



Shilbottle Primary School

Friday Flyer

10 July 2026

Headteachers Update

What a fantastic week it has been. The sunshine has certainly helped us make the most of every opportunity to get outside, enjoy ourselves and create some wonderful memories together.

The highlight of the week was undoubtedly our whole-school trip to Boulmer Beach on Tuesday. It was fantastic to see the children laughing, playing and simply doing what children do best – having fun. A huge thank you to our SPPA for providing every child with a bucket and spade. From building sandcastles and collecting shells to splashing in the water and creating some impressive holes in the sand, the children had an amazing time. We received some lovely comments afterwards and I would like to thank everyone who took the time to share them. Trips like this take a great deal of organisation but seeing the enjoyment on the children's faces makes it all worthwhile.

On Wednesday afternoon, we welcomed Gill Smith back into school. Gill, a former England cricketer, had previously visited us and kindly promised to return with some goodies for the children following the conclusion of the Women's Cricket World Cup. She spent time with our Key Stage 2 pupils, sharing her experiences and enjoying some cricket activities outside. It was another fantastic opportunity for our children and a great example of the positive connections we are building within our wider community.

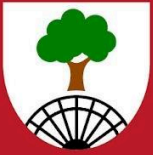
On Thursday evening, it was lovely to join our Year 6 pupils at their leavers' celebration at Alnwick Rugby Club alongside other local primary schools. It was wonderful to see the children celebrating the end of their primary school journey, enjoying time with friends, old and new, and beginning their transition towards Duchess's High School in September.

Today, we held our final Hot Chocolate treat of the year and then we also held our Celebration Assembly. Looking back at all the photographs and celebrations from across the year, it is amazing to see how many children have been recognised for their hard work, effort and positive attitudes. A huge well done to everyone.

We will finish the year with our final Celebration Assembly next Thursday, where there will be some special prizes to round off another fantastic year at Shilbottle.

Have a wonderful weekend and we look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday for our final week of the academic year.

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 VIOLENT CONTENT ONLINE

Around 70% of teenagers say they've seen real-life violence on social media in the past year – often from as young as primary school age. Just 8% actively seek it out; most encounter it through group chats or social media algorithms. From fights and pranks to hate speech and graphic media, exposure to violent content online is more widespread – and more harmful – than many adults realise.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MENTAL HEALTH AND TRAUMA

Children and young people report feelings of anxiety, guilt, shame or fear after seeing violent content. For some, these effects may be short-term, but for those with existing vulnerabilities or past trauma, the impact can be more severe. Many also feel pressured to 'toughen up' violent content to fit in with friends, even when they find it distressing.

BEHAVIOUR CHANGES

Exposure to online violence contrast to real and avoidance behaviours – such as skipping school or staying indoors. When children see weapons used in videos, it can heighten their perception that the world is unsafe and, in rare cases, increase the likelihood they'll consider carrying a weapon themselves, such as a knife for protection.

ESCALATION AND PARTICIPATION

Violent videos often go viral quickly. What begin to as an online argument can spill into real-world fights – which are sometimes filmed and shared to gain views or status. Some children even admit to sharing or sending violent content themselves to gain attention or boost their reputation.

DESENSITISATION

Older teens may become numb to violent content after years of exposure, admitting they're unlikely to report it. Younger children also tend not to report it – usually because they don't believe anything will be done or because they're afraid of being labelled a 'snitch' by their peers.

HARMFUL IDEOLOGIES

Violent content online may overlap with extremist, misogynistic or otherwise extremist ideas. These messages can influence others or glorify violence as a way to gain power, popularity or notoriety. Over time, it can normalise dangerous behaviours and attitudes among impressionable viewers.

DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT

Not all children are affected equally. Those who are excluded from school, marginalised, disabled or neurodivergent are often more vulnerable to the effects of online violence. It's essential to consider wider context – including home life and access to safe spaces – when thinking about potential harm.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CREATE SUPPORTIVE SPACES

Many children feel adults are too busy or won't understand their experiences online. Take time to build trust through non-judgemental conversations about what they're seeing. If they don't want to speak to you directly, gently signpost towards trusted services they can turn to for support.

KNOW WHAT'S ILLEGAL

Some violent content is simply upsetting, while other examples may be criminal or childreporting matter that needs reporting. Help children understand the difference by staying informed about online laws and set up media reporting procedures. A useful resource is reportthiscontent.com.

AVOID HARSH RESTRICTIONS

Fear of punishment is a major reason young people stay silent about violent content. Try not to overreact or threaten to take away devices. Instead, reassure children that they can speak openly and that asking for help won't get them into trouble.

UNDERSTAND TECH AND TRAUMA

Older children may already know how to block accounts or avoid triggering content. Help younger or more vulnerable children learn these skills and encourage habits that reduce exposure. Just as importantly, teach techniques that help them process distress – building resilience and emotional literacy for both online and offline life.



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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 94.7%. Our Whole School Target is 96%

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Mrs Blackhall	97.2%	94.0%
Mrs Kelly	98.9%	95.4%
Mr Phillips	98.8%	94.7%

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

As our Summer term draws to a close, it has been wonderful to share so many fantastic school experiences this week. The warmer weather has allowed us to enjoy plenty of outdoor fun. Despite another heatwave rolling in, the children have been incredibly sensible by staying hydrated, wearing their sun hats, and diligently applying sun cream. They have also been making excellent use of the shaded areas on our school field during break times to stay cool.



Our recent trip to Boulmer Beach was an absolute highlight! We were incredibly proud of how well the children engaged with the activities and with one another. They wasted no time exploring the shore and played beautifully together all day, happily sharing buckets, spades, and picnic blankets. The atmosphere was lovely, and a wonderful day was had by all.

