



# Shilbottle Primary School Friday Flyer

**15th May 2026**

## **Headteachers Update -**

What a brilliant week it has been here at Shilbottle Primary School!

A huge congratulations must go to our Year 6 children, who have completed their SATs tests this week. Taking part in national tests is a significant moment in their primary school journey and requires a great deal of maturity, resilience and determination. I have been incredibly proud of the attitude shown by every single child throughout the week. They arrived each morning calm, focused and ready to give their very best effort, which is all we could ever ask for.

No matter what the results may be, each and every one of them should feel extremely proud of themselves for the way they conducted themselves this week. Well done, Year 6 (and Mr Phillips) you have all been fantastic!

I would also like to say a big thank you to our Year 5 children, who have adapted superbly to the slightly different routines this week while supporting their Year 6 classmates. Their maturity and understanding has been greatly appreciated, as has the support of the wider school community in helping to ensure the school environment remained calm and purposeful during testing times.

Meanwhile, Year 2 has also been working incredibly hard this week while taking part in some special quizzes with Mrs Blackhall. We know the children have been trying their absolute best and showing fantastic attitudes towards their learning, so a huge well done to all of them as well.

This week we have had our Celebration Assembly but we decided to do things a little differently. Alongside our usual hot chocolate celebration, we chose to recognise all of our Year 6 children together for the incredible effort, positivity and determination they have shown throughout SATs week. It was lovely to celebrate them as a group and recognise such an important milestone in their primary school journey.

We hope you all have a wonderful weekend, whatever you may be doing, and we look forward to welcoming everybody back into school on Monday.

**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 :

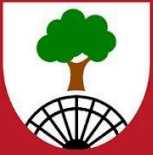
- toileting(primary),
- eating and drinking (primary),
- sensory differences and sensory lifestyles (primary and secondary)
- sleep (primary and secondary)
- neuro-affirming play (primary and secondary)

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.





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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  
EDUCATING CHILDREN ON  
SPENDING AND SAVING**

Evidence shows that children's spending habits begin to form as early as seven years old. With primary schools in England not required to teach financial literacy, many young people are reaching adulthood without knowing the basics of budgeting. This guide explains how to teach young people about money in a practical way, giving them the understanding to become savvy spenders and savers.

- 1 PROVIDE POCKET MONEY**  
Giving children money – even a small amount – can help them learn to make their own budgeting decisions about how to spend or save it. Research shows that youngsters who receive pocket money are more likely to become adults with strong financial skills and significantly less debt.
- 2 USE A PREPAID CARD**  
Being able to pay by card is essential these days, with some retailers not accepting cash since the pandemic. Prepaid debit cards are available for children from the age of six, allowing them to get used to spending like they will as adults with no risk of dipping into an overdraft. Learning about money is like learning to swim – you need to get in the pool and have a go!
- 3 PRACTISE BORROWING**  
Although often borrowing is only available to over 18s, kids need to understand how debt and interest works before they become adults and are exposed to credit cards or buy now, pay later schemes. For a safe means of teaching them about this, parents could offer them some pocket money but explain that it needs to be paid back by a certain date, plus an extra couple of pounds as interest.
- 4 ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATION**  
Chatting about money and how much things cost will teach children that finance is a part of everyday life and not some "icky adult thing". Parents can involve them in budgeting for the weekly shop, for example, working together to get everything on the list while keeping the total below a certain number, setting young ones more spending lessons in a safe space can build up their confidence regarding money.
- 5 DISCUSS THE PRESSURE TO SPEND**  
Whether it's YouTube ads or a hint of envy at a friend's recent purchase, spending triggers are everywhere. Encourage children to notice how adverts often design their products at the checkout, and what's such as 2 for 1 deals, and to spend more. Challenge them to resist impulse buys by getting them to sleep on it before deciding to spend.
- 6 TELLING 'NEED' FROM 'WANT'**  
Learning how to prioritise spending is an important life skill: the difference between life's essentials and "nice to haves" is key to budgeting. If children prefer you for loads while shopping, it's the perfect time to help them think about what's essential. You could show how you budget for food, electricity and so on before buying fun things.
- 7 ENCOURAGE SAVING**  
Getting children saving early can set them up with a useful habit for their adult life. Suggest that they set something aside every time they receive money and help them set a target for how much to put away, so they feel motivated to continue. For example, encouraging them to save for a friend's birthday gift can get children much more focused in what they buy.
- 8 SPARK INTEREST IN INTEREST**  
Motivate children by telling them about interest, you can describe it as a reward for saving money. Explain how everything they put away will grow over time. As an exciting example, explain that if deposited every day for a month, would amount to approximately £10 million. Some prepaid cards for young people also offer interest, parents and carers could also add a note to suggest what their child saves and show how it works.
- 9 PAYING FOR CHORES**  
This is a complex debate with no right or wrong answer. It depends on what works for each individual family, however, it can be one of the best ways to teach children that money needs to be earned and helps to create more meaningful spending. If parents aren't keen on paying for weekly chores, they could ask the children to suggest their own ideas for earning a little extra.
- 10 PROTECT CHILDREN FROM SCAMS**  
Scams are a terrifyingly easy way to lose money and children are generally more likely to be taken in due to a lack of experience with these financial criminals. As a minimum, make sure they're aware of the most common scams they could be exposed to – by text, email and phone, for instance. Young people should tell a trusted adult about any unexpected message or call and never give out their personal information.



