Bishop's Castle Primary School

Newsletter

23rd October 2026

THIS week in school....

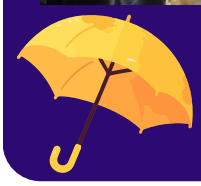
Skylarks

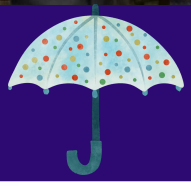
This week Skylarks completed their Science topic on materials with a fun investigation. The children tested a range of materials to find out which would make the most suitable umbrella for Miss Brown. Some materials worked much better than others, and the paper towels certainly did not keep Miss Brown dry!

The children then used their learning to create their own waterproof hats and umbrellas. It was a wonderful way to celebrate all they have learned this half term.

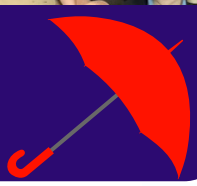












Attendance

This week's attendance is

Whole School: 94.9 %

Robins: 96.2 %

Skylarks: 91.0 %

Owls: 93.5 %

Starlings: 92.2 %

Kites: 97.6 %

Weekly Attendance Prize Draw

100%

This week the children awarded are:

Marshal & Lilly-Mae

CONFIDENT COMMUNICATORS

WIDENING HORIZONS

GROWTH MINDSET

HEALTHY BODY, HEALTHY MIND

Upcoming Events

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
Shropshire Music Service - Live music event
Thursday 12th
Scooter workshop (Reception, Yr 1 & Yr 2)
The Solihull Approach (Week 7) 1-3pm
Reception School Tour 5.30pm
Friday 13th
Whole School Kindness Day
Monday 16th
Odd Sock Day - Anti-bullying Week
Tuesday 17th
The Snap Trap - Theatre for Yr5 & 6
Thursday 19th
The Solihull Approach (Week 8) 1-3pm
Thursday 26th
The Solihull Approach (Week 9) 1-3pm

DECEMBER



Tuesday 8th
DHMAT Advert Service
Wednesday 9th
Pantomime Trip - Whole School
Tuesday 15th
Nativity Service in Church - 2pm
Friday 18th
Last day of term

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



Reading Helps Us Relax
Reading can calm the mind and reduce stress.
At home: Use reading as a quiet wind-down activity.
Recommended read: Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site by Sherri Duskey Rinker — soothing bedtime story for winding down

Starlings

This week, we started to prepare for our next science topic on electricity. We explored using the circuit equipment to create a complete circuit using light bulbs, buzzers and motors. Some children even used the motors to create flying blue-tac and ruler helicopters.



On Thursday, we had the opportunity to meet Mark at Star Shop to observe and recreate his art using pointillism techniques.



Diocese of Hereford Multi-Academy Trust

Knowsley City Learning Centres

Online Safety Newsletter Nov 2026

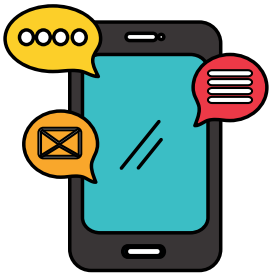
Safeguarding information for parents and carers

This month's theme is Online Grooming:

This video provides a short overview explaining what Online Grooming is, spotting the warning signs and what actions you should take if this is happening to your child.

https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/Online-Grooming-November-2026.mp4





Online Grooming



Online Safety Newsletter

Nov 2026

Spotify Parental Controls

Spotify is a music streaming service. You must be aged over 13 to access it. If under 18, parent/guardian consent is required. However, under-13s can access Spotify through a **managed account** set up by a parent or legal guardian.

Since July 2026, Spotify has provided parental controls for managed accounts on both free and premium plans. These controls:

- turn messaging off.
- turn explicit content off.
- turn videos and canvas off.
- allow you to block specific artists or tracks.

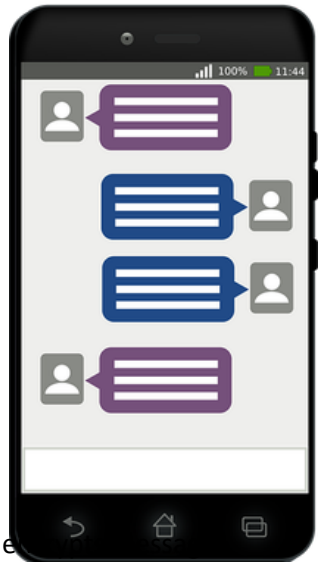
Further information

Read the news announcement here: https://newsroom.spotify.com/2026-05-13/managed-accounts-free-tier-expansion/

Spotify have produced this Parental Guide to assist you with further information: https://www.spotify.com/us/safetyandprivacy/parental-guide

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translation tool on our web version: https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/november-2026-primary/

Online Grooming



What is Online Grooming?

Online Grooming is when anadult builds a relationship online with a childto manipulate, exploit, or abuse them.

How does Grooming take place?

Groomers often use fake profilesto pretend they are someone they are not, for example they may claim to be younger than they really are or pretend to be a person of influence. They will use flattery and attention to build trust and friendship. They may use online games or social media to initiate contact but then encourage your child to switch to a different app to chat with privately - usually on an app that offers limited or no parental controls and/or e

What can I do?

