



# Shilbottle Primary School Friday Flyer

**5 June 2026**

## Headteachers Update

Welcome back to everyone after what I hope was a lovely half-term break. It has been great to see the children return to school this week, quickly settling back into routines and getting stuck into their learning once again.

This time of year is always busy with assessments. Our Year 4 pupils have been working hard in preparation for their Multiplication Tables Check, which takes place next week, while our Year 1 children are getting ready for their Phonics Screening Check. As always, I have no doubt they will give their very best and keep smiling throughout. We are incredibly proud of their effort, determination and positive attitudes.



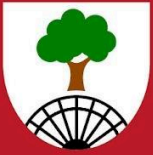
This week, we were fortunate to welcome Gill Smith, former England cricket international and World Cup-winning captain. The children loved seeing her England Cap and gold medal and hearing about her experiences representing her country. Despite the weather keeping us off the field, Gill still found time for a game of cricket on the yard. We are delighted that she hopes to return in July following the Women's Cricket World Cup. A huge thank you to Gill for spending time with us.

Today, Clover Class visited Woodhorn Museum as part of our 100-year celebrations and took part in a special workshop. This morning, we also welcomed local author Martin Lee, who shared his enthusiasm for reading and writing with the children. His books are linked to rural locations in the North East such as Lambley the last lamb and Embleton the curious cat. If you are interested in purchasing one of his books, please refer to the information sent home or contact the school office.

We finished the week with our Celebration Assembly and Hot Chocolate Friday, recognising the many achievements and successes of our children.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend and 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 SHOPPING PLATFORMS

For people looking to make purchases on their phones, several shopping apps – such as Temu – allow users to buy goods at reduced prices. Others, like Vinted and Depop, let you sell items you no longer want. As internet shopping continues to grow, however, so does the risk of scammers, hackers and breaches of privacy.

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- MISSING ITEMS**  
Users of Vinted, Depop and Temu have reported not receiving their products despite payment being taken. Users can initially contact the seller to query a missing item, and they have between two and five days (depending on the app) to let the company what has happened. However, once the money has reached the supplier, 'seller' it can be quite difficult to get back.
- SCAMMERS AND PHISHING**  
Scammers are always on the lookout for unsuspecting buyers or sellers. Common tactics include a pending shipment of an item once the payment has been processed or asking the consumer the other end payment outside of the app, who the victim is no longer protected by the buyer protection plan. This is risky, naturally, for eventual or at all costs.
- DATA MISUSE**  
Apps of all kinds frequently collect our data, often asking for more information than is necessary to set up an account. Data gathered in this way is then usually sold on to third parties for marketing purposes. Sadly, certain apps have been used in countries for using your name to track their members' activities – but all too often, the user's consent to this practice has been hidden away in the terms and conditions.
- FAKES OR REPLICAS**  
It's certainly not unheard of for poor-quality products to be heavily marketed on luxury items. Using misleading pictures or clever wording. These distinguishable sales are sometimes outed by suspiciously low price tags, but this isn't always the case. For children and young people especially, there's a risk that the promise of buying a high-end item for a fraction of its usual price will sustain any suspicions they may have.
- SLOW REFUNDS**  
While all apps offer a refund if the product is damaged or doesn't match the description, it can take up to a month to be compensated for this. For many people (especially during a cost-of-living crisis), that can be a long time to be without both the product you bought and the hard-earned cash you spent on it.
- MISLEADING DESCRIPTION**  
Some people will be able to notice when, say, a product's photo and its description don't seem to match. The seller's review means of picking up on misleading marketing, however – especially for children and young people, many of whom may not yet realise that such practices even exist. While it's illegal for advertisers to hide and sell countries, plenty of shady traders use clever wording and omissions to get around this.

