



Shilbottle Primary School Friday Flyer

17th October 2025

Another brilliant week draws to a close here at Shilbottle Primary, and once again the school has been full of energy, excitement and that unique Shilbottle spirit that makes our community so special. From the moment the gates opened on Monday morning, our children have shown just how caring, enthusiastic and resilient they are. It is a joy to walk through the corridors and see happy faces, engaged learning and those little moments of teamwork and kindness that remind us of what a fantastic school we have.

This week, we had the pleasure of welcoming Open Book into school for assembly. The hall was filled with laughter and anticipation as the children eagerly volunteered to help retell stories from the Bible through role play and performance. It was wonderful to see them bringing the stories to life with such confidence and creativity. Activities like this really support our focus on values, reflection and understanding the wider world through story and imagination.

Meanwhile, Mr Phillips has been off on an exciting learning adventure of his own! He spent time at Ponteland High School taking part in a development session all about Artificial Intelligence in education. He has come back buzzing with ideas - so much so that we are beginning to wonder... in the future, will it be Mr Phillips teaching the class, or will we be welcoming his AI double? Either way, it's fantastic to see our staff continuing their own learning journeys so that our children benefit from innovation and forward-thinking practice.

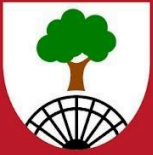
Thursday took our KS2 pupils off-site as they headed to Ellingham Primary School to compete in a Cross Country event. This wasn't just a quick run around the playground - oh no! The course stretched across several farmers' fields, with uneven ground, long stretches and plenty of muddy shoes by the end. Our children tackled it with determination, courage and a great sense of team pride. Whether they finished first or simply pushed themselves to complete the course, every participant represented Shilbottle brilliantly and we could not be prouder.

We ended the week in true Shilbottle style with our Celebration Assembly, recognising kindness, effort and achievement across the school. And of course, Hot Chocolate Friday, rewarding those children who have gone the extra mile in attitude, learning or behaviour. It's always a lovely way to finish the week together as a community.

And finally, a little reminder - don't forget that next week is our very first PTA event of the year, the much-anticipated Halloween Disco! We are very excited and can't wait to see the children dressed up and ready for some spooky fun. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Wishing all our families a relaxing weekend - rest up, recharge and we look forward to another fantastic week ahead at Shilbottle, maybe Arthur will pop in for a quick visit next week also if we're lucky!

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.**

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Currently, children are growing up in an immediate and throwaway culture when it comes to content that's consumed online. So much material is now deliberately created to be shorter in nature – and may often contain hidden elements such as advertising, or extreme political and cultural views. With complex algorithms built to keep people on their phones and engaging with social media content, it's becoming increasingly difficult to reduce time spent on these platforms.

