

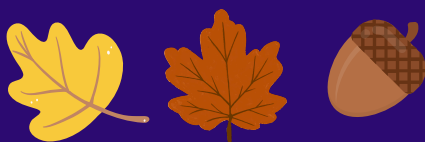


Newsletter

2nd October 2026

THIS week in school....

Robins class have been busy in the forest looking for signs that we are now in Autumn.



Attendance

This week's attendance is

Whole School: 96.3 %

Robins: 96.3 %

Skylarks: 95.2 %

Owls: 96.4 %

Starlings: 95.7 %

Kites: 97.9 %

**Weekly
Attendance
Prize Draw**



100%

This week the children awarded are:

**Andria &
Amelia-Lily**



Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

Wednesday 7th

Yr 5 & 6 Cross Country at Carding Mill Valley

Thursday 8th

The Solihull Approach (Week 3) 1-3pm

Yr 5 & 6 Football

Tuesday 13th

School Photographs

Thursday 15th

The Solihull Approach (Week 4) 1-3pm

Friday 16th

Dr Bike

Monday 19th

Reception School Tour 9.45am

Parents Evening

Tuesday 20th

Yr 5 & 6 Art Workshop

Parents Evening

Thursday 22nd

The Solihull Approach (Week 5) 1-3pm

Yr 5 & 6 Art Workshop

KS2 Basketball

Rhea's Rustic Kitchen pop-up cake sale

HALF TERM

Monday 26th to Friday 30th October

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 4th

PTA Halloween Disco

Thursday 5th

The Solihull Approach (Week 6) 1-3pm

Friday 6th

Reception School Tour 9.45am

Thursday 12th

The Solihull Approach (Week 7) 1-3pm

Reception School Tour 5.30pm

Thursday 19th

The Solihull Approach (Week 8) 1-3pm

Thursday 26th

The Solihull Approach (Week 9) 1-3pm

Term Dates 2026 / 27

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

Summer

Starts 12.04.27

Half Term 31.05.27-04.06.27

Ends 20.07.27

2026 The Year of Reading



Give Poetry a Go

Poems bring rhythm and emotion to reading.

At home: Read a selection of poems together.

Recommended read: Out of This World (poetry) – fun and reflective poems.

Cross Country

Well done to all our Year 3 & 4 children who took part in the Cross Country event at Carding Mill Valley this week. The children did brilliantly, showing fantastic determination and giving it their all. It was lovely to see them encouraging and cheering each other on along the way. We are very proud of everyone who took part.



Individual results
Holly H 4th and Finn S 5th



Skylarks

We have been using concrete resources to explore place value and compare numbers. We are really enjoying practical learning activities and using our understanding to answer questions in our books. This approach helps children build confidence and deepen their understanding, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to succeed.



Keep up the fantastic work, Skylarks!



BISHOP'S CASTLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

RECEPTION SCHOOL PLACE TOURS

For parents of children starting
Reception in September 2027

Monday 19th October 9:45am

Friday 6th November 9:45am

Thursday 12th November 5:30pm

**Call us to book your place on a
tour!**



Tour the school



Meet staff



Ask questions



Telephone:

01588 638 522



Visit us:

**[www.bishopscastle-
pri.shropshire.sch.uk](http://www.bishopscastle-pri.shropshire.sch.uk)**



Harvest Donations

Harvest Celebration

Donations for Bishop's Castle Food Bank
will be gratefully received.



Please send items into school by
Monday 19th October

Types of Food You Can Donate:

- ♥ Non-perishable canned goods (vegetables, soups, beans)
- ♥ Pasta, rice, and grains
- ♥ Breakfast cereals and oats
- ♥ Cooking oils and sauces
- ♥ Packaged snacks and dried fruit
- ♥ Shelf-stable milk or milk alternatives
- ♥ Baby food and formula
- ♥ Toiletries and hygiene products



Bishop's Castle
Food Bank

♥
SUPPORTING
OUR LOCAL
COMMUNITY

THE DANGERS OF WHATSAPP GROUPS

Supporting Safe and Responsible Communication

Stay Connected
Stay Aware
Stay Safe

WhatsApp groups can be a valuable way for families to stay connected. However, they can also present risks including misinformation, privacy concerns, cyberbullying and online scams.

CYBERBULLYING

- Hurtful messages can spread quickly.
- Children and young people may feel isolated, excluded or targeted.
- What starts as a joke can have a serious impact on their mental health and wellbeing.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

- Phone numbers are visible to group members.
- Personal information, photos and locations can be shared without permission.
- This can increase the risk of contact from unknown people.

SAME CHAT DIFFERENT RISKS

More families eligible for Free School Meals

All children in households on Universal Credit will be eligible regardless of income.

