



# Newsletter

22nd May 2026

## THIS week in school...

**Robins:** Just after the Easter break, our class planted sunflower seeds. Look how much they have grown!



## Attendance

This week's attendance is

Whole School: 92.9 %

Robins: 95.3 %

Skylarks: 91.3 %

Owls: 94.6 %

Starlings: 96.0 %

Kites: 88.1 %

**Starlings:** We have had a busy week to finish the half term. Year 4s have been working hard to learn all their times tables ready for their test after half term. They have been learning lots of new geometry vocabulary, exploring 2D shapes. They have finished a unit of work on sound, written letters to a local business, practiced their rounders batting skills and much much more!

A particular highlight to the week was their special end of half term forest school lesson where they visited the pond looking for tadpoles.



## Upcoming Events

### HALF TERM WEEK

Monday 25th - Friday 29th May

### JUNE

Monday 1st - PD Day

**Thursday 4th**

Goblin Race Day, Curborough

**Wednesday 10th**

School Photos

**Thursday 11th**

Rounders at Lydbury North - Yr 5/6 team

**Friday 12th**

Pyjamarama Reading Event & Author visit

**Monday 15th**

Cruical Crew - Yr 6

**Wednesday 17th**

Hay Performance at 2pm

**Friday 19th**

Summer Fair

**Wednesday 24th**

Skylarks Living History @ Ludlow Castle

**Thursday 25th**

Year 6 Leavers Service at Hereford Cathedral

**Monday 29th**

Robins - Healthy Hero's talk

### JULY

**Thursday 2nd**

Sports Day - afternoon

**Monday & Tuesday 6th - 7th**

CCBC Yr 6 Transition Day

**Thursday 9th**

Skylarks trip to Park Hall Farm

**Friday 17th**

Last day of Summer Term

## Term Dates 2026 / 27

### Summer

Starts 13.04.26

Half Term 25.05.26-29.05.26

Ends 17.07.26

### Autumn

Starts 03.09.26

Half Term 26.10.26-30.10.26

Ends 18.12.26

### Spring

Starts 06.01.27

Half Term 15.02.27-19.02.27

Ends 25.03.27

## 2026 The Year of Reading



### Visual Literacy Matters

Pictures support comprehension and storytelling skills.

**At home:** Ask your child to explain what the pictures show.

**Recommended read:** Drew, Moo and Bunny, Too – charming rhythm and rhyme

# Attendance

## Weekly Attendance Prize Draw

This week the children  
awarded are:

**Lilia & Ernie**



## Fortnightly Class Reward goes to ....

### **ROBINS**

Every two weeks, the class with the highest overall attendance will be rewarded with a special activity of their choice. This may include extra playtime, an art session, outdoor games, or another agreed activity.

We hope this initiative will encourage all pupils to attend school regularly and take pride in their attendance. We understand that there are times when absence is unavoidable due to illness; however, we kindly ask that, wherever possible, appointments are made outside of school hours and that children attend school every day they are well enough to do so.

If you have any questions or require support with attendance, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

# Pyjamarama Reading Event & Author Visit

**PYJAMARAMA**  
READING EVENT

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June**

Join us in celebrating Pyjamarama by **wearing your pyjamas for the day.**  
Thousands of children all around the country – will spend the day reading, enjoying, and sharing stories all in the comfort of their pyjamas.

We are really excited to announce that **West End actress and children's author, Emma Swan will be visiting.**  
She will be delivering a fun-filled, action-packed assembly to all the children talking to them about her life growing up on a cruise ship and about her books and life as an author.

**EMMA SWAN**  
is coming to visit on **12/06/26**

**CRUISE SHIP KID** £7.99  
**CRUISE SHIP KID** £7.99

Pre-order your books here  
Scan the QR code or contact  
Vikki Burgoyne  
07751331933  
burgoyne.books@hotmail.com

★ CELEBRATING STORIES, SPARKING IMAGINATION! ★

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She will be delivering a fun-filled, action-packed assembly to all the children talking to them about her life growing up on a cruise ship and about her books and life as an author.

