

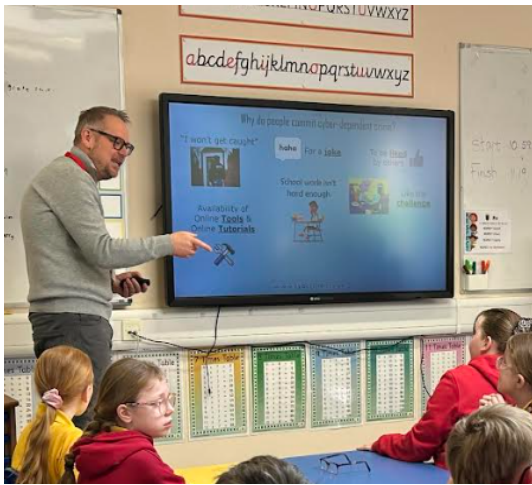


# Shilbottle Primary School Friday Flyer

**27th March 2026**

## Headteachers Update

We've had another really positive week here at Shilbottle Primary, with lots going on across school.



A particular highlight this week has been our Cyber Choices workshops, which took place on Thursday for our children in Years 3 to 6. These sessions were delivered by a cyber expert currently working with the police and they provided a really valuable opportunity for children to learn more about staying safe online. With so much in the media at the moment and the increasing pressures of online platforms, it was incredibly important for the children to reflect on their online choices, understand potential risks and think carefully about how to use technology responsibly. The sessions were engaging, informative, and really got the children thinking, exactly what we hoped for.

Looking ahead to next week, it will be our final week of the spring term. As Good Friday falls at the end of the week, school will close on Thursday at the usual time.

Before we break up, we have a lovely community event to look forward to. On Thursday evening, the SPPA will be hosting a Bingo Night at the Welfare Hall, starting at 6:00pm. We would love to see as many families there as possible as it promises to be a fun evening for everyone. The SPPA have worked incredibly hard behind the scenes to organise this event and all money raised will go straight back into supporting the school. Please do spread the word, this event is open to the wider community, so friends and family are very welcome to join too.

This week also saw our final Hot Chocolate Friday of the term so well done to all of our fantastic winners! It's always a pleasure to celebrate those children who consistently go above and beyond. Alongside this, we held our celebration assembly, where we recognised pupils who have been nominated by their teachers for their effort, attitude and achievements. These moments are always a great way to come together as a school and celebrate success.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you on Monday for the final four days of what has been a very busy - very quick - Spring 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.**

**10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators  
USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS**

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading options are social media, e-readers, the e-reader game or use of a book or audiobook device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain favourites, digital books offer a new reading style for a reading list or curriculum. Here are 10 tips to help you get the most out of technology to boost reading skills.

