



Shilbottle Primary School

Friday Flyer

3 July 2026

Headteachers Update

It has been another great week at Shilbottle Primary School, with lots of excitement as we begin preparing for the next academic year.

A real highlight this week has been our transition activities. On Monday, our Year 6 pupils visited The Duchess's Community High School to take part in a morning of sporting activities before returning on Wednesday for their full transition day. They had the opportunity to meet their tutors, explore the school and begin getting to know what life at high school will be like. It has been fantastic to see them return so excited and positive about the move to September. Transition can sometimes feel a little daunting, so it is always reassuring to see our children growing in confidence and looking forward to the next stage of their education.

On Wednesday morning, all of our classes also took part in transition activities within school, spending time with their new teachers and classmates for September. Thank you for your understanding and patience over recent weeks as we worked through class structures and groupings. It was lovely to see the children settle so quickly into their new environments and I believe we are now in a strong position to move forward positively into the new academic year.

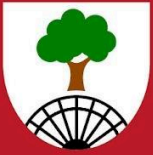
We have also enjoyed welcoming Ella and Sian back into school this week as part of their work experience placements. Both are former Shilbottle pupils and it has been wonderful to see them supporting our current children and staff. They have been a real credit to themselves throughout the week and we thank them for all of their hard work.

I would also like to give a special mention to Katelyn McDonald, our amazing chef. Every day, Katelyn prepares lunches for around 80 to 90 children, including those attending Friendly Frogs, and consistently provides a fantastic range of healthy and nutritious meals. This week, the Environmental Health Officer came into school for a food hygiene inspection and I am absolutely delighted to share that she has successfully maintained our 5-star food hygiene rating. This is a tremendous achievement and reflects the hard work, care and professionalism that Katelyn brings to her role every single day. We are incredibly fortunate to have her as part of our team and I know you will join me in congratulating her on this well-deserved success.

We finished the week with our Celebration Assembly and Hot Chocolate. Even with only a couple of weeks remaining before the summer holidays, the children continue to work hard, support one another and make us proud every day.

Have a lovely weekend, and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school 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 ZEPETO

ZEPETO is a fast-growing app blending social networking with a virtual world experience – attracting around 20 million monthly users, with 16% from Europe. Players create 3D avatars to explore immersive environments, play games and interact with others; however, with minimal safety controls, anonymous chat and monetised content, ZEPETO poses a number of online safety concerns that parents and educators should be aware of.

AGE RESTRICTION 14+

FOR SALE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- NO PARENTAL CONTROLS**
Although ZEPETO is intended for users aged 14 and up, it lacks built-in parental controls or age verification, instead relying on safety features on the device it's played on. This lack of a parental controls feature means caregivers should inform children they look monitoring up on the platform.
- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
As a mix between a virtual world and a social media platform, ZEPETO features a wide range of user-generated content. Some users may reference mature themes, such as TV series or brand names, or include inappropriate material created by other users – all of which children may stumble across without warning.
- STRANGER DANGER**
By default, users can message and interact with anyone else. The app's open user interface creates an environment where predatory individuals can pose as peers to trick teens, potentially leading to grooming, sexting, and exploitation, such as blackmail.
- CYBERBULLYING RISKS**
As with many social platforms, children can be targeted for bullying. However, it is exacerbated by both strangers and their peers. Unfiltered chat and social-based interactions can allow bullying and other forms of harassment to continue, impacting children's wellbeing and mental health.
- ADDICTIVE GAMEPLAY**
Daily log-in rewards, such as coins, and in-game incentives can encourage compulsive behaviour, with some users feeling pressure to check in constantly to avoid missing out. This can lead to excessive screen time and conflict with schoolwork or other hobbies or commitments.
- SPENDING REAL MONEY**
While the game is free to play, ZEPETO includes a store offering virtual clothing and accessories for avatars. These items are bought with 'Zepeto' in-game currency – and the app itself includes items or brand names that children can make a mark for children to recognise.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- ENABLE PRIVACY SETTINGS**
Visit the child's profile settings to restrict who can send messages – options include Everyone, Followers Only, or No One. Encourage children to avoid sharing any personal information on their profile, as this is visible even on private social sites.
- CONTROL SPENDING**
To prevent accidental purchases, set up parental approval systems such as Apple's Ask to Buy or Google's Family Link. Alternatively, consider monitoring payment methods or using pre-paid cards with set budgets.
- LIMIT IN-APP TIME**
Use parental controls on Android (recognise family time) or iOS (Screen Time) to restrict app usage by setting hours or daily limits. Note ongoing links to help children develop good time habits on a regular app schedule.
- HAVE REGULAR CONVERSATIONS**
Talk openly with children about whom they interact with online and the kinds of things they see or experience. Encourage them to speak up if someone makes them uncomfortable or if they come across inappropriate content. Teach them how to recognise red-flag behaviours such as asking for sexting, giving gifts, or requesting personal information.

EXCLUSIVE FASHION



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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	90.3%	94.0%
Mrs Kelly	98.9%	95.4%
Mr Phillips	94.3%	94.6%

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.

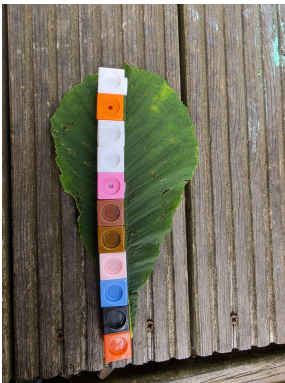


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Classroom updates - Bluebell Class

It's been another busy and brilliant week in Bluebell Class. We have taken full advantage of the brighter weather to take our learning outdoors.