It is also Book Trust's Pyjamarama day! Children are welcome to come to school in their PJs, or comfy clothes, and we'll spend the day immersing ourselves in the wonderful world of books!

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Emma will be offering a book signing at the event. There will be no option to buy books on the day so if you would like to pre-order any of Emma's books for your child to have signed you can do so by completing this form prior to Friday 29th May:-

<https://forms.gle/7fUx2TW8yVMfC5aL7>

We have organised this visit in partnership with our Usborne Partner, Vikki Burgoyne, and Usborne will donate a percentage of the total pre-orders in free books for our school.

Here's a link of what to expect:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CP1HsVHAbgXVsJFRNsk0nGON-wt0k9y7/view>

We're looking forward to it!

**ROAD  
CLOSED**

**Please find details below of a number of road closures across Bishop's Castle and neighbouring area. These will impact on travel to Knighton, Craven Arms and Church Stretton.**

Road Closure: Castle Hill Bridge, Unnamed Road Walkmills, Shropshire Start Date: 31st August 2026 End Date: 25th September 2026 Purpose: Road Closure to enable bridge repairs Works Promoter: Shropshire Council Works Promoter Ref: UJ216BR-1506578-01 Enforcement pattern for UJ216BR-1506578-01: All the time. You can view the closure and diversion route by clicking here: <https://one.network/?tm=GB150088390>

Road Closure: A488 Five Turnings to Rock Hill, New Invention Start Date: 27th July 2026 End Date: 18th September 2026 Purpose: Bridge works Works Promoter: Shropshire Council Works Promoter Ref: UJ216BR-1506542 Enforcement pattern for A488 Five Turnings to Rock Hill, New Invention: All the time. You can view the closure and diversion route by clicking here: <https://one.network/?tm=GB150076799>

Road Closure: Farm Lane All Stretton Start Date: 27th July 2026 End Date: 27th July 2026 Purpose: Road Closure (STW) for access to manhole to repair drainpipe Works Promoter: Severn Trent Water Works Promoter Ref: LB70269964897-01 Enforcement pattern for Farm Lane All Stretton: All the time. You can view the closure and diversion route by clicking here: <https://one.network/?tm=GB150171301>

Road Closure: Unnamed road Cwm Head to Marshbrook Start Date: 18th August 2026 End Date: 19th August 2026 Purpose: Road closure (BT) pole Test Works Promoter: Openreach Works Promoter Ref: BC008WH1P2L4TPTSB02-02 Enforcement pattern for Unnamed road Cwm Head to Marshbrook: All the time. You can view the closure and diversion route by clicking here: <https://one.network/?tm=GBundefined>

Should you have any queries regarding these closures, please call Customer Services on 0345 6789006, or contact the Street Works Team on [streetworks@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:streetworks@shropshire.gov.uk).

# Community updates

In a change from road closures, I'm pleased to report a road open - Lagden Lane in Colebatch - has now reopened to all traffic following repairs.

## **Other news and events in our local community are as follows:**

Lydham Village Hall - the 70th anniversary celebrations on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June include a BBQ, Raffle, Crafts and other activities 10am - 2pm in the Village Hall. All welcome.

Bishop's Castle Yard Sale - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May from 10am. Lots of bargains to be had around town in drives, yards and gardens. See the map outside Stars opposite the Co-op for sale venues.

Lydbury North Shop - a great little community shop selling local products, fresh fruit and veg, butchery items and a selection of Tanners Wines. New volunteers are always welcome as are new customers. Open Tues - Fri 8.30am - 2, Mon and Sat 8.30am - 1 and Sunday 9am to 11.30. The mobile Post Office is also there on Mondays 1pm - 2pm.

NGS Open Gardens, Walcot Hall, Lydbury North - Sun 24<sup>th</sup> and Mon 25<sup>th</sup> May 9am to 3.30pm. Admission £7, Children free. All welcome.

Bishop's Castle Library - coffee morning on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. All welcome.