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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 94.9%. Our Whole School Target is 96%**

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Mrs Blackhall	97.3%	94.1%
Mrs Kelly	98.7%	95.2%
Mr Phillips	94.7%	95.3%

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 have had a full and varied week in Bluebell Class this week. We started with two very positive music sessions with Miss Barber, where the children were learning about orchestral arrangements. Miss Barber told me how enthusiastic the children were when learning about the different instruments.

Our Reception children have continued their exploration of numbers to 20 and are now learning about subtraction. To support this new area of learning, they revisited the song *5 Currant Buns*.

The children's artwork and independent writing from Drawing Club this week has been fantastic. Inspired by *The Big Bad Bug*, the children drew their own insects and described the book's bullying bug character. This linked beautifully with our science learning, where we explored the life cycle of a butterfly. Continuing our insect theme, the children have also created illustrations for a competition with Nature Explorers. They have the chance to have their artwork featured in a book or win craft materials for our school, so please wish us lots of luck!



Our Key Stage 1 children have rounded off their maths unit on Money and have begun learning about Fractions. Our first lesson focused on understanding that a "whole" is made up of smaller "parts". In English, we are beginning a short poetry unit based on the poem *Sunflowers*, which links closely to our upcoming science topic on Plants.



Miss Friend, our student teacher, will spend her final week with us next week. She delivered her last lesson to the children on Wednesday — a science lesson all about the different parts of the body. The children took their learning outside, where they drew around each other using chalk and carefully labelled body parts. It was so much fun that Mr Phillips came to join in too!

Finally, our Year 2 children have completed their SAT assessments. Although these were conducted in a very gentle and supportive manner, the children demonstrated great maturity and determination throughout. We are incredibly proud of all their efforts.

Have a restful weekend everyone. **Mrs Blackhall**



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## Classroom updates - Poppy Class

Half term is drawing ever closer as we continue to work hard in Poppy Class.

In Maths, we have continued our work on telling the time and have now moved on to digital time. We have also explored the 24-hour clock and practised converting between 12-hour and 24-hour time, which many of us have found quite challenging. The Year 4 children also completed a mock multiplication test this week, and we were delighted with some super results that reflected all of their hard work and practice. In English, we have started looking at campaign speeches linked to sound pollution. The children decided to focus on making our school a quieter space and have explored the key features of persuasive speeches, including the use of emotive language, rhetorical questions and persuasive vocabulary.

In History, we completed our topic on Early Islamic civilisation by exploring why Baghdad became such a wealthy and important city due to its location on the Silk Road. We looked at the different goods traded and discussed where they would have travelled from around the world.

In Science, we continued our work on light and shadows and carried out an experiment to investigate how the size of a shadow can change. The children discovered that as an object moves closer to the light source, the shadow becomes larger, leading to some excellent scientific discussions and predictions.

In PSHE, we discussed puberty and some of the changes our bodies go through as we grow older. The children approached these conversations with great maturity and respect.

In Music, we continued practising the xylophone, focusing on keeping in time with a piece of music and developing our confidence when performing together.

Next week, we have a multisports festival to look forward to, as well as an exciting art workshop where we will learn about making paint — a lovely way to end the half term.

Happy weekend! **Mrs Kelly**





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## Classroom updates - Clover Class



It has been a week dominated by the Key Stage 2 SATs (and a SATs breakfast!), and I—along with the rest of the school—could not be more proud of our current crop of Year 6 pupils. They have shown incredible dedication, not just this week, but throughout months of revision and Monday night SATs Boosters.

If exam success were measured by hard work alone, this group would pass with flying colours! While the wait for results is a long one, we intend to fill the coming weeks with fun and exciting adventures as we celebrate their final chapter in Primary School.

A special mention must go to our Year 5 explorers. They have been a fantastic support to their Year 6 peers, moving classrooms every morning to work with Mr. Wilkie, Mrs. Powell, and Mrs. Slack. They've shown great maturity while continuing to build their own English and Maths knowledge, knowing that this time next year, they will be the ones leading the way.

The afternoons provided a welcome change of pace. Our history research took us deep into World War I, where the class created detailed timelines of major events, including the Battle of the Somme and the entry of the U.S.A. into the conflict in 1917.



In P.E., the children debuted one of their own student-created playground games. It proved to be a hit, especially with a surprise appearance from Mr. Phillips as a "guest bowler" (who knew he had such a mean delivery?).

Our Vincent van Gogh project provided a serene Thursday afternoon. The children used calm, focused energy to recreate the iconic, swirling brushstrokes of *The Starry Night*, proving that art is the perfect way to unwind after a busy week of thinking.

On Friday, we joined Years 3 and 4 for a visit from the Shilbottle Community Police Officers. They delivered a vital talk on staying safe outside of school and what to do if issues arise. The highlight, of course, was trying on the official kit and even getting to test out the police siren!



**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 18th May	9:20 - 12.00	Y3 & Y4 Multi Sports Festival
Wednesday 20th May	12.40 - 3.00	Y3 & Y4 Alnwick Playhouse visit - Art Workshop
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**