



Shilbottle Primary School

Friday Flyer

27 February 2026

Headteachers Update

Welcome back to everyone after the half-term break. I hope you all enjoyed a chance to rest and recharge and that many of you were able to take advantage of the brighter weather and blue skies.

It has been a really strong and settled start back to school this week. The children have returned with excellent attitudes to learning and have quickly found their rhythm again. Our older pupils, particularly in Year 5 and 6, have shown great maturity and determination, with Year 6 demonstrating real focus as they continue to build towards SATs later in the term. There's a noticeable sense of commitment and teamwork in the classroom.

Equally pleasing has been the atmosphere across the whole school. From Reception upwards, children have arrived happy, smiling and ready to learn. Seeing our youngest pupils so settled and confident is a wonderful reminder of the positive culture we are nurturing at Shilbottle, a school where children feel safe, supported and excited to be each day.

Earlier in the week, staff took part in a teacher training day, which allowed us valuable time for high-quality professional development. We worked alongside colleagues from other trust schools in Alnwick, working with ASK Psychology to identify the best way of supporting your children in school.

This half term is a busy one, so please continue to keep an eye on ClassDojo for key messages and updates. If you are ever unsure about any information, please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or the school office, we're always happy to help and clarify.

The next key event for families to be aware of is World Book Day, taking place next Friday, 6th March. You should have already received a letter from the school office outlining our plans for the day. We are very grateful to the PTA, who have kindly funded a specialist company to come into school to lead activities and bring the day to life for the children. It promises to be a really exciting and memorable celebration of reading and books.

We also wasted no time getting back into our Celebration Assembly and Hot Chocolate this week, a huge well done to all of our winners. It's always a fantastic way to recognise effort and success and to end the week on a positive note.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope you have a lovely weekend and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday, ready for another great week.

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 TEACHING CYCLE SAFETY

Cycling is an amazing way to spend quality time together as a family, as well as keeping everyone healthy and active – and it's an excellent exercise, whatever the age of your children. Getting started can sometimes be daunting, and there are obvious safety concerns over youngsters who are still getting used to a bike – so follow our top tips to help you ride with confidence.

- 1 CONSIDER CYCLE TRAINING**
Courses like *Bikeability* are extremely useful, and training in general has come a long way since cycling proficiency began. There are *Bikeability* courses for adults, too. Cycle training teaches invaluable skills (such as good road positioning, signaling and visibility), and can help both parents and children feel more at ease on busy streets.
- 2 USE A SUITABLE BIKE**
Find a bike of an appropriate size for its rider and resist the temptation to have children 'grow into' theirs by buying one too large for them. A bigger bike will be heavier and more difficult to control, making accidents more likely and potentially putting youngsters off cycling forever. If your child has any specific physical needs, or has dyspraxia, then try to use a trike, handcycle or other adaptive cycle to see what works best.
- 3 TRY A CARGO BIKE**
Cargo bikes, particularly the box-bike style, are ideal for transporting small children around. Depending on the type of bike chosen – as well as the size and age of the children – it can be possible to transport up to four little ones in this way, with additional space for other cargo as well.
- 4 INSPECT YOUR CYCLE**
It's a good idea to do some routine checks on any bike before going for a ride to make sure everything's working correctly. The 'M-check' is particularly useful: assessing the condition and position of the bike's wheels, handlebars, brakes, pedals, chain and saddle, working from front to back. Online tutorial videos can also teach you how to carry out basic repairs if needed. For more complicated fixes, head to your local bike shop.
- 5 BRING SUITABLE GEAR**
Ensure whatever you're wearing, and any attachments for your bike, are suitable for the ride. A waterproof jacket will let you cycle safely in almost any weather. Make sure any helmets are fitted correctly, so you're riding show dark, remember to fit your bikes with a white front light, a red rear light and a red rear reflector. These are required by law.
- 6 STICK TO FLAT TERRAIN**
Take a smooth, flat route if possible, so it's more suitable for younger cyclists. You might be surprised by how many quiet roads or back streets there may be in your area. Don't be put off by an indirect but easier path as opposed to a shorter, busier one. Look out for the National Cycle Network, canal towpaths and even parks that you can cut through.
- 7 STAY ALERT AND IN SAFE FORMATIONS**
For maximum protection and visibility, ride in a line with children in the middle and adults at either end. If you're the only adult present, take up a position at the rear to ensure all children remain in your sight. Don't be tempted to hug the kerb if cycling on the road – riding approximately a metre out will make you more noticeable to other road users, and you'll also stay clear of any debris in the gutter.
- 8 AVOID PARKED CARS**
When riding past parked cars, try to stay at least a metre away, just in case anyone inside opens a door or respects only or the vehicle itself starts to move. This precaution will also deter anyone driving behind from trying to squeeze past you when there isn't enough space, so don't be afraid to ride in a prominent position.
- 9 START A 'BIKE BUS'**
Cycling to school with other families is a potentially fun experience – one which comes with the added benefit of safety in numbers. In case anything goes wrong along the way, team up with other parents, carers and educators and pick a day to cycle to school together. Who knows – maybe, in time, you'll have other folks asking to join you?
- 10 HAVE FUN!**
Keep in mind that cycling should be fun! A good bike ride can be really enjoyable for adults and children alike, while also being a superb form of exercise. Ease children into the hobby by starting them off with shorter journeys – such as a trip to the park – and build them up to longer, more complicated outings. Some children may get bored on a longer ride, so try to keep a conversation going with them.



