

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 22
Week ending 28/02/25



A PEEK AT THE WEEK - RECEPTION



Spring has definitely arrived in Reception. They have been welcoming spring by learning about the changing seasons, watching the crocuses, painting spring flowers and singing spring songs.

ST DAVID'S DAY

St. David's Day is observed annually on March 1st. This date is significant because it is believed to be the day when St. David died in the year 589 AD. It's a day deeply rooted in Welsh history and tradition.

The holiday is dedicated to celebrating the life and contributions of St. David, the patron saint of Wales. It's a day when people in Wales and those of Welsh descent around the world come together to honour their heritage and culture.

St. David, also known as Dewi Sant in Welsh, was a 6th-century Christian monk and bishop in Wales. He played a significant role in spreading Christianity in Wales and is credited with performing miracles.

Shawclough School would like to wish everyone celebrating, a Happy St David's Day. Wear your leek/daffodil with pride.

WORLD BOOK DAY & PLATE COMPETITION 2025

As usual children can dress up as the favourite book character or non-uniform— Suggested donation £1. All funds raised will go towards English activities.



Also - *One more week to hand you competition entries in!*

Children can turn their paper plate into a book character, setting, front cover or any other brilliant book themed idea they may have. They can drawing, colouring, crafts, painting or modelling to transform their plate. It should be returned back to school by the 3rd March 2025.



There will be a small prize for winners from each year group. Below are some ideas to get their creative juices following.

GOOD LUCK ALL!

A PEEK AT THE WEEK – YEAR 2



Year 2 trip to George St Chapel



You can follow us on 

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

PTA are on



ATTENDANCE

Attendance (%) for week ending 14/02/25

SAPPHIRE	100.0
3L	97.7
RUBY	97.5
2C	97.0
2S	96.7
6R	96.3
1L	95.8
3A	94.6
5P	92.8
4O	92.4
6S	91.3
4Y/5C	90.0
RB	89.6
1P	87.2
RT	85.8
NO	85.0
GOLD	71.4
NS	75.0

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

WELL DONE SAPPHIRE CLASS
GOOD JOB GUYS!

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.

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.

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.'

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.

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.



PREPAREDNESS AND PUNCTUALITY ARE THE 2 MOST IMPORTANT QUALITIES OF A LEADER

RAMADAN

March 1st also sees the start of the month of Ramadan. People are mostly aware of what Ramadan is by now but just in case, here's a quick recap.

During Ramadan, the Muslims all around the world fast for 30 days. This means that from the moment the sun rises in the morning to the moment it sets in the evening, no food, no drink – even water, will be consumed by those fasting.

During the month, Muslims are expected to pray, give to charity, feed the poor and give thought to those struggling around the world and even in their local communities and their friends and neighbours. Muslims believe their actions and good deeds bring them closer to God.

As per usual we are allowing the children to fast – ONLY YEAR 6. School/Lessons will continue as per normal and children will be expected to take part in all lesson in the curriculum.

If you child chooses to fast, can you please ensure that they fully understand why they are fasting and that their words, actions and behaviour towards others should be even more exceptional than normal.

Also, some children may choose not to fast for personal reasons which they don't need to disclose to anyone. Children fasting should in no way shame or guilt others into fasting or question their choices. Children will be given a space to pray, should they wish to do so – as long as pray time falls during the lunch hour. Girls will need a head scarf, as we are unable to provide them. A pray mat can be used but it not essential. Also, unfortunately we do not have the facilities for Wudu (washing), so please encourage them to do what they can from home and refrain from using the bathroom till after prayers- if possible.

To all those who are fasting or intended to fast Shawclough School would like to wish you a peaceful Ramadan Kareem – we look forward to celebrating EID together as a school.

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.



VOLUNTEERS

Calling ALL parents – PTA needs YOU!

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

Join the PTA!



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

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!

trockstars.com/parents/

[What's included?](#)

[Importance of timetables](#)

[TTRS intro video](#)

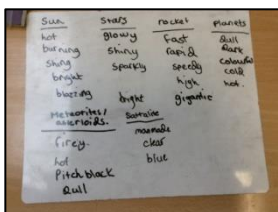
[Parent guide PDF](#)

[FAQs answered](#)

[Free downloadables](#)



A PEEK AT THE WEEK – YEAR 5



Continuing with their moon themed work – year 5 also wrote metaphor poems based on Space. They started with a bank of adjectives and worked from there. Their ideas were awesome.

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.

GAMES/PE KIT

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 indoors and for outdoors tracksuit bottoms or leggings, a top and trainers.



