



Shilbottle Primary School

Friday Flyer

11 September 2026

Executive Headteacher Update

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a cracking summer and enjoyed plenty of time with family and friends. It has been lovely catching up with some of the children and hearing all about what they have been getting up to over the six weeks and I hope everyone is now feeling excited, refreshed and ready for the new academic year ahead.

We could not be any more proud of our children and the way they have returned to school over the last two weeks. They have come back ready, focused and willing to get on with it, showing exactly the positive attitudes and hard work that we have come to expect from the children at Shilbottle. A huge well done to every one of you for such a fantastic start, especially our new Reception cohort who have been nothing short of amazing – keep it going!

Our Reception children have also been busy completing their baseline assessments. There are just five assessments still to complete, which we expect to have finished by the end of Friday. They really have made a fantastic start to school life and it has been lovely to see them settling into their new routines.

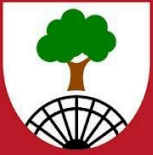
We also had our school photographs on Monday and they were absolutely lovely. It was great to hear such positive feedback from our parents too, who were really impressed with the photographs.

This year, we will continue with our Friday Celebration Assemblies, giving us the opportunity to recognise and celebrate the fantastic things our children achieve each week. A huge congratulations to all of today's Outstanding Achievement Award winners and in particular to our Hot Chocolate Award winners. It was fantastic to start the year by celebrating the wonderful things our children are already doing and we look forward to many more celebrations throughout the year.

Our ClassDojo is also back up and running, so please remember, just as you did last year, that this is a great way to send your child's teacher a quick message or pass on a small piece of information. If you have something a little longer to discuss or there is a potential concern, please contact us through the school admin email address and we will make sure your message reaches the appropriate member of staff.

It really has been a brilliant start to the new school year and we are delighted to see the children back, settled and ready to learn. Thank you to all of our families for helping to make that return such a positive one. Have a fabulous weekend, everyone. Enjoy some well-earned family time, and we look forward to seeing you all again on Monday, raring to go! Have a fantastic weekend!

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**.

Top Tips for SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S RETURN TO ROUTINE

Returning to school after the holidays can be challenging for some children and young people, and both families and education settings can play an important role in helping them readjust. Consistent routines, clear expectations, and supportive communication can support children and young people's wellbeing, self-regulation, and academic success. These practical tips can help make the transition back to school feel more manageable.

1 START EARLY

Gradually reintroduce school-day sleep, meal, and wake-up routines a round a week before term begins. In education settings, familiar routines and expectations can also be introduced from the start of term to help pupils settle back in. A gradual and predictable approach can make the transition feel less abrupt and give children and young people the time they need to readjust to the structure of school life.

2 REBUILD ROUTINES TOGETHER

Involve the children and young people in your care in the rebuilding of familiar routines at home and in education settings. Having a say in their daily schedule can increase predictability for them and give them a greater sense of control. This might include discussing evening routines at home or reviewing classroom timetables, expectations, and activities together at the beginning of the school day.

3 ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBILITY

Giving children and young people age-appropriate responsibilities can help foster their autonomy and engagement. For younger children at home, this might include getting dressed independently or checking their school bag. In education settings, children and young people could organise their learning materials, complete simple classroom tasks, or follow a familiar morning routine. These manageable responsibilities can help them feel more involved in the school day while developing useful skills.

4 RECONNECT WITH PEERS

Re-establishing friendships can help children and young people feel more confident and connected when they return to school. Families might arrange opportunities for their children to spend time with school friends, while educators can use group activities, buddy systems, or collaborative tasks to help rebuild classroom connections.

5 SUPPORT HEALTHY NUTRITION

Regular, balanced meals, particularly at breakfast, are linked to improved concentration, behaviour, and academic outcomes. Families can gradually return to familiar school-day meal times, while education settings can reinforce healthy eating routines at the start of term and signpost breakfast provision where available. Consistent access to food can help support children and young people's energy levels and concentration throughout the day.