- Use appropriate parental controls.
- Set privacy settings.
- Show them how to use any blocking or reporting tools.
- Chat to your child regularly about what they do online and who they communicate with. Remind them that people online may not always be who they say they are.

What are the signs that my child is being groomed?

- Being **secretive**about who they aretalking to.
- They become **withdrawn** from family and friends.
- Appearing **anxious or upset** after receiving messages.
- Receiving unexpected **gifts**.

Find out more here: https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/offender-gaining-trust

What should I do if my child is being groomed?

- If you thinkyour child is inimmediate danger, contact the police.
- Stay calm and reassure your child that they are not to blame.
- If you are worried about online abuse or the way somebody has been communicating with your child online, report it to CEOP: (https://www.ceop.police.uk).

Further information

- https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/11_18/lets-talk-about/sexual-abuse/online-grooming/

COM Networks

COM Networks are online communities where harmful and deeply disturbing behaviour occurs, including child sexual abuse, cybercrime and extremism. These networks operate on mainstream messaging apps, gaming platforms and through social media. **It is important to be aware that such networks exist and understand the risks they can pose to children.** Introductions to COM Networks can begin with harmless conversations on a game or social media platform, but then as trust builds, groups will gradually introduce harmful content, extreme challenges and pressure to prove loyalty. Some groups use threats, humiliation or the threat of exposing private information to control members. Images, messages or personal details may be used to blackmail victims.

Whatshould I lookoutfor?

- **Increased secrecy**
- **Emotional or behavioural changes**
- **Unfamiliar language:** using new expressions or discussing extreme content, opinions or beliefs.
- **Unexpected gifts**

Sky News investigation into COM Networks (and links on popular sites such asRobloxand Discord)

You may have seen Sky News' investigation into COM networks. The report highlights findings from a six-month investigation that found self-harm-themed avatars, clothing and related content available on the gaming platform Roblox, including items that could be **accessed by children as young as five years old**. The report can be viewed here, **please be aware that it contains upsetting content**:
https://news.sky.com/video/inside-robloxs-dark-side-sky-news-finds-self-harm-avatars-available-to-young-children-13592551

How can I protectmychild?

- Have regular and open conversations with your child. Ask your child what they do online and who they communicate with.
- Reassure them that they can always ask for help, even if they have shared something personal or broken a family rule.
- It is important to remember that threatening to confiscate their devices may make them less likely to talk to you when something goes wrong.
- Regularly review privacy settings and set up appropriate parental controls on all devices your child is using.
- Ensure your child understands the risks of sharing personal information or intimate images online.

Further information

- https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gscp/professional-resources/sadistic-online-exploitation/
- https://saferschoolsni.co.uk/understanding-com-networks/

Usersof thisguidedosoat their owndiscretion. No liabilityis enteredinto.Currentas of the date released 01.11.26. The inclusion of any links does not imply any affiliation with or

WhatsApp Channels andParentalControls

Users must be at least 13 years old to use WhatsApp. Children under 13 can access WhatsApp through **a parent-managed account.**

WhatsApp Channels

WhatsApp Channels are a one-way broadcast tool to send updates to followers. Channels can be found in the Updates tab. From here you can view a whole host of channels, including channels that will **not be age appropriate and may include adult content.** If your child has their own WhatsApp channel, then you need to be aware that they are **public. Anyone can view and follow a channel and anything you share on your channel is public.** We would recommend that parental controls are used to prevent children creating and accessing WhatsApp channels.

Parent Managed accounts

Parent managed accounts are required for those under 13. These accounts have additional safety restrictions and do not allow access to features such as Channels, Meta AI and location sharing. You also have control over which groups they can join.

Parental Controls for Teenagers

For users aged 13 to 17, WhatsApp offers parental control settings tolimit access to certain features such as Channels.

For more information, visit:
https://www.whatsapp.com/parentalcontrols

Rage Bait

Have you heardof this term? Rage bait is when somebody deliberately posts online contentto make people feel angry or frustrated to generate views and engagement. Find out more here:
https://findmykids.org/blog/en/rage-baiting



We Need Your Help

We're delighted that our PTA has been selected as a Co-op Local Community Cause for the next year!

We're raising funds for a school polytunnel, giving children the opportunity to grow their own fruit, vegetables and herbs while learning about healthy eating and caring for the environment.

If you're a Co-op member, please choose us as your cause! The more members who support us, the more funding we can receive.



https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/105175

Thank you for your support!





2026 Poppy Appeal

Remembrance poppies have now arrived in school and will be available to purchase on the playground during morning break. Children can choose from a range of items, including poppies, snap bands and wristbands.

If you would like your child to support the RBL, please send them to school with a small donation so they can purchase an item. The suggested donation is between 50p and £1, depending on the item chosen.

Thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal and helping our children learn about remembrance and those who have served.



