

Our main aim is a love of life and learning Happiness is the key and our children's happiness, safety, security and love are at the heart of our achievements for each individual child.

# Shawclough Community School Newsletter

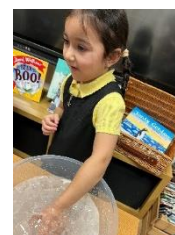
Issue 18  
Week ending 24/01/25



## GLIMPSE OF THE WEEK



Year 2 carried out a 'fair test' to find out which paper would make the best wrapping paper.



Reception carried out an experiment to find out how blubber keeps whales warm. Then they covered their hands in 'blubber' and plunged them into ice water.



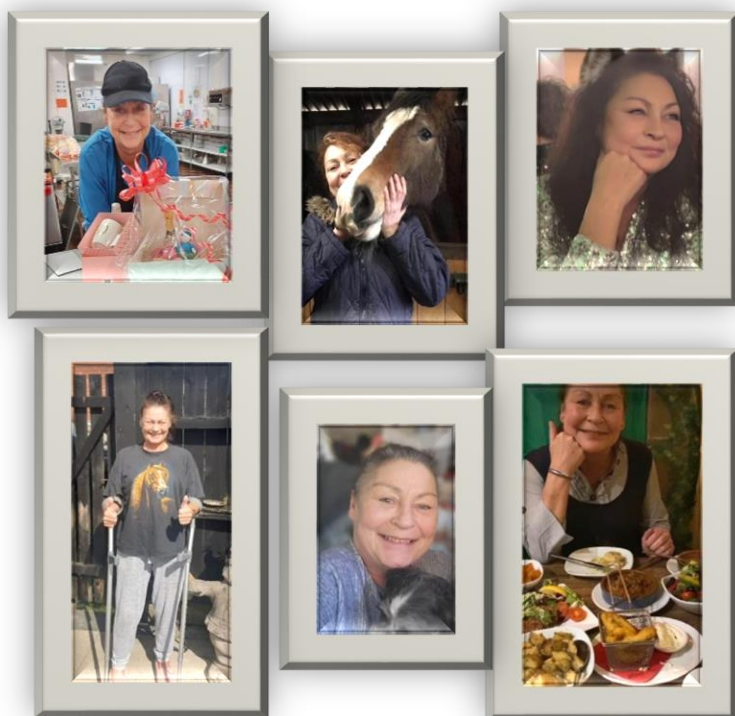
Year 2 reading in the e library for | National Reading Day

*It is with deep regret, that we announce, our beloved Margret Birtles (previous kitchen manager) died suddenly over the weekend. Maggie had been part of Shawclough School from the very beginning and retired just last year. She was most famous for the fabulous biscuits 'Maggie's Biscuits' she would bake for school events, to raise much needed funds. However, she was so much more than that. She loved her job, the school and children with a passion, even coming in when she was unwell and since retirement when the kitchen was short staffed. Most importantly she was always smiling.*

*Our love and condolences go out to her family at this sad time and we hope that they know that Maggie's Shawclough family grieve with them.*

*We dedicate this issue of our school newsletter to Maggie.*

### "FLY HIGH MAGGIE"



Margaret Birtles (1962- 2025) RIP

You can follow us on

<https://shawclough.rochdale.sch.uk/>

PTA are on





Thursday was National Reading Day and purple class practiced reading their reading books (above) and nursery has a look at story The Mitten, They had a go at retelling it as a group and making their own mittens.(below) They also had a look at some of their favourite books



Reception are using their gross motor skills by building crate bridges, which helps their confidence with balance and heights



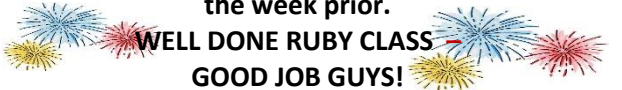
Gold class enjoyed their weekly visit to the library

PIC-COLLAGE

# ATTENDANCE

Attendance for week ending 17/01/25	
<b>RUBY</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
3L	99.6%
2C	98.1%
5C	98.0%
3A	97.7%
NS	97.3%
6S	96.7%
5P	96.4%
4O	95.2%
6R	95.5%
4Y	95.0%
1L	93.5%
2S	93.3%
RT	92.3%
NO	89.5%
1P	89.2%
GOLD	87.1%
SAPPHIRE	86.7%
RB	84.4%

Please note that attendance figures are *always* for the week prior.



## EVERY SCHOOL DAY MATTERS

### Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are Changing!

