



NEWSLETTER

January 2025

Welcome back to everyone and HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! We hope you have had a lovely Christmas and have enjoyed everything that goes with it. We have all missed the children and are looking forward to seeing everyone back on Tuesday 7th.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the children's nativity at the Church on the last day of term. It really was so lovely to see so many of you and to see all the children's practicing pay off with a great performance. I imagine there will still be requests for "When Santa got stuck up the chimney" at song time! Thank you also for all the kind gifts of sweet treats for the staff, they are much appreciated!

Thank you to EVERYONE for coming to our Christmas fair and for also donating items for the raffle, selling raffle tickets to friends and family and to our amazing staff team and committee for giving up time to come and help us organise and run the day. I am so happy that Father Christmas and his helper took time out of their busy schedule to visit the children too.....a massive thank you to them. Although the weather put a stop to many being able to attend, it was supported by the whole community and raised a fantastic £1,558! for Preschool. An AMAZING amount which we will be using to enhance both our indoor and outdoor provision for all the children. Our committee have been busy doing a great job fundraising. Our Halloween disco, raffle, name the ghost and sweets in a jar made £581.50 and the "pick a date to donate in December" has raised £566. That's an incredible total of £2,705.50 raised last term. THANK YOU!!

Last half term the children enjoyed our topics on Diwali, Light & dark, Nursery Rhymes, bonfire night and keeping Safe, Space and of course Christmas! Our Christmas stay and play was lots of fun and the children loved showing you all their fun and games at preschool. The children loved their Diddi Dance sessions this half term and we ended the term with a Christmas party with Zoe from Jiggy Wrigglers. It's been a fun filled Autumn term! We started sending the children home with their book bags and next step books, please remember to bring these in with your children, if not every day then at least weekly, it is important for us to share your child's next steps with you.

This half term we will start with our topic "It's Cold Outside". We will be looking at how to keep warm and what animals live in colder climates. We will then continue with "Bird watch", "Dinosaurs" and "Transport". Obviously, it is cold this time of year so please, please remember to send your child in with a warm coat, hat, gloves, and scarf as well as a waterproof suit and wellies. We continue to go outside no matter what the weather is doing. Please can we remind everyone that if your child arrives in wellies, they will need to also have either a pair of shoes or slippers with them too. It is not comfortable to play all day in wellies and not safe to be barefoot. Thank you.

A reminder that the school admissions deadline for children starting reception in September 2025 is the 15TH JANUARY Here is the link to apply. <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/school-admissions/apply-to-start-or-transfer-school/starting-infant-or-primary-school/>

We look forward to seeing you all back on Tuesday!!

Laura, Jordan, Ruth, Claire, Katie and Jasmine x

Diary Dates

PD Day: Monday 6th Jan

Start of Spring term: Tuesday 7th Jan

School application deadline: 15th January

End of half term: Friday 14th February

Start of second half of term: Monday 24th February

Why should I read with my child?

STORIES can teach children about the world around them and help them put names to things



BOOKS are brilliant for development, from emotions and speech to counting... and beyond!



STORIES can spark all kinds of conversations between you and your child



BOOKS can open up new adventures and widen children's horizons



BOOKS can provide sensory experiences – with different textures to explore, bits to pull and sounds to hear



STORIES can introduce children to diversities and help them understand different cultures



And of course, **BOOKS** and **STORIES** can make your child... giggle explore

wonder imagine
discover question laugh



Icons courtesy of Freepik and FlatIcon

Online safety: top tips

Going online is a huge part of most young people's lives so it's important to talk to them about online safety. Here's our tips to get you started.



Chat to them about what they like to do online

The best way to find out what your child is doing online is to talk to them and have regular conversations so that online safety is part of everyday discussion. Ask them open-ended questions like "What's your favourite game or app to play on?"

- Listen to what they have to say and show an interest. They could give you a demo of their favourite app or show you their favourite YouTube or TikTok account.
- They will probably be able to teach you things you don't know! This will also give you an opportunity to chat about any safety settings they might already have in place.
- Regular conversations with your child will encourage them to come to you if they ever need support or advice.

Talk about who they are in contact with online

There are lots of different ways that children can talk to people online – messaging apps, on social media, and less obvious ways such as chat on online games. Talk to your child about who they are talking to and what they are sharing with them.

- Use settings to help limit who can contact your child.
- Remind your child that they shouldn't share personal information with people they don't know online.
- Let your child know they can come to you or another trusted adult if any conversation makes them feel uncomfortable.

Make sure to talk to your child first before implementing any new settings and explain to them how they help to keep them safe.

Help manage what they see and do online

Parental controls and privacy settings can help you manage how your child spends time online and help to keep them safe.

- Device settings – manage things like location sharing, screen time and in-app purchases. Most tech and gaming companies have dedicated pages to support with setting these up.
- App or game settings – in-app tools that can help to keep your child's account private and manage who they're talking to. You can normally find information on these in account settings or directly on the platforms website.
- Mobile or network provider settings – help to manage browsing access and stop your child from visiting inappropriate sites or downloading apps that aren't suitable. Contact your mobile or broadband provider for more information about setting this up.

Remember it's ok to ask for help!

Remember you don't have to be an online safety expert – that's our job! We're here to help, with resources and advice to help support you and your child.

If your child asks you a question you don't know the answer to, or speaks to you about a negative experience they had online, here are some of things you could do:

- Visit the NSPCC online safety hub: nspcc.org.uk/online-safety
- Call the NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5000 to speak to an advisor
- Ask another parent
- Speak to your child's teacher
- If your child needs more support, they can contact Childline: childline.org.uk



NSPCC

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

NSPCC 2021. Registered charity England and Wales 238862. Scotland SC037717 and Jersey 206. Illustration by Shutterstock. 2022 0201

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD
SOLIHULL APPROACH

Understanding relationships

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This course is for you if you are:

- Feeling like you are constantly arguing and not being heard
- Hoping to enhance your parenting and family relationships
- Seeking a change in your personal or professional relationships



www.inourplace.co.uk

A FREE online course for Shropshire residents. This virtual course covers feelings, communication, conflict in relationships, anger, repair and more.

Why would anyone want to do a course on understanding their relationships? Well, you may want to celebrate it, you may want to give it a bit of an MOT or you may feel your relationship is in need of some attention. Maybe you feel you're drifting, or perhaps things have been difficult lately. You're looking for a way forward. Relationships can be difficult, complicated, fun, satisfying, exciting, annoying, bring out the best in us, bring out the worst in us. We're often in one, but we don't often spend much time on them. So here's the chance!

You can complete the course at a time and pace to suit you. Use the access code DARWIN18 to do the course for free. Find out more about the 'Understanding your relationship' course and enrol now. <https://orlo.uk/SywF0>