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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 94.0%. Our Whole School Target is 96%

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Mrs Blackhall	95.5%	92.4%
Mrs Kelly	98.6%	94.0%
Mr Phillips	98.1%	94.0%

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.

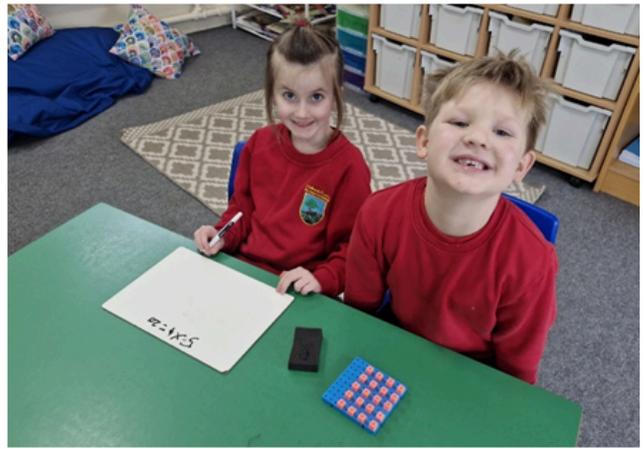


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Classroom updates - Bluebell Class

It has been a pleasure to welcome the children back after the half-term break; they have returned refreshed, energized, and ready to learn.

This week, our English lessons took flight with Rob Biddulph's *'Blown Away'*. In Reception, the children joined 'Drawing Club' to bring Blue Penguin and a lush rainforest setting to life, using their decodable vocabulary to add descriptive flair. Meanwhile, Year 1 and 2 have been busy building a "word bank" of atmospheric weather vocabulary, which they'll soon be putting to use in their very own weather reports!



Mathematics has been hands-on and high-energy. Reception explored the concepts of length, height, and time. They put their stamina to the test with a 30-second star-jump challenge, followed by a mindful minute of silence to recover! Year 1 and 2 moved into the world of multiplication and division. A key highlight was using arrays to visualize numbers and discovering the Commutative Law: the magic of knowing that 3×2 gives the same result as 2×3 .



In Geography, we launched our new topic, 'Hot and Cold Places.' Using a large floor mat to represent the Earth, the children used masking tape to mark the Equator and discussed why temperatures differ across the globe. We even populated our model poles with polar bears and penguins.

Home Challenge: Can your child remember which pole each animal belongs to? Ask them tonight and see if they can solve the mystery!