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

CONFIDENT COMMUNICATORS

WIDENING HORIZONS

GROWTH MINDSET

HEALTHY BODY, HEALTHY MIND

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

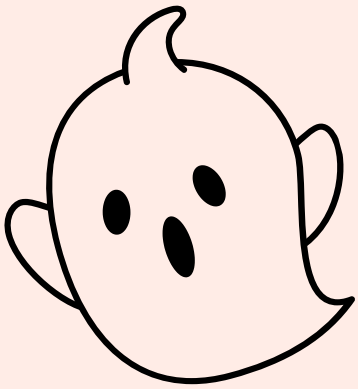
Call the Shropshire Council Customer Services Team on **0345 678 9008**.

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/





JOIN US FOR A HALLOWEEN DISCO

WEDNESDAY 4TH NOV

RECEPTION,YR1 & YR2 - 4.45PM-5.30PM

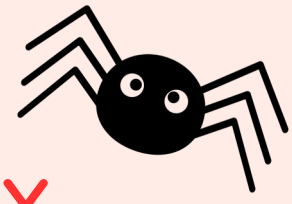
YR 3, 4, 5 & 6 - 5.45PM-6.30PM

£3.50 per child

Includes Drink, Choc Bar & Glowstick

Extra Sweets & Glowsticks
available to buy on the night
for 50p each





BC Primary Children ONLY

POTTERY PAINTING AFTERNOON.

FRIENDS OF BISHOPS CASTLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Saturday 7th November.

📍ChurchBarn,
Bishops Castle
SY9 5AF

⏱️2.30pm till 4.30pm

Join us for an afternoon of Pottery Painting, there will be a selection of items on the day at a range of prices.

Choose and pay for your pottery on the day.

£10pp to secure your seat, which also includes drink on arrival, nibbles and a raffle ticket.
Children welcome but must be accompanied by an adult.







Extra refreshments and raffle tickets available to purchase.

In Aid of Bishop's castle Primary school

To secure your place message
Sophie on - 07896970872
Payment taken on booking.

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



Autumnal Halloweeny

Animated short films
followed by crafty making session
Wednesday 28 October 11.00-12.45

Ideas, Guidance and all materials with plenty of freedom to create.

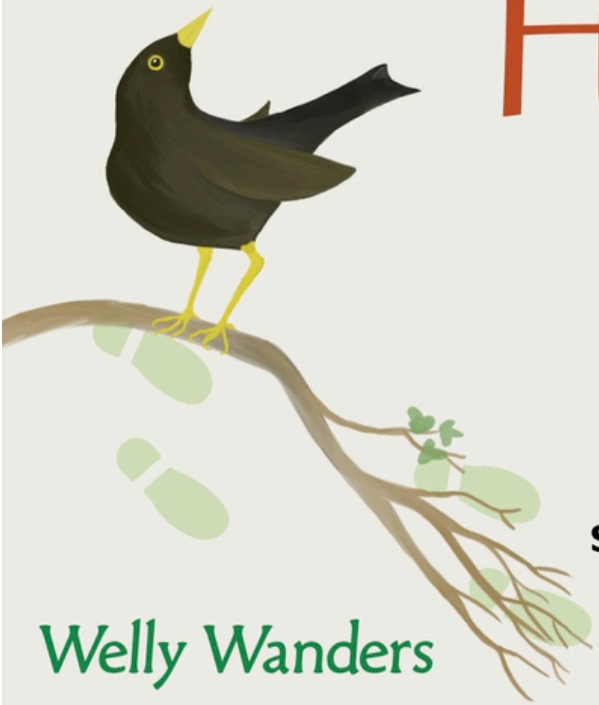
Under 8's must be accompanied by a willing helper
Accompanying adults please book a free place
(so we can make sure there's enough seating for the film)
Children £3.50 or 2 FOR £6.00
www.sparctheatre.co.uk

Sparc Theatre, Brampton Rd, Bishop's Castle SY9 5AY 01588 638038

Campaign to Protect Rural England Shropshire

Free entry for under 16s & all activities are free too!

Hedgerows in the Hills For Kids!



Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 October 2026, 10-4
Acton Scott Heritage Farm, Church Stretton

We are delighted to have received a grant from the Shropshire Hills National Landscape Conservation Fund to deliver free children's nature activities for this event.

Welly Wanders

Cath Landles will be leading **Welly Wanders for children and families** looking at the hedges on the farm site and doing some fun Nature ID.

Welly wander timings each day:
11am and 2pm (wanders last about one hour)
Gather at the PlayTent to start.

There will also be drawing, colouring and other paper-based activities under cover in the PlayTent. and a chance to try on a wild animal costume.





Be a Dormouse Detective!

Lucy Grove will open the **Dormouse Detection Den** in the New Shepherds Hut near the heavy horse working area.

Here you can step into the secret and fascinating world of dormice and become a wildlife detective. Discover the clues dormice leave behind—from nibbled nuts and natural nests to tiny footprints—and learn how to spot these elusive creatures in the wild. Get ready to put your detective skills to the test and see if you can uncover the hidden signs of a dormouse.

Big Hedge Hunt: Try your hand at finding and solving the clues in the hedges at Acton Scott which lead you to the ultimate treasure! What will you find?

More info & tickets: www.cpreshropshire.org.uk/hith

Shropshire Hills National Landscape