Bishop's Castle Primary School

Newsletter

6th November 2026

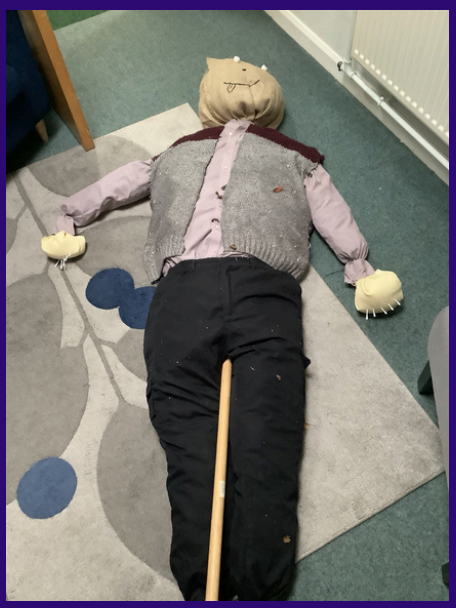
THIS week in school....

Shropshire Music Service

A huge thank you to the PTA for funding our Live Music Event. The children thoroughly enjoyed a fantastic performance from the Shropshire Music Service today. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to experience the excitement and enjoyment of live music.

Bishop's Castle Bonfire & Fireworks

Are you and your family attending the Bishop's Castle Bonfire and Fireworks Display tomorrow evening?



If so, be sure to look out for the Guy that was created by our pupils! The children had great fun designing and building him, showing fantastic teamwork, creativity and enthusiasm throughout the project.

We hope everyone attending has a wonderful time and enjoys seeing their hard work on display.

Attendance

This week's attendance is

Whole School: 96.1 %

Robins: 95.3 %

Skylarks: 91.1 %

Owls: 95.9 %

Starlings: 98.3 %

Kites: 99.5 %

Weekly Attendance Prize Draw

Well Done

100%

This week the children awarded are:

Annie & Nancy M

CONFIDENT COMMUNICATORS

WIDENING HORIZONS

GROWTH MINDSET

HEALTHY BODY, HEALTHY MIND

Upcoming Events



NOVEMBER

Monday 9th
Road Safety Awareness
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
Wednesday 18th
Robins Phonics Workshop
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
Wednesday 16th
Shires Catering Christmas Dinner
Friday 18th
Last day of term

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

JANUARY

Wednesday 6th
Start of Spring 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



Families as Reading Role Models

Children mirror adult behaviour.

At home: Let your child see you reading for pleasure.

Recommended read: Library Lion by Michelle Knudsen — highlights shared love of reading and community.



Road Safety Awareness



On Monday 9th November, every child will receive a reflector to help them stay visible and safe during the darker autumn and winter months.

Children will also take part in a special assembly focusing on road safety and the importance of staying safe near roads.



Anti-bullying Week

Raising awareness of the importance of kindness, respect and celebrating our differences.

Odd Socks Day - Monday 16th November

To celebrate our differences and recognise that everyone is unique, children and staff are invited to wear odd socks on Monday 16th.

There is no need to buy anything special – simply wearing two different socks is a lovely way to join in!



Better Health healthier families

NHS

A healthy, balanced diet plays an important part in children's growth, development and general wellbeing. It also helps ensure that children are getting the nutrients they need throughout the day. Eating too much sugar can contribute to tooth decay and unhealthy weight gain, while regularly choosing foods high in salt and saturated fat can have a negative impact on long-term health.

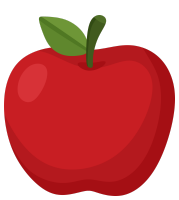
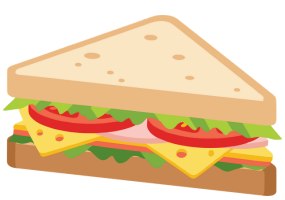
The NHS recommends that children aged 4-6 consume no more than 19g of free sugars per day, rising to 24g for children aged 7-10. This can quickly add up when children are having chocolate, biscuits, sugary snacks and drinks alongside their usual meals.

