



May 2026
05.05.26

Newsletter



What a warm welcome I have received from you all! In just two weeks, I already feel very settled and part of our school community. I am beginning to get to know the children and am enjoying spending time in their company. It is clear to see our school vision being lived out as the children aim high in their hearts: it is a joy seeing them interacting with each other outside at break and lunch times. Highlights for me so far have been: witnessing the (short) tale of the Hedgehog's field mouse; listening to some amazing piano playing and beautiful singing from the children learning with Mrs Smith; and, seeing the boys in Badgers inventing their own game using the new playtime equipment.



As Mrs Davies did, I work across here and Tusingham-with Grindley CofE Primary, and so I am not in school every day. This week, I am spending the whole week here at Shocklach. After half-term, I will be spending a whole week at Tusingham.

Tidying up the School Environment

This week, a skip is being delivered so that we can do some de-cluttering! We are 'aiming high' in our school environment. Mr Mackenzie, who works as a Site Manager in a different school, will be spending the week with us, working alongside our Caretaker, Mr Bickley, to get on top of some of the jobs that need doing. We will also be talking to the children about respecting the school environment and looking after school property. We have already been focusing on making sure that all of the equipment is tidied away at the end of break and lunch time, especially as we have had new resources to occupy the children at this time. Can I kindly ask for your support with this by refraining from pre-school children using the equipment at the beginning and end of the school day.

Wheels Wednesdays

How lovely it is to see the children scooting around the track on field perimeter on Wednesdays! For safety reasons, can I remind you that the children should walk their scooters in to school and back out at the end of the day. Many thanks.

Working together to uphold our school uniform policy

I am grateful for your continued support in helping is to maintain high standards in school. Our school uniform policy plays an important role in creating a positive learning environment and I kindly ask that you ensure the children are dressed according to our policy.

Our uniform consists of:

- Tartan Skirt (grey/purple)/grey shorts or trousers/blue gingham dress
- Blue polo shirt with optional school logo
- Purple cardigan/sweatshirt with logo
- Grey/black socks, grey tights or black leggings
- Plain black sensible shoes/trainers

Our PE uniform consists of:

- Plain navy/black shorts/navy or black tracksuit bottoms/leggings
- White school T-shirt (logo optional) with optional purple hoody with logo
- Plain trainers



Communication

A gentle reminder that all email communication should come via the school office. To support work-life balance, please refrain from directly emailing staff members, including the headteacher email account, when you need to get in touch. Thank you for your support in this matter.



Attendance

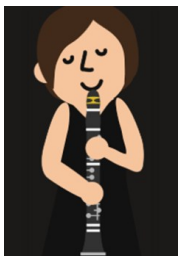
Our whole school attendance currently sits at 94% which is below where it needs to be. Article 28 and 29 of the Rights of the Child ensure children have the right to education no matter who they are and that this education develops their personality and abilities as much as possible. Together, we need to support our children to access their right to education and the opportunities that regular attendance and engagement in their learning provide.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



There are many things that families can do to help our children make the most of what education can offer them, including ensuring that children have enough sleep, maintain healthy routines and focus on what they enjoy about school. It may seem that an odd day off school doesn't really matter, but when a child or young person is persistently absent, research tells us that this can impact on their levels of participation, attainment and ultimately their future opportunities. We ask that **term time holidays are avoided**: the consequences of missing teaching time is significant for all learners. **If your child's attendance has fallen below 95% then I will be in touch to offer support to help with this. If attendance has fallen below 90%, your child is now identified as a 'persistent absentee'.**

Badgers Clarinet Lessons



Children in Badgers will be having their final clarinet session on Wednesday 13th May. They have been learning the instrument since September with many children showing great perseverance - it's a tricky instrument to play. A huge well done for all of the progress that they have made in this area of the curriculum. Please can all instruments be returned to school on this day so that we can return them. Thank you for your support, especially coping with the squeaking when your children have been practising at home!

Squirrels PE Lessons

As the children in Squirrels are swimming for an hour each Tuesday this term, they will not be having their PE session in school on Thursdays. Can the children please come to school in usual school uniform on this day in future. Many thanks.

Dates

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| Sunday 10th May | 11:15am | Pet Blessing @ St Edith's 'Tom's Field' (opposite school) |
| Monday 11th May | All Week | Y6 SATs Week |
| Monday 11th May | 3:20pm | Foxes' Residential Parent Meeting |
| Wednesday 20th May | 1pm - 6pm | Sports Day and Summer Fair |
| Thursday 21st May | All day | Badger's Safety Central Educational Visit |
| Friday 22nd May | 3:20pm | Finish for the half-term break |
| Monday 1st June | 8:45am | School re-opens |
| 2nd June - 3rd June | Two days | Foxes' Residential Visit to Fox Howl |
| Thursday 4th June | All day | Badger's Educational Visit to Xplore, Wrexham |

Thank you for your continued support.
Every blessing,
C Mackenzie

We aim high in our hearts and minds as we blossom in God's garden, for nothing is impossible with God