



Shilbottle Primary School Friday Flyer

20th March 2026

Headteachers Update

It has been another lovely week here at Shilbottle Primary School and it has certainly been helped by some much more positive weather! It has been fantastic to see the children back out on the field, enjoying their time together with plenty of smiles. There's always a real sense that spring is just around the corner when the daffodils begin to appear and it has been wonderful to see those first signs across our school grounds.

Today, we marked Red Nose Day and it was brilliant to see so many children coming into school showing their support. Thank you very much for your kind and generous donations - they really do make a difference to those who find themselves in less fortunate circumstances than ourselves. It's such an important message for our children to understand and we are always proud of how our school community gets behind these causes.

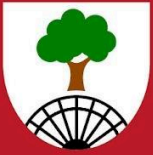


Earlier this week, we were pleased to welcome the Northumberland County Council NDAS team into school to deliver a range of workshops across the classes. Our younger children focused on feelings and emotions, learning how to express themselves and who they can talk to if something doesn't feel right. Meanwhile, our older pupils took part in sessions focused on self esteem, an increasingly important area as children grow and become more independent. These sessions were incredibly valuable and really well received by all.

We have also continued to celebrate the fantastic efforts of our pupils through our Celebration Assembly, which is always a highlight of the week. Of course, our now infamous "Hot Chocolate with the Head" continues to be a big hit - so much so that some of our younger children are already asking on a Monday if it's happening that day! It's great to see how much the children enjoy these special moments.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend, make the most of the improving weather and enjoy some time with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school next week.

Mr Shaw



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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.**

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT

18 CENSORED

Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like Cyberpunk 2077 and Hitman have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appeal to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES

The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and PIN protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game add-ons, cosmetic items or online race licenses – without parental approval.

UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES

While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles like Fortnite or Splatoon 4 allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.

GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION

GameChat enables live chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional video and screen-sharing. Though children under 16 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the sheer interactivity could raise privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.

CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS

The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also raises the risk of cyberbullying or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.

POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with Pikachu, Donkey Kong and others – remains hugely appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, 'The Super Mario Bros. Movie' (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and often feature in merchandising, adverts and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS

Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.

REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and video clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.



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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 94.7%. Our Whole School Target is 96%

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Mrs Blackhall	98.5%	93.7%
Mrs Kelly	99.5%	95.2%
Mr Phillips	96.1%	95.3%

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.

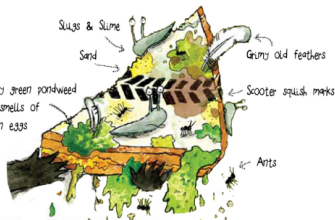
We have a continual focus on attendance and punctuality and this is of the utmost importance in your child's education. Please remember that our school gate closes at 8.40am as this is when our lessons begin. Anyone arriving after this time is classed as late and will miss valuable learning opportunities,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



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Classroom updates - Bluebell Class

This week in Bluebell class, we were very fortunate to welcome Katherine from NDAS on Tuesday. She led an insightful session exploring how we express and interpret emotions, specifically focusing on navigating "big feelings" like jealousy and fear. To build on this, we have reminded the children about our 'Worry Boxes' located throughout the school. While our students know they can talk to any adult at any time, these boxes provide a discreet way to share worries and ensure every child feels heard.



Inspired by the (truly icky!) story *The Disgusting Sandwich*, our youngest learners have been busy designing their own revolting sandwich recipes. From snot and bug fillings to mud and rock garnishes, their creativity and vocabulary has been lovely to see. They are gaining confidence in their own word writing and sentence construction.

In Maths, EYFS continued mastering numbers to 10, specifically looking at the different ways to "make 10" using bonds of three different numbers.

In Key Stage 1 English, children have been "grammar detectives," identifying key features of setting descriptions to help plan their own descriptions next week. Maths has been all about multiplication and division, with a focus on the 5 and 10 times-tables. Looking ahead: Next week, we begin our new topic: Length and Height.

The children have been "traveling" the globe in geography this week! We took a closer look at the Earth's surface, discussing the differences between land masses and oceans. The students did a brilliant job identifying the seven continents and five oceans.