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19th August 2024.

#### Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines will now be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent.

For example; 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

#### 5 Consecutive Days of Term Time Leave

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more consecutive days. INSET training days are school days and can be included in the 5 or more consecutive days where there was intent to be absent for term time leave.

#### First Offence

The first time a Penalty notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular Attendance, the amount will be:

- £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.
- Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

#### 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period.

#### Second Offence

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular Attendance the amount will be:

- £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

#### Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrate's Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate, due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education.'

**BE PRESENT, BE ENGAGED AND WATCH YOUR KNOWLEDGE GROW!**

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## YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL

**\*\*Year 6 Parents ONLY\*\***

Year 6 residential to 'Gulliver's World' has been announced and you should have received all the information so far. Deposits are now due. Please ensure that this is paid ASAP to secure your child's place, for this exciting opportunity.

The residential will take place 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025. There will be a further meeting for parents and children towards the date.

## STARBOOKS – IT'S BACK!



We are glad to welcome back Starbooks! In the first week of February, you will have the opportunity to read/share/buy books with your child, in school and also have a warm drink and something to eat.

Don't miss this opportunity and please do attend for your child – chances like these are few and far between. It will be the last Starbooks in Shawclough School for our year 6s, so please year 6 parents come and share what will be a great memory to look back on.



## RECYCLE4SCHOOL

Your child will have brought home a bag this week for you to fill with items you no longer need. Please see the list below and ensure items are of a reasonable standard and clean. Please bring your filled bags to school on the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> February, no sooner and no later. You are welcome to use your own additional bags if the recycle4school bag isn't big enough.



***Clothes, paired shoes, handbags, hats, bags, scarves/ties, bras, jewellery, socks and belt.***

Remember - We can only accept bags on the morning of the collection.

If you are looking to buy some uniform for your child, one of our uniform providers is offering the following discount code when ordering online.  
<https://myclothing.com/>



Code = **UNIFORM10%**

Expires = 31/03/2025

27<sup>th</sup> January is Holocaust Memorial Day. Whilst we

## DID YOU KNOW?



appreciate that most of our children probably don't know about it, (especially the little ones), as parents and educators it is important that we give it

some thought.

Holocaust Memorial Day, often abbreviated as HMD, is a day dedicated to remembering the victims of the Holocaust and other genocides, still going on in the world today.

It is a time for reflection, education, and raising awareness about the consequences of discrimination, hatred, and prejudice. The day encourages individuals and communities to stand together against hatred and persecution

Shawclough School is extremely proud of its diverse community. We see our diversity as a strength and appreciate and teach the children about acceptance of all races, cultures and religions and celebrate them as well.

Through social media our children are exposed to so much today and HMD will probably come up or be mentioned somewhere. If they ask you about it have that conversation.

## PTA

## YEAR 6 LEAVERS HOODIES

## NEW SCHOOL UNIFORM

You can follow us on  <https://shawclough.rochdale.sch.uk/>

PTA are on



## GAMES/PE KIT

Shortly, PTA will be sending out order forms for your child's leaver's hoodie.

Please be aware that the earlier we get all the order form back and orders processed, the earlier your child will receive their hoodie and can start to wear it.



This will ensure that your child has their hoodie early enough to get as much use out of it as possible before they start year 7 in their new high school.

This also means that the children will have their hoodies for their end of term trips.

## VOLUNTEERS

**Calling ALL parents – PTA needs!**

PTA raise much needed funds for extracurricular activities AND funds to support things going on in school too. Without the PTA we wouldn't have the extra money for the fun stuff.



If you have any spare time/ideas or would like to volunteer, please get in touch with Mrs Choudhry in the school office.

Join the PTA!



## REMINDERS

### RECEPTION CLASSES READING

**Reception children** need to bring their book bags to school EVERYDAY. They need to return their library books every THURSDAY.

Your child's reading record will be looked at by a member of staff every FRIDAY



Book bags are available to purchase from the office.

Please ensure that you child has a games/PE kit in school at all times.



Your child will need a white t-shirt, black shorts and black pumps for in door and for outdoors tracksuit bottoms or legging, top and trainers.

If you don't have the correct colours please do not worry – it is **more important** that the children have a PE/Games **kit in school**.

## FUN WITH TIMESTABLES

Have a look on the TTRockstars webpage below to see how to best support your child with their continuous timetables practice whilst having fun!