- 1 REDUCE DOOMSCROLLING**
It's dangerously common for young people to spend hours 'doomscrolling' – browsing through social media and aimlessly viewing every post they see, many of which might make them feel sad or anxious. Social media can be useful for keeping in touch with friends and family, as well as staying up to date on current events. However, it's important to use it with a clear purpose, instead of endlessly scrolling through content, which could lead to young people accidentally discovering harmful material.
- 2 TALK ABOUT THE CONTENT**
It's important to keep apprised of the kind of content that a young person is being exposed to. Discussing what they're watching online can help you understand why they're using social media in the first place. Furthermore, ensure that children are aware of hidden content, such as advertising of a product – and that they know how to spot that the creator is being paid to talk about it.
- 3 FIND POSITIVE ASPECTS**
Despite all the concerns, there's plenty of wholesome content on social media. It's worth spending time with children to help them find something suitable and enjoyable. Perhaps you'll even discover a joint interest, and you can enjoy the content alongside the child. As part of this, you should also point out why certain things shouldn't be given attention, explaining why it isn't suitable and why it's been created in the first place.
- 4 REDUCE SCREENTIME**
Young people can sometimes be unaware of the exact amount of time they spend looking at social media. Smart phones don't just have the capacity to monitor screentime, they also record how much time is spent on each app. Consider setting targets to reduce, this and support children to meet these goals, gradually reducing the amount of time spent on different apps.
- 5 FILL THE VOID**
Monitoring and reducing screentime can create a lot of free time to fill, and young people can even face withdrawal symptoms when made to step away from their phones. To mitigate this, consider what offline activities you could introduce the child to, and what they would enjoy. This can ensure that young users will permanently cut down on their screentime, rather than temporarily doing so while they know it's being monitored.
- 6 REDUCE NOTIFICATIONS**
One way in which social media platforms keep people coming back is through notifications. The algorithms behind these apps track people's daily habits, including the times of the day when they're most likely to engage with the platform. This data is then used to deliver specifically timed notifications to draw them back in. To avoid young users being exposed to this tactic, simply turn off notifications for the app in their phone's settings.
- 7 LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD**
Overexposure to social media can distort someone's perception of the real world – from body norms to social conventions. This filtered environment can make it hard for young people to distinguish reality from online content, which is now becoming even more difficult with the rise of AI. To mitigate this concern, take time to teach young people how to discern truth from fiction, both on and off social media.
- 8 DIGITAL DETOX**
Encouraging young people to take a 'digital detox', from even just a couple of the apps that they use, can result in an overall reduction of addictive and less exposure to potentially harmful content. Alternatively, rather than avoiding the app entirely, encourage children to take a 'digital detox' from content creators and influencers, and instead, keep in touch with friends and family – which is generally a far healthier use of these platforms.
- 9 MODEL GOOD BEHAVIOUR**
Consider the habits that you're demonstrating to your children. How much time do you spend on your phone? How much do you 'doomscroll'? Comparing your own usage with the child's could put things into perspective for them – or if it turns out that you're also overusing social media, it can turn screentime reduction into a joint mission, which you and the child can work on together.
- 10 BE CLEAR ON THE "WHY"**
Research shows that young people can become addicted to social media. There are many schools that are moving towards being 'phone free' due to the negative impacts of using social media and phones continuously. It's important to explain to young people why managing screentime is important, set out the benefits and ensure they have all the relevant information, so it's not just seen as a punishment.



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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.

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 93.2%. Our Whole School Target is 96%

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Mrs Blackhall	95.8%	91.8%
Mrs Kelly	97.5%	93.2%
Mr Phillips	98.0%	94.1%

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.

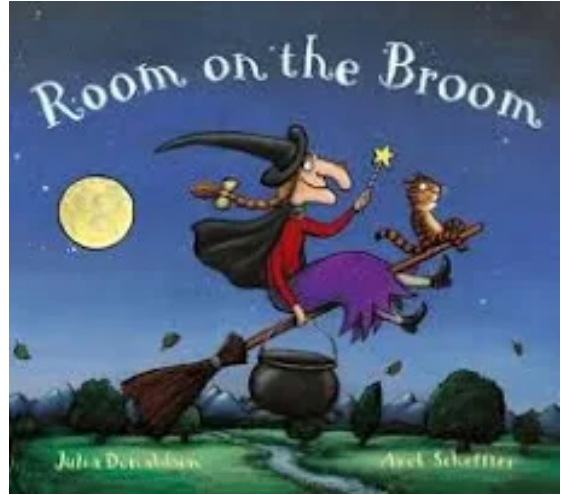
We have a continual focus on attendance and punctuality and this is of the utmost importance in your child's education. Please remember that our school gate closes at 8.45am as this is when our lessons begin. Anyone arriving after this time is classed as late and will miss valuable learning opportunities which take place immediately after registration, such as phonics.



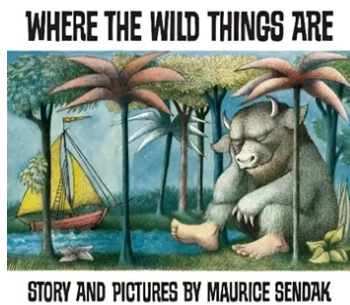
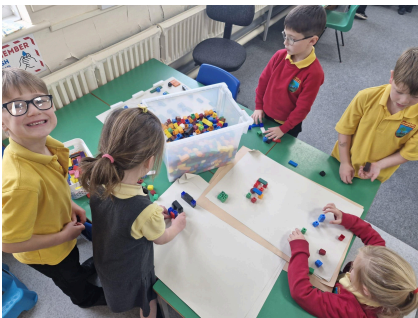
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Classroom updates - Bluebell Class

Bluebell Class has had another happy, productive week. Reception have continued their exploration of the numbers 1-5. The children have been finding one more and one less by constructing towers and then adding and removing cubes to support their calculations. As Halloween approaches, the children have enjoyed sharing the story, 'Room on the Broom', drawing their own interpretations of the witch and bringing her character to life with the letter 'm' (for magic). This area of learning was rounded off yesterday with the class designing and making their very own magic wands – "Iggety, ziggety, ziggety, ZOOM!"