Back in the classroom, our students have been hard at work. Reception children finished their maths topic on 'Mapping.' They rounded it off well by exploring the story *What the Ladybird Heard* and creating their own farmyard maps to retell the tale.



Key Stage 1 children moved on to telling the time to 'quarter to', while also consolidating their skills in reading 'o'clock', 'quarter past', and 'half past'.



To tie in with Reception's Drawing Club text, *Mister Seahorse*, the children brought the ocean to life using an exciting wax crayon transfer printing technique. First, they vibrantly coloured a base sheet of paper with blocks of bright crayon. By placing a fresh, blank page on top and firmly drawing their sea creature outlines, the pressure from their pencils lifted and transferred the crayon beneath. The result was a sea of pretty, rainbow-coloured creatures!

Have a lovely weekend in the sunshine everyone! - **Mrs Blackhall**



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Classroom updates - Poppy Class

What a lovely second-to-last week we have had in Poppy Class! Whilst we have been busy finishing off lots of work for the year, we have also made the most of the beautiful sunny weather and enjoyed some lovely activities together.



The highlight of our week was undoubtedly our trip to the beach. The children were exceptionally well behaved and represented the school brilliantly. They entertained themselves for hours building sandcastles, paddling in the sea, playing cricket on the beach and exploring the rock pools. It was a fantastic day, and it was lovely to see everyone enjoying the outdoors and making special memories with their classmates.



We were also delighted to welcome back Gill Smith, the former England women's cricketer. She spoke to the children about the recent Women's Cricket World Cup, where England were unfortunately narrowly beaten. The children enjoyed practising their catching skills before heading outside for a game of cricket with Gill. It was another fantastic afternoon that inspired many budding cricketers!

As we enter the final few days of the school year, just a couple of reminders. School reports will be sent home on Monday. Please could every child also bring in a strong carrier bag so that they can take all of their books and work home safely next week.



The countdown to the summer holidays is well and truly on! The forecast is looking warm again, so please remember to send your child to school with a named water bottle, a sun hat or cap, and sun cream already applied before they arrive at school.

Have a wonderful weekend, and we look forward to enjoying our final few days together before the summer break.

Mrs Kelly





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Classroom updates - Clover Class

Anybody would think that with the summer holidays just around the corner, we might be taking our foot off the pedal a bit—but absolutely not here! In Clover Class, it is much more a case of pressing the pedal to the metal and hitting everything at full speed!



Without a doubt, the ultimate highlight of our week was our trip to Boulmer Beach. While the sun didn't quite break through the clouds, there was a brilliantly bright, sunny atmosphere along the coast for Clover Class. We built epic sandcastles that eventually expanded into entire sprawling cities, paddled safely along the water's edge, and made some amazing discoveries during our rock pool adventures (including crabs, fish, and sandhoppers!). Best of all, we got to spend the entire day making memories with our younger friends from Poppy and Bluebell Class. It was simply awesome.

On Wednesday morning, the Year 6 children disappeared into the hall to begin eagerly rehearsing their upcoming Leavers' Assembly. Our Year 5 students thoroughly enjoyed the peace and quiet of having the classroom to themselves, settling down to their usual Maths and English with Mrs. Slack. In the afternoon, the whole class welcomed back Gill Smith, former England Cricketing World Cup winner! She took us out onto the field for a fantastic cricket session, sharing her elite skills and knowledge.

Thursday was an incredibly busy day on the trail. While the Year 6s slipped away for further play rehearsals—which are sounding pretty spectacular from where the Year 5s are sitting!—the class also headed out for an extra P.E. lesson. Two high school P.E. Teachers from the Duchess's Community High School (DCHS) came to visit us to observe a primary school session. We marched outside and proudly showed off our cricket skills (it certainly came in handy having a World Cup winner coach with us the day before!). Later that evening, the Year 6 children disappeared once again—this time heading off to **Alnwick Rugby Club** for their official **Leavers' Do!** There was an abundance of fun, food, dancing, and laughter as they celebrated alongside Year 6 pupils from various local schools who will be transitioning to DCHS together this September.



By Friday, the school felt relatively calm. I think our Year 5 children are secretly loving their exclusive time with Mrs. Slack as the Year 6s continue their busy final preparations! So much to do, so little time!

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 22nd April		Reception/Year1 & Year 2 Swimming (every Wednesday)
Tuesday 14th July	5.30-6.15	Leavers Assembly
Friday 17th July	1pm	School closes for the Summer holidays (no after school club)
Tuesday 1st September		TEACHER TRAINING DAY
Wednesday 2nd September		School will resume
Monday 7th September		Individual; Sibling & Class Photographs
Wednesday 9th September	10am show	Year 5 & Y6 Swimming (every Wednesday) 9/9/26 - 16/12/26
Tuesday 8th December	10am show	Whole School - Aladdin Christmas Panto - Tyne Theatre



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Hi everyone,

We have some exciting news! 🎉

From September, 1st Alnmouth Scouts will be opening two brand-new sections:

- Explorer Scouts (ages 14–18) – meeting Wednesday evenings.
- SEND Scouts for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities – meeting Thursdays from 6:00–7:00pm.

If you know anyone who may be interested, we'd be so grateful if you could pass this information on. Word of mouth really helps us reach families who could benefit from these new sections.

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in volunteering as a leader or helper, we'd also love to hear from you! We're always looking to grow our fantastic leadership team.

To find out more or register your interest, please email AlnmouthScouts@gmail.com or sign up using our OSM waiting list link.

Thank you so much for your continued support – we can't wait to welcome even more young people to our Scout family! ❤️