[ttrackstars.com/parents/](http://ttrackstars.com/parents/)

- [What's included?](#)
- [Importance of timetables](#)
- [TTRS intro video](#)
- [Parent guide PDF](#)
- [FAQs answered](#)
- [Free downloadables](#)

## NUT ALLERGIES

**\*\*HIGH IMPORTANTANCE\*\***

Please be advised that children are prohibited from bringing to school any nuts or any foods/products containing nuts.

We have a few children at our school that suffer from severe nut allergies meaning they cannot even come close to someone who has consumed or is consuming nuts. This can be life threatening for those children.



Please ensure you check and check again what your children are bringing into school or what it is you are packing in their lunches

## SCHOOL GATEWAY/COMMS PARENT GUIDE

**If you are not already on the GATEWAY APP – get it sorted now!**

Shawclough school is **CASHLESS**. We accept payments by **CARD ONLY**. Please ensure you have downloaded the **GATEWAY APP** to receive information about school and make payments.



Schoolgateway



We would just like to remind you that school use the GATEWAY APP as a means to communicate events and activities and provide a portal for parents to pay/book for items such as tea time club, early start club, trips, dinners, school equipment etc.

Please ensure that you have the app on which ever device you use. Please see below how to register for the app.

**If you know of other parents that are not on the GATEWAY App, please urge them to register – it is of benefit to everyone.**

To register for the school GATEWAY account you will need to download the school gateway app via App store for Apple devices and/or Play Store for Android devices.

- Go to the login screen on the app
- Enter the same email address and mobile number that is registered with the school
- You will receive an PIN through text
- Enter the 4 digit PIN
- Once logged in, the home screen will be displayed.

## SIMs

Similarly, SIMs is used for midterm/end of term reporting. Please ensure you also have SIMs downloaded on your device.



You can only log in to SIMs after an email invitation from school. If you are still not on the SIMs app, please come to the school office and seek assistance.

**Please check your email and text and SCHOOL GATEWAY APP regularly. We can send out a number of messages during the day to notify you of changes in collections, letters going out, trips, payments, etc. All letter are sent via email.**

**Please advise the office (in writing/email) if you have had a change in email addresses or phone numbers.**

## EARLY PICK UPS AND APPOINTMENTS

Picking up children from school early should be avoided at all costs. **Appointments should be arranged out of school hours.**

We are aware that occasionally this isn't possible but in most cases appointments should be made after 3.15pm. Too many parents are picking up children early and as a result of this, children are missing valuable topic work and learning time in the afternoon.

Any appointment made during the day must be an **emergency only**. Also, children cannot be 'ready' for you in the reception area. You must come into school, fill out an appointment slip – only then will your child/children be brought from classrooms and released to you. We therefore request that you manage your time carefully. Our school is a big school and it takes time to get around – not all classrooms have phones.

Any reason other than an emergency appointment for picking up children early, will require an email to the **head teacher** directly and **only** she can **authorise** this.

## PLAYGROUND AREAS – OUT OF HOURS



Please be reminded that the playground areas around school are **STRICTLY** out of bounds, out of school hours.

The equipment at the back of the main yard/playground, the muddy area next to reception (with the big slide) and the nursery garden at the back of school, are all areas that must not be used by children before 8.30am and after 3.15pm. Please also be aware that if your child were to have an accident or injure themselves in anyway there may not be a first aider onsite

Any resources left out in playground areas are the property of the school and will be collected in when it is convenient for staff to do so. It is NOT ok for your children/child to take it. If you believe that your child has 'found' something in the playground that doesn't belong to them, please hand it in to the office.



You can follow us on  <https://shawclough.rochdale.sch.uk/>

PTA are on



## STAFF CARPARK

**NO  
PARKING**

The **staff carpark is off limits to everyone** other than staff, delivery drivers, buses, (for our Rainbow/rainforest Unit) and emergency services.

**PARENTS ARE STOPPING STAFF FROM ACCESSING THE CARPARK IN THE MORNING – please park outside and walk your children in to early start club. Or collect from Teatime club.**

**If you have been given permission by the head teacher to use the car park, can you please get in touch with the office to ascertain whether or not this is still feasible.**

## MOBILE PHONES

For safeguarding reasons please ensure that you are **NOT on your mobile phone when you are in the school reception area**. Please do not be offended if you are asked to switch off or leave the premises to continue on a call.

Only year 6 children are permitted to bring in a phone, HOWEVER, permission is required from the head teacher. Phones must be handed to the office for safe keeping at the beginning of the day. If children are found with phones in the classroom they will be prohibited from bringing them in at all.

