



# Shilbottle Primary School Friday Flyer

**1st May 2026**

## **Headteachers Update - 100 Year Special Edition**

What a fantastic week we have had in school! The sunshine has certainly lifted everyone's spirits and it has been wonderful to see the children enjoying their time outside, as well as continuing to work hard in their lessons as always.

However, the real highlight of this week has been today - our incredible 100-year centenary celebration of Shilbottle Primary School. What a truly special and memorable day it has been!

None of this would have been possible without the amazing support working behind the scenes. First of all, I would like to extend a huge thank you to the Parish Council and Mrs Haddow in particular, for helping to bring so much together and for their incredibly generous donation of £1,000 to the school. This funding has enabled us to create lasting memories for the children, including tote bags, personalised 100-year t-shirts and goodie bags, which they all received today. Your generosity has made a real difference and it is a wonderful example of the strong relationships we have within our community.

It has also been fantastic to see those community links in action - for example, our Year 5 pupils visiting the Haven to bake cakes, which were then enjoyed by visitors at today's celebrations.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to the SPPA. Their tireless work behind the scenes, organising donations, arranging the marquee, securing rides, face painting, food vendors, raffles, tombolas and much more, has been nothing short of incredible. Events like this simply would not be possible without their dedication. Every pound raised goes straight back into school to benefit our children and we are incredibly grateful, not only to the SPPA but also to all of you as parents and carers for your continued support.

The day itself truly exceeded all expectations. The weather certainly played its part but what stood out most was the atmosphere - laughter, smiles and a real sense of community. It was wonderful to see people of all ages coming through the school doors, reminiscing, sharing stories and celebrating what Shilbottle Primary School has been and continues to be. Whether you were exploring the historical display exhibition in the Hall or enjoying the music, activities and entertainment outside, there was a genuine sense of pride and togetherness wherever you turned.

Earlier in the day, the children also took part in a range of exciting learning experiences. We were delighted to welcome Beamish, who set up a Victorian classroom experience. Key Stage 1 explored artefacts and clothing from the era, while Key Stage 2 stepped back in time to experience a Victorian-style lesson. It is safe to say they much prefer modern-day schooling! It was, however, a brilliant way for them to understand how education has changed over the past 100 years.



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At lunchtime, we continued the celebrations with a street party, where children enjoyed traditional-style food served in paper trays, all while sitting outside in the sunshine and listening to music. It was a perfect addition to an already special day.

I am incredibly proud to have been part of this celebration but more importantly, proud of the entire school community - our dedicated staff, our enthusiastic children and all of you who came together to make today so special.

After such a busy and exciting week, I think we are all ready for the three-day Bank holiday weekend! I hope you have a wonderful time with your families and that the sunshine continues.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday morning, no doubt still full of stories and happy memories from today.



Mr Shaw



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## SEND

An organisation of Educational Psychologists called ASK Psychology will be facilitating some parent workshops on different themes over the year ahead at locations across the trust. The first session will be after the May half term and will be hosted in three locations (Swansfield, Ponteland Primary and Heddon ) for parents to access from any school. The first session will be delivered by ASK's Occupational Therapists and will cover one of these issues :

- toileting(primary),
- eating and drinking (primary),
- sensory differences and sensory lifestyles (primary and secondary)
- sleep (primary and secondary)
- neuro-affirming play (primary and secondary)

A form on your parentmail account will be sent to you, please could you indicate the session that would be of most interest to you and submit back to us by noon Tuesday 5th May 2026.

The results of this survey will determine the session to be delivered.

Once the survey results are gathered, we will advertise the parent session which has been chosen and the timings and location of the delivery.

## 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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## 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	92.9%	93.8%
Mrs Kelly	88.2%	95.1%
Mr Phillips	98.7%	95.4%

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 8.40am 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.

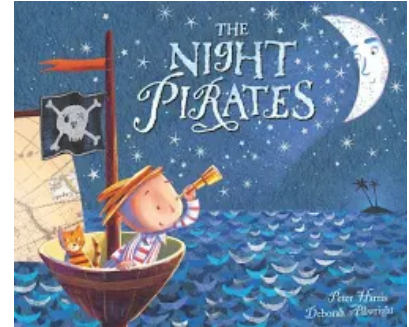


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## Classroom updates - Bluebell Class

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

In Drawing Club, the children have been swept away on a new adventure with *The Night Pirates*. Their focus and concentration during these sessions has been fantastic, with a real sense of calm and enjoyment. It has been wonderful to see their independent writing continuing to flourish.