6 COMMUNICATE OPENLY

Talk to the children and young people in your care about how they feel about the return to school and give them the opportunity to share any worries or questions. A safety net of going back to school, particularly when starting a new year group, can be overwhelming for children and young people. Parents and educators can all help with this by listening calmly to concerns and questions, and sharing relevant information with one another where appropriate.

7 RECONNECT WITH LEARNING AND PEERS

Light educational activities before term begins can help children become familiar with learning routines again without creating any unnecessary pressure on them. In school, low-pressure recap activities and familiar tasks from the previous year group can serve a similar purpose during the first few days back. Keeping learning positive and achievable can help rebuild children's concentration, confidence, and academic motivation as they settle back into their usual routine.

8 PRIORITISE SLEEP

To ensure the children and young people in your care get age-appropriate sleep and begin returning to their usual bedtime habits before term starts, reducing screen use before bedtime may also support better sleep quality. Bedtime can also be initial that tiredness may temporarily affect children's concentration, behaviour, and emotional regulation as they readjust to school routines.

9 PREPARE AHEAD

Organising uniforms, bags, lunches, and other school essentials in advance can reduce unnecessary stress when school mornings begin again. Educators can also help by preparing pupils for any changes to classrooms, timetables, staff, or behaviour expectations. Giving children clear information about what to expect ahead of time can make the return feel more familiar and help build up their confidence and independence.

10 BE PATIENT AND FLEXIBLE

Children adjust to changes in their routines at different rates, so your patience and flexibility can be important during the first days and weeks back. Some may settle quickly, while others may longer to adjust to earlier mornings, classroom expectations, or busy schedules. Parents and educators can support children and young people's readjustment by maintaining consistent routines, all the while recognising that concentration, behaviour, or confidence may temporarily look different for them.



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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.

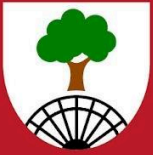
Current Whole School attendance is 97.4%. Our Whole School Target is 96%

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Mrs Blackhall	98.7%	96.2%
Mrs Kelly	97.6%	97.3%
Mr Phillips	98.8%	98.7%

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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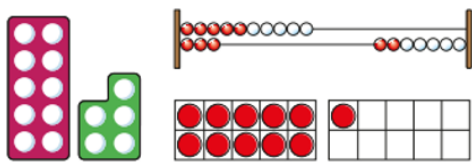
Classroom updates - Bluebell Class

Our first full week back in school has been a busy and rewarding one, particularly for our youngest learners. We have been gradually introducing our newest class members to school rules and routines, and they have taken everything on board with wonderful positivity and resilience. They are already developing fantastic habits, independently organizing their belongings, and arriving ready for the day ahead.



In Phonics, our Reception children have made a strong start with their first five single-letter sounds, wowing us with their enthusiasm and recall. Year 1 has begun phonics sessions with Miss Hedley, impressing her with their positive attitude toward Set 2 sounds, while Year 2 continues to show great maturity working on their blue books with Mr Wilkie. A huge thank you to parents for supporting reading and homework at home. Your involvement makes a significant impact on your child's progress at every stage.

Mathematics has been hands-on! Reception children have worked hard on pairing, sorting, and grouping, exploring rules like sorting farm animals by their legs, and even categorizing their own shoes into "shiny" and "non-shiny." Meanwhile, Year 1 has been unpacking the composition of numbers up to 20 using ten frames, bead strings, and Numicon to understand 10s and 1s.



In English, Year 1 is diving into historical toys, practicing simple adjectives to describe how vintage items look, feel, and sound. They have approached their new work with a brilliant have-a-go attitude and they have enjoyed learning about toys from different eras.

Beyond academic learning, we've focused on getting to know the children deeper: exploring what makes us unique in PSHE and crafting vibrant bubble-wrap art prints for an upcoming photo project.

It has been a brilliant start all around. Your children will likely be tired after their first full week, so I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved, restful weekend! 😊

Mrs Blackhall





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Classroom updates - Poppy Class

It has been a lovely first week back in Poppy Class and the children have settled in really well. Our Year 4 children have risen to the challenge of being the oldest pupils in our class and have done a fantastic job of welcoming our new class members and showing them the ropes. Everyone has enjoyed their first full week, and it has been lovely to get back into our routines.