#### Advice for Parents & Educators

- ALWAYS STAY ON THE APP**  
It's vital that users pay for any goods through the same app on which they found them, to ensure they are covered by buyer protection. This means users can access support if the item arrives damaged, isn't as described, or doesn't arrive at all – allowing them to seek compensation for the loss, such as options can't protect you, however, if you didn't do the deal through the app in question.
- CHECK REVIEWS**  
Take time to read the reviews and comments left by other users – not just of products, but of sellers and buyers, to ensure they're legitimate and reliable. Before buying an item online, check the reviews for comments about the product's quality, the seller's communication and the delivery time. If you're selling, check the reviews of your buyer for red flags such as frequent requests for refunds or claims of 'missing' items.
- BE WARY OF PHISHING ATTEMPTS**  
Scammers frequently send messages within these apps to steal personal and financial information from other users. Don't respond to these messages – and under no circumstances should you follow any links they contain. Check for spelling errors, as well as inspecting the name of the sender. Report any suspected phishing attempts to the app's help centre – and notify your bank if you think your financial information has been compromised.
- KEEP SAFE AS A SELLER**  
Sellers can be exploited just as much as buyers. Some users may purchase an item, for example, then pretend it doesn't live to receive a refund. Always take photos of the shipping label, along with a picture of you posting the item. Send the package's tracking number to the buyer and keep a copy for yourself, letting you investigate any future claims that it never arrived. When taking photos of items you're selling, ensure nothing personal is in the background.



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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 94.8%. Our Whole School Target is 96%**

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Mrs Blackhall	98.9%	94.3%
Mrs Kelly	99.4%	95.1%
Mr Phillips	79.8%	94.8%

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.



# Shilbottle Primary School Friday Flyer

## Classroom updates - Bluebell Class

Welcome back! We are incredibly proud of how quickly Bluebell class has settled back into our daily routines this week. Because they didn't miss a beat, we've been able to hit the ground running with our final topics of the academic year. Here is a look at what we've been up to!

In maths, Reception children rounded off their shape unit by exploring how smaller shapes can compose larger ones. They then pooled their talents to create a massive, collaborative 2D shape artwork. (*Parents, is anyone old enough to remember the TV show Art Attack? Think of this as our own 'Big Art Attack' project*)

Our older children have been busy slicing and dicing quantities, finding halves, quarters, and thirds of different shapes and amounts. Next week, we will be stepping things up by matching equivalent fractions.

In *Drawing Club*, Reception shared the beautiful story *The Bear and the Piano*. To finish the week, the children used their imaginations to write about an animal they'd love to see playing an instrument. We had some fantastic independent writing shine through. Highlights included drumming rabbits, a capybara shaking maracas, and rockstar turtles playing guitars!

Key Stage 1 put the finishing touches on their gorgeous sunflower poetry unit. They took on the challenge of using conjunctions like *because, if, when, while, and as* to stretch their ideas and add detail to their verses.

We have officially launched our new Plants topic in science! Reception got their hands dirty straight away, planting their very own basil and parsley seeds into individual pots. We also have a tray of cress seeds tucked into a sunny spot in the classroom to observe. Our ultimate goal is to plant, germinate, and care for flowers that the children can bring home at the end of the summer term. We can't wait to watch our seeds spring to life over the coming weeks!

Our focus in PSHE this week was all about unity and the idea that "We are stronger together." We talked about how important it is to look after one another in Bluebell class, and how if even one person were missing, our puzzle wouldn't be whole.

To celebrate everyone's unique strengths, the children picked a classmate's name at random. They were asked to draw that person and describe one of their wonderful qualities. We then gathered to share the kind words and present the portraits to each other. It was a wholesome, uplifting lesson and a lovely way to bring us all



back together after the half-term break.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

**Mrs Blackhall**





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## Classroom updates - Poppy Class

We have come back to school after the half-term break refreshed and ready for what promises to be another busy few weeks. The Year 4 children have continued to practise hard for their Multiplication Tables Check, which takes place next week. Please feel free to fire random multiplication facts at them at home, especially from the 7, 8 and 9 times tables! Their confidence and speed have improved tremendously, and we are very proud of the effort they have put in. In Maths, we have continued our work on decimals, focusing on understanding hundredths as both fractions and decimals. The children have been making links between fractions, decimals and place value, helping them to deepen their mathematical understanding.