## PEDESTRIAN GATES

We kindly request that when entering and leaving the site that the pedestrian (electric) gate is **NOT pulled or pushed**. Please let the gate close and open automatically. On occasion the gate has been jammed due to people pushing it, this compromises the safety of all our children.

If you encounter any problems, please let the office know.

## PARKING

This has become a huge issue over the last year. The school is constantly receiving calls of complaints by our neighbours who live around the school, parents experiencing threats of violence by



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other parents, bad language, being aggressive towards school staff – the list goes on. The worst thing is, our children are witnessing all of this.

The safety and wellbeing of our children is one of our utmost priorities, in and around our school.

**We request that parents understand that their negative behaviour effects the children – IT IS NOT OK.**

Traffic police periodically come to our school and will issue tickets. The school **will not** intervene on your behalf. Waiting in the turning circle, parking on yellow lines – will get you a parking fine.

There is plenty of parking on Whitworth Road and Paton Street and it is barely a 5 minute walk. The church has kindly offered us their carpark to use but please do not abuse this permission by parking dangerously and blocking the entrance/exit.

**WARNING:** The residents of The Spinney (small road opposite the school) are now working with a private company to clamp any cars that block the entrance/exit. You have been advised to park away from The Spinney.

**If you are clamped, the school have no power or say in removal of any clamp.**

## EARLY START & TEATIME CLUB

For safeguarding reasons, please may we remind parents and carers, that *all* children who are attending Early Start Club, **should** be brought inside and signed in by an adult.

Any child dropped off before 8:30am will be placed into Early Start Club *and you will be charged for this*. If you are late picking up your child, he/she will be taken to teatime club *and you will be charged for this*. Teachers will only wait by the door for a short while after pick up time.

If you arrive late in the morning (8.40am and doors will be closed) you need to bring your child through the main reception area to be signed in and choose their lunch. Please do not sign in yourself using the screen – the office staff will do this for you **Class teachers/TAs will close the doors at 8.40 regardless of if the bell has gone.**



## PICK UP ARRANGEMENTS

If anyone other than parents are picking up a child/children please ensure that they are on the pickup arrangements list, if it is a permanent arrangement.

**Any other pickup changes need to be reported to the office before 3pm.**

**Only year 6 children can walk home but parents must inform the school via email or fill out a form in the office.**



Please make sure the teachers are aware you are taking your child.

## IS YOUR CHILD OFF DUE TO ILLNESS OR AN APPOINTMENT?

If your child is off due to illness **YOU MUST** inform the office first thing in the morning. You can leave a message on the answering system and then call to follow up. Alternatively, you can email or text in. **THIS INCLUDES NURSERY.**



If your child has been **vomiting** they must stay off school for 24 hours from the last time they are sick. It is 48 hours for diarrhoea.

**There is a current spike in children being ill and visiting the GP or A&E. As the cold weather approaches, so do a range of coughs/colds/sickness bugs and viruses. The government has produced a resource/website that addresses these problems. If you have any concerns on how to treat children with these 'common childhood diseases' – take a look at the website through the link below.**

<http://hmr.sensecds.com/index.html>

## HEAD LICE

Every so often there is an outbreak of Head lice in a class. **There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice.**

If you find that your child has head lice, please follow the advice below:

You can treat head lice without seeing a GP.

Treat head lice as soon as you spot them.

You should check everyone in the house and start treating anyone who has head lice on the same day.

*Wet combing:*

*Lice and nits can be removed by wet combing. You should try this method first.*

You can buy special fine-toothed comb (detection comb) online or from pharmacies to remove head lice and nits. There may be instructions on the pack, but usually you:

- wash hair with ordinary shampoo
- apply lots of conditioner (any conditioner will do)
- comb the whole head of hair, from the roots to the ends
















It usually takes about 10 minutes to comb short hair, and 20 to 30 minutes for long, frizzy or curly hair.

Do wet combing on days 1, 5, 9 and 13 to catch any newly hatched head lice. Check again that everyone's hair is free of lice on day 17.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Unfortunately, our school does not have an onsite nurse to check regularly for head lice. It is therefore it is parental responsibility to check regularly and treat appropriately.

