



12th December 2025

Issue 699

Rushbury CE Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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Our school values:

Curiosity, Friendship, Perseverance, Respect.



Value of the month for December:

PEACE



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear parents/carers,

We have enjoyed a most festive week in school. Tuesday saw the entire school head to Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury, for the pantomime performance of 'Dick Whittington'. It was a fantastic day out, as it always is. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves as you will see, with some photographs further on in the newsletter. A special mention to Florence who, along with three children from other schools, was selected to go up on stage in front of a packed theatre. She smiled throughout, provided clear answers to all the questions asked and danced fantastically.

This event was followed with the nativity performance of 'Christmas Counts' at the village hall, just yesterday evening. For me, this was even better than the panto. The children rehearsed brilliantly during the day and their hard work paid off with an excellent performance when it really 'counted'. The autumn term is a long one and this event always comes at the end of that term but there was plenty of enthusiasm on show as well as smiles and tuneful singing. Thank you for supporting us with this and a big thank you and well done to all the pupils and my dedicated staff team.

Next week is even busier! Christmas Dinner Day, Christmas Fair, Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Carol Concert and hopefully Father Christmas visiting us... if he's not too busy!

As many of you are aware, we've been down to one mini bus for the last couple of days and we thank you for your flexibility and understanding with this. Please look out for an up-date on ParentMail, regarding arrangements for next week.

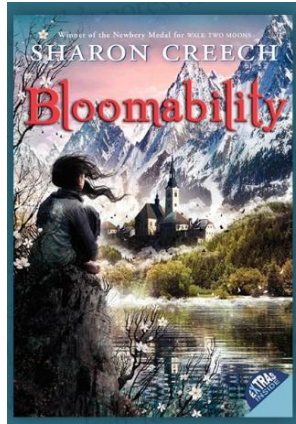
I hope you enjoy your weekend and you've already managed to complete your Christmas shopping.

Steve Morris

BOOK REVIEW – by Penelope L (Stanway)

Title: Bloomability

Author: Sharon Creech



I really enjoyed this book – I think it is a ‘super trooper’!

The main character in this book is Dinnie Doone, who is living in America and has the chance to attend a boarding school in Lugano, Switzerland. My favourite bit of the book was when she arrived in Switzerland. I think Clara B, Jess and my cousin Helen would like this book. I would give it 5 out of 5 stars.



CHILD’S PRAYER

Dear God

Thank you for all those peaceful moments, where we can get away from our busy daily lives.

Thank you for kindness, hope and love, so we can show it to the people we live with.

Help us to cool our hearts when we show anger and frustration.

May love be in all our hearts, so we can show affection for one another.

May peace be in the air all around us, so it can be used to stop wars.

May joy be in our lives, so we now longer feel down.

May we be compassionate to all those people who have been involved in wars and disputes between countries.

Amen

By
Charles P





HEADTEACHER'S AWARDS

- **Ticklerton** – Henry K for always offering to help in class
- **Ticklerton** – Ralph E for working so hard in all assessments this week
- **Gretton** – Riley T for engaging fully in his writing and using fantastic vocabulary
- **Gretton** – Matilda S for demonstrating our school values on a regular basis
- **Stanway** – Ellis J for leaping into programming with Logo

HOUSE POINTS

Ragleth have retained their lead!



Ragleth – 431

Lawley – 421

Callow – 354

Caradoc - 294



WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS...

Mr Morris recently met with the minibus committee and they were keen to explore if there are any members of the community who may be interested in a minibus driver role? The minibus committee have a small number of dedicated drivers on the payroll but are always looking to expand.

It is important to emphasise that his communication isn't just aimed at parents but grandparents too or other family members. Or, indeed, friends and neighbours.

As you will likely be aware we operate two minibuses at the beginning and end of each school day, plus they are often utilised for a variety of school trips during the school day... so there is always plenty of driving to undertake.

If this is of interest to you, or somebody you know, then please do talk to me or email me on:
headteacher@rushbury.shropshire.sch.uk

Alternatively, do please phone Sian or Julia in the school office, for an informal chat/further details.

FRIDAY SPORTS CLUBS FOR THE REST OF THIS ACADEMIC YEAR

For quick reference, please find below a reminder about the schedule below for our very popular Friday sports club. Bookings for the netball/basketball club, which starts in January, will be available on ParentMail on the last week of this half term and this will again have restricted numbers to ensure safety for all.

Spring 1	Netball/Basketball
Spring 2	Tennis
Summer 1	Cricket
Summer 2	Athletics

CHRISTMAS COUNTS



FUN AT THE PANTOMIME
(EVEN TICKLERTON'S NAUGHTY ELF SNEAKED IN!)



Thank you to The Friends for the ice-creams in the interval!



KEY DIARY DATES

	<u>KEY DIARY DATES</u>
Tuesday 16th December	No homework club – resumes on Tuesday 6 th January 2026
Wednesday 17th December	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Fair 2.00-3.30pm in school (no after school clubs or wrap around care)
Wednesday 17th December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 18th December	Bookings open on ParentMail for next term’s Friday Sports Club
Friday 19th December	Last day of term (no after school clubs or after school wrap around care)
Tuesday 6th January 2026	First day back for children (the 5 th January is a staff training day)

SOME ITEMS WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST:

MAMMOTH
SANTA TRAIL

Kindly supported by Connexus

13 DEC. 2025

Book your slot BETWEEN 10AM AND 3PM

£10 PER CHILD

Book online

Follow the elves and snowballs through our exhibition as you answer questions and join in activities on your way around. Say "hi" to the mammoth himself and finish the trail with a gift from Santa as you meet him in his grotto.

