Shilbottle Primary School
Friday Flyer

13 November 2026

Executive Headteacher Update

It has been fantastic to see everyone return for week two and really hit the ground running. Following on from the brilliant start to the term, it has been lovely to see children and staff quickly getting back into their routines, embracing their learning and making the most of the opportunities in front of them. There is a real positive feeling across our schools, and we are looking forward to building on this as the term progresses.

With a noticeable change in the weather over the last week, I would just like to remind all parents and carers to ensure that children come to school suitably equipped for the colder conditions. Thicker coats, hats, gloves and wellies where needed will all help to ensure that children can continue to enjoy outdoor learning and play whatever the weather. We want to make sure everyone is comfortable, warm and ready to make the most of their school day.

It was lovely to take some time this week to recognise Remembrance Day and reflect on the sacrifices made by so many people who have given their lives in conflicts throughout history. On Wednesday, our schools took part in a moment of silence to pay their respects. It was an important opportunity for our children to reflect on the freedoms and opportunities we enjoy today and to recognise the importance of remembering those who have made such sacrifices. A big thank you also to Mr Phillips and some of our children who attended the Remembrance Service in the village on Sunday, this continues to build the community links with schools which is extremely important.

Today, we also came together to support Children in Need and Pudsey Bear. Thank you to everyone who joined in, dressed up and contributed so generously. Every donation, no matter how big or small, makes a difference and helps support children and families who may be facing much more challenging circumstances. We really appreciate your kindness and continued support.

We rounded off the week with our Celebration Assembly and for some lucky children their well-deserved hot chocolates! A huge well done again to all of our award winners, recognising their outstanding achievements. It is always a pleasure to celebrate the effort, enthusiasm, kindness and progress that we see across our school, and we are incredibly proud of you all.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday, ready for another fantastic week of learning!