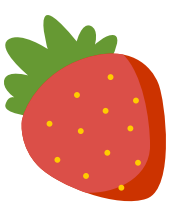
We would therefore encourage parents to:
- Choose fruit or vegetables for playtime snacks wherever possible.
- Include a variety of nutritious foods in lunchboxes.
- Opt for sandwiches, wraps, pasta, cheese, yoghurt and other filling options.
- Provide water as the main drink.
- Keep crisps, chocolate, sweets and biscuits as occasional treats rather than everyday choices.

As a school, we have an important role in helping children understand how to look after themselves, make informed choices and develop healthy habits that will stay with them as they grow older. We would really value your support in reinforcing these messages.

If you would like some inspiration for healthier lunchboxes and snacks, the NHS has some really useful advice and ideas:
https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/

Thank you for your support and for working with us to promote the health and wellbeing of all our children.







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.



Diocese of Hereford Multi-Academy Trust

Knowsley City Learning Centres

Online Safety Newsletter Nov 2026

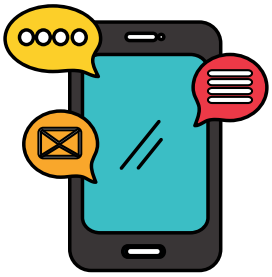
Safeguarding information for parents and carers

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.

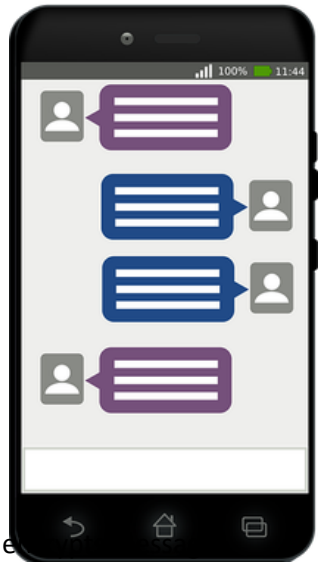
Further information

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

Free Sleep Tight Groups

"It's been eye opening to see how many different things can affect children's sleep. I have learnt so much and now have new ideas to try out."

"I feel more confident in bedtime routines, and less alone in the fact my child struggles with sleep"

Join our friendly, relaxed group!

We all know how important a good night's sleep is for your child's growth and development. When children sleep well, it helps them do better at school, react more quickly, build stronger memories, and learn and solve problems more effectively. It can also help them stay healthier, feel less irritable, and manage their behaviour more positively.

There are many different factors that can affect your child's sleep, and it can sometimes feel hard to know where to start. Join us to learn more, share experiences, and pick up helpful tips to support your child in getting the rest they need.

Upcoming Sessions (once a week over 5 weeks, excl. half terms and bank holidays)

Sleep Tight Group, 13th January 2027 from 12.30pm to 2.30pm Virtual online via MS Teams

Sleep Tight Group, 14th January 2027 from 9.15am to 11.15am Crowmoor Primary School (SY2 5JJ)

Sleep Tight SEND Group, 24th February 2027 from 12.30pm to 2.30pm Virtual online via MS Teams

The SEND groups are suitable for parents/carers of children who have special educational needs and disabilities, no formal diagnosis is needed to attend our groups.

What We'll Talk About

- Benefits of good sleep for our health and emotional wellbeing
- Sleep and bedtime routines for the whole family
- Sleep diaries
- Nutrition and food and their impact on healthy sleep and bedtime routines
- Meet other parents/carers to share and discuss experiences

Want to Join Us?

Email: parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk

Call: 01743 250950

Visit: The Parenting Team | Shropshire Council

Understanding Your Child

0 – 5 years

"I met others going through the same things. It really helped me feel less alone."

"The group boosted my confidence as a parent."

Join our friendly, relaxed group!

Parenting can be full of ups, downs, big feelings and lots of learning — for both you and your child! Your child's early years are full of change and transition, such as starting nursery or school and moving into the next phase of development. In our weekly sessions we will explore ways how you can support your child through these transitions and other tricky moments. Join us and other parents and carers to share simple ideas that can make life calmer and more positive.

