



Shurdington C of E Primary School

Be the **BEST** we can be, through love.

Believe Enjoy Succeed Together

Spring Term Newsletter - 06/03/2026

Dates For The Diary

18.03.26@ 9:15 Year 2 Explorers breakfast

19.03.26 Story teller workshops for Shurdington
Literature Festival

20.03.26 Non-school uniform for Red Nose Day

25.03.26 at 9:00 Phonics lesson for Apple Class parents

25.03.26 PTFA Colour Run

27.03.26 Poetry Slam

27.03.26 Last day of Term 4 **2:15 Finish**

13.04.26 INSET day

14.04.26 First day of Term 5

20.04.26 and 21.04.26 School photos

WC 11.05.26 Y6 SATs

13.05.26 NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB Staff training

22.05.26 Last day of Term 5

01.06.26 First day of Term 6

10.06.26 NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB Staff training

11.06.26 Sports Activity Day (no parents)

19.06.26 Sports Day (TBC) Parents invited

10.07.26 Summer Fete

PTFA Colour Run

Our Colour Run is on the 25th March and tickets are on sale from the PTFA now. Posters around the school with information on & QR code.

What you need to know...

- The event will run from 3:30pm to 4:30pm on the school field.
- All children need to be accompanied by an adult. There will be hot drinks on sale.
- Children should bring a change of clothes for the Colour Run, white/ light colours will give the best results.
- Pupils will get ready for the run in their classrooms after school but will need to be collected as usual. Please then bring them round to the field.
- Pupils going to the second session of After School Club after the Colour Run will be taken there by staff, please ensure After School Club is pre booked.
- Children will need to wear trainers and we suggest children bring sunglasses.

Visit our [website](#) to find out more about our school and your childrens learning.

Recently updated pages include:

- Y3 and Y5 Feet First pictures as well as the Y5 Dance video and Expeience Lent pictures in the [Gallery section](#)

"Love God and Love your neighbour as you love yourself" Matthew 22:37 and 39

Lunchtimes

From Monday, we made some adjustments to our lunchtime routine. These changes are designed to create a calmer, more comfortable dining environment for all children, including those who may find busy or noisy spaces challenging.

Whats changed?

Children will now eat lunch in three smaller sittings, with a short cleaning break between each one:

12:15–12:30: Reception and Year 1

12:35–12:50: Year 2 and Year 3

12:55–1:15: Years 4–6

Hot dinners and packed lunches will eat together in each sitting. Any children who need a little longer will be able to stay in the hall and finish their lunch calmly, with supervision.

Why are we doing this?

- To reduce noise levels in the hall
- To make lunchtime feel more relaxed and manageable for children who find busy spaces difficult
- To ensure staff can provide better supervision
- To improve cleanliness between sittings

In addition to the regular wipe-down between each group, dining tables will now receive a deeper clean every Friday and during Parents' Evening.

We will continue to ensure the system is working well.

Thank you for your support as we continue to improve our lunchtime routines for all children.

Dinner Menu Wk Comm 09/03/26

A	Cheese & Tomato Pizza with New Potatoes	Meatballs with Rice	Roast Gammon	Chicken Curry & Rice	Fish Fingers & Chips
B	Vegetable Pasta Bake	Vegan Burger with Wedges	Quorn Roast	Macaroni Cheese	Cheese Whirl & Chips
C	Jacket Potato with Filling available daily				

Dinner Menu Wk Comm 16/03/26

A	Mexican Chilli & Rice	Sausage & Mash	Roast Chicken	Spaghetti Bolognaise	Fish Fingers & Chips
B	Vegan Meatballs	Lentil Curry & Rice	Vegetable Wellington	Vegetable Pizza	Red Pepper Frittata
C	Jacket Potato with Filling available daily				

Football

This week, the boys' football team played in the semi-final of the GPSFA Boys' Plate competition against Longford Park Academy. The team—Toby, Zach, George, Charley, Max, Kola, John, Oli and Alfred—took part in a terrific match, truly worthy of a semi-final.

Despite a 2–0 defeat, everyone watching could see how hard the boys battled and how determined they were to secure the win. They played some lovely football throughout and created good opportunities to score in both halves. Although they were disappointed with the result, they should be extremely proud of reaching the semi-finals and of their performance in such a memorable, hard-fought game.

However, the season has still been a huge success! We are delighted to congratulate the boys' football team on being crowned league champions in the Small Schools League—our first league title in over seven years!

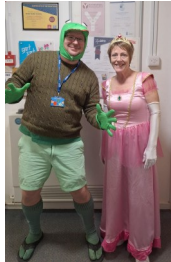
The boys have worked incredibly hard all season, taken part in some fantastic matches and have always represented the school with outstanding sportsmanship and pride. They have scored some brilliant goals, shown real resilience when facing setbacks and consistently supported one another on and off the pitch.

It has been a pleasure for the adults to coach them this year, and we wish our Year 6 players the very best as they move on to play football at their new schools next year.

The girls' team, who also won their respective league, have also made it to the semi-finals and play Croft Primary tonight.

World Book Day and Shurdy Literature Festival

As detailed in our recent reading newsletter, we kicked off our month-long reading festival this week, celebrating books and authors, and immersing ourselves in a range of activities designed to continue to inspire the children's love of reading. We would like to say a massive thank you for all the effort the children, and their families made for World Book Day—the costumes were amazing! The staff all dressed as characters from Traditional Tales—can you guess which stories they are from?



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

1 VALUE ALL READING

When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.



2 WIDEN THE SELECTION



Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.

3 GIFT A BOOK



One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.

4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS



Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authorly and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.

5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE



Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.

6 TALK BOOKS



There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS



As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.

8 GO DIGITAL



With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like PolyIno and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.

9 RECONNECT



There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever; it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.

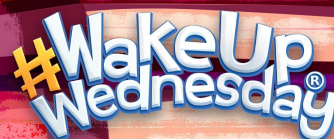
10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE



Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

Meet Our Expert

Carl Pattison is a literacy advisor and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.



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See full reference list on our website

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

GROUP CHAT PRESSURES

Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.

SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS

Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include fraudsters posing as family members in an emergency or tricking users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.

DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES

WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.

EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS

'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations; however, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.

UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.

COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT

WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – Meta AI – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

...ONLINE...

Advice for Parents & Educators

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Silence Unknown Callers' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.

BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS

Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something made them uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.

TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS

Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.

TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI

Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



See full reference list on our website

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