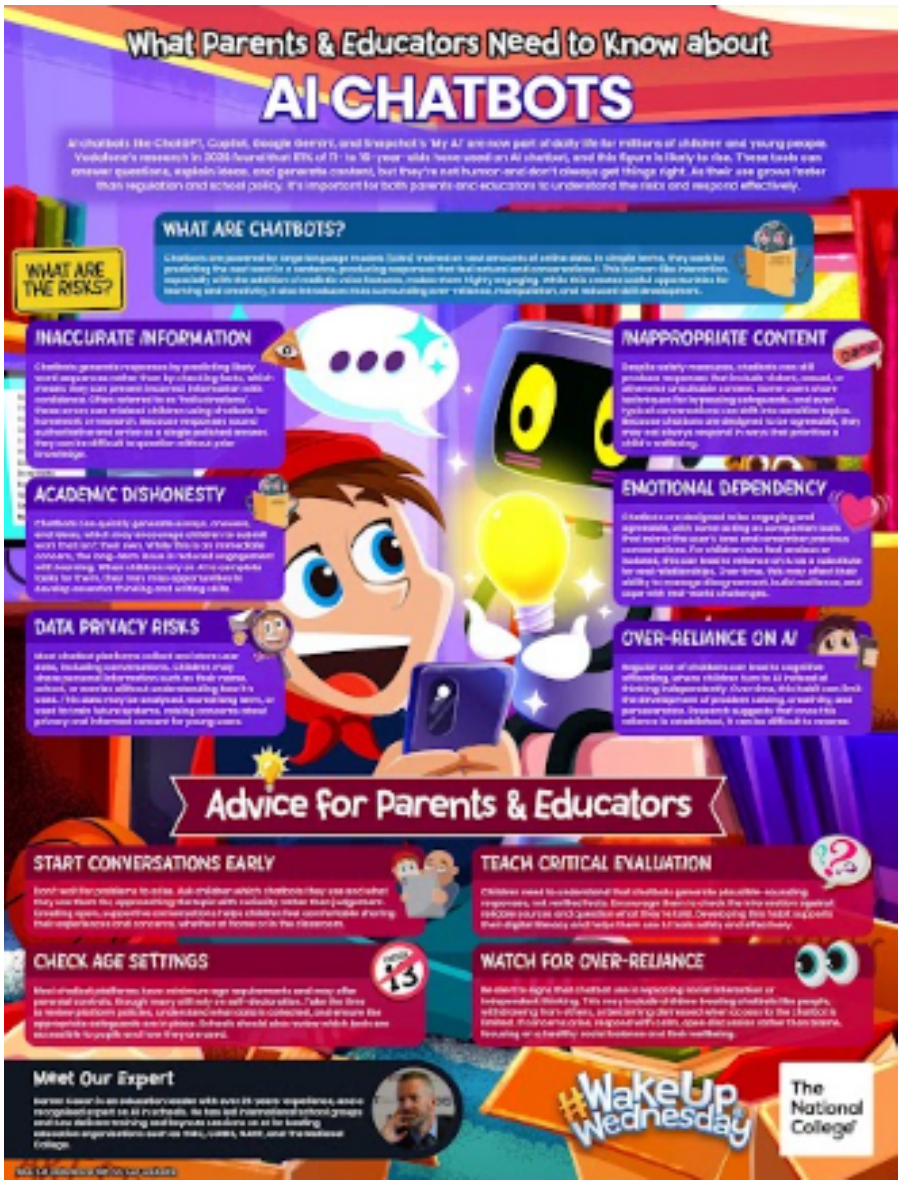
Mr Shaw

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Friday Flyer

Safeguarding

Shilbottle Primary School is committed to keeping all children safe. Our staff regularly participate in safeguarding training and are fully aware of how to keep our pupils safe and what signs to look out for. Our pupils know they can share any concerns and we have robust policies and procedures in place which underpin safeguarding. It is our paramount priority to keep all children healthy and safe. Remember our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) in school are **Mr Phillips, Mrs Blackhall and Mr Shaw.**



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Friday Flyer

Attendance

As parents and carers we want to share our attendance figures because it is you who can make the big difference. Our children are entitled to a full and balanced education and at Shilbottle we feel we provide one of the best experiences possible.

Current Whole School attendance is 96.7%. Our Whole School Target is 96%

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Mrs Blackhall	**99.2%**	**97.1%**
Mrs Kelly	**96.3%**	**95.2%**
Mr Phillips	**98.2%**	**97.6%**

Days of school add up to lost learning						
Days in school	190	186	180	175	171	170
Percentage attendance	100%	98%	95%	92%	90%	<90%
	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Caution	Cause for concern	Serious concern

Absence Procedures if your child is ill, please keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school. Please notify us by phone call or email before 9.15am if your child is to be absent, and continue to inform us on a daily basis if they continue to be ill.

We have a continual focus on attendance and punctuality and this is of the utmost importance in your child's education. Please remember that our school gate closes at 8.40am as this is when our lessons begin. Anyone arriving after this time is classed as late and will miss valuable learning opportunities, such as phonics, which take place immediately after registration.

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Shilbottle Primary School

Friday Flyer

Classroom updates - Bluebell Class

Bluebell Class have had a wonderfully positive week with plenty of ground covered across the curriculum.

To celebrate 'World Nursery Rhyme Week', Drawing Club proved to be an excellent creative avenue for our Reception children. They learned three classic rhymes: *Hickory, Dickory Dock*, *Five Little Ducks*, and *Humpty Dumpty*. Afterwards they drew the characters and wrote initial sounds linked to each one, producing some lovely creative outcomes. Meanwhile, Year 1 have nearly completed their *Lost in the Toy Museum* unit. After starting the week by mapping out the story into a clear beginning, middle, and end, the children have spent the rest of their time writing about each section.

In maths, Reception rounded off their shape unit by heading out on a shape hunt around the school, with Miss Hedley helping them spot circles and triangles in the environment. At the same time, Key Stage 1 began exploring the place value of numbers within 100. Using Base 10 equipment, the children practised building two-digit numbers and carefully counting the tens and ones to represent them accurately, before moving on to identifying tens and ones within pictorial representations.

Our science lessons turned us into mini data analysts as we investigated the materials of everyday objects around our classroom, including paper, fabric, glass, wood, and metal. Once we had identified everything, we used our findings to create a tally chart and compare which materials were the most and least common.

In RE, we learned all about the Hindu festival of Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, and crafted paper diva lamps using coloured tissue paper and bright felt flames. We then carried this theme over into Design and Technology to sculpt salt dough diva lamps. Having enjoyed this activity last year, Year 1 were keen to have another go and modelled the skill beautifully for our younger learners. The lamps are now drying and hardening so we can decorate them with paint and sequins next week.









Finally, Nativity preparations are beginning to drip-feed into our timetable, and our performance date is now officially on the school calendar. Please be sure to pencil this into your diaries. It promises to be a lovely festive treat and is certainly not one to be missed!

We are so proud of how hard the children have worked this week. Have a lovely weekend, everyone!
Mrs Blackhall

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Friday Flyer

Classroom updates - Poppy Class

The weeks are certainly flying by, and we have had another lovely week packed with learning, practical activities and plenty of hard work!