Once again, the children were delighted to join Amy for Rugby outside. In this session, we learned how to put on tag belts and started to have a go at taking each other's tags.



After another fun-filled week, I know that the children are ready for a well-earned rest. Wishing you all a lovely weekend. **Mrs Blackhall**



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Classroom updates - Poppy Class

Another week has flown by as we move closer to the end of the Spring term. In Maths, we have continued our work on fractions, focusing on mixed numbers and improper fractions. The children have been learning how to convert between the two and are beginning to see how important their multiplication knowledge is in supporting this. We have also had fun practising our multiplication facts through team games using multiplication wheels on the boards.

In English, we have started exploring Viking poetry, looking at key features such as stanzas, powerful verbs and figurative language. The children have discussed how these techniques help to build atmosphere, tension and excitement within a poem.

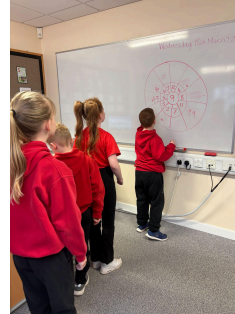
In Science, we began our new topic on light. The children designed their own dark dens and then created obstacle courses for a partner to complete while blindfolded, developing their understanding of how we rely on light to see and navigate the world around us.

In Geography, we looked at the causes of earthquakes and where they are most likely to occur around the world. The children then used their knowledge to design their own informative fact sheets.

We have continued to enjoy our PE sessions, including basketball with Emra from the NUFC Foundation and rugby with Amy, where the children were introduced to the tag element of the game. We also took part in a healthy workshop led by Karen, who spoke to the children about self-esteem and ways to feel positive about themselves.

In PSHE, we discussed dangerous substances, including both legal and illegal drugs, and explored how these can affect the body.

The children have worked incredibly hard this week and thoroughly deserve a restful weekend. Enjoy, and I look forward to seeing everyone next week. **Mrs Kelly**





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Classroom updates - Clover Class

I am certain that if I reviewed previous Friday Flyers, I would have used the phrase "Wow! What a week!" several times. Well, guess what? "**Wow! What a week!**" The Clover Class expedition continues to navigate challenging and rewarding terrain, always moving forward with curiosity and smiles.



This week, we truly mastered the **Decimal Minefield!** After a slightly complex ascent, the children have now successfully navigated their way through, showing incredible resilience and problem-solving skills along the trail. We have also started our comprehensive Book Review of R.J. Palacio's **Wonder**, analyzing the key themes of this "Wonder"ful journey.



The "**Ring of Fire**" continues to captivate our Geography lessons! Our mini-geographers have been using **Digital Mapping** to precisely locate some of the world's most active volcanoes. We then discussed why people live in such proximity to these natural hazards, focusing on how modern technology in places like Japan allows them to operate as a high-risk but low-vulnerability area.



In **PSHE**, Mr Wilkie delivered a powerful lesson on our internal biology. We learned that our brains are incredibly active "**Chemical Factories**," constantly responding to movement. When we are active, we produce essential endorphins and dopamine—proof that movement is great for our mood and actively reduces stress!



Tuesday: We thoroughly enjoyed a **Self-Esteem Workshop** with Karen, completing some wonderful self-reflection activities. **Wednesday:** Clover Class took over **Playtime!** Our explorers designed and led games for their younger friends in Year 1 and 2, which resulted in the "**best playtime ever!**" **Thursday:** We hosted "**The Duo**," an incredibly dynamic guitar and cello musical group from Scotland. They delivered a high-energy interactive workshop that had us all singing and dancing—they even played **K-Pop!** **Friday:** We capped off the week with **Comic Relief**. We can't wait to see how much we have raised for a fantastic cause.

🍀 Clover Chat-ter 🗨️: Ready to unpack the **expedition** over the weekend? Ask your **explorer**:

- "Which game did you design or play with the Year 1 and 2 children during the lunchtime takeover?"
- "How does Japan use technology to reduce its vulnerability to the active volcanoes in the Ring of Fire?"

