



Shilbottle Primary School

Friday Flyer

5th September 2025

Headteachers update

What a fantastic first week it has been! I feel incredibly proud to be writing to you as the new Executive Head and would like to thank you and all the children for making me feel so welcome. I can tell this is a fantastic school with a brilliant community so I am looking forward to get to know more people in the coming weeks and months. I am working hard to learn everyone's names – which is no small challenge! The children have been very patient with me and I hope within the next few weeks I will know every single one.

The children have settled back into school life brilliantly. Their positive attitude, enthusiasm for learning and impeccable manners have impressed me from day one. It is clear that Shilbottle is a school full of happy, hardworking pupils who are eager to give their best which means I am confident it is going to be a highly successful year!

Like with most new academic years we have made some small tweaks at the start of the term. Firstly, we have amended the timetable for the school. This will allow us to have a much more streamlined approach to teaching and a clear focus around the curriculum we are teaching each day. A new reading slot is now in place followed by dedicated time for english and maths. The afternoons will then be available for foundation subjects such as history, art or PSHE.

With the amendment to the timetables we have moved our assembly time to the end of the school day which will therefore impact the children leaving school at staggered times. Therefore, from Monday we are going to ask that all parents and carers collect their children from the main playground at 3.20pm and the teachers will bring the children to you. The playground is a much safer space for the children to leave school and for those with children in multiple year groups it now means they will all leave together. Please note Reception will still come out at 3.00pm onto the playground.

Another change we have introduced is around our celebration assemblies on a Friday. I love celebrating success so this will be continuing but in addition to the assembly, every week two children from each class will be chosen to join in a treat of Hot Chocolate with all the trimmings and cake or biscuits. The children seemed very excited about this when we told them in assembly on Tuesday. Who will be the first 6 children... keep an eye on Class Dojo next week!

I am genuinely excited for the year ahead and together with the staff team, I am committed to building on the many strengths of the school and ensuring every child flourishes both academically and personally. Please do not hesitate to get in contact or speak to me at any point if you have further questions or if you simply wish to introduce yourselves. I hope you have a great weekend, I am sure the children will be tired after the first week back - I certainly am!

Mr Shaw

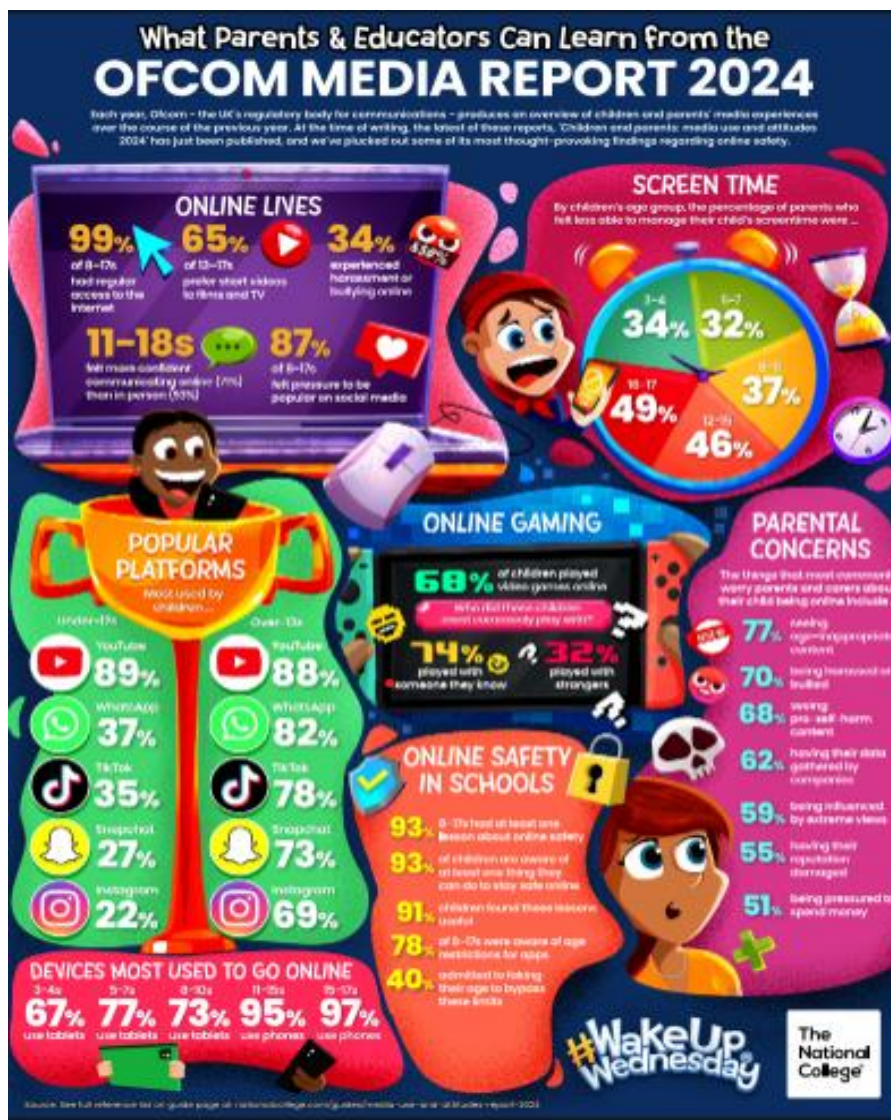


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Safeguarding

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 and Mr Shaw**.





