

September 2025

The staff team are trained in the use of **Makaton**.

Makaton is a language programme that helps people with communication or learning difficulties communicate using a combination of signs, symbols, and speech. It is used in many countries.

Makaton supports integration as children with and without language difficulties can communicate, learn, and play together more easily.

Some children are not able to use words yet – and the **Makaton** signs and symbols help us to communicate.

We are using a whole school approach and are very keen for our parents to join us with this. We have listed the signs we will focus on as a school for September (*and October*). We have also given you some user-friendly Youtube links if you want to join in. We will upload more **Makaton** links on our website throughout the year.

If you have any questions – just talk to Mrs Gillespie – who will be happy to chat.

Our **Nursery rhyme** this month (*with Makaton Signing*) is:



[Makaton - THE WHEELS ON THE BUS - Singing Hands \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJ-4ITcaQg8)









<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJ-4ITcaQg8>

[Makaton Topic - GREETINGS - Singing Hands \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kcEj_MMHabo)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kcEj_MMHabo

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSBuOCDLIZs&list=RDWSBuOCDLIZs&start_radio=1

This month we will be using **MAKATON** signing for:

 Welcome	Good morning
 Hello	Goodbye
 How are you?	A drink
 Snack	More
 Toilet	Outside
 To wash (<i>hands</i>)	Yes
 No	Please
 Thank you.	

Mrs Cunningham is leaving Shaftesbury on 20th October. She has been a valued member of staff for many years and we wish her well in her new post. We are welcoming Miss Dickson to our staff team on 20th October. She is an experienced Nursery Teacher and has taught in Shaftesbury in previous years. She will spend time with the children before her start date and Mrs Cunningham will keep her up to date with the children's progress over the first half-term.