Have a **well-deserved**, restful weekend!

Mr Phillips



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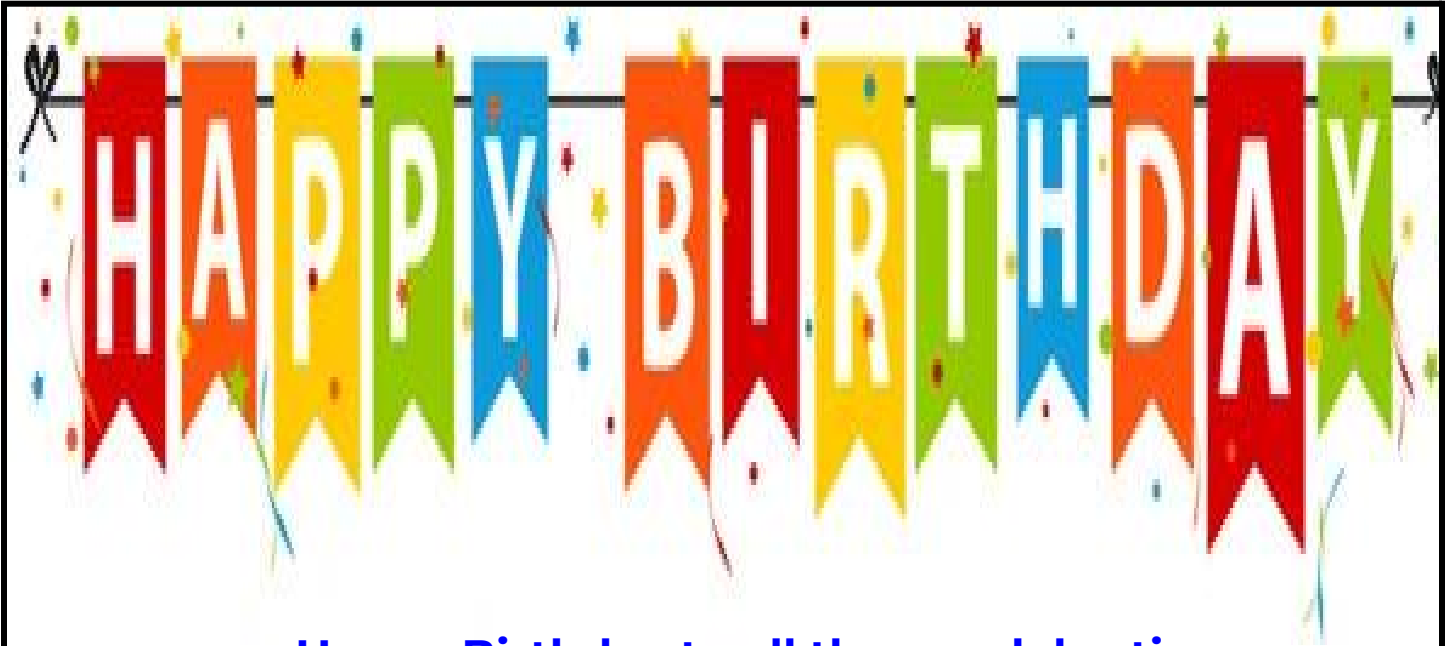
Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
25/2/2026-1/04/2026		Year 3 & 4 Swimming (every Wednesday)
31/3/2026	10.30-12.00	KS1 Alnwick Playhouse - Three Billy Goats Gruff Performance
Thursday 2nd April 2026	15.20	School closes for the Easter holidays After school club finishes at 4pm
Thursday 2nd April	18.00	Easter Prize Bingo - Community Hall
Friday 1st May 2026	All day	Shilbottle School 100-Year Celebrations



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**Happy Birthday to all those celebrating
this week**

Bruno - Bluebell Class



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SHILBOTTLE PRIMARY
PARENTS ASSOCIATION'S

Egg-Cellent

EASTER BINGO

FUN FOR ALL OF THE FAMILY

Shilbottle Community Hall

THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND
DOORS OPEN 6:00PM

FREE ENTRY

TEA, COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS

Greetings ISLAND