

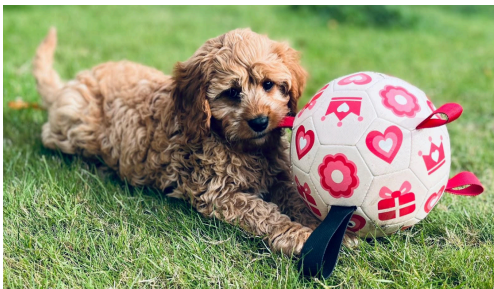
# Shilbottle Primary School Friday Flyer

**10th October 2025**

What a wonderfully busy and brilliant week it's been! The children have once again shone brightly, proving just how fantastic and capable they are. It's always a pleasure to share the good news, so here is your latest dose of all things great happening in school!

You'll know that Mr Phillips is our Head of School at Shilbottle and this week he has had the opportunity to visit some of our partner schools across the Pele Trust. This kind of collaboration is incredibly beneficial, as it allows us to share the best ideas and teaching methods, challenge our own practice and ensure that our curriculum is the strongest it can be. We bring back lots of new insights to Shilbottle, all of which go towards making the children's educational journey the very best it can be. Being part of Pele Trust means we are always learning, always growing and always striving for excellence for your children! It's a great journey we are embarking upon.

On Thursday we held our first Academy Committee meeting of the academic year. The committee is made of a range of people from parents to local business or community members and we are always interested in adding more people to this list. We discussed what has been occurring since September and everyone was hugely complimentary, particularly highlighting the fantastic things that are going on in our classrooms and the consistently excellent behaviour and positive attitudes of our children.



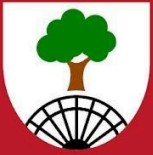
A massive thank you to all the parents and carers who were able to attend our recent Parent Evenings. This partnership between home and school is absolutely crucial for your child's success and we were delighted to have such productive and positive conversations about the children's progress, next steps and overall well-being. When we work together, the children's outcomes are vastly improved and we appreciate you dedicating your time to these important discussions.

I know I'm being hounded about it daily (and rightly so!), so here's the latest on Arthur! He's doing really well and is about to start his proper puppy training with The Dog Log very soon. This means we're hopeful that his official first school visit won't be too far off! I am going to try my best to bring him in for a little sneak peek before the half term so the children can have a first meeting with our furry friend!

Finally, we wrapped up the week with our joyous Celebration Assembly and Hot Chocolate! It was wonderful to acknowledge so many achievements and positive behaviours across the school. A huge well done to all of our incredible winners this week - you earned it!

Have a great weekend and see you next week, only 2 weeks left to go until half term!

**Mr Shaw**



# Shilbottle Primary School 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**.

### What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**

While TikTok's following feed only displays videos from a user's network, for those it collects based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app could potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

**BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES**

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the "blackout" trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to five families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

**IN-APP SPENDING**

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £3.99 to an eye-watering £330, while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

**CONTACT WITH STRANGERS**

With more than 1.6 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-18s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to download or comment on them.

**MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION**

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more lighthearted than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misinformation, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

**ADDICTIVE DESIGN**

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 67 minutes per day on the app: that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

**ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING**

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

**BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING**

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

**DISCUSS THE DANGERS**

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

**READ THE SIGNS**

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.



# Shilbottle Primary School

## 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.

Our attendance is worryingly low given the fact we are only 4 weeks into the new academic year and the only people who can help stop this are our parents and carers. Our staff go out of their way to make school enjoyable so to give our children the best possible opportunity we need them here every single day.

**Current Whole School attendance is 92.6%. Our Whole School Target is 96%**

| Class         | Weekly attendance | Annual attendance |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Mrs Blackhall | 85.0%             | 91.8%             |
| Mrs Kelly     | 94.2%             | 89.8%             |
| Mr Phillips   | 98.5%             | 94.4%             |

| 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.





# Shilbottle Primary School Friday Flyer

## Classroom updates - Bluebell Class

We've had another busy week in Bluebell Class. Our EYFS children have been consolidating their knowledge of initial sounds by beginning to build short words using letter magnets. In maths, the children have been counting, subitising and representing numbers within 5. Yesterday the children practised 'adding one more' to a given number, using counters and 5-frames.



In Key Stage 1 English, our children have been learning to differentiate between common nouns and proper nouns. In maths the children have been adding three 1-digit numbers. Our Year 2s discovered that if they could identify a number bond to 10 in any of their sums, they were much easier to calculate!



Because this week is 'Space Week', we marked the occasion together by viewing Earth from above using 'Google Earth'. The children were excited to zoom in and out on land masses to identify various terrains including mountains, deserts, lakes and rivers. The children then made their own planet Earth collages. Our older children partnered up with our youngest learners to support them. They were brilliant role models.

Together, the class have shared the story, '*Perfectly Norman*', a story which celebrates the idea that everyone is unique, and our individual qualities are what make us special. In the story, Norman's uniqueness is represented by a beautiful pair of colourful wings. Inspired by this, the children worked together to create a collaborative artwork, each designing their own feather to make their very own set of wings. They've all had fun creating flying photos, using their wings as props this week.



