th September	Swimming for Years 2, 5 and 6
Tuesday 15 th September	Tots and Tales
Wednesday 16 th September	Swimming for Years 2, 5 and 6 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.
Thursday 17 th September	Bikeability for Year 6
Friday 18 th September	Bikeability for Year 6
Tuesday 22 nd September	Tots and Tales
Wednesday 23 rd September	Swimming for Years 2, 5 and 6
Friday 25 th September	MacMillan Coffee morning - join us for tea and cake between 9.00 a.m. and 11 a.m. to support this amazing cause.
Monday 28 th September	Harvest Service at St Mary's Church at 9.30 a.m.
Tuesday 29 th September	Tots and Tales
Wednesday 30 th September	Swimming for Years 2, 5 and 6 Flu Vaccines for children in Reception – Year 6 (more details to follow)
Tuesday 6 th October	Tots and Tales
Wednesday 7 th October	Swimming for Years 2, 5 and 6
Friday 16 th October	Break up for half term

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

Thank you so much to everyone who supported holiday club, we had a wonderful three and a half weeks. Holiday club will run again during October half term.

Further details will be available nearer the time.

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](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.

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/ 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>



COFFEE & CHAT Wem

3rd 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.gov.uk/early-help



WHITCHURCH PROSTATE SUPPORT GROUP

Every 2nd & 4th 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

3rd 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](#)



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

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 28th July 2026

Visit our website



OR



Shropshire family
Information Service

Info, advice and support, for families in Shropshire

Find us on:



Sign up to receive alerts from your local policing teams 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 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.



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

HOW TO GET SUPPORT

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

- 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



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



New guidance issued due to concern of AI-manipulated images

Photos of children that seem completely innocent can be manipulated using artificial intelligence (AI) to create sexualised or abusive images. There is a growing threat that children's images shared online are being manipulated by criminals into AI generated sexual abuse material. As concerns grow, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) and the National Crime Agency (NCA) have issued new guidance to help understand the risks around AI image manipulation and advice on how to speak to your child about AI and image consent.

The IWF states that child sexual abuse images or videos created or altered using AI may include:

- Everyday images of a child or young person that are manipulated into child sexual abuse imagery, including images taken from social media, websites or messaging apps, that are manipulated into sexualised or abusive imagery. These are sometimes known as 'deepfakes'.
- Images or videos that look like a real child but are completely artificial.

AI technology that digitally removes clothing from existing images to create nude or semi-nude images, sometimes known as 'nudifying'.

[source: IWF <https://www.iwf.org.uk/resources/ai-child-abuse-imagery-parent-guide/> accessed 25.08.26]

What can I do?

The guidance provides practical advice about sharing photographs of your child online. Some useful things to consider are:

- Think before you share photographs online. The IWF suggest creating a 'close friends' group to share images.
- Check and adjust your privacy settings on all social media accounts.
- Understand the steps to take if you or your child has any concerns and the organisations you can contact.

Where can I find the new guidance?

The full guidance can be accessed at the link below. It also includes a video highlighting how everyday photos can be misused using AI tools.

<https://www.iwf.org.uk/resources/ai-child-abuse-imagery-parent-guide/>

You can find the full press release/announcement here:

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/new-guidance-for-parents-and-carers-as-ai-manipulated-images-of-children-become-a-growing-concern>

Childline under 12s site

Childline have a separate area on their website for under 12s. The pages are written for primary school children. The area includes a section full of games and a Buddy Zone with tips, such as how to speak to a trusted adult and information on where to get extra support from.

You can access this area here:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/u12-landing/>

How to manage parental controls for different ages?

Internet Matters asked online experts, Karl Hopwood and Richard Waite to share their advice on how to manage parental controls for different ages.

Find out more here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/question/managing-parental-controls-for-different-ages/>