



# Shilbottle Primary School

# Friday Flyer

## 28th November 2025

It's been another wonderfully positive week here at Shilbottle and the excitement is definitely building as we head closer to Christmas. Our Christmas tree has now gone up in the hall and the children have been absolutely buzzing to see it appear - it really does feel like the countdown has officially begun!



We were pleased to welcome visitors from Pele Trust into school this week. They spent time with me and shared, yet again, such encouraging feedback about the culture, warmth and atmosphere they feel the moment they walk through our doors. This is something we should all be extremely proud of. Shilbottle truly has that special small-school feel where every child is known, valued and supported, so it's wonderful to see visitors pick up on that straight away.

Behind the scenes, our brilliant PTA are working hard to prepare for this year's Christmas Fair, so please do keep an eye on updates as plans come together. We're really grateful for everything they do for the school so please get behind them and the school and give your full support.

We are also looking forward to hosting our Open Morning on Monday for new prospective parents, after having to postpone last week due to snow. The flyer is available on ClassDojo - please do share it on your social media if you're able.

We currently have around 71 children on roll and we are really keen to grow that number. We have such a wonderful building, fantastic outdoor space and a passionate staff team - we know Shilbottle is a brilliant school and we're committed to making it even better in the months and years ahead. Your support in helping us share what makes Shilbottle such a special place genuinely makes a difference. This is a brilliant community, a brilliant school and we want as many people as possible to know that - why would you not want your child to come here?

Finally, a big well done to our Celebration Assembly and Hot Chocolate winners this week - a lovely treat for children who always give their very best.

I hope you have a great weekend and if your decorations are not already up, hopefully this weekend you could make a start on them because it's beginning to look like Christmas!

See you 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**.



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**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 19% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

**ONLINE GROOMING THREATS**

Predators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. This may quickly develop into grooming or exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2023, UK police and other law enforcement agencies reported online grooming offences – an 82% increase in just five years.

**EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**

Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while interacting with others online, such as on YouTube, Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 45% of children aged 8 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or upset.

**PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS**

Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 15-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they'd only spoken to online.

**COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY**

Meeting an online 'friend' in real life puts a child in serious danger. Firm education to educators, the consequences can be devastating. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for stringent intervention.

**PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS**

Online harm – such as cyberbullying, grooming or exposure to disturbing content – can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. 'Sextortion' gangs, who threaten to release sexual information about a person unless they pay them money, have reportedly targeted children as young as 11. Having their reputations and autonomy.

**LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS**

Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent, or self-worth. In a recent case, a 28-year-old posed as a girl on Snapchat to befriend children aged 10 to 16, manipulating them into sexual interactions, causing profound emotional damage. One 13-year-old girl recently died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological impact online friendships with strangers can cause.

**Advice for Parents & Educators**

**TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS**

Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning. Use positive tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share – and whom they're telling to.

**KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN**

Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from opening up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to discuss problems before they escalate.

**ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS**

Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.

**USE PARENTAL CONTROLS**

Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.

## 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 93.9%. Our Whole School Target is 96%



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Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
<b>Mrs Blackhall</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>92.56%</b>
<b>Mrs Kelly</b>	<b>98.5%</b>	<b>95.3%</b>
<b>Mr Phillips</b>	<b>96.1%</b>	<b>94%</b>

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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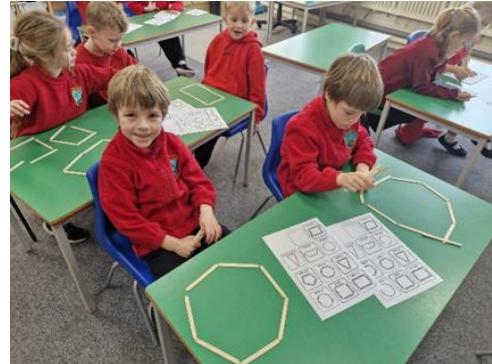
## Classroom updates - Bluebell Class

We've had a very hands-on week in Bluebell class, with lots of practical learning taking place, particularly in maths.

Our Key Stage 1 children have been identifying 2-D and 3-D shapes. The children practised counting sides and vertices to help classify different shapes, and used lollipop sticks to build their own. This practical exploration really supported their understanding of the differences between regular and irregular shapes.

Our Reception children have been exploring the idea of "one more" and "one less" within 5. Bluebell class certainly has some enthusiastic singers, so we enjoyed reinforcing this learning through rhyming songs such as *Five Little Speckled Frogs* and *Five Currant Buns*. The children took turns exchanging pennies for currant buns and checking how many were left in the shop. Great fun and great maths practice!

In Key Stage 1 Geography, the children have been comparing Shilbottle to Newcastle. This week, they focused on the types of buildings and houses found in each location, confidently sorting examples into rural and urban categories. Our Reception children were eager to join in too, with many able to recognise famous Newcastle buildings and landmarks. The Centre for Life was especially popular!



Our Nativity readers have lines in their bags to practice at home this weekend. Any support with this would be very much appreciated.

Have a lovely weekend.

**Mrs Blackhall**



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## Classroom updates - Poppy Class

The first signs of Christmas have appeared in school, adding to the ever growing excitement. However, we continue to work hard in Poppy class. In Maths, we carried on working on our multiplication facts, with a focus on the 3, 6 and 9 times tables. In English, we continued reading *Pugs of the Frozen North*. We listened to a chapter of the story, used our imaginations and visualised what we heard. We then drew the scenes, annotating them with descriptive phrases. We had some fantastic pictures, which we added to our walking wall to help with our writing.