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JANUARY		
29 <sup>th</sup>	Chinese New Year 	Whole school
FEBRUARY		
3 <sup>rd</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup>	CHILDRENS MENTAL HEALTH WEEK	Whole school
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Starbooks 	Year 6
4 <sup>th</sup>	Starbooks 	Year 5
5 <sup>th</sup>	Swimming starts (till end of term - July) 	Year 3
6 <sup>th</sup>	Starbooks	Year 2
7 <sup>th</sup>	Starbooks 	Year 4
10 <sup>th</sup>	Starbooks 	Year 3
11 <sup>th</sup>	SATS meeting (Please book on by 10 <sup>th</sup> ) 	Year 2
13 <sup>th</sup>	RSPCA VISIT 	Year 1 & 2
14 <sup>th</sup>	Starbooks 	Year 1
14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Half term – normal finish</b> 	Whole school
24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Back from half term</b> 	Whole school
25 <sup>th</sup>	George St (Victorian) Museum 	Year 2
MARCH		
6 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day 	Whole school
7 <sup>th</sup>	SchoolPhotos Day 	Whole school
11 <sup>th</sup>	Bedtime Story Event 	Reception
13 <sup>th</sup>	Parent breakfast 	Year 1
17 <sup>th</sup>	Parent breakfast 	Year 5
21 <sup>st</sup>	Downs Syndrome Day – Odd Socks Day 	Whole school
21 <sup>st</sup>	Red Nose Day (no event as yet) 	Whole school
21 <sup>st</sup>	World Poetry Day (no event as yet) 	Whole school
24 <sup>th</sup>	Circus skill day 	Year 3
28 <sup>th</sup>	Egyptian Day 	Year 4

APRIL		
TBC	Eid Parties 	Whole school
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Recycle for school collection 	Whole school
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Autism Awareness Day (no event as yet)	Whole school
4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>End of term – 1pm Finish</b> 	Whole school
22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Back for new term</b> 	Whole school
MAY		
19 <sup>th</sup>	Sports Day 	Year 1-6
TBC	Parent Breakfast 	Reception
22 <sup>nd</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 6 residential 	Year 6
23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Half term – Normal finish</b> 	Whole school
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Back from Half term</b> 	Whole school
JULY		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Transition Day 	Whole school
4 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Breakfast 	Year 3
4 <sup>th</sup>	Sleepover 	Year 5
4 <sup>th</sup>	Sporting event 	Year 6
15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Final Performance</b> 	Year 6
18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>End of term – 1pm finish</b> 	Whole school
18 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 leavers party – hosted by PTA (To be confirmed)	Year 6

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# OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Toad Lane Concerts - Rochdale's Weekly Music at Lunchtime

15 January 2025

Wednesday 15 January 2025

Doors open 12noon, concert starts 12.30pm - 1.30pm

### St Mary in the Baum

Toad Lane/St Mary's Gate  
Rochdale  
OL16 1DZ

### DETAILS:

This week we have - Tim Kennedy tenor (Cambridge Univ & RNCM staff) Joanna Garcia piano (MU & RNCM staff).

The concert series has been held at St Mary's since 2001 and was granted the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2020... during the pandemic!

Running every Wednesday, Music at Lunchtime is a weekly live classical music concert series that has been going since the 1960s. The sessions were initially run at the old Rochdale Art Gallery by the local authority, but since May 2001 have been run by volunteer-enthusiasts and artistic director, Dr Joe Dawson.

Entry fee: £6

Contact: Dr Joe Dawson  
☎ 01706 648872



## Transition to Secondary School Coffee Morning for Year 6 Parents and Carers

### What will the coffee mornings involve?

Join the Neurodiversity Hub and Rochdale Additional Needs Service (RANS) Team for Autism and Social Communication (TASC) for a brew and the opportunity to discuss your child's transition to high school.

We will be providing advice, information and resources on things such as:

- Supporting your child's anxiety over things such as homework and getting lost.
- Practical issues such as travel, equipment, uniforms, etc.
- Creating a pupil passport you can share with the secondary school.

### How to book?

To book a place, please contact The Neurodiversity Hub— [hmr-ndhub@nca.nhs.uk](mailto:hmr-ndhub@nca.nhs.uk)

Please include your child's name and date of birth and choose which venue is most suitable. **You will be booked on for both sessions at your chosen venue.**

Please note - you do not need to bring your child to this session, and there is no childcare available.

Hopwood Primary School, Magdala  
Street, Heywood, OL10 2HN

Time: 10-11.30

14<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Alkington Primary School, Manor Road,  
Manchester M24 1JZ

Time: 9.30-11

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Belfield Primary School, Samson Street,  
Rochdale, OL16 2XW

Time: 9.30-11

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
March 2025



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