Stars Shop, opposite the Co-op - Pop up café in aid of Shrewsbury Ark. Tues, Weds, Thurs 19,20,21 May 10am to 4pm. Great cakes. All welcome

Highways works in Bishop's Castle - Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Various lining works in High Street, Church Street, Station Street and Harley Jenkins Street car park. Cars need to be removed by 8am on Friday morning.

Walk for Prostate Cancer UK - On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May I am walking 7 miles in the beautiful Elan Valley with a group of 14 friends in aid of Prostate Cancer UK. If anyone would like to make a donation you can do so on this link [Ruth Houghton is fundraising for PROSTATE CANCER UK](#) All donations are really appreciated to support vital research to save Men's lives. Thank you.



Hay  
Festival  
*Education*

Welcome to  
a world of  
different...

Hay Festival brings  
a FREE SHOW  
to your school!

Wednesday 17 June 2026, 2pm  
Bishop's Castle Primary School, Bishop's Castle SY9 5PA

# Angry Cookie & friends...

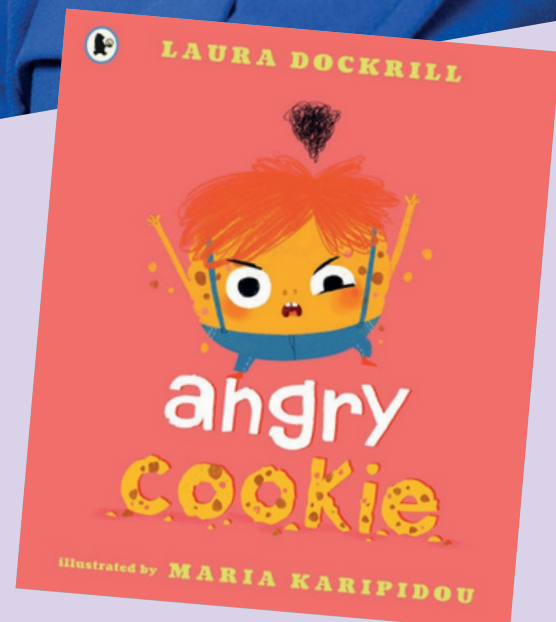
Laura Dockrill

Angry Cookie is very angry and there is nothing you can do about it (or is there?!).

Expect a recorder-playing cactus, an elephant that goes camping and a stinky pair of bobbly socks.

A practical, playful and fun session, reading and creating our own characters, while learning about empathy, change and friendship.

Discover more Hay Festival events at...  
[hayfestival.org/hay-on-wye](https://hayfestival.org/hay-on-wye)



# Online Safety Newsletter

## June 2026

### Pinterest

You need to be at least 13 years old to use Pinterest.

Pinterest is a social media app, where users can share images and videos (called Pins). Users can browse through the images based on their stated interests, for example cooking. Users can then 'pin' (save) these images to their own boards to revisit.

**There is content on Pinterest that is not suitable for young people to see.**

Also, did you know that there is a **messaging** element to it, so your child could be interacting with strangers? Therefore, if your child is using Pinterest, it is important to show your child how to use the blocking and reporting tools. You can find out more information, including how to set up parental controls here:

<https://help.pinterest.com/en/article/resources-for-parents-and-caregivers-of-teens>

Find out more here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/what-is-pinterest-what-parents-need-to-know/>

**Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language?** You can use the translate tool on our web version:

<https://www.knowsleycitylearningcentres.org.uk/june-2026-primary/>

### Online Scams

It is important to be aware that scammers can target your child whilst online through social media, messaging apps and games. These scams often look genuine, and children may not have the digital literacy skills to question their authenticity. This can happen across lots of platforms that your child is accessing, for example Roblox or TikTok. Scams can include:

Offering in-game currency.

Befriending your child, which can then lead to requests for money or account details/personal information.

Phishing links, with the intention of sharing malware or requesting account details/personal information.

#### What can I do?

It is important to have regular conversations with your child about what they are doing online and remind them to:

Never share passwords or verification codes.

Speak to you or another trusted adult if they are unsure about anything.