In maths, our Reception children have been exploring more complex patterns. They have confidently identified, continued and created their own patterns, as well as spotting patterns within the environment around them.



Our Year 1 and Year 2 children have made a strong start to their new maths topic, *Money*. They have been exploring the value of British coins and notes, counting in pounds and pence, and applying their knowledge through a class shop. This provided a great opportunity for them to practise selecting items and counting out the correct amounts.

In PSHE, we have been discussing how we share our planet with other living things. The children demonstrated excellent knowledge of eco-friendly choices and ways we can help care for our world.

We have continued our Science topic 'Animals Including Humans'. This week, we learnt the difference between carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. The children designed their own menus for an animal from each of these categories.

Swimming was once again a huge success this week. It has been lovely to see the children's confidence growing, with many arriving on Wednesday mornings full of excitement for their afternoon lesson.

Amidst all of our learning, we've had lots of opportunities to play and get outside in the sunshine too. We hope that this lovely weather continues for our 100 Year celebration - The children have been talking about it all week!

Wishing you all a lovely bank holiday weekend.

**Mrs Blackhall**





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## Classroom updates - Poppy Class

Another busy and productive week in Poppy Class! It has been lovely to have the sunshine and be able to get outside at every opportunity.

In Maths, we have continued our work on fractions, focusing on unit and non-unit fractions of amounts, as well as solving reasoning problems. Next week, we will move on to telling the time to the nearest five minutes and introducing digital time. The Year 4 children have been working incredibly hard on their multiplication speed tests, where they are aiming to achieve 25/25. It has been fantastic to see scores improving as a result of their effort — please continue to practise at home, as this is invaluable.

In English, we have continued working with our text on sound and have begun writing paragraphs for our explanation texts. The children have been focusing on using appropriate technical vocabulary and organising their ideas clearly.

In History, we have continued our learning about Early Islamic civilization, focusing this week on the House of Wisdom and its importance as a centre for learning and discovery. In Science, we have continued our topic on light, exploring both the helpful and harmful effects of the sun. We also set up an experiment to investigate the impact of sunlight with and without sun cream.

In PSHE, we had a detailed and thoughtful discussion about the harmful effects of smoking and alcohol, exploring different scenarios the children may encounter in the future and how they can respond.

We thoroughly enjoyed our music lesson with Mrs Barber, where we continued to develop our skills on the xylophones. In Art, we have carried on with our monochromatic work, and there are certainly some very talented artists in the class!

We are all very excited and looking forward to the upcoming 100-year celebrations and are hoping for a beautiful day to enjoy the occasion.

Have a lovely long weekend, and we look forward to seeing you all next week **Mrs Kelly**





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## Classroom updates - Clover Class

Welcome to a truly special week in the history of our school! Clover Class has been bubbling with excitement during the buildup to our grand Centenary Celebration.



Amidst the anticipation, there is also a clear focus on the academic horizon. Our Year 6 children are fast approaching their KS2 SATs, bringing a healthy mix of nerves and determination. Once again, their attitude has deeply impressed us; they are truly showing their potential. Crucially, the Year 5 students have been a fantastic support system for their peers, navigating this period



together with real school spirit.

In Mathematics, our focus turned to finding percentages of an amount. We discovered that mastering division by 2 and by 10 makes this seemingly complex process significantly easier!

In English, we have been diving deeper into reading comprehension. We analyzed high-level skills, including: Inference (reading between the lines); summarising (capturing the core message); explanation (articulating the logic).

In History, we learned more about the strategic realities of WWI trench warfare. We explored why, at the time, defense was stronger than attack, and discovered the vital reason why trenches were built in a distinctive zig-zag pattern.

Wellbeing was a priority in PSHE, with a powerful lesson on self-advocacy. Many of us find it difficult to admit when we need support. The class was surprised to discover that asking for help is actually a brave act that makes us stronger, especially when we utilise the diverse skills and strengths across the entire team.