**Mrs Blackhall**





# Shilbottle Primary School Friday Flyer

## Classroom updates - Poppy Class

Poppy Class have had another exciting week, packed with a wide range of engaging and enjoyable activities.

In Maths, we've been focusing on adding and subtracting across tens boundaries. Our daily multiplication practice is really paying off - everyone is becoming much quicker and more confident with their facts.

In English, we've continued exploring *The King Who Banned the Dark*. This week, the children wrote thoughtful balanced arguments discussing whether the ban on the dark should be lifted. They shared some very persuasive points on both sides of the debate. We've also been enjoying our class story, *The Water Horse* by Dick King-Smith, which has really captured our imaginations.



To celebrate World Space Week, we researched the planets in our solar system. Each child created an eye-catching information poster about their chosen planet and presented fun facts to the class. It was a great opportunity to share our learning and practise speaking with confidence.

In Geography, we've launched our new topic: *The United Kingdom*. Using maps, we've been locating major cities, rivers, and seas, and identifying our own county and those surrounding it. The children have enjoyed developing their map skills through these practical and interactive activities.

Thanks to some lovely autumn sunshine, we made the most of the outdoors in PE, enjoying a hockey lesson alongside our weekly session with Owen from NUFC.

Finally, it was so lovely to catch up with many of you at Parents' Evening—thank you so much for taking the time to come in and meet me and discuss your child's progress.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend

**Mrs Kelly**



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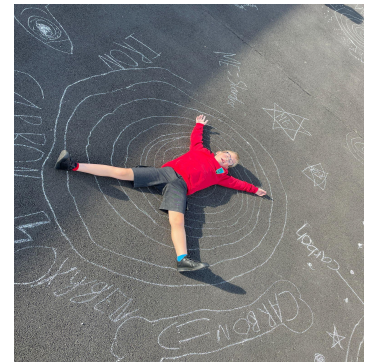
### ☀️ Clover Class Weekly Mission Log ☀️

#### “We are all made of stardust!”

This week, Clover Class blasted off into **Space Week**, determined to find out why Mr Phillips keeps telling everyone we’re all *stars*! Using Elin Kelsey’s wonderful book *You Are Stardust*, we discovered that when stars explode (in something called a supernova), they scatter elements like carbon, oxygen, and iron — the *exact same* elements that make up us! So technically, we’re made of stars... which makes us all *superstars*, obviously.



We drew and labelled our own “How I Am Stardust” diagrams, showing a star, the Earth, and ourselves. Then we whizzed around the classroom on our own imaginary orbits before creating colourful **Cosmic Collages**. To finish, we built a class constellation to remind everyone that in Clover Class, *we’re all made of the same stardust*. ✨



Of course, space wasn’t the only thing we explored this week (though it was pretty awesome). We went on a **Grammar Scavenger Hunt**, hunting down the features of non-chronological reports like punctuation detectives. Then came our new favourite game — **Vocab**

**Auction!** Mr Phillips gave each table fifteen gold coins, and we had to bid for impressive words found in a WAGOLL report. Some of us may have slightly overspent our budgets (apparently you can’t use imaginary money?), but it was great fun and very noisy.



Later in the week, Mr Phillips “had to visit other schools to make our education better” — we’re not saying he just fancied a break, but... 😞 Luckily, **Mrs Slack** stepped in and taught us addition and subtraction, read more of our class novel *Anglo-Saxon Boy* (she does the voices brilliantly), and even let us explore our own styles in art. We’ve voted for her to come back and read again next week!

Sometimes getting up for school can be tough, but *not this week*. We’ve laughed, learned, created, and explored the universe — and just in case we forgot to mention it... **we’re all STARS!** 🌟

**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 |
| Wednesday 22nd October  | 5:00-6.30  | Halloween Party                                                |
| Thursday 23rd October   | 1:15-3:00  | Harvest Festival at St James Church                            |
| Thursday 11th December  | 5:30-6:30  | Carol Service at St James Church                               |
| Wednesday 17th December | 9.30-11.30 | Alnwick Playhouse Christmas Panto                              |

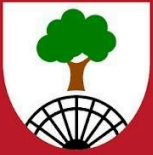


**Happy Birthday to all those celebrating  
this week**

**Charlie (Bluebell Class)**

**Hugo (Bluebell Class)**





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## THE GREAT GEORDIE BANGER OFF

Get ready for some **sausage-tastic** fun as we've teamed up with our pals at the Geordie Bangers to create their next big flavour in a **Pele Trust wide competition**.

### THE COMPETITION

Entrants will need to come up with the name, ingredients and drawing of their tasty creation to impress the judges.

### THE PRIZES

The winning sausage will be made by Geordie Bangers and will appear in the next menu cycle for all schools within the trust. The winner will also receive 5 Kilos of their new sausage to take home and enjoy with their family.

Along with a trip to visit the Geordie Banger Factory to see there creation being made for the first time!

Entry forms will be available from w/c 3rd Nov 2025