



Shilbottle Primary School

Friday Flyer

6th February 2026

Headteachers Update

It's been another happy and productive week in school, with lots of great learning taking place and children continuing to show positive attitudes in their work and around school. It's always a pleasure to see the effort they put into their learning and the way they support one another each day.

In assembly this week, we introduced Children's Mental Health Week, which takes place next week. We've been talking with the children about how everyone experiences a range of feelings and that it's completely normal not to feel okay all the time. We discussed who they can talk to, how we help in school and the small strategies that can make a big difference when emotions feel overwhelming.



The children have also been revisiting our Zones of Regulation approach. This uses four different colours to help children identify their emotions, understand what might be causing them and think about what could help them regulate those feelings. It's a really useful tool and something you might like to ask your child about at home.

We were delighted to welcome the Open the Book assembly this week and the amazing Christingle Service in which the children were so sensible, holding their creations with the candles lit on the top. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part. It's wonderful to see their confidence grow and to watch them engage so enthusiastically.

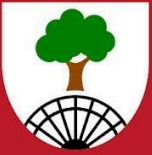
We finished the week, as always, with our celebration assembly and hot chocolate treat. Well done to all of our award winners - we love recognising the many achievements, big and small, that happen every week.

Looking ahead, a reminder that Year 6 will be completing their mock SATs next week. We will be creating a test environment similar to the one they will experience in May, helping them feel prepared and confident. We know they will approach this with the same maturity and determination they show every day.

Finally, Parents' Evening takes place next Tuesday and Wednesday. Please ensure you have booked your appointment with your child's class teacher if you have not already done so.

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to another great week ahead.

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 SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- "CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS**
A message arrives saying "have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.
- SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS**
Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something - such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show - at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.
- YOU'RE A WINNER!**
This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and so on. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution - if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes - all of which are false or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Warning the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts - whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid feeling out of it or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult - especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).



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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 94.2%. Our Whole School Target is 96%

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Mrs Blackhall	90.8%	93.0%
Mrs Kelly	89.7%	95.1%
Mr Phillips	92.9%	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 might have been dreary and grey outside lately, but our children have been bringing lots of colour to classroom learning. Our Red Ditty readers have been making good progress with sounding out and blending over the last few weeks. Working in pairs, the children have been taking turns to sound out and read words in sentences. The children have used a lollipop stick to support their tracking of words and pinpointing of sounds.



In maths, we have explored odd and even numbers, using a giant 10-frame and our children as giant counters to help them identify pairs. Key Stage 1 children have started a new unit on Multiplication and Division. Their first objective has been to refresh their

knowledge of the 2, 5 and 10 times tables, so this will also be a focus in homework over the coming weeks.

Our EYFS children have enjoyed the book Rosie's Walk so much that they have continued their exploration of it this week. The children were particularly interested in Rosie's hen house, so our learning took us in the direction of designing and building model hen houses. The children have worked in teams to carefully select materials and construct their models together.

Our Key Stage 1 children have been exploring past tense verbs, expanded noun phrases and conjunctions this week. They will soon take the boy and the penguin (characters from 'Lost and Found') on a brand new adventure through The Amazon rainforest. We can't wait to see what the children come up with in their own stories next week



On Wednesday, the children enjoyed making Christingles with Mrs Angier in preparation for a small lighting service in our school hall. Thank you very much to the friends of St James' for a lovely afternoon of learning and making.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Mrs Blackhall



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Classroom updates - Poppy Class

This week, we have worked hard and learned lots, but we have also had plenty of fun along the way.

In Maths, we have found division with remainders particularly challenging and have recognised just how essential a secure knowledge of times tables is across many areas of Maths. We have now moved on to our new topic of length and perimeter, which we will be exploring over the next few weeks. In English, we have been learning about heroes and monsters in myth writing, using *Beowulf* as our focus text. We finished the first story, which was quite bloodthirsty and gory and discussed how these elements are used to engage the reader. We are starting to plan our own myth stories and are excited to apply what we've learned to create our own original tales.

