



Shilbottle Primary School Friday Flyer

21st November 2025

Good afternoon, everyone! I hope you've all managed to wrap up warm this week – the cold weather has definitely arrived with a bit of a bite and there's certainly that feeling in the air that winter is creeping closer. Somehow, we've already ticked off three full weeks of the half term, which means just four to go until we break up for Christmas. The term is absolutely flying by and the children have been working incredibly hard throughout. We are so proud of their efforts, their resilience and the positive attitudes they continue to bring into school every day.

On Tuesday, we held our Open Book Assembly, which, as always, was a hit with the children. It's fantastic to see them so involved in the retelling of Bible stories, dressed up and smiling as they take part. It really is a joy to watch!

We were also due to hold our Open Morning on Thursday but with the snow arriving and travel conditions becoming tricky, we made the decision to postpone the event to ensure the safety of everyone involved. This will be rearranged for the near future and we will communicate the new date with you as soon as possible. Thank you to everyone who shared the original message – when we have a new date, we'd be hugely grateful if you could help us spread the word once again.

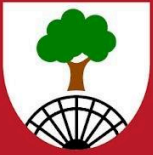


Thursday then turned into something rather magical – our first snow day of the year. Once the children were wrapped up in waterproofs and wellies, the playground and field were instantly transformed into a winter adventure. The sound of laughter, sliding and pure joy could be heard across the school. It was one of those simple, special moments of childhood that we know they'll remember for a long time.

We also enjoyed our celebration assembly this week, with lots of proud faces, well-deserved certificates and, of course, hot chocolate making a very welcome and warming return. A big well done to everyone who took part – it's always a pleasure to mark the achievements, kindness and determination we see across the school.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support. Have a lovely weekend, stay warm and we look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday.

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 SEARCH ENGINES

Search engines are an integral part of everyday life – with Google alone processing around 100,000 searches every second. Search engines use algorithms to predict which results will be useful to us, though this can expose children to inappropriate content, misinformation and even scams. This guide explains the risks associated with search engines and offers practical advice to help safeguard young users online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- MANIPULATED SEARCH RESULTS**
Although search engines take site reputation into account, trustworthiness isn't the main factor. Instead, they use algorithms that can be gamed via tactics like search engine optimisation (SEO), which is big business. As a result, users may encounter misleading content and low-quality commercial products that appear more credible than they actually are.
- MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION**
Search engines index billions of web pages – and not all of them are factual or safe. Children might stumble across false information or even deliberate disinformation, especially when searching for trending topics or controversial issues.
- ENGINES BEYOND GOOGLE**
Even if Google's safeguards are enabled, children may use lesser-known search engines that don't have similar protections. Some of these alternatives are less effective at blocking unsavoury content – sometimes by design – making it easier for children to encounter harmful or explicit material. Parental controls may also struggle to detect and block these sites.
- ILLEGAL CONTENT CAN SURFACE**
Search engines are designed to retrieve content based on keywords – not to judge whether that content is lawful. As a result, even illegal or harmful material can appear in search results. Children might assume that anything found through search engines must be safe, just because they're so widely used. This misunderstanding can lead to accidental exposure to seriously inappropriate content.
- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT EXPOSURE**
Although parental controls like Google's SafeSearch exist, they aren't foolproof, and search engines may bypass them. Young users may still see inappropriate images or content, especially in image searches, even though they may not be able to click on the results. Some niche search engines lack even basic filtering, posing further risks.
- UNRELIABLE AI SUMMARIES**
Some search engines now offer AI-generated answers at the top of results. While these can be helpful as webpage summaries, they're not always accurate. There have been instances where AI summaries have presented false or even dangerous information, reinforcing the need for critical thinking.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS**
While no parental controls tool is perfect, this software can help reduce the likelihood of inappropriate content appearing in search results. Use tools like Google Family Link to set search restrictions and monitor your child's browsing activity.
- IDENTIFY AND AVOID ADVERTS**
One of the ways search engines generate revenue is by showing adverts to their users. Sponsored search results are labelled, but they're not always easy to spot and can sometimes be misleading. Show your child how to distinguish between paid ads and organic search results – explain why some ads might be misleading or unsafe.
- QUESTION AI-GENERATED CONTENT**
While AI content is generated quickly and often appears legitimate, teach children that, just because an AI summary is well presented, it doesn't mean it's accurate. Encourage them to review the sources behind AI summaries and check the information with reputable sites or fact-checkers.
- PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY**
Encourage children to question the motivation behind online content and develop critical thinking, as not all sites can be trusted. Some deliberately misinform users in order to sell products or promote misinformation. Developing a critical mindset is one of the best defences against these tactics.