How to Apply

Apply Online

Go to the Shropshire Council Free School Meals Application page.

Shropshire Council Free School Meals Application Page

Apply by Phone

Call the Shropshire Council Customer Services Team on **0345 678 9008**.

What You Need

You will need your National Insurance (NI) number.

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals/are-you-eligible-for-free-school-meals/>

Celebrating Attendance at Bishop's Castle

Be Here Be Brilliant! Attendance Builds Brighter Futures!

Every week

One KS1 pupil and one KS2 pupil with 100% attendance that week will receive a certificate in our celebration assembly. Their first names will be shared in the school newsletter.

Class attendance

Each class's weekly attendance percentage will be shared in the newsletter and celebrated in Friday's assembly.

Fortnightly class reward

The class with the highest attendance each fortnight will receive a class reward. Children will vote for their favourite reward from choices provided by their teacher.

100% for the term

Children who achieve 100% attendance for the term will receive a special sticker.

100% for the full year

Children who achieve 100% attendance across the full academic year will receive a certificate.

Improved attendance

Children who make a big improvement in attendance will receive a well done certificate.

Ready, Respectful, Safe

DR BIKE

FREE BIKE CHECKS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

SAFE BIKES

MORE CONFIDENCE

READY TO RIDE

Helping pupils' bikes stay safe, roadworthy and ready to ride!

OUR TEAM WILL:

- CHECK YOUR BIKE
- MAKE MINI FIXES
- GIVE SAFETY TIPS

CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY are all welcome to bring their bikes to be checked and serviced.

This on-site maintenance session helps ensure pupils' bikes are safe, roadworthy and Bikeability-ready ahead of cycle training.

WHAT HAPPENS ON THE DAY?

- Learn Cycling will set up at school with an EasyUp shelter and work stand.
- Pupils, parents and staff can drop bikes off before school and collect them at the end of the day.
- Minor repairs and safety adjustments are carried out on site, alongside practical cycling advice.
- Bikes are checked for: Tyres • Brakes • Steering • Gears

WHY IT'S GREAT

- Removes barriers to cycling and Bikeability
- Builds confidence and independence
- Promotes healthy, active travel
- Runs just before Bikeability training

DR BIKE IS COMING TO YOUR SCHOOL!

St George's School

FRIDAY

25th SEPTEMBER

Bishop's Castle Primary School

FRIDAY

16th OCTOBER

This event has been organised by the school using the Active Travel Grant the school applied for.



Online Safety Newsletter

October 2026

CapCut

CapCut is a video editing app. Their services are intended for those over the age of 13 (those under the age of 18 must have consent from their parent/legal guardian). It is rated as 13+ on the App store.

What can I do on CapCut?

CapCut is used as a video and image editing tool allowing users to edit their videos/ images as well as add music, sound effects, text and stickers.

What should I be aware of?

- The templates are user generated, therefore they may not always be appropriate for your child to view, for example may contain adult themes.
- CapCut includes access to a library of music that may include explicit lyrics.
- Premium content – CapCut does include in-app purchases/monthly subscriptions to allow users access to premium content.

Further information

Wayne Denner provides further information about the social side of CapCut including a comments section: <https://www.waynedenner.com/capcut-parents-guide/>

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/october-2026>

L

AI companions

What are AI companions?

AI companions are artificial intelligence services designed to interact with users to simulate friendship or romantic relationships. There are many different AI companions available, accessible via apps or websites. **Many of these apps are intended for adults and have an age rating of 18+.**



Why are children using AI companions?

There are many reasons a child might want to use an AI companion, including:

- To ask advice and questions that they may be embarrassed to ask another person. It may be easier to talk to an AI companion, so it is imperative children understand the difference between AI and real people.
- They feel lonely and are looking for friendship.
- Children may just be curious and want to try new technology.

What should I be aware of?

- **Age restrictions:** it is important to check the age rating to see if it is appropriate for your child.
- **Inappropriate content:** there is often a lack of moderation so users could be exposed to content/language that is not suitable for their age.
- **Emotional dependence:** AI companions are designed to act as a friend, encouraging an emotional dependence. This may lead to your child becoming over reliant on the service. A chatbot should never replace a parent, a medical professional or other trusted adult.
- **Relationships:** repeated use of AI may influence a child's understanding of relationships and consent in real life.
- **Privacy and personal information:** children should not share personal or confidential information with AI companions.

What can I do?

