NEWSLETTER
September 2026

Welcome back to all our Little Explorers! We hope everyone has had a lovely summer holiday and is feeling refreshed and ready for another exciting term with us. We can't wait to see all of our children back on Wednesday 2nd September and hear about everything they have been getting up to over the summer!

We would also like to send a very special good luck to our school leavers — Isabella, Poppy, Iylah, Teddy, Arthur and Oralia — as they take their very first steps into primary school. We are so proud of you all and will miss you lots! We hope you have the most wonderful time, make lots of new friends and enjoy every minute of your next adventure. Remember, once a Little Explorer, always a Little Explorer!

We ended our summer term with such a fantastic few weeks. Our Music and Arts Festival was once again full of creativity, music, dancing and lots of smiles. We also had a brilliant Sports Day, followed by our very special Graduation, where we celebrated our "Schoolies" and all they have achieved during their time with us. What a lovely way to finish the term.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make our summer so special — and a very special thank you to Jess, Bertie's mum, for organising our wonderful decorated wheelbarrow for Burwarton Show. We are absolutely thrilled to say that the children's wheelbarrow won 1st Prize!

At our AGM at the end of term, we sadly said goodbye to Steph, Becky and Cheryl. All were long standing members of our management committee, and we thank them so much for everything they have done to support Little Explorers over the years with management and fundraising. We are delighted to welcome Nicola into the position of Chair and Kerri into the role of Secretary. Both have been members of the committee for a while now but have stepped forward to take on these important roles. If anyone is interested in taking part in any of our fundraising events, please contact one of us. Little Explorers management committee will be sending you details of meetings and events in the new term along with details of how to contact them directly, so keep your eyes peeled!

We have had something very exciting happening at Little Explorers over the summer! Our brand-new extension has been delivered and there has been lots of work going on outside, including plenty of groundworks. Although our builders still have work to complete both inside and out, we are confident that everything will be finished by the end of September ready for us to make it ready to welcome children after October half term. It is already looking fantastic, and we are so excited to see it finished and, most importantly, to get our children in there! We will keep you updated as the work progresses.

We are running "Understanding your child: From toddler to teen" with Shropshire Council's Parenting Team starting Monday 21st September 9am for a 9.15am start – 11.15am. These are friendly groups to discuss the ups and downs of parenting in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. Please see the poster below with more information on and ways to book. These sessions will take place at Brown Clee Primary School.

And finally, we have some very exciting learning planned for the new term. We will begin by exploring "Harvest" and "On the Farm", giving the children lots of opportunities to explore where our food comes from, animals, crops and the changing season. We will then move on to "All About Me" and "Keeping Healthy", looking at ourselves, our families, our bodies and the things we can do to keep ourselves happy and healthy. As always, we will follow the children's interests and make the most of every opportunity for learning, discovery and fun!

New longer hours available! Little Explorers now has the option to attend until 5pm every day. These places must be booked in advance, please email to check availability and to book.

Your team,

Laura, Jordan, Ruth, Jasmine, Claire and Katie

Diary Dates

Monday 31st August: Bank Holiday

Tuesday 1st September: PD Day - CLOSED

Wednesday 2nd September: First day of term!

Monday 21st September • 9am - Understanding Your Child: From Toddler to Teen – Session 1 at Brown Clee Primary School. Please see the accompanying poster for more information.

Friday 23rd October: PD Day - CLOSED

Friday 23rd October • 5–7pm Halloween Disco at Ditton Priors Village Hall – all welcome!

Sunday 29th November • 12-4pm Christmas Fayre











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)

Brown Clee Primary School

Ditton Priors, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 6SS

21st September 2026

Meet us from 9.00am and group starts at 9.15am to 11.15am

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

UK Government

NHS

A GUIDE TO SCREEN TIME

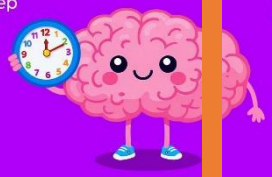
UNDER 5s



BEST START IN LIFE

How much screen time should my child have?

- **Under 2s:** Avoid screen time other than for shared activities with family.
- **2–5 yr olds:** Try to keep it to 1 hour a day.



What content is better content?

- **Slow-paced, predictable** content is better for young brains.
- Choose content with **simple stories** and **clear, slow speech,** so emotions are easy to follow.



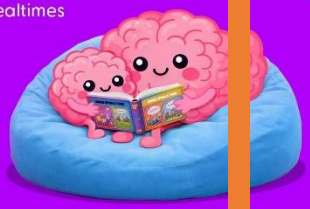
How does my screen time affect my child?

- Children's brains are like sponges – they'll copy your screen use habits. **Keep an eye on your own screen time in front of them.**



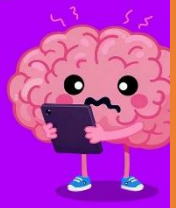
When and where is it okay for my child to use screens?

- **Screen-free zones:** Keep bedrooms and mealtimes screen-free.



How does screen time affect my child's development?

- Too much **screen time is linked to negative effects on children's health and development.**



LITTLE EXPLORERS' SEPTEMBER BUCKET LIST

25 simple things to do together this September

OUTSIDE & EXPLORING

- [ ] Go on an autumn leaf hunt – how many different colours can you find?
- [ ] Collect acorns, conkers and sticks on a woodland walk.
- [ ] Go on a muddy puddle walk – wellies highly recommended!
- [ ] Look for squirrels hiding their food.
- [ ] Make a leaf pile and jump, stomp or shuffle through it.
- [ ] Find your favourite tree and give it a big autumnal hug.
- [ ] Lie on the grass and look at the clouds – what shapes can you see?
- [ ] Go on a mini-beast hunt – look under logs, stones and leaves.
- [ ] Find a safe open space and run, jump and blow bubbles.
- [ ] Take crayons outside and make leaf rubbings.
- [ ] Sit quietly and listen for birds. How many different sounds can you hear?
- [ ] Find a leaf and watch it dance in the wind.
- [ ] Go on a colour hunt – can you find something red, yellow, green, brown and orange?
- [ ] Take a family photo in your favourite outdoor spot.

Remember: There's no need to spend money to make memories.

COSY DAYS AT HOME

- [ ] Choose your favourite autumn story and snuggle up together.
- [ ] Make an autumn picture using leaves, sticks and things you've collected.
- [ ] Do some leaf printing with paint or crayons.
- [ ] Have a cosy pyjama morning with books, cuddles and music.
- [ ] Make a simple autumn snack together – chop fruit, spread toast or make a fruit face.
- [ ] Have an autumn music and dancing session in the living room.
- [ ] Turn off the lights and have a torch adventure around the house.
- [ ] Build a cosy den with blankets and cushions.
- [ ] Draw a picture of your favourite thing you did this September.
- [ ] Put your collected treasures in a September treasure basket and talk about what you found.
- [ ] Have a family gratitude moment – each say something that made you smile today.

SEPTEMBER CHALLENGE

Can you complete 10 activities together?

- 5 outdoor adventures
- 3 cosy activities
- 2 things you've never tried before!

EXPLORE • DISCOVER • GET MESSY • MAKE MEMORIES

Little Explorers Preschool