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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 96.12%. Our NEW target for Whole School Attendance is 96%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Mrs Blackhall	97.6%	97.6%
Mrs Kelly	100%	100%
Mr Phillips	95.05%	95.05%

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 8.45am as this is when our lessons begin. Anyone arriving after this time is classed as late and will miss valuable learning opportunities which take place immediately after registration, such as phonics.



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Classroom updates - Mrs Blackhall's Class

Welcome back Reception, Year 1 and Year 2! The children have been adapting brilliantly to new routines and expectations. As a whole class, we have shared the story 'The Colour Monster' and we've explored different activities about emotions and tricky feelings. Year 1 and 2 have been working particularly hard at learning to follow our 'Gold Standard' rules for writing. Their initial English lessons have been focussed on 'The Colour Monster' and expressing their own feelings. Both KS1 classes have also started their maths lessons on 'Place Value'. Additionally, we've started our history topic: 'Toys from the past'.



Reception class has navigated different areas of play with positivity and independence. Their focussed tasks have been based on sorting and comparing. They are forming good relationships and playing constructively together in new environments. They've demonstrated a fantastic can-do attitude and lots of teamwork. Keep up the good work next week everyone.

Mrs Blackhall





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Classroom updates - Mrs Kelly's Class

Welcome back to everyone. We have had a lovely first week back and embraced the new routines and timetable. We have introduced our first key text in English, "The King who banned the dark" by Emily Haworth-Booth. The children demonstrated excellent inference skills when trying to decide what the story was about before we revealed the title! Maths has started with a reintroduction of place value and it is great to see how much knowledge the children have retained from previous years. The children have also been really interested in our new History topic on the Stone Age. They have enjoyed learning about how early humans lived, hunted, and used stone tools to survive. We have also tried really hard to ensure all our work is written to our new "Gold Standard".

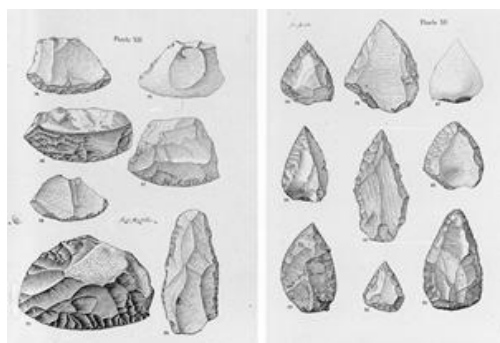


A warm welcome to our two new children who join us in Year 4. The children have really made them feel welcome.

It's been a really great start to the term and the children have settled in well and shown great enthusiasm. Looking forward to more of the same next week.

Have a great weekend,

Mrs Kelly





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Classroom updates- Mr Phillips Class

What a fantastic start we've had to the new school year in Year 5 and 6! We've been busy settling into our new routines, setting ourselves big goals for the year ahead, and most importantly—working out how we're going to achieve them (hint: it doesn't involve magic wands, but it does involve a lot of hard work and working as a team).

The children have blown me away with just how much they've remembered from before the summer holidays—clearly all those ice creams in the hot weather have helped! They've been keen to share their knowledge, answer questions and get stuck into discussions, which has made for a lively (and sometimes noisy) classroom.

In maths, we've been brushing up on place value (because even the biggest numbers start with knowing where to put the "ones"), and in English we've been polishing our grammar skills so our sentences sparkle.



History, however, took us in a slightly... smellier direction. We became real-life historians and investigated some ancient poo (yes, you read that correctly. Armed with information clues, the children studied diets from Romans, Vikings and Tudors before finally deciding our sample came from none other than Eric the Viking himself. So, our history topic this term will be diving into the world of Anglo-Saxons and Vikings—poo included. To top it off, we've started

reading *Beowulf* during our reading-for-pleasure time, which is already giving us a taste of this fascinating era. We also swapped the classroom for the swimming pool this week, and I'm thrilled to report we have some very talented swimmers in Year 5 and 6. Who knows—we may have the next Olympic champion among us!



Finally, a big welcome to Thomas Coulson, who has joined our Year 5 class. He's settled in brilliantly and is already making new friends.

All in all, it's been a brilliant first week back—full of laughter, learning and even a little bit of Viking poo. If this is the start, we can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings

Mr Phillips



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Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Wednesday 3rd September	12:20	Year 5/6 swimming lesson, last session Wednesday 17th December
Thursday 11th October	1:15-3:00pm	Harvest Festival at St James Church
Thursday 11th December	5:30-6:30	Carol Service at St James Church



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

Olivia

[illegible]