Ensure appropriate parental controls and privacy settings are in place.

Talk to your child about the different scams that can appear online and remind your child to check links before clicking on them.

Remind your child that if they do think that they have been scammed, then to tell you straightaway.

#### Further information

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/how-deal-online-scams-parent-guide>



### Digital Footprints

When we go online, we create a digital footprint, which is a record of what we do online. This can be by visiting websites, sharing photos, liking or commenting on other people's posts or playing games. It is important that children are aware of the digital footprint that they are creating and the lasting effect it can have. Childline provides further information about digital footprints, including advice on how to protect our privacy online:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/taking-care-your-digital-footprint/>

# Risks of Auto saving

Does your child use the likes of WhatsApp, which may automatically download any image/video that is sent to them to their phone's own camera roll? We would advise switching this feature off.



Children may receive lots of photos/videos, particularly within group chats, that they have not requested. If auto download is allowed, then your child does not have control over what is being saved to their camera roll. Potentially, it may also be content that you would not want your child to have saved. Additionally, from a safeguarding perspective, if everything is automatically downloaded to your child's camera roll, it can become difficult to ascertain the source of the image.

## How can I disable this feature?

If your child is using a platform that allows this, then there is usually an option to disable this feature, so your child has control over the images saved to their device. The option to disable will be within the settings of the App, here is how to do this on WhatsApp:

- In WhatsApp, go to settings (click on 'You' in the bottom right).
- Click on 'Chats'.
- Toggle 'Save to Photos' to off.

## Storybooks and games from the BookTrust

BookTrust have a whole host of storybooks and games on their website. They have storybooks to read, story time videos to watch and kid's games to play.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/how-we-help/have-fun-at-home/storybooks-and-games/>

## Emoji Meanings

Did you know that some children and young people may be using emojis to mean something completely different? For example, a cap emoji may be used to represent a lie. It is important that you are aware of how emojis can be used and keep up to date with the way in which they can be used as their meanings are changeable. You can find out further information here:

<https://www.bark.us/blog/emoji-slang-guide/>

## "Retro – Photos with Friends" App

This is a photo sharing app, and it is rated as 13+ by the App store. The aim of the app is users share their photos with close friends only, like a photo journal. Whilst it is marketed as a safer alternative to other social media apps, you do need to be aware of the following:

Privacy and data access.

It does include group chats so there is still the potential for cyberbullying and peer pressure.

Users may feel safer sharing images as it is with close friends, but content can still be shared with others (through screenshots).

If your child is using this app, make sure you check that privacy settings are set up appropriately.

*Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 01.06.26. The inclusion of any links does not imply any affiliation with or endorsement of the linked websites, documents, or videos, nor are we claiming any ownership or copyright in the content of the linked materials.*

## Omoggle

Omoggle is an online platform that is for adults only. However, you can simply lie and say you are over 18 to access it. The platform joins two strangers together and uses AI to rate their appearances in a "mog battle."

As you are paired up with a stranger and can see and hear them, there are serious safeguarding concerns and **young people should not be accessing this site.** Find out more here:

<https://www.waynedenner.com/omoggle-parent-guide/>

Dear Parent or Carer

Free School Meal Holiday Vouchers were funded through the Government's Household Support Fund. This ended on the 31st March 2026. This means that the May half term vouchers will be the last to be issued.

Instead, families will be able to access lots of support through the new Crisis and Resilience Fund. This can help with one-off payments for unexpected financial shocks.

We will also be investing in services that can help maximise income, give budgeting and debt advice, and build longer-term financial resilience.

Information on all of this help is available through our cost-of-living support pages:  
or Google "Shropshire Cost of Living"



### Further cost of living support

What help is there?

If you need support during the current cost of living crisis, or have experienced a recent financial shock, lots of help and advice can be found at - <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help/>

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This help is available to low-income households but is not just for those on benefits.



Do you have any concerns about your child's well-being?

Would you like support with your child's attendance?

If you, your child or family would benefit from extra support with your well-being, or if you are worried about a difficult situation in your family you can contact us for support.

