



Shilbottle Primary School Friday Flyer

14th November 2025

It's been another wonderful week here at Shilbottle and there's a really lovely atmosphere around school at the moment. The children continue to work so hard and you can feel that special excitement beginning to build as we start to move towards December.



We recognised Odd Sock Day this week - a brilliant opportunity to talk about celebrating our individuality and supporting one another's differences. It's always fantastic to see how thoughtful the children are during these discussions, really recognising the importance of kindness, respect and understanding within our school community.

On Tuesday, we took time together as a school to pause for a two-minute silence for Remembrance Day. The children showed great maturity and understanding throughout and it was a calm, respectful and reflective moment. Thank you to the staff for guiding the children so beautifully through what is always a special part of the school year.

Today we've enjoyed supporting Children in Need and once again our families have been incredibly generous. It's been great fun seeing so many spots and bright colours in school and lovely to share in conversations about the real difference that Children in Need makes to others. Thank you for your ongoing support - it's always appreciated.

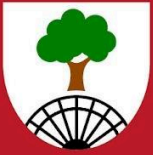
There's also a sense of excitement around school as we begin to think about our Christmas performances. I know Mrs Blackhall and the team have been talking through plans this week and you'll no doubt start to hear more in the coming weeks - including information about costumes and songs your child might be learning. It's such a wonderful time of year and we're really looking forward to sharing it with you.

A polite reminder to please be mindful when parking near school, especially as the darker evenings draw in. Where possible, please use the Community Hall car park and walk up to school, as parking too close to the gates can cause congestion and make it difficult for children to move safely. Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe at drop-off and pick-up times.

Finally, we have had our Celebration Assembly and Hot Chocolate Fridays, which has been a lovely way to round off the week and recognise all the children's hard work and achievements.

Have a fantastic weekend, everyone - see you all 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.**

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY ON THE ROAD

Traffic-related incidents are a significant risk for young pedestrians and cyclists, so understanding road safety is crucial for children's wellbeing. While all road users share responsibility for keeping one another safe, this guide offers strategies for empowering young people to navigate the roads confidently and responsibly.

- 1 TAKE PRACTICE JOURNEYS**
Making 'practice' journeys with children is a great way to help them stay safe, thereby modelling responsible behaviours and having road safety conversations as they prepare to travel independently. Add hazard perception activities like spotting electric vehicles – which may have a green number plate – and point out how quiet they are. Children learn by watching others, reminding them that their peers might not always be the best role models.
- 2 BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN**
Visibility is lower during darker winter days, and drivers need to take extra care to look out for pedestrians. Wearing bright and reflective clothing can help make children more visible to drivers near roads. In poor daylight conditions, encourage children to wear light, bright or fluorescent clothing. When it's dark, wear reflective clothing or materials such as a reflective armband or jacket.
- 3 EYES UP**
Encourage children to look up and keep their eyes on the road. Teach them to constantly watch for traffic and practice double-checking the road before crossing – looking right, left and then right again.
- 4 LIMIT DISTRACTIONS**
Where possible, devices like phones should be kept away from children while out and about near roads. If they're carrying devices, these should be put away until they've reached their destination. Children must also avoid playing with toys or being distracted by friends. If a friend wants to show them something funny on their phone, there'll be time for that once they've safely arrived.
- 5 SLOW DOWN**
Discuss the importance of waiting instead of crossing immediately. It can be tricky to judge the speed of traffic and spot obstacles that could cause a trip or a fall. For safety, children must stop and think before they get to the kerb and should always walk – not run – when crossing the road. They should avoid crossing until they're certain they have plenty of time. Even if traffic seems a long way off, it could still be approaching very quickly.
- 6 STOP BEFORE THE KERB**
Teach children to stop before reaching the kerb – not right at the edge of it, waiting before they get to the kerb allows them to see if anything's coming, whereas getting too close to traffic is dangerous. If there's no pavement, children should stand back from the road's edge but ensure they can still see approaching traffic.
- 7 CROSS SAFELY**
Children should always find a safe spot to cross the road, prioritising zebra crossings or pelican crossings, footbridges and subways. Find a place where they can see traffic coming from both directions. Avoid crossing near junctions, bends in the road, or obstacles that block their view. Instead, moving to somewhere they can see and be seen. Remind them to use their eyes and ears together when checking the road, as sometimes they can hear traffic before they can see it. Looking and listening while crossing helps them quietly spot traffic, including cyclists and motorcyclists driving between other vehicles.
- 8 PARKED VEHICLES**
Crossing between parked vehicles is very dangerous. Teach children to use extra caution if crossing in this way, and, ideally, avoid it altogether. They should use the outside edge of a vehicle as if it were the kerb, waiting and checking for traffic before moving. They should ensure vehicles aren't about to move, by looking for drivers in the vehicles and listening for engines running – but remember that electric vehicles may move off silently. They should always make sure there is a gap between any parked vehicles on the other side, so they can reach the pavement.
- 9 REVERSING VEHICLES**
Children must never cross behind a reversing vehicle – it's extremely dangerous. Remind them to look for white reversing lights and listen out for warning sounds. Can they hear the engine sound or a radio playing inside the vehicle?
- 10 WAIT FOR THE BUS TO LEAVE**
When getting off a bus, children must wait for it to leave before crossing so they can have a clear view of the road in both directions. This also allows them to see and be seen by other road users. Crossing near large vehicles is particularly dangerous and should be avoided.