- 1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT**  
Not all digital content is created equal. Some content is more engaging than others. When choosing digital content, look for content that is interactive and engaging. This content should be suitable for the age and reading level of the child. Consider the format of the text. Some content is more engaging when read on a screen, while other content is better suited to a printed book. Consider the length of the text. Some content is more engaging when read in shorter segments, while other content is better suited to a longer read.
- 2 READING ON SCREEN**  
Many devices now offer text-to-speech and other features that can help children read on a screen. These features can be used to help children who struggle with reading or who are learning to read. Consider using a screen reader or text-to-speech software to help children read on a screen. These features can be used to help children who struggle with reading or who are learning to read. Consider using a screen reader or text-to-speech software to help children read on a screen.
- 3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS**  
Many devices now offer accessibility tools that can help children read on a screen. These tools can be used to help children who struggle with reading or who are learning to read. Consider using a screen reader or text-to-speech software to help children read on a screen. These tools can be used to help children who struggle with reading or who are learning to read. Consider using a screen reader or text-to-speech software to help children read on a screen.
- 4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES**  
Many digital reading programmes offer interactive features that can help children read on a screen. These features can be used to help children who struggle with reading or who are learning to read. Consider using a screen reader or text-to-speech software to help children read on a screen. These features can be used to help children who struggle with reading or who are learning to read. Consider using a screen reader or text-to-speech software to help children read on a screen.
- 5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS**  
Many digital reading programmes offer interactive features that can help children read on a screen. These features can be used to help children who struggle with reading or who are learning to read. Consider using a screen reader or text-to-speech software to help children read on a screen. These features can be used to help children who struggle with reading or who are learning to read. Consider using a screen reader or text-to-speech software to help children read on a screen.
- 6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS**  
Many digital reading programmes offer interactive features that can help children read on a screen. These features can be used to help children who struggle with reading or who are learning to read. Consider using a screen reader or text-to-speech software to help children read on a screen. These features can be used to help children who struggle with reading or who are learning to read. Consider using a screen reader or text-to-speech software to help children read on a screen.
- 7 USING AUDIOBOOKS**  
Many digital reading programmes offer interactive features that can help children read on a screen. These features can be used to help children who struggle with reading or who are learning to read. Consider using a screen reader or text-to-speech software to help children read on a screen. These features can be used to help children who struggle with reading or who are learning to read. Consider using a screen reader or text-to-speech software to help children read on a screen.
- 8 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY**  
Many digital reading programmes offer interactive features that can help children read on a screen. These features can be used to help children who struggle with reading or who are learning to read. Consider using a screen reader or text-to-speech software to help children read on a screen. These features can be used to help children who struggle with reading or who are learning to read. Consider using a screen reader or text-to-speech software to help children read on a screen.
- 9 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING**  
Many digital reading programmes offer interactive features that can help children read on a screen. These features can be used to help children who struggle with reading or who are learning to read. Consider using a screen reader or text-to-speech software to help children read on a screen. These features can be used to help children who struggle with reading or who are learning to read. Consider using a screen reader or text-to-speech software to help children read on a screen.
- 10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS**  
Many digital reading programmes offer interactive features that can help children read on a screen. These features can be used to help children who struggle with reading or who are learning to read. Consider using a screen reader or text-to-speech software to help children read on a screen. These features can be used to help children who struggle with reading or who are learning to read. Consider using a screen reader or text-to-speech software to help children read on a screen.



# 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.

**Current Whole School attendance is 94.8%. Our Whole School Target is 96%**

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Mrs Blackhall	95.3%	93.7%
Mrs Kelly	94.5%	95.1%
Mr Phillips	99.1%	95.4%

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 8.40am 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.



# Shilbottle Primary School Friday Flyer

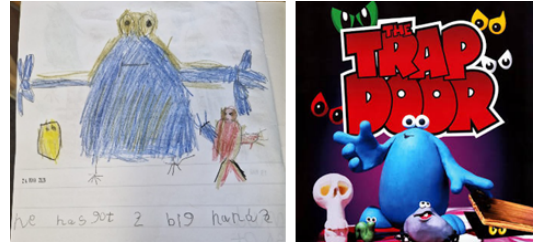
## Classroom updates - Bluebell Class



As we head into the final week of the Spring term, Bluebell Class are putting the finishing touches to some of their big projects, and what a fantastic term it's been!

Year 1 and Year 2 have been busy polishing their final drafts of a *setting description of Antarctica*. Over the past few weeks, they've worked hard to build sentences packed with *expanded noun phrases, conjunctions, and adverbs* to make their writing descriptive and precise. Their dedication really shows. The finished pieces are neat, detailed, and full of imagination.

Our Reception children travelled *back to the 1980s* this week to explore the animated world of 'Trap Door'! They began by sketching Burk, discovered the castle setting, and then created their own weird and wonderful creatures that might crawl out from under the trap door. Their creativity has been a joy to see!



In maths, Reception have been exploring *doubles* using Numicon and even made "double butterflies" to show that two of the same number makes a double. They rounded off the week investigating *odd and even numbers* by designing their very own Odd and Even Aliens.



Meanwhile, in Key Stage 1, the children wrapped up their multiplication and division unit and jumped straight into *length and height*. Armed with metre sticks, they ventured outdoors to measure tall trees, playground equipment, and other large objects. Their teamwork and measuring skills were excellent.

We love celebrating reading milestones in Bluebell Class, and this week we have some amazing achievements to share.