Upcoming Session (once a week, excl. half terms and bank holidays)

- 8th January 2027 from 9.30am to 11.30am Virtual online via MS Teams
- 12th January 2027 from 5.00pm to 7.00pm Virtual online via MS Teams

What We'll Talk About

- Transition periods in your family's life, for example starting nursery or school
- Communicating and building connection with your child
- Routines like sleep and bedtime and any other routines you have as a family
- Understanding behaviour and big emotions
- Child development and how you can support it

Want to Join Us?

Email: parenting.team @shropshire.gov.uk

Call: 01743 250950

Visit: The Parenting Team | Shropshire Counci l

Prefer flexible online learning?

Try our free online learning pathways at

Becoming Togetherness - Togethernes s

Understanding Your Child

From Toddler to Teen

"I met others going through the same things. It really helped me feel less alone."

"The group boosted my confidence as a parent."

Join our friendly, relaxed group!

Parenting can be full of ups, downs, big feelings and lots of learning — for both you and your child! Come and join us as we chat about what's going on for you and your family. Together we'll make sense of tricky moments and share simple ideas that can make life calmer and more positive.

Upcoming Sessions (once a week over 10 weeks, excl. half terms and bank holidays)

- 8th January 2027 from 12.45pm to 2.45pm at Highley Primary School, Bridgnorth (WV16 6EH)
- 11th January 2027 from 12.45pm to 2.45pm at The Wilfred Owen School, Shrewsbury, (SY2 5SH)
- 11th January 2027 from 12.30pm to 2.30pm Virtual online via MS Teams
- 13th January 2027 from 9.15am to 11.15am Trefonen Primary School, Oswestry (SY10 9DY)

What We'll Talk About

- Communicating and building connection with your child
- Routines like sleep and bedtime and any other routines you have as a family
- Understanding behaviour and big emotions
- Child development and how you can support it

Want to Join Us?

Email: parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk

Call: 01743 250950

Visit: The Parenting Team | Shropshire Council

Prefer flexible online learning?

Try our free online learning pathways at

Becoming Togetherness - Togetherness

Understanding Your Child with SEND

From Toddler to Teen

"I met others going through the same things. It really helped me feel less alone."

"The group boosted my confidence as a parent."

Join our friendly, relaxed group!

Join our friendly, free group for parents and carers of children with SEND. Connect with others, deepen your understanding of your child, and explore what's going well and what you'd like to change. Small changes make big differences!

Upcoming Sessions (once a week over 10 weeks, excl. half terms and bank holidays)

- 8th January 2027 from 9.00am to 11.00am at Church Stretton School (SY6 6EX)
- 14th January 2027 from 9.30am to 11.30am Virtual online via MS Teams

SEND groups are for parents/carers of children who may have special educational needs or disabilities. No formal diagnosis is needed.

What We'll Talk About

- Communication and building confidence in your relationship with your child
- Exploring routines such as sleep and bedtime
- Understanding behaviour and emotional regulation
- Child development and ways you can support it

Want to Join Us?

Email: parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk

Call: 01743 250950

Visit: The Parenting Team | Shropshire Council

Prefer flexible online learning?

Try our free online learning pathways at

Becoming Togetherness - Togetherness

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/

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

Going Wild in Bc

Kids club



FAMILY FRIENDLY CEILIDH

BRING CASH FOR GAMES

CASH AND CARD BAR, SNACKS & ICE CREAM

FRI 11 DEC FROM 6.30PM

GOING WILD CELEBRATION AND KIDS CLUB FUNDRAISER

CEILIDH DANCING AND MUSIC FROM
THIS WAY UP W/ CALLER JANE ROBERTS

RAFFLE, LUCKY DIP, COLOURING/CRAFTS AND GAMES
ALL WELCOME

ADULTS £10
UNDER 16'S FREE WITH PAYING ADULT

WWW.SPARCTHEATRE.CO.UK 01588638038
SPARC , BRAMPTON RD, BISHOP'S CASTLE. SY9 5AY

Heritage Fund

LIGHT FOOT
Tread lightly on the Earth