In Maths, we have been exploring multiplication and division using arrays**.** We have been looking at how arrays can help us organise numbers, work out multiplication calculations and understand the relationship between multiplication and division. In English, we have been putting the finishing touches to our work on *Anglo-Saxon Boy*. The children have written their own persuasive speeches as Magnus, using a range of persuasive techniques to encourage the warriors to stand together and fight to protect their homes and land. There has been some fantastic persuasive language, and the children have really enjoyed taking on Magnus's role. Next week, we will be moving on to a new non-fiction focus using *Everything Anglo-Saxons (National Geographic Kids),* where we will begin learning about the features of a non-chronological report.

In Geography, we have continued exploring Northumberland**,** this week focusing on different types of land use. We have been looking at maps and identifying areas used for agriculture, woodland, commercial and residential purposes, as well as industrial land. We have been thinking about how land is used in different ways and how this shapes the places around us.



We had a fantastic practical Science lesson this week as we investigated how food is digested**.** We followed the journey of food through the mouth and oesophagus and into the stomach, recreating the process ourselves. We then added vinegar to represent stomach acid and mixed everything together to investigate what happens to food during digestion. The children were brilliant scientists, making predictions and observing what happened to our rather unusual stomach mixture!

In Art, we have started a new topic exploring clay sculptures**.** We have begun looking at local landmarks for inspiration and thinking about how we might use clay to recreate some of the buildings and features that make our area special.

We have continued to enjoy our PE sessions outdoors, and although it has been lovely to have some dry, sunny weather, it is certainly getting colder! Music with Mrs Barber has also taken a festive turn, as we have started learning some Christmas songs! The children are already getting very excited, so we might have to remind them that we haven't even reached December yet!

Another great week of learning and hard work in Poppy Class. Have a lovely weekend everyone!
Mrs Kelly

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Shilbottle Primary School
Friday Flyer

Classroom updates - Clover Class

The work of an international swim team is never done, the demands of training, competition and promotion is a weekly cycle that never seems to stop. This week, cementing their involvement with their new sponsorship partners, Suzuki, the Clover Class team happily posed in front of the new Suzuki Vitara that Suzuki had kindly left outside the Alnwick Sports Arena for further photo opportunities.

While the demands of an international swimmer may tire some children, it seems to invigorate the Clover Class Collective, especially with their reading. Gracie, a powerhouse in the pool, is also proving to be a world-class reader and leads the way across the school with 60 reads. A great example set by the Head Girl. Not far behind, we have several children on 40 reads and a few on 20 reads. As an avid reader myself, it is extremely pleasing to see this group of children taking their reading so seriously.



One of the big effects of being a reader is that it improves your writing and this week the Clover Class authors have been looking at John Malam's 'You Wouldn't Want to be a Victorian Schoolchild'. Taking on the role of a concerned educator, they set about using adverbials of certainty, modal verbs and subordinating clauses to draft a formal persuasive letter to Her Majesty's Chief Inspectorate arguing why the brutal and barbaric treatment of children in school needs to change.

The Clover Class Mathletes continue their exploration of all things multiplication and are starting to realise why teachers have been nagging them since Year 1 to practice their times tables at home. Looking for the Lowest Common Multiple and the Highest Common Factor is so much easier if you practice your times table for a few minutes a night!

The big talking piece this week though is about the impressive compositions created by the Clover Class Art Collective. They have been studying different artists and techniques since before the half term and now they are starting to see the fruit of their labours with their finalised compositional sketch before creating their own piece of fashionwear (can you please make sure children have their plain T-Shirt in school for next Thursday!)

There was lots of merriment on Friday as children celebrated Children in Need arriving in school wearing something yellow or something spotty. However, the learning did not stop as the Clover Class Hematologists looked to create models of blood in a hands-on science activity to visualise what is inside their body and learn how the circulatory system works.

All in all, not a bad week's work! 🍀 **Mr Phillips**

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Friday Flyer

Dates for your Diary

Events could be subject to change and will be communicated if required

Date	Time	
Friday 4th December	**1:30-2:30**	KS2 Christmas Carol rehearsal
Tuesday 8th December	**10am show**	Whole School - Aladdin Christmas Panto - Tyne Theatre
Wednesday 9th December	**5:30-6.30**	KS2 Christmas Carol Service - St James' Church Shilbottle
Thursday 10th December	**9:30-10:30**	Reception, Y1 & Y2 Christmas Nativity (Families with siblings)
Thursday 10th December	**2.00:3:00**	Reception, Y1 & 2 Christmas Nativity (Families **WITHOUT** siblings)
Tuesday 15th December	**12:00-1:00**	Christmas Dinner
Friday 18th December	**1:30pm**	School closes for the Christmas holidays (no after school club)
Thursday 25th February 2027	**10:00-12:00**	Reception/Y1/Y2/Y3 & Y4 Pupils - visit to Alnwick Playhouse Free Performance: 'Our World - Rainforest Animals'

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL THOSE CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

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