P.E. provided a welcome bit of creative escapism. We became game designers, using our prior sporting knowledge to invent new activities. This was excellent for practicing communication, as we had to clearly explain and deliver rules to our teammates.

In Art, we have continued our exploration of Vincent van Gogh, looking closely at the swirling, cosmic patterns in his masterpiece, *The Starry Night*. We will be using this spiraling style as inspiration for

creating our own landscape masterpieces.

100 years old. It is truly amazing to think of all the children who have walked through these school gates before Clover Class. We just hope they had as much fun as we do!

Ready to unpack the centenary week at home? Ask your child:

"You looked at zig-zag trenches in History—why was that shape so important for defense?"

Have a wonderful, centenary weekend!

**Mr Phillips**



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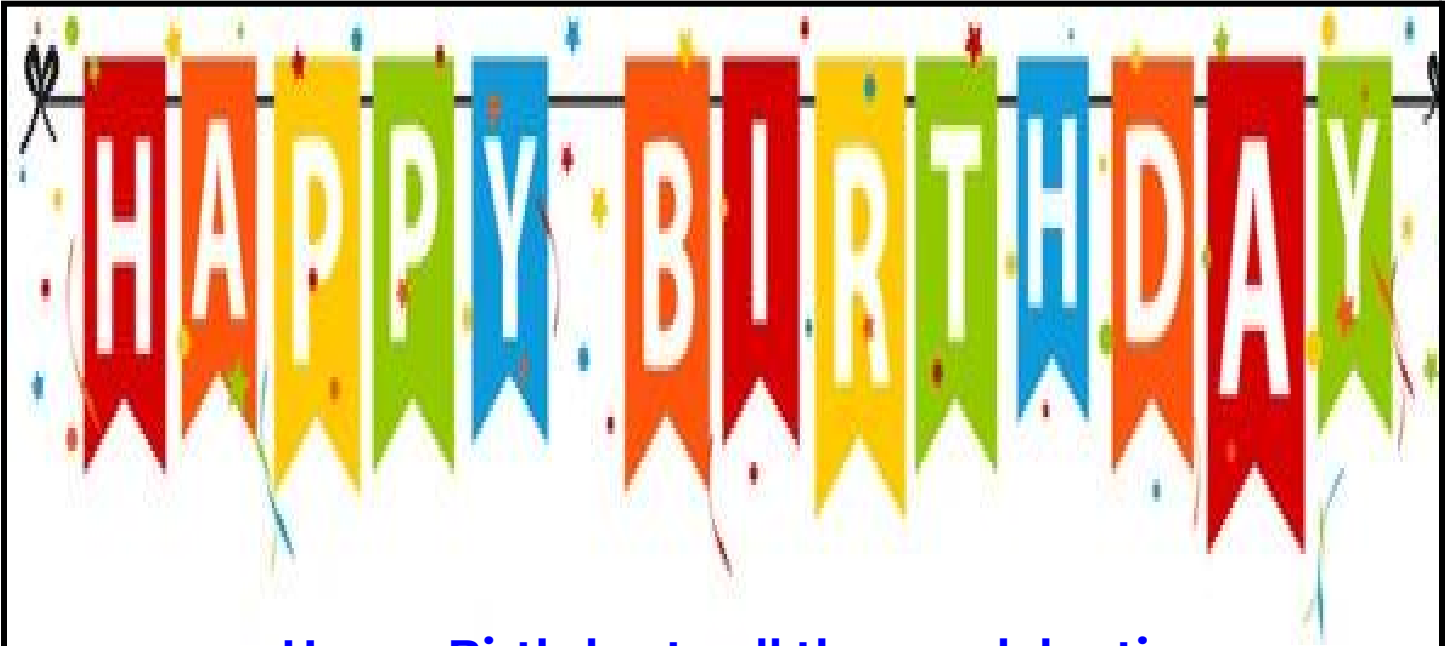
## Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Wednesday 22nd April		Reception/Year1 & Year 2 Swimming (every Wednesday)
Monday 11th May - 14th May		Year 6 SATs



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

**Harry - Bluebell Class**