[Julie Owen – Pastoral Lead](#)

[J.Owen@bishopscastle.dhmat.org.uk](mailto:J.Owen@bishopscastle.dhmat.org.uk)

Or via

[admin@bishopscastle.dhmat.org.uk](mailto:admin@bishopscastle.dhmat.org.uk)

You might also benefit from Early Help.

What is Early Help?

Families might access Early Help for a variety of reasons, including concerns about a child's behaviour, difficulties at school, family relationship challenges, mental health worries, or changes in family circumstances such as bereavement or separation.

Early Help is not just for when things go wrong - it's there to provide guidance and support before small issues become bigger problems. Seeking Early Help is a positive step, showing a family's commitment to working together with professionals to find practical solutions and support their child's wellbeing and development.

The type of things Early Help can support with include:

- Concerns about child's health, development or behaviour
- How a child is doing at school
- Housing or financial concerns
- Children who may be affected by domestic abuse, drugs, alcohol, ill health or crime





# EARLY HELP DROP IN

## Bishops Castle Food Bank

Apr Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> 09:30 am - 10:30 am  
May Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am - 10:30 am  
June Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:30 am - 10:30 am  
July Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> 09:30 pm - 10:30 am  
August Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> 09:30 - 10:30 am

**Church Lane, Bishops Castle, SY9 5AF**  
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...

Refreshments will be provided  
by the food bank



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



**Shropshire**  
Council

The 6th Annual  
**BISHOP'S CASTLE  
TOWN  
YARD SALE**

**SUNDAY 24 MAY 2026**

**Bank Holiday Weekend**

**10am - 4pm**

**SALES IN GARDENS, YARDS AND DRIVEWAYS  
ALL OVER TOWN**

**VISITORS:** A map outside Stars shop opposite the Co-op will show where the sales are. Take a photo!

**TOWNS FOLK:** If you are having a sale, no need to book just put a spot on the map outside Stars opposite Co-op to show where you are from Friday 22 May

**LOADS OF BARGAINS & TREASURES**



# HALF TERM



# Design a shield!

Age 7+

**Wed 27 May** 2-3 & 3-4pm @ Ludlow Library

**Thu 28 May** 2-3 & 3-4pm @ St. Laurence's Church

**Fri 29 May** 10-11am & 11-12pm @ Assembly Rooms

Book your **FREE**  
place here



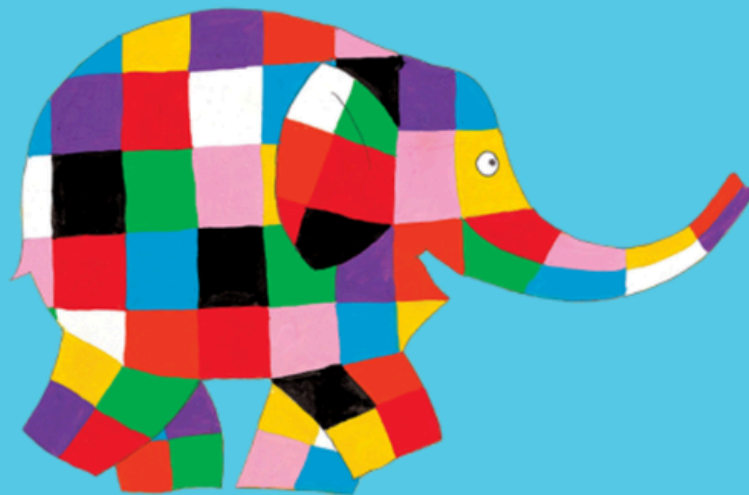


# ELMER

**STORY & ACTIVITY MORNING**

AT

**BISHOP'S CASTLE LIBRARY**



**TUESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026**

**10.30AM - 12.30PM**

**WEAR YOUR BRIGHTEST CLOTHES**

**AND JOIN US TO CELEBRATE ELMER DAY 2026**

**STORY READING AT 10.30AM FOLLOWED BY  
CRAFTS AND ACTIVITIES.**

**FREE TO ATTEND**