- Check the age rating and any privacy settings.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/ broadband.
- It is crucial to have regular conversations with your child about the risks outlined above and about what they are doing online. Ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

Further information

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/ai-chatbots-and-virtual-friends-how-parents-can-keep-children-safe/>

Discord

Discord is a social networking app originally designed for gamers, but is now used by lots of different people to **chat to each other online**. The minimum age to access Discord is 13. **The App store rates it as 17+.**

Discord is made up of servers, which are spaces for groups to chat, upload files and share images etc. Anybody can set up a server, and it can be set as either public or private. Users can video call and send direct messages to other individuals or groups. Children who play online games such as Fortnite may use Discord to chat whilst playing the game (**rather than using the game's own chat facility**). In-app purchases are available through Discord's subscription service called Nitro.



How can I make it safer?

Discord have created a Family Centre, which provides further information about what Discord is, as well as information about different safety settings available:

<https://discord.com/safety-family-center>

As always, we would encourage you to chat to your child to see why they use Discord and ensure that they know how to block users and what to do if they see any inappropriate content. It is important to be aware that Discord does include video/voice calling which cannot be filtered. **Discord is used by an array of users and therefore adult content can be found on Discord, as well as inappropriate language.** Discord have produced this article, which answers frequent questions:

<https://discord.com/safety-library>

5 fun online activities

Whilst we must be aware of the negative aspects of the internet, it's also important to remember that it can also be a great place to have fun or learn something new as a family. Why not try the following?



1. Play a game together.
2. Take a family quiz – it could be around the topic of online safety (e.g. from Childnet) or you could use Kahoot to create your own.
3. Learn something new – explore BBC Bitesize, National Geographic Kids or Khan Academy.
4. Create something – make a digital drawing or video.
5. Read an Audio book.

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 01.10.26. 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.

Doki Doki Literature Club

Doki Doki Literature Club is a game that, due to its cartoon anime appearance, may appear to be a game suitable for all. However, as the game progresses, it contains much darker and potentially distressing themes. The game includes references to suicide, self-harm and death.

The App store rates it as 18+ as it has cartoon or fantasy violence and horror/fear themes as well as infrequent profanity and crude humour. The game is described as psychological horror. You should also be aware that the app also includes in app purchases.

The game's own website also states that it "is not suitable for children or those who are easily disturbed."

Please ensure you have set up appropriate parental controls on any devices and platforms that your child uses to ensure they can't access games that are not suitable for their age.

Happy Tree Friends

Happy Tree Friends is another animated series that might look harmless because of its cartoon graphics, but the programme contains violence, death and blood. Clips of Happy Tree Friends are also circulating on social media platforms.

As above, we would recommend that you have set up appropriate parental controls to limit exposure to content like this. Also, chat to your child about what they are watching online and ensure they know that if they do see something online that upsets them, then they should talk to you or another trusted adult.

Further information:

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/website-reviews/happy-tree-friends>



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

Or via

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



Dear Shropshire Schools

Please see information below regarding the next BabyShare at Harlescott Grange Community Hub.

Baby Share in Shrewsbury is a free community resource that provides new and pre-loved baby clothes, toys, and equipment for families with children aged 0-5.

It is free to attend for all families across Shropshire. Everyone is welcome.

Baby Stop

Saving the planet one baby step at a time

Next Babyshare!

Saturday 24th October 2026
2.00pm-3.30pm

Harlescott Grange Community Hub
Kynaston Road
Shrewsbury SY1 3JR



www.babystop.uk



Presented by internationally renowned
The Fetch Theatre Company

Seven Tears of the Selkie

A stunning visual performance
without words, featuring
beautiful bunraku puppetry
and original music.



This fun and interactive show transports audiences into the world of Selkies from Celtic folklore where seals transform in order to join our human world and anything is possible.....

Thursday 15th October, 1.30pm & 4.30pm
SpArC Theatre, Bishops Castle, SY9 5AY
Tickets: Adult £7.50, Child £7.50
www.artsalive.co.uk
Groups and Schools welcome
Discounts for group bookings
Email: Liz@sparctheatre.co.uk

Touring with...
**arts
alive**



<https://www.thefetch.co.uk>



HALF TERM

Writing Workshops

Write your own *chiller*
(age 10+)

Mon 26 Oct

2-3.30pm

Writing workshop with
award-winning writer, Liz
Hyder. **£10**



My Big Mouth
(ages 8-12)

Wed 28 Oct

11-12pm & 2-3pm

A collaborative story making
workshop with Steven
Camden. **£7.50 (2nd child
£2.50)**



Book: 01584 878141 | ludlowassemblyrooms.co.uk

APPLE PRESSING



**To Raise Funds For a
New Climbing Boulder at Sparc**

Sat Oct 3rd - 10.00 - 16.00

at Bank House - High Street - Bishop's Castle

**Come and press your own apples
for Juice or Cider!**

**£1 a litre - 75p for 75cml wine bottle
50p extra for pasteurising**

Ring Glynn on 07980 266345 to book your slot