- Reception: Charlotte has reached a phenomenal 180 reads at home! Otilie and Grayson aren't far behind with 160 reads each.
- Year 1: Sophia has reached 120 reads.
- Year 2: Abi has hit an impressive 140 reads.

Huge congratulations to all our readers. Your love of books is shining through every week. Keep up the wonderful reading at home!

Have a lovely weekend! **Mrs Blackhall**



# Shilbottle Primary School Friday Flyer

## Classroom updates - Poppy Class

I can't believe it is just one week until Easter! We have had a very productive week in Poppy Class and the children have worked incredibly hard. In Maths, we have come to the end of our fractions unit, focusing this week on converting improper fractions to mixed numbers and vice versa. The children quickly realised how important their multiplication facts are in helping them to do this confidently.

In English, we have written our own Viking poems based on a raid, using lots of figurative language and powerful vocabulary to create atmosphere and excitement. The children have really impressed me!

In Geography, we continued our "Angry Earth" topic and completed our posters on earthquakes. We also used our maps and located where earthquakes occur around the world. We were fascinated to learn that there is an earthquake approximately every 30 seconds! We even discovered that earthquakes can happen in the UK, although they are usually of a much lower magnitude.

In French, we have been learning the names of farm animals and the sounds they make, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. Alongside our PE sessions with Emra, we have continued our rugby sessions with Amy, progressing to small games of tag rugby — even braving all types of weather, including a sudden hailstorm! In swimming, some of the children attempted their 25 metres for the first time, with many achieving this fantastic milestone.

We have also been getting creative with some Easter art, and in Computing we have been learning about the purpose of computer networks.

Have a great weekend!

**Mrs Kelly**





# Shilbottle Primary School Friday Flyer

## Classroom updates - Clover Class

As our attention turns to Easter Eggs, it would be easy to think that Clover Class starts to take its foot off the pedal. But that is never going to happen as we continue on this Spring Term adventure through the curriculum.

Bringing our Wonder journey to a close, we looked at producing a professional book review where we summarise, evaluate and recommend R J Palacio's book.



Decimals continue in maths and we continue to navigate the rocky road of multiplying and dividing decimal numbers – however, it's not that bad and Clover Class have enjoyed a lot of success this week in what can be a tricky concept.

Sailing the uncharted waters of natural disasters, we have looked at how human actions can change the world around us. Using knowledge from a previous geography project, we ventured onto Digimaps for Schools and looked at

where urban areas may have been built on floodplains and, by comparing ancient and modern maps, look to see how areas have expanded and discussed the effects this could have on local areas and the disasters, such as flooding, this could cause.

Sport has been a highlight, with several of our girls impressing Amy, our new rugby coach from Newcastle Redbolls, with their skills and potential. A couple of the Year 6 girls went to a free rugby taster session at Alnwick Rugby and it sounds like it was a huge hit!



We've also managed to share our creative side by creating realistic food from clay. We are so looking forward to finishing off this most enjoyable project by exploring paint techniques to make them look as realistic as possible.

Ready to debrief the expedition over the weekend? Here are some compass questions to guide your conversation:

- You've been mapping ancient vs. modern floodplains—how can building in those 'expanding urban areas' actually cause disasters?

Have a lovely, restful weekend

**Mr Phillips**



# Shilbottle Primary School Friday Flyer

## 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)
Tuesday 31/3/2026	10.30-12.00	KS1 Alnwick Playhouse - Three Billy Goats Gruff Performance
Wednesday 1st April	9.30-9.45	Easter Egg Competition judging
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 Welfare Hall
Wednesday 22nd April		Sponsored Litter Picking - World Earth Day
Wednesday 22nd April		Reception/Year1 & Year 2 Swimming (every Wednesday)
Friday 1st May 2026	13.00-15.00	Shilbottle School 100-Year Celebrations



Shilbottle Primary School  
**Friday Flyer**



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

**Sophia - Bluebell Class  
Tommy G - Bluebell Class**

**Zac - Clover Class  
Osian - Clover Class**



Shilbottle Primary School  
**Friday Flyer**

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*