In English, we have explored the structure of campaign speeches and the different persuasive techniques used to convince an audience. We identified effective arguments, persuasive language and rhetorical devices before planning our own speeches. Next week, the children will write and present their speeches to their classmates as well as starting our new book "The day I fell into a fairytale".

Our work in Geography saw us begin an exciting new topic comparing our local area with Southern Europe. This week, we focused on Italy, learning about its location in Europe and the countries that surround it. Using digital maps, we investigated possible routes to Italy and calculated the distance we would need to travel from Northumberland.

We had a lovely afternoon when Gill Smith, a former England women's cricketer, visited us. She spoke about her successful cricketing career and shared some of her experiences representing her country. The children then enjoyed a game of kwik cricket, where Gill even bowled to them. They asked some thoughtful and interesting questions and represented the school brilliantly throughout the visit.

In Art, we spent time evaluating our monochromatic artwork, reflecting on the techniques we had used and considering what had gone well and how we could improve our work in the future. We also enjoyed our PE sessions with Emra and Mr Wilkie.

Have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing everyone next week. **Mrs Kelly**



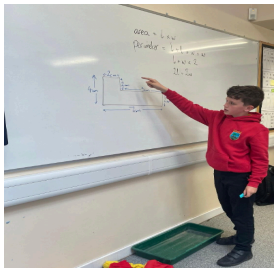


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## Classroom updates - Clover Class

An interesting return to school and start to the last half-term before the summer break.

With SATs complete, there was a refreshed and calm air around the Clover class room as children returned after a well-earned break. We started our week by turning our focus to the Year 6 Leavers' Assembly and children retold some of their favourite stories from the past seven years as we looked to write our script and add some top tunes that children remember singing along to in different year groups.



There was a slight coup in Maths as Jaxon and Clayton took over the teaching of finding the area of rectilinear shapes - it is quite tricky, but they did a great job and made it a whole lot more clearer for their classmates. Well done boys!

On Wednesday, Mr Phillips disappeared to London and left Clover Class in the capable hands of Mrs Slack. We also had a special visitor visit the school and give a talk to the class about her sporting success. Gill Smith is an ex-Yorkshire and England cricketer, who played a starring role in England's 1993 Cricket World Cup success and we feel honoured that she took some time to come and speak to us and share some of her memorabilia and medals. We all had a great time.



Thursday still saw no sign of Mr Phillips (he was on his way back from London), so Mrs Slack was in charge again and we looked to develop our art from last half-term by applying our new skills to painting local landscapes.

Safely back from London, Mr Phillips joined Mrs Slack and took Clover Class to Woodhorn Colliery for our school trip. We had a great time checking out the history of mining in Northumberland, which related nicely to the school's 100 years celebration. There were even pictures of Shilbottle when the mines were open, which enabled us to reflect on how much the village has changed. We also visited the Pitman Painter Gallery, which enabled us to imagine what life in Shilbottle village would have been like over 50 years ago - who knows, we may even incorporate some of that into our art project.

Another busy week and a lot more to cram in before the summer holidays. (Mr P has said that the Year 6 children are in for an absolute treat when they go to London and can't wait to go at the end of June!)

**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)
Friday 5th June	9.15 - 3.00	Y5 & Y6 Woodhorn Colliery visit - Local History Study
Tuesday 16th June	1.00 - 3.00	Sports Day (weather permitting)
Monday 29th June	9.20 - 12.00	Y6 Multi Sports Festival
Friday 17th July	1pm	School closes for the Summer holidays



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

**Freya - Bluebell Class**



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## **School Safety Notice: Please Slow Down**

The traffic warden has raised serious concerns regarding the speed at which parents are driving down the school road.

Please remember:

- **Check Your Speed:** There are **20 mph** signs posted throughout the village.
- **Stay Vigilant:** Children can be unpredictable; driving at or below the limit gives you the vital reaction time needed to stop safely.
- **Be Courteous:** Let's keep our community safe and set a good example for the kids.

**Bottom line:** Please reduce your speed. A few saved seconds are not worth a child's safety. Thank you for your cooperation!