In History, we have drawn our learning about the Vikings to a close by examining evidence that shows they were present in Northumbria, including discovering that place names reflect Viking influence. It has also been another very active week. The children are making great progress in swimming, and we have also enjoyed circuits and cricket with Tom. Our PE lessons can become very competitive at times when faced with team games!

On Wednesday afternoon, the children enjoyed making Christingles with members of the church, followed by a Christingle assembly where we lit our candles and spent time reflecting and praying.

In Science, we learned about fossils and where they come from. Fossils are formed when plants or animals are buried over time and slowly turn into rock. We even had the opportunity to study some real-life examples.. In Computing, we have been learning about digital devices and how they work.

I look forward to catching up with everyone next week for parents' evening. Have a lovely weekend — just one more week to go!



Mrs Kelly



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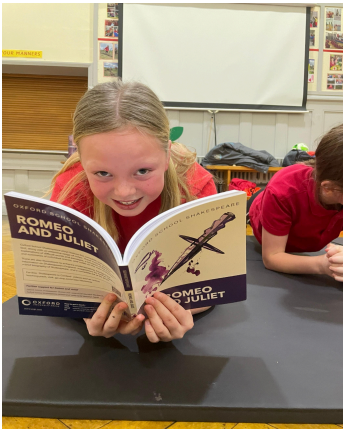
Classroom Updates - Clover Class



It's fair to say we're all getting a bit tired of the dismal weather, wet winds, and dark mornings. However, while the sky remains grey, Clover Class continues to be the brightest spot in the school. Their energy is a constant reminder of why Shilbottle Primary is such a vibrant place to be!

Usually, I'd dive straight into our lesson objectives, but this week some special observations deserve the spotlight. It has been brilliant watching the class welcome our new boy, Zac. By sharing playtimes and meal times so inclusively, they are truly living our mission to *'Have Fun, Be Respectful, and Create Friendships.'* Even more impressive? I've had reports of several pupils staying behind to help Sid (our caretaker) clean the hall and

assisting Katelyn in the kitchen. Way to go, Clover Class—that kind of community spirit is exactly what we're about!



In the classroom, our journey with William Shakespeare has come to a close. I have been immensely impressed by how the children analysed and critiqued "the greatest love story ever told" even though it is a tragedy! From drama to Maths, we have ventured into the tricky world of dividing fractions by integers. As usual, the class attacked it with total positivity!

In History, the Stuarts dominated our week as we explored the vital role Northumberland played in the English Civil War. It's always fascinating to see how our local area fits into the big moments of British history.

We have been learning to play a class favourite (Vance Joy's Riptide) on the ukulele in music and we must say a huge thank you to Mr Wilkie, who stepped in for a superb PSHE lesson exploring why we are all unique and valuable. We also spent time with the awesome Reverend Anne for Christingle; we always love having her in class.

Finally, as we marked Children's Mental Health Week, we noticed a lovely coincidence: the daffodils we planted two years ago for this very cause are just starting to poke through the soil. They serve as a perfect, living reminder to keep taking care of our mental health as we head toward Spring.

Another fantastic week—well done to everyone!

Mr Phillips





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Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
7/1/2026-11/2/2026		Year 3 & 4 Swimming (every Wednesday)
Monday 9th February		Mock SATs Week - Y6
Tuesday 10th February	15.00-17.20	Parents Evening
Wednesday 11th February	15.00-17.20	Parents Evening
Friday 13th February 2026	15.20	School closes for the holidays
Friday 1st May 2026		Shilbottle School 100-Year Celebrations



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



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Chinese New Year

Thursday 12th February

Chinese Chicken Curry, Rice
& Peas

Prawn Crackers

Fortune Cookie

Caramel Sponge Cake

Fresh Fruit