Wishing you all a restful and happy weekend. **Mrs Blackhall**



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Classroom updates - Poppy Class

We returned after half term to a short but very productive week, with everyone ready to work hard. In Maths, we have continued our work on length and perimeter, tackling some tricky challenges and applying our reasoning skills. We have also been focusing heavily on our multiplication facts. I cannot stress enough how important these are, especially as we are about to begin our unit on fractions — secure times table knowledge underpins so many areas of Maths and will really support the children's confidence moving forward. In English, we have started a new non-fiction text, *The Viking Age for Kids*, which we are using to build towards writing our own fact files about the Vikings. This week, we explored different examples of fact files and identified their key features, such as headings, subheadings, bullet points and technical vocabulary.

In Geography, amidst much excitement, we began our new topic, "What Makes the Earth Angry?" We learned that the Earth's surface is made up of large sections called tectonic plates, which fit together like pieces of a giant jigsaw. The children discovered that these plates are constantly moving, although very slowly, and that when they collide, pull apart or slide past each other, this movement can cause natural disasters such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. We explored how pressure builds up beneath the Earth's crust and how this can force magma to the surface, forming volcanoes. This sparked lots of thoughtful questions and enthusiastic discussions about how these events impact people and places around the world

Swimming lessons have continued, and it is fantastic to see how confident many of the children are becoming in the water as they develop into increasingly capable swimmers. In Art, we began exploring still life drawing, focusing on how to sketch objects from a 3D perspective. In PSHE, we discussed healthy eating, learning about the different food groups and how they help our bodies, as well as considering how we can make healthier choices in place of less healthy options. In RE, we have begun learning about Good Friday and the crucifixion of Jesus as part of our ongoing study.

A very productive first week back — we look forward to another busy week ahead. Wishing you all a happy weekend **Mrs Kelly**





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Classroom updates - Clover Class



Expedition: Spring Term! Spring is finally in the air as the weather turns, and Clover Class continues to provide the sunshine. It may have been a short first week back, but our young explorers have managed to cram in a mountain of learning!

Charting a New Story: We've kickstarted a new literary expedition with R.J. Palacio's *Wonder*. It has been an immediate hit! Auggie, our courageous 10-year-old protagonist, has taught us about resilience and wit in the face of facial differences. This journey has led to some incredibly mature "Clover Conversations" about Respect and Protected Characteristics, specifically Disability. While the book is deeply moving, it is also hilarious—you may want to ask your explorers about the parts that had the whole class laughing!

🧭 Navigating the Fraction Frontier: The adventure continues in Maths as we navigate the tricky terrain of Fractions. Using our "Concrete, Pictorial, and Abstract" toolkit, we have discovered clever ways to solve complex "fraction of an amount" reasoning problems. No mountain is too high for this class when they have the right equipment!



🌋 Tectonic Treks & Culinary Quests: Our Geography mission started with a bang as we ventured into the volatile world of natural disasters. We've been exploring the Earth's processes and why certain coastlines face more than their fair share of activity due to the proximity of tectonic plates. Meanwhile, our journey into Health and Wellbeing took a culinary turn. We've moved beyond simple "good vs. bad" food labels to a more scientific understanding of "Fuelling for Success." We're learning exactly what our bodies need to power our daily adventures!

Year 6 Basecamp Alert: SATs Boosters officially begin this Monday, 2nd March. Don't forget to pack your "survival snacks" to keep those energy levels high!

🍀 Clover Chat-ter: To help unlock the details of this week's expedition, try these "Compass Questions" at home:

- "Auggie is a very witty character—what was the funniest thing he said or did in the chapters you read this week?"
- "If the Earth's tectonic plates are always moving, why don't we feel it every day?"

Mr Phillips



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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)
Friday 6th March 2026		World Book Day
Thursday 2nd April 2026	15.20	School closes for the Easter holidays
Friday 1st May 2026		Shilbottle School 100-Year Celebrations



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



WORLD BOOK DAY

Shilbottle Primary

Fun, Respect & Friendship



Main Course

"The Lambton Worm's Curly Pasta"
Fusilli Pasta, Served in a "Dragons Blood" Sauce
with Garlic Bread & Salad.

The "Stick Man" Bangers & Chips
Served with Beans or Peas

Dessert

THE "Golden Ticket" Chocolate Brownie
*Find the hidden Golden Tickets
& Win a Prize!!*

"The Watermelon Seed"
Wedges