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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 91.2%. Our Whole School Target is 96%

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Mrs Blackhall	95.6%	91.1%
Mrs Kelly	97.5%	92.4%
Mr Phillips	97.6%	92.4%

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.

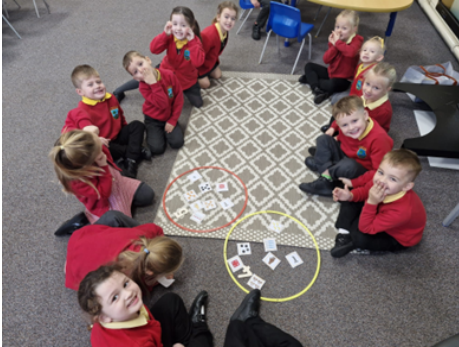
We have a continual focus on attendance and punctuality and this is of the utmost importance in your child's education. Please remember that our school gate closes at 8.45am as this is when our lessons begin. Anyone arriving after this time is classed as late and will miss valuable learning opportunities which take place immediately after registration, such as phonics.



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Classroom updates - Bluebell Class

We've had another busy and vibrant week in Bluebell Class.



In maths, Reception class have rounded off their learning about shapes and have started to revisit numbers 1-5. Yesterday, the children worked as a team to match visuals representing four and five to their respective numerals. In their written work, the children have been writing about baby owls and their nests, after sharing the book, 'Owl Babies'. Additional classroom learning has linked to the story this week. Some children even made worms and nests for the baby owls using playdough!

In Key Stage 1, our maths lessons on place value up to 100 have continued. The children have been finding one more and one less than a given number. Using practical resources to make and build numbers has supported the children in their calculations.

Year 2 completed their first longer piece of writing based on 'Where the Wild Things Are'. They carefully planned their own versions of the story, choosing one or two key details to alter and make their own.

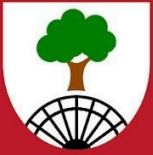


We've noticed some fabulous teamwork across the year groups this week. Our older children have been particularly helpful with the younger children, supporting them in their learning and offering peer support. While we don't always work as one class, it is lovely to know that our KS1 learners are demonstrating brilliant camaraderie when we do collaborative work.



Lastly, but by no means least, we have started to talk about Christmas... Please pencil in 9th December into your calendars and diaries as this is the planned date for our Nativity. The children have already started practising their songs and they are sounding fabulous!

Mrs Blackhall



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Classroom updates - Poppy Class

Another busy week in Poppy Class. The children are continuing to work extremely hard. We finished off our work on addition and subtraction in Maths, focusing on finding the most efficient methods and applying them to problem-solving. In English, we continued reading Pugs of the Frozen North, exploring the characters' feelings and writing a recount from the perspective of Shen, the cabin boy.

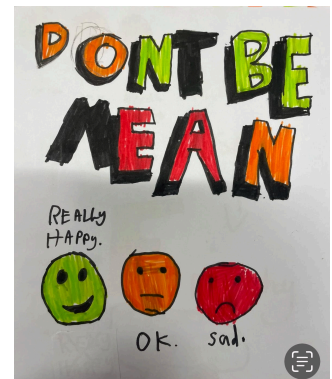
In PSHE, we looked at how we can tell how people are feeling by paying attention to facial expressions, body language, and tone of voice. We discussed different emotions, shared examples of times when we have felt certain ways, and thought about how we can respond kindly and show empathy to others. A great lesson to learn.