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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.

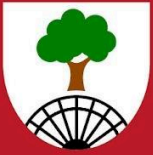
Current Whole School attendance is 93.9%. Our Whole School Target is 96%

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Mrs Blackhall	87.2%	92.6%
Mrs Kelly	95.8%	95.1%
Mr Phillips	88.5%	93.7%

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

There has been a lot of excitement in Bluebell class this week, particularly with the arrival of snow!

In maths, Reception continues to explore numerals 1-5. They have been representing numbers to five using objects this week. Our Key Stage 1 children have just finished their unit on Place Value to 100 and their next unit will be 'Shape'.

In English, Reception and Year 1 have been drawing and writing about the traditional tale, 'The Gingerbread Man'. Year 1 have been composing sentences independently and our Reception children have been practising letter formation of initial sounds alongside their drawings of characters. Year 2 have started a new book: 'Slug Life', a fun combination of non-fiction text delivered by fictional characters. So far, the children seem to be enjoying this book and they have impressed me with their engagement with the topic of slugs!



In PSHE, the class explored the objective: 'We can try new things and keep going'. The children gave good examples of trying new things such as "Learning to ride a bike" or "Going swimming for the first time". Following discussion about persisting through challenges, they attempted an online drawing tutorial, carefully following step by step instructions. We agreed that we might not get it right the first time, but we could always try again!

Because we've started to practise our nativity, the class have revisited the Nativity story in RE. Our Key Stage 1 children have demonstrated excellent recall of key elements of the story from previous learning and

our Reception children have been excited to learn all about it.

Nativity rehearsals continue. I will be sending cast roles to you via Class Dojo and some of our children will soon have lines to practise, which I will also send home. We have lots of costumes in school, so there will be no need to purchase anything. A small number of our cast members may need to wear their own clothes, but I will message parents of those children to give plenty of notice.

Mrs Blackhall



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Classroom updates - Poppy Class

A busy and productive week in Poppy Class as Christmas sneaks ever closer! "How many days until December?" has officially become our new favourite daily question! The arrival of the snow saw the excitement build higher!

We have moved on to multiplication and division in Maths, using arrays and focusing on the 2, 4, 5, and 10 times tables. The children continue to impress me with their growing knowledge of the multiplication facts. Our daily times-table speed practice also helps us to build confidence and fluency.

In English, we continued our class story. We researched pugs and used this information to write a non-chronological report, focusing on features such as clear subheadings, organised sections, present tense, and factual language.

Geography this week had us investigating why people chose certain places to settle, considering important features like easy access to water, good farmland, natural shelter, useful resources, and convenient transport links. Meanwhile, in PSHE, we explored personal space, including what it is, why it matters and how giving each other a little breathing room keeps everyone happy.

We recalled the various food groups in our Science lesson and then focused on the importance of a balanced plate and healthy eating. In RE, we have discussed why Christians are inspired to have faith and follow God and this led us on to researching the work of the Salvation Army.

PE took place indoors due to the weather, but we still developed our invasion games skills albeit in a restricted space! Miss Barber wasn't in for Music this week but we still rehearsed our Christmas carols.

Have a lovely weekend. Lets hope the weather warms up a bit!



Mrs Kelly



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Classroom Updates - Clover Class



What a week it has been! We've had coastlines, chromatic portraits, planets, dance lessons, nature club, and... did we mention SNOW?



The "Best Day Ever!"

It would be very easy to write a whole article just about Thursday. We all crossed our fingers for a Snow Day, but honestly? We are so glad school stayed open!

We had the most magical time outdoors making snowmen, snow angels, and playing with our friends. It was officially voted the **BEST DAY EVER!**

However, as much fun as we had in the cold, we'd be doing the rest of the week a huge injustice if we didn't tell you about the amazing learning that happened inside the warm classroom.

The Great Kielder Debate

The mystery of our class book was solved, and it was time to put our thinking caps on. The children stepped into character to debate the building of the Kielder Dam and the flooding of the valley.

We had **engineers, local farmers, residents, people from Teesside and Tyneside** and **conservationists** all arguing their points of view. It was fantastic to hear the children debating the pros and cons so passionately!

Our Changing Coastline

We stayed local for Geography, focusing on the cliffs that hold up the mighty Dunstanburgh Castle. We explored how wind, waves, and tides affect our beautiful Northumbrian coastline. By acting as geography detectives and comparing maps from 1890 to modern-day OS maps, we could actually see how erosion and weathering have changed the shape of our land over time.