In Maths, we have been revisiting place value, looking at numbers up to 10,000 and practising partitioning numbers. We have also started working on our rapid recall of times tables. Our Year 2 children have enjoyed lots of practical Maths activities with the Year 1s, while Mrs Blackhall has been exploring place value through fun, hands-on activities.

We have started reading our new book, *Anglo-Saxon Boy*, which links with our History topic. We have been getting to know Magnus, one of the main characters, and have explored his appearance and personality. We will use what we have discovered to help us write a character description. We have also started learning about the Anglo-Saxons in History. We discovered that they were invaders and settlers who came to Britain from areas including Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands.



In Science, we have started learning about grouping and classifying animals. We worked together to sort animals into groups of our own and discussed the characteristics that helped us decide where they belonged.

We have started exploring patterns in Art, looking at how they can be created by repeating shapes, lines and colours. We have begun experimenting with creating our own designs.

A special thank you to our fantastic Year 4s in Computing this week! They have been brilliant at helping our younger children log on and access Scratch. They have shown great patience and kindness and have been wonderful role models.



The children have worked hard, supported one another and shown a really positive attitude to their learning. We are especially proud of our Year 4s for the way they have embraced their new responsibilities. I hope you all have a wonderful weekend and we look forward to another fun-filled week.

Mrs Kelly



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Classroom updates - Clover Class

Chapter 1: The Fresh Crew, The Charter, and The Millions!

The summer of 2026 was, by all accounts, a resounding success. The weather behaved itself, the time to recharge was deeply appreciated, and excellent holiday adventures were had by all.

However, as the calendar turned to September, basecamp underwent a major roster shift. We said a fond farewell to our graduates and officially welcomed a dynamic new cohort into Clover Class—the former Year 4s and what a crew they are proving to be!

The Two Unbreakable Rules

Before we cracked open a single textbook, we sat down to figure out who we want to be this year. I have only ever asked two simple things from the children in my class: Hard Work and Effort. If they can bring those two ingredients to the table every day, I guarantee we will have plenty of fun along the way. To hold ourselves accountable, the class drafted and signed their very own Clover Class Charter. This year, we pledge to: Work Hard; Give Things a Go; Learn from Our Mistakes; Respect Ourselves and Each Other; and Help Make Learning Fun.



Street Children, Victorian Chimneys & The Millions!

Hitting the ground running on a Monday morning after six weeks of freedom is always a monumental task, but this class showed immediate grit.

In **English**, we launched into our fantastic new class novel, Berlie Doherty's *Street Child*. This ties directly into our new History focus, where we are stepping back in time to investigate the dramatic changes of the Victorian era.

In **Mathematics**, we proved that high-level place value can actually be entertaining. Using fast-paced "Maths Carousels," the children worked collaboratively to recall their foundational numbers and push their understanding all the way up into the Millions!

Swimming, Sprinters & NUFC

The big highlight of the week, however, was our return to the Alnwick Sports Arena for our weekly swimming lessons. It was brilliant to catch up with Melvyn at the poolside and get straight back into the water. Coupled with the return of our friends from NUFC for some high-energy P.E. sessions, the children have certainly burned off any leftover summer holiday energy!

All in all, it has been a stellar opening chapter. We are all thoroughly excited to see just how far this talented group can go this year. Have a wonderful, restful weekend—see you for **Chapter 2!**



 **Mr Phillips**



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Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Thursday 15th October TBC	1:30-3:30 TBC	Harvest Festival
Tuesday 8th December	10am show	Whole School - Aladdin Christmas Panto - Tyne Theatre
Wednesday 9th December TBC	Carol Concert TBC	Details to follow
Tuesday 15th December	12:00-1:00	Christmas Dinner
Friday 18th December	1pm	School closes for the Christmas holidays (no after school club)



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL THOSE
CELEBRATING THIS WEEK**

Reggie R - Poppy Class



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Big congratulations to our amazing school cook, Katelyn, on her summer wedding! We wish Mrs. Jackson all the best as she begins this exciting new chapter (and thank her for keeping us so well-fed!).