Our Geography lesson saw us begin our new topic on settlements, learning about the differences between villages, towns, and cities. We compared Shilbottle, Alnwick, and Newcastle, noticing how settlements grow larger with more houses, shops, jobs, and transport links as you move from a village to a city.

In Music with Miss Barber, we began singing our first Christmas songs as we start to prepare for our carol concert — a very festive and joyful start to the season! We have also practised the pronunciation of the French alphabet, focusing on the trickier vowel sounds. During PE, we were lucky enough to get outside to start invasion games, discussing key skills and putting them into practice in a fun game of basketball that everyone enjoyed.

In Art, we celebrated the colours and textures of autumn by experimenting with printing techniques and practising our leaf drawings. Finally, in RE we learned about the story of Abraham and Sarah, another covenant story showing a special promise with God. Another fun-packed week.

Have a great weekend



Mrs Kelly



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Classroom Updates - Clover Class

We had some news from last Friday that was so enormous, it couldn't be contained! It happened just after last week's Flyer went out, but we simply have to share it... We Held a Piece of History!

Our week truly started with a BIG BANG! The children had the most incredible, mind-blowing experience: they got to hold a real-life meteorite! And this wasn't just any space rock. This was a piece of history... 4.56

BILLION years old! That means it was part of the Supernova (an exploding star!) that helped create our very own planet Earth.

We've recently read 'We are Stardust' for Space Week, and this was the perfect connection. The meteorite contains elements like carbon and oxygen—the exact same things we are all made of!

As if that wasn't amazing enough, the children also got to hold actual STARDUST! These were tiny, shaved elements from the meteorite that contained microdiamonds. How many people can say they've held stardust?!

A massive, cosmic "WOW!" and "Thank You!" goes to our wonderful School Academy Committee Member, Reverend Anne, and her husband. They are both geologists and very generously shared this once-in-a-lifetime experience with us.



The Great English Mystery... Solved!

How do you follow holding a meteorite? With a fantastic story, of course! Mr. Phillips has been teasing the class with "The Great English Mystery," and this week, the secret was finally revealed. We are diving into a wonderful book by Newcastle-born author David Almond called 'The Dam'. We'll be using this story to explore the pros and cons of how humans shape the local landscape, specifically by looking at the building of Kielder Dam.

Making Mountains (and Weather!)

We brought the weather into the classroom again this week! Wind, rain, and ice all made an appearance as we learned about our planet. The children explored how tectonic forces push up giant mountains, and how weathering and erosion (all that wind and rain!) slowly carve them into the landscapes we see today.



Maths, Multiplication, and Marvellous Minds!

It's been a tricky week in Maths, and we are all fast learning why Mr. Phillips keeps encouraging us to practise our times tables!

We've been battling long multiplication, and it has certainly been a challenge. But the most important lesson we've learned is the value of perseverance. The children have been brilliant, showing real determination and sticking with it when the going got tough.

It has been so rewarding to see everyone enjoy those little "I've got it!" moments of success throughout the week. We've all made fantastic progress since Monday!

It's been another great week of learning and discovery in Clover Class.

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 3rd September	12:20	Year 5/6 swimming lesson, last session Wednesday 10th December
Friday 14th November	All day	Children in Need-non school uniform day wear spots (£1:00 donation)
Saturday 6th December	17.30-19.30	Magical Christmas Evening with Jonny Diggins (see flyer below)
Tuesday 9th December	1.15-2.15	Nativity Performance (Reception, Year 1 & 2)
Thursday 11th December	5:30-6:30	Carol Service at St James Church
Wednesday 17th December	9.30-11.30	Alnwick Playhouse Christmas Panto



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

Dylan - Poppy Class



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Shilbottle Primary Parents Association
Presents:

A Magical Christmas
Evening with
Saxophonist

Tonny Diggins

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

Shilbottle Community Hall NE66 2XH

Entry: voluntary contribution to Shilbottle Primary

Saturday 6th December
17:30-19:30



Shilbottle Primary School **Friday Flyer**

**Looking for a caring and nurturing
school for your child?**

Join us on our Open Morning

Explore our school, places available for all year groups.

Thursday 20th November,
9:00am - 10:30am



**Shilbottle
Primary School**

Proud to
be part of
Pele Trust