In PSHE, we explored different types of families and discussed how to identify and describe a range of relationships. We thought about the elements of a healthy, loving relationship; the children asked thoughtful questions and took part in mature discussions throughout. We continued our topic on settlements in Geography, where we compared villages, towns and cities, exploring the features they share and what makes them different.



In French, we looked at colours and practised our pronunciation through songs and class discussions, which reinforced our vocabulary in a fun and engaging way. PE took place indoors this week due to the weather, where we played partner direction games with NUFC and enjoyed a lively game of benchball, focusing on tactics to deter the opposition whilst avoiding the large Santa and Christmas tree in the corner of the hall!

We made Christmas tree decorations for the village tree and with our carol concert drawing nearer, we have been practising our songs with lots of enthusiasm and festive spirit.

Have a great weekend

**Mrs Kelly**



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## Classroom Updates - Clover Class

Another week has flown by, leaving us all wondering: how on Earth do we fit it all in? It has been a busy one in Clover Class, packed with fierce arguments, artistic masterpieces, and yes... biscuits!

We finally put pen to paper this week to write our discussion texts on the Kielder Dam. This topic has truly sparked the children's imaginations! We focused heavily on balancing the cost to local wildlife against the water needs of the human population. The children navigated these difficult arguments brilliantly, and their passion for the subject really shone through in their writing.

On Tuesday, excitement peaked when Mr. Phillips arrived bearing gifts: biscuits! However, we soon realized this was serious geography. We used the biscuits to understand the difference between Weathering (breaking the rock/biscuit) and Erosion (transporting the crumbs). We even saw wind erosion in action thanks to Joey T blowing crumbs across the table!

**Official Statement:** We can neither confirm nor deny whether any scientific equipment (biscuits) was eaten during this experiment.



On Wednesday, we headed to Willowburn Leisure Centre. Mr. Phillips joined us this week and was incredibly impressed with the high standard of swimming in Clover Class. Everyone gave 100% effort!



We donned our detective hats this week to use our new superpower: **Etymology**. We discovered that by looking at the Greek roots of words, we can crack their meanings (and their spellings!). For

example, we learned that 'Geo' relates to Earth, and 'Ology' means 'the study of'. Put them together? Geology! It's a fantastic tool for building vocabulary.



With Mrs. Slack sharing her talents with the younger years, we welcomed a "Guest Artist" (Mr. Phillips) to help us finish our abstract portraits. We learned that the secret to watercolours is—you guessed it—controlling the water.

Finally, despite being tired by Friday, we squeezed in some Space Science. We explored the difference between Geocentric and Heliocentric theories.

**Word of the Week: ENTHUSIASM** *Meaning: Energetic interest and enjoyment.*

- **En** (Greek) = Inside / Within
- **Theos** (Greek) = God / Spirit

Historically, it means to have a "**spirit within**" you. The children certainly had plenty of spirit this week!



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**Mr Phillips**

## **Dates for your Diary**

*Events could be subject to change and will be communicated if required*



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Date	Time	
<b>Wednesday 3rd September</b>	<b>12:20</b>	Year 5/6 swimming lesson, last session Tuesday 3rd December
<b>Friday 14th November</b>	<b>All day</b>	Children in Need-non school uniform day wear spots (£1:00 donation)
<b>Monday 1st December</b>	<b>9:00-10:30</b>	Shilbottle Primary's Open Morning
<b>Wednesday 3rd December</b>	<b>Deadline date</b>	Deadline date for the Shoe box appeal.
<b>Friday 5th December</b>	<b>2:00-2.30</b>	Children to decorate the village Christmas Tree & sing carols (opposite village shops)
<b>Saturday 6th December</b>	<b>17.30-19.30</b>	Magical Christmas Evening with Jonny Diggens (see flyer below)
<b>Tuesday 9th December</b>	<b>9:30-10:30</b>	Rehearsal Nativity Performance for Parents with younger siblings
<b>Tuesday 9th December</b>	<b>1.15-2.15</b>	Nativity Performance (Reception, Year 1 & 2) Parent/Carers/Grandparents only
<b>Wednesday 10th December</b>	<b>12 noon</b>	School Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day
<b>Thursday 11th December</b>	<b>5:30-6:30</b>	Carol Service at St James Church
<b>Tuesday 16th December</b>	<b>2:00-3:00</b>	Reception/Y1 & Y2 Christmas Party
<b>Wednesday 17th December</b>	<b>9.30-11.30</b>	Alnwick Playhouse (whole School visit) Christmas Panto
<b>Wednesday 17th December</b>	<b>2:00-3:00</b>	Year 3 & Year 4 Christmas Party
<b>Thursday 18th December</b>	<b>2:00-3:00</b>	Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Party
<b>Friday 19th December</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>	School shuts at 1pm
<b>Monday 5th January 2026</b>	<b>8:40</b>	School will resume after Christmas holidays



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



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Shilbottle Primary Parents Association  
Presents:

A Magical Christmas  
Evening with  
Saxophonist

# Jonny 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](mailto:katewilliams00@hotmail.com)

Shilbottle Community Hall NE66 2XH

Entry: voluntary contribution to Shilbottle Primary

Saturday 6th December  
17:30-19:30