Maths Mastery

We are feeling much more confident in Maths this week! We continued exploring multiplication, focusing on problem-solving and reasoning. The "lightbulb moment" for the class came when we discovered that we can make tricky questions easier by using the maths facts we already know. It's great to see that perseverance paying off.

Inspiration & The Solar System

Mrs. Slack's wondrous art lessons continued with a look at the incredible portrait artist, Sarah Biffin. Sarah was born without arms or legs but became such an accomplished artist that she painted for royalty! She is a true inspiration to us all.

Finally, we went from snow to space! We blasted off to the outer reaches of our galaxy to research the eight planets in our solar system, looking at all their similarities and differences.

Have a lovely, warm weekend!

Mr Phillips





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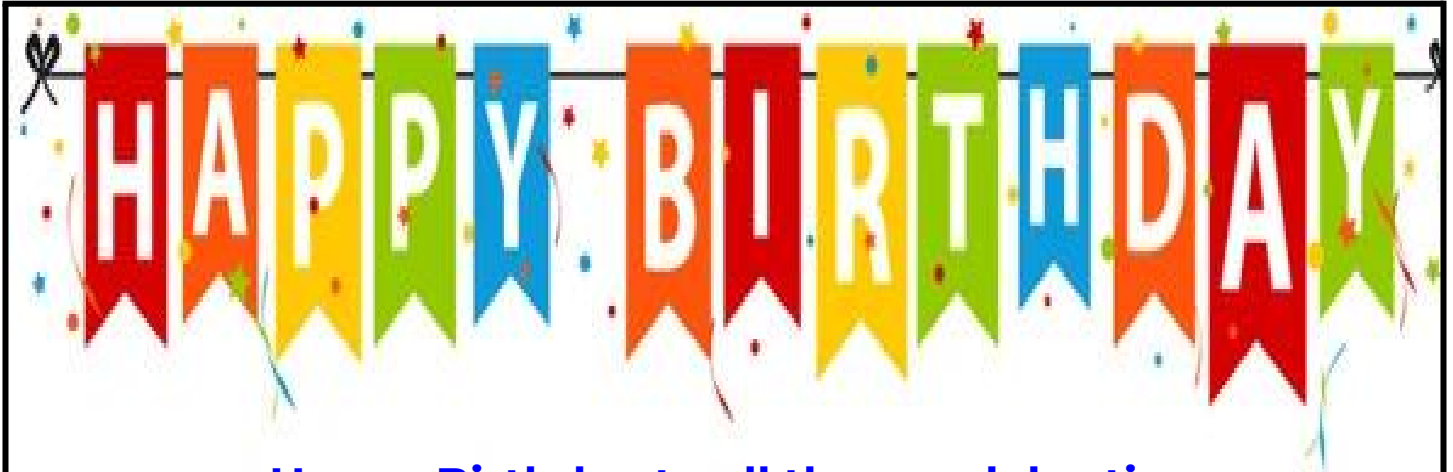
Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Wednesday 3rd September	12:20	Year 5/6 swimming lesson, last session Tuesday 3rd December
Friday 14th November	All day	Children in Need-non school uniform day wear spots (£1:00 donation)
Wednesday 3rd Decembet	Deadline date	Deadline date for the Shoe box appeal.
Saturday 6th December	17.30-19.30	Magical Christmas Evening with Jonny Diggins (see flyer below)
Tuesday 9th December	9:30-10:30	Rehearsal Nativity Performance for Parents with younger siblings
Tuesday 9th December	1.15-2.15	Nativity Performance (Reception, Year 1 & 2) Parent/Carers/Grandparents only
Wednesday 10th December	12 noon	School Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 11th December	5:30-6:30	Carol Service at St James Church
Tuesday 16th December	2:00-3:00	Reception/Y1 & Y2 Christmas Party
Wednesday 17th December	9.30-11.30	Alnwick Playhouse (whole School visit) Christmas Panto
Wednesday 17th December	2:00-3:00	Year 3 & Year 4 Christmas Party
Thursday 18th December	2:00-3:00	Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Party
Friday 19th December	1:00pm	School shuts at 1pm
Monday 5th January 2026	8:40	School will resume after Christmas holidays



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

**Elliott S - Bluebell Class
Stanley S - Poppy Class**



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Shilbottle Primary Parents Association
Presents:

A Magical Christmas
Evening with
Saxophonist

Tonny Diggens

Noel

MUSIC.FOOD.TREATS

Locally made gifts for sale

Mulled wine and Mince pies

If you would like an opportunity to showcase your
products it's £10 per stall. Enquire at :
katewilliams00@hotmail.com

Shilbottle Community Hall NE66 2XH

Entry: voluntary contribution to Shilbottle Primary

Saturday 6th December
17:30-19:30