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

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



STAFF CARPARK

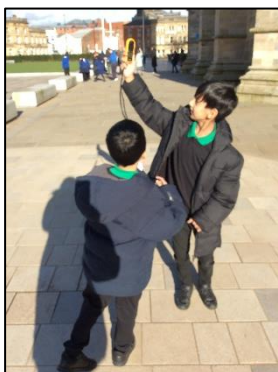
The staff carpark is off limits to everyone other than staff, delivery drivers, buses, (for our Rainbow/rainforest Unit) and emergency services.

**NO
PARKING**

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 permissible.

A PEEK AT THE WEEK – YEAR 5



A few of our year 5 children went to the town hall for the 'Think like a scientist' project. They did lots of scientific experiments and were a credit to the school – well done guys!

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.

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.



IS YOUR CHILD OFF DUE TO ILLNESS OR AN APPOINTMENT?

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



IF WE ARE NOT INFORMED ABOUT YOUR CHILDS ABSENCE FOR ANY REASON – IT WILL GO IN THE REGISTER AS UNAUTHORISED.

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EARLY PICK UPS & APPOINTMENTS

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.

RECEPTION CLASSES READING

Book bags are available to purchase from the office. We **do not** sell the bigger book bags with the shoulder straps and **do not** recommend them, as they are difficult to fit into children's class trays.



A PEEK AT THE WEEK - RAINBOW



We have some budding photographers in Rainbow. They took these very professional photos on their spring walk.

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.

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.

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.



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 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.

A PEEK AT THE WEEK



Louis had an idea to make a vase of flowers in the workshop and started this project on Monday. He took it home to finish but today Louis has returned with it. He's been focused with a plan in his head. Louis has problem solved and adapted his idea.

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EARLY START & TEETIME 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.**

SCHOOL GATEWAY/COMMS PARENT GUIDE

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

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. Not ALL letters are sent via email.
































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

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



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY




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

MARCH		
4 th	Trip to Healey Church 	Year 1
6 th	World Book Day (Dress up as your favourite book character – suggested donation £1) decorate a plate. 	Whole school
7 th	School Photos Day 	Whole school
11 th	Bolton Museum Trip 	
11 th	Bedtime Story Event 	Reception
13 th	Parent breakfast 	Year 1
13 th	Cinema Trip 	Year 5
17 th	Parent breakfast 	Year 5
21 st	Downs Syndrome Day – Odd Socks Day 	Whole school
21 st	Red Nose Day (no event as yet) 	Whole school
21 st	World Poetry Day (no event as yet) 	Whole school
24 th	Circus skill day 	Year 3
25 th	Big Telescopes Workshop (via Zoom) 	Year 5
25 th	Rocksteady Concert (Parents who's children are in Rocksteady only) 	
28 th	Egyptian Day 	Year 4

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OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

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 [Redacted] Friday 17 th January 2025 and Friday 14 th March 2025	Alkington Primary School, Manor Road, Manchester M24 1JZ [Redacted] Wednesday 15 th January 2025 and Wednesday 12 th February 2025
Belfield Primary School, Samson Street, Rochdale, OL16 2XW [Redacted] 30-11 Monday 20 th January 2025 and Monday 3 rd March 2025	





RAISING ROCHDALE

Rochdale Child & Educational Psychology Service Advice Line for Parents/Carers
First Wednesday of every month 1-4pm
01706 926400

Do you as a parent or carer at home have concerns about your child and feel that you need someone to talk to?

Rochdale Child & Educational Psychology Service is providing a telephone helpline for any parent or carer of a child or young person between the ages of 0-25, who feel they would benefit from a discussion with a psychologist to support them with any concerns arising.

The concerns can be related to education or family life and might include:

- **Stress and Anxiety** which may be impacting on your child's ability to feel able to attend school
- **Low self-esteem**
- **Conflict and relationship** difficulties within the family
- **Difficulties/anxieties** related to learning and/or exams
- **Concerns about friendships, bullying and social isolation**
- **How to best look after yourself** so you can support your children

Your child does not already need to be open to the Child & Educational Psychology Service for advice to be provided.

Please ring our business support team on 01706 926400 anytime on the **first Wednesday afternoon of the month between 1 and 4pm** and ask to speak to an Educational Psychologist.

Dates:
5th March 2025
2nd April 2025
7th May 2025
4th June 2025
2nd July 2025
(If the phone lines are busy, please leave a message and a member of the team will get back to you.)

e.sch.uk/

PTA are on