In maths, our Key Stage 1 children have recently rounded off their first unit of addition and subtraction. They have been practising using number lines to help them solve missing number problems. In English, the children have shared the story 'Where the Wild Things Are'. Their written work has taken the form of a letter to the main character, Max. Their aim was to cheer him up as he felt lonely in the land of the Wild Things. Demonstrating care and empathy, the class came up with some lovely ideas to support Max, and penned thoughtful notes of advice to him to help him.



Mrs Blackhall



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Classroom updates - Poppy Class

We've had a busy and enjoyable week in Poppy class.



In Maths, we've been working on addition with numbers in the thousands and growing more confident each day. In English, we continued exploring *The King Who Banned the Dark* and had great fun writing our own creative versions of the story.

Our Geography lessons took us on a journey across the UK as we looked at counties, hills, mountains, and how London has changed and grown over time. In PSHE, we discussed bullying and thought carefully about how to handle different scenarios in a kind and mature way.

We've also been keeping active in PE with Owen and we have continued our hockey lessons – we're getting better at matches and even scoring some goals! In Music with Mrs Barber, we've been practising our Harvest songs, which are sounding lovely in preparation for our Harvest Festival next week.

We also finished our class story *The Water Horse* by Dick King-Smith – a wonderful tale based on the myth of the Loch Ness Monster. I've promised the children that if we work hard next week, we can enjoy the film version at the end of the week. We have started another story by the same author entitled *Lady Lollipop*, also by Dick King-Smith, which we are enjoying.

A big well done to the children who represented our class in the cross-country event at Ellingham Primary – a fantastic effort from everyone!

Have a restful weekend,

Mrs Kelly



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Classroom Updates - Clover Class

Multiplying, Writing, Running and chasing a 100% attendance, pretty much sums up this week in Clover Class.

It all started with the continuation of our class novel, **Anglo-Saxon Boy**. We are finding great pleasure in learning about how books work through our reading lessons: **vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, sequencing** and **summarising** all help our understanding of books and it also spells **VIPERS**, which is also really cool!

Taking to the hall with nothing but ourselves and a bucket of cones, Mr P taught us about '**multiples**' and '**factors**'. He said that if we understand them it means that simplifying fractions, finding common denominators and solving real-world problems becomes a little bit easier – Mr Phillips says this is why we need to practise our multiplication facts at home and get quicker and quicker (we're starting to believe him... slowly!)



In English, we are writing a non-chronological report informing our readers of those fascinating settlers from 1,500 years ago.

We've been practising our "**formal tone**" (a.k.a. our posh voices) so we sound like proper experts. Next week, rumour has it that Mr Phillips wants us galloping around pretending to be horses to learn about something called **iambic pentameter** – apparently Shakespeare

did it, so it must be good!

Finally, a huge shout-out to our Clover Class Cross Country Runners (Mr Phillips says that's "alliteration" – we just think it sounds cool), who represented Shilbottle brilliantly with effort, determination, and smiles.

What a week! Now, back to chasing that 100% attendance — we're **this** close!

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 10th December
Wednesday 22nd October	5:00-6.30	Halloween Party
Thursday 23rd October	1:15-3:00	Harvest Festival at St James Church
Saturday 6th December	17.30-19.30	Magical Christmas Evening with Jonny Diggins (see flyer below)
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**

Elodie Bluebell Class



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JOIN US IF YOU DARE
for a
**HALLOWEEN
SCARE!**

Wednesday 22nd October
17.00 - 18.30

Shilbottle Primary
£3 entry
Food included
Costumes encouraged

@Greetings ISLAND



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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



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Shilbottle Primary
Fun, Respect & Friendship

KATELYN MCDONALD PRESENTS

HALLOWEEN MENU

MUSIC, FOOD, DRINKS,
DECORATIONS & LOTS OF FUN!

**MONSTER BEEF BURGERS
WITH CHIPS & SALAD
OR
PUMKIN PATCH SOUP WITH
SCARY CHEESE SANDWICH**

DESSERT

SPOOKY SLIME JELLY

**23rd
Oct
2023**