At the beginning of the week, we took our Science lessons into the sunshine. Our objective was to investigate a big question: Do bigger plants have bigger leaves? To find out, the children scavenged a variety of leaves and ordered them by height. Working in pairs, they created wonderful leaf rubbings using wax crayons and measured their finds using counting cubes. We even held a competition to find the largest leaf! The record-breaking winner was a Horse Chestnut leaf measuring a whopping 11 cubes long. Ultimately, our young scientists concluded that large leaves can grow on small plants, and small leaves can grow on colossal plants!



Drawing Club: Every week, I look forward to seeing where 'Drawing Club' takes our Reception children. This week, we read 'Mister Seahorse' by Eric Carle, which inspired some truly excellent independent writing!

Maths: In EYFS maths, we have been exploring maps and mapping. The children loved using models and toy props to map out familiar areas. We also read 'Pirates Love Underpants' and the children had a fantastic time designing their own treasure maps to match the story.

English: KS1 children have been using adventurous vocabulary to describe lighthouses and their surroundings. They worked incredibly hard to embellish their sentences with additional detail using expanded noun phrases and conjunctions.

Maths: We have been tackling the concept of 'quarter past', a notoriously tricky topic! I have been so impressed by the children's retention of facts. Using physical teaching clocks has really helped us engage with the concept. So far, so good!

Everyone got stuck into their learning with so much enthusiasm this week. Enjoy a well-earned rest this weekend.

Mrs Blackhall



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Classroom updates - Poppy Class



Another busy and productive week has flown by in Poppy Class as we edge ever closer to the end of the school year. Despite the warm weather, the children have continued to work incredibly hard and have shown a fantastic attitude towards their learning.

In Maths, we have started a new topic on turns and angles. The children have been learning about right angles, acute angles and obtuse angles, as well as using clockwise and anticlockwise turns to describe movement. They have enjoyed applying these new skills through a range of practical activities. In English, we completed our non-chronological reports on mythical creatures.

The children worked incredibly hard to produce informative pieces of writing, using clear introductions, organised paragraphs, subheadings and technical vocabulary. It has been wonderful to see how much progress they have made in their writing throughout the year.

In French, we have been practising how to describe how we travel to school and have also spent time revisiting lots of the vocabulary we have learned throughout the year. The children have become much more confident in speaking French and recalling familiar words and phrases.

In Geography, we explored how climate affects the lifestyles of people living in Northumberland and Southern Europe. We discussed how different weather conditions influence the way people heat or cool their homes, the clothes they wear and the activities they can enjoy throughout the year.

Science was great fun this week as we investigated non-contact forces using magnets. The children carried out an experiment to find out how close a magnet needed to be before it attracted an object. They made predictions, tested their ideas and discussed why magnetic forces can act without objects touching.



On Thursday, we enjoyed being good citizens by taking part in a litter pick around our local area. The children worked together brilliantly and took great pride in helping to care for our environment.

Wednesday was our transition day, and the Year 4 children had the opportunity to visit their new classroom and meet their new teacher. Our Year 3 children also welcomed the current Year 1 and Year 2 pupils into Poppy Class, and everyone enjoyed spending the morning together. It was a lovely opportunity for the children to get to know one another, and we are all looking forward to welcoming our new class in September. Have a lovely weekend, and we look forward to seeing everyone for another busy week next week. **Mrs Kelly**



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Classroom updates - Clover Class

It has been a spectacularly busy week in Clover Class as we put out a bid to recruit some new members for next year during our Transition Days.

Wednesday saw our current Year 6 children transitioning to the Duchess's Community High School. Catching the 09:16 Glen Valley bus to Taylor Drive, thirteen very excited pupils alighted and ventured through the automatic doors of the big brick building that will be their new home for many years to come.

On Monday, fresh from their exploration of a very hot London (and when we say hot, we mean *HOT*), the Year 6 children visited Alnwick Juniors for a Newcastle United Foundation transition day. They met up with fellow Year 6 pupils from Swansfield Park, Hipsburn, and St. Paul's for a morning of multi-sports. It was a fantastic opportunity to make new friends, which proved incredibly helpful when they all walked through the DCHS doors together on Wednesday!

Meanwhile, back at basecamp, our Year 5 children got a brilliant taste of what it will be like to be the oldest leaders in the room next term. We welcomed the upcoming Year 4 children into the classroom, locked the door, and challenged them to solve a series of complex puzzles to earn their right to be official team members of Clover Class next year. We are pleased to report that every single child was successful! There is a wonderful, positive vibe in the room for the future, even though it will be incredibly sad to see our Year 6s leave for their new adventures.



In other news, Shilbottle Primary welcomed back two very special former pupils, Ella and Sian. Remarkably, Ella and Sian were in Year 6 when our current Year 6 students were just starting out in Reception! Their final year in primary school was disrupted by the initial Covid lockdown, and there is a school video of them dancing with our current Year 6s from all those years ago.

To recreate this wonderful milestone, Ella and Sian took the whole class outside to choreograph a brand-new dance video. If Mr. Phillips can successfully navigate modern technology to work out how to do it, we will release the final video on Dojo very soon!

It has been a phenomenal week with countless new memories made and precious old ones revisited. There is still so much more to look forward to before the final school bell of the year rings!

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 7th July	9.00-2.00	Whole School trip to Boulmer Beach (packed lunch required) Sponsored by The Northern Angel Cafe & Mastora Garage, Alnwick
Wednesday 8th July	1.00-3.00	Gill Smith (Ex England Cricket Player) Kwik Cricket with pupils
Thursday 9th July	Evening	Leavers Disco & Meal at Alnwick Rugby Club
Tuesday 14th July	5.30-6.15	Leavers Assembly
Friday 17th July	1pm	School closes for the Summer holidays (no after school club)



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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! ❤️