There will be festive refreshments available at the end of the trail with treats for the adults too!

*PRICE INCLUDES EXHIBITION ENTRANCE ONE FREE ADULT PER PAYING CHILD ADMISSION PRICE APPLIES TO ADDITIONAL ADULTS

Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre

WWW.SHROPSHIREHILLSDISCOVERYCENTRE.CO.UK
INFO@SHROPSHIREHILLSDISCOVERYCENTRE.CO.UK
01588 676060
SCHOOL ROAD, CRAVEN ARMS SY7 9RS
GROW COOK LEARN, A REGISTERED CHARITY: 1158795

KUSHABURYS

{ CHRISTMAS }
JUMPER DAY 😊

Christmas Jumper Day is on the 17th of December!!
We would like you to wear a Christmas Jumper

Bring £1 or more to help those poor children that urgently need help

SHREWSBURY
elf trail

Get ready for a magical adventure like no other!

It's that time of year again when Father Christmas's most mischievous scout elves come to life.

Join us on the Shrewsbury Elf Trail and find these pint-sized North Pole residents spreading Christmas cheer and getting into all sorts of antics across Shrewsbury!

Share a picture of your favourite elf with #ShrewsElf and tag Original Shrewsbury for your chance to win a £100 voucher for a Shrewsbury business of your choice!

Discover the elf locations at originalshrewsbury.co.uk/elves

ORIGINAL SHREWSBURY

HELPING YOUR CHILD THRIVE IN THE EARLY YEARS

BY REDUCING SCREEN TIME

You are not to blame
Phones and tablets are everywhere, and they are designed to grab attention. But did you know that too much screen time - for both parents and children - can make it harder for little ones to develop key skills they need to **grow, learn, and connect?**

Why this matters
In the first five years, your child's brain is growing faster than it ever will again. These years lay the foundation for how they think, move, talk, and build relationships, which are important for being ready for school.

Too much screen time can:

- 1 Delay speech and communication**
Young children learn to talk by hearing real voices and taking part in conversations. Screens often reduce these important moments of connection.
- 2 Make it harder to handle emotions**
If screens are used often to calm a child down, they may miss out on learning how to cope with frustration, boredom or big feelings in other ways.
- 3 Impact feeding**
Screen use during feeding can make it harder for babies to connect with their parents and for their needs to be noticed. It can also affect how children learn to try new foods and recognise when they're hungry or full.
- 4 Reduce active play**
Children need to move, use their hands, and explore. Long periods of screen time can limit this, affecting coordination, strength and posture.
- 5 Impact focus and attention**
Fast-moving videos can make it harder for children to focus on slower, real-life tasks, such as playing, reading, or listening.

What can help:

You do not need to do it all at once
Small steps matter. This isn't about guilt, it's about giving your child the best chance to grow and thrive. What your child needs most is you: your attention, your voice, your time.

- 1 Make time for screen-free activities** like play, outdoor time, or reading.
- 2 Keep screens off** during mealtimes and before bed.
- 3 Watch or play alongside** your child when screens are used - this helps support learning.
- 4 Keep screens out of bedrooms** overnight - yours too, if possible.
- 5 Be a role model** - children copy how adults use phones and tablets.

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FOR SAFER SCREENS

This leaflet has been developed by experts at Health Professionals for Safer Screens, led by Dr Kelly Brown, Consultant Neonatologist and Olivia Danri, Paediatric Speech and Language Therapist.

SHROPSHIRE FAMILY INFO SERVICE PROVIDES LOTS OF INFORMATION FOR LOCAL EVENTS:



Welcome to the Christmas edition of the Family Info Service newsletter. It's full of ideas to make the most of the festive season!

Remember, we cover everything and anything to do with family life, so if you have a question, chances are we'll be able to help, or if we can't, we'll point you in the direction of someone who can. Find us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [X](#). Call 01743 254400 or email ShropshireFIS@shropshire.gov.uk



Festive farmers

If you have a child who is tractor mad then you won't want to miss the chance to see a procession of tractors, decorated in Christmas lights, trundling down a road near you. It is a magical sight to behold! You can find a list of tractor runs on our Family Information Directory

[Find out more](#)



Meet Father Christmas

Santa spotting

Although Father Christmas is a very busy man, he still tries to get out and meet as many children as possible in the run up to Christmas. You might see him at a museum or castle, Christmas fair or on tour riding his sleigh. You may even get to have breakfast with him. Our Family Information Directory has a list of places we know he will visit.

Festive fun

There are lots of things going on in the run up to, and throughout, the Christmas holidays, including:

- A free Christmas party at Market Drayton library
- Christmas toddler day at Park hall Farm, Oswestry
- A Dungeons and Dragons Christmas one shot at the SpArC, Bishop's Castle
- A free Elf workshop at The Darwin Shopping Centre, Shrewsbury
- A Festive Christmas Tree Trail at Comer Woods, Bridgnorth

and loads more. We're adding new events all the time, so keep checking back!



Girlguiding

Church Stretton



For ages 4 to 7

Rainbows welcomes all girls to come together to laugh, learn and have fun in a creative, safe space. It's a wonderful world of adventure, week after week, just for her.



Brownies is full of firsts: she can explore her creative side, get out into the great outdoors, learn how to look after herself, others and the world we live in.



For ages 7 to 10



For ages 10 to 14

Guides is a fun-filled space, she'll have one big adventure with friends, learn how to be herself, explore the things she loves and do stuff she's never done before!



Rangers is an open and relaxed space, where you can regularly meet up, go on trips at home and abroad, to help make a difference to the things you care about.



For ages 14 to 18

Find a group near you girlguiding.org.uk

Registered charity number: Exempted from registration