



# Shilbottle Primary School Friday Flyer

**22nd May 2026**

## **Headteachers Update -**

What a fantastic way to finish another half-term here at Shilbottle Primary School! Although it has been a short half-term, a huge well done must go to everybody for continuing to give 100% each and every day. The children and staff have worked incredibly hard and it has been another busy and successful few weeks in school.

I would also like to say how incredibly proud we are once again of our Year 6 children for the way they approached and completed their SATs tests this half-term. They showed maturity, resilience and determination throughout the week and should all feel extremely proud of themselves. They can now look forward to a slightly more relaxed Summer 2 and enjoy the final few weeks of their primary school journey.

It has been lovely this week to see children having the opportunity to spend a little more time enjoying some fun activities. A highlight was seeing a group of children represent the school at Kingston Park, home of the Red Bulls rugby stadium, where they took part in a rugby festival against several other schools. The children did incredibly well throughout the day and represented Shilbottle brilliantly with their teamwork and attitudes. One of the highlights for me personally was watching Shilbottle Primary School take on Belsay Primary School at the end of the festival. It was a really well-fought game and once again reminded me just how proud I am to be part of such a fantastic school community.

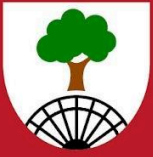
In addition, we also sent Poppy Class to Alnwick Football Club for a morning of multiskills activities with NUF. These events address some of the concerns raised by parents in our recent parental voice around sporting opportunities in school so it is wonderful to see so many children embracing them.

We finished the half-term with our Celebration Assembly and Hot Chocolate celebrations, recognising the fantastic achievements across school. We also celebrated our three lucky winners who achieved 100% attendance this half-term, with each child receiving an Amazon voucher. Well done to everybody involved - a fantastic achievement.

This May certainly has not treated us too kindly when it comes to the weather, although next week's forecast is looking much more promising! Whatever you have planned over half-term, we hope you find time to relax, recharge and enjoy some wonderful family time together.

We look forward to welcoming everybody back into school on Monday 1st June, refreshed and ready for Summer 2. Have a wonderful half-term break!

**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 HORROR FILMS & AGE RATINGS

The on-demand availability of streaming platforms in many homes creates extra possibilities for young viewers to be exposed to age-inappropriate content. Material which features horror or violence can cause anxiety and nightmares for children, especially since it can be hard for young ones to grasp that what they're watching isn't real.

#### CLASSIFICATION BREAKDOWN

The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) sets the following age ratings:

- U** Suitable for all ages
- PG** Parental Guidance. Children under 8 should be accompanied by an adult
- PG-13** Children under the age of 13 should be accompanied by an adult. This includes violence, bad language, crude or sexual references
- 14** Suitable only for 14-year-olds and above
- 18** Restricted to 18-year-olds, adults, or persons fully capable of assessing risks for self

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Horror films can cause nightmares, anxiety, and fear. They can also be a source of information about real-world dangers, such as fire safety, and can be used to teach children about safety and emergency procedures.

#### STREAMING IS EVERYWHERE

Many children have access to streaming services on their tablets, smartphones, and laptops. This means they can watch horror films at any time and in any place, making it difficult for parents and educators to monitor their viewing.

#### FACT VS. FICTION

Many children have no trouble separating fact from fiction. However, others may find it difficult to distinguish between the two, especially if they are watching horror films. This can lead to anxiety and fear.

#### PEER PRESSURE

Friends encouraging each other to watch the scariest film featuring violence can lead to children watching content that they're not ready for. It's important to discuss this with children and encourage them to talk to their parents or carers if they're unsure.

#### CHILDREN SCARE DIFFERENTLY

It can be difficult to decide what content is appropriate for children. Some children are more sensitive to scary images or sounds, while others may be more resilient. It's important to know your child's limits and to provide support if they're scared.

#### PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

Horror films can have a psychological impact on children, leading to anxiety, nightmares, and fear. It's important to be aware of these impacts and to provide support if they're affected.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

#### WATCH THE FILM FIRST

If possible, watch the film first to see if it's suitable for your child. This will help you decide if it's appropriate for them to watch.

#### REMEMBER - IT'S NOT REAL

Emphasize to children that the content they're viewing is not real. This will help them understand that they're safe and that the film is just a story.

#### DISCUSS THE CONTENT OF FILMS

If a child has watched a film that you think they may have enjoyed, talk to them about it. Discuss the content and ask them if they're happy with what they've seen.

#### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most streaming platforms have the option to set a PIN or password for children's accounts. This will help you control what your child can watch.



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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	95.2%	94.1%
Mrs Kelly	89.2%	95.0%
Mr Phillips	94.5%	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.

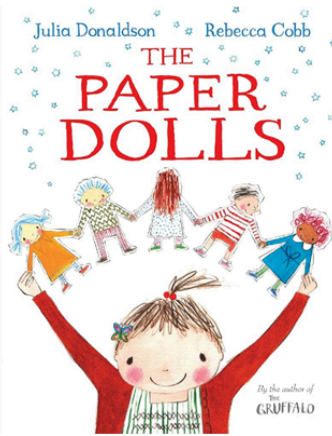


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## Classroom updates - Bluebell Class

Though this half term has been short, it has been incredibly constructive! We are wrapping up the week celebrating fantastic progress across all areas of learning.

The children kicked off their new topic, '*Manipulate, Compose, Decompose*'. They've been selecting 2-D shapes for specific purposes, rotating them to fit into puzzles, and creating their own tangram images. Yesterday, they even drew around large 2-D shapes to create beautiful, colourful painted pictures.



We shared the lovely story *The Paper Dolls*. Alongside their themed drawings and writing, the children had a wonderful time making and naming their very own paper dolls.

As part of their fractions topic, KS1 has been learning

to recognize and find halves and quarters. Yesterday, they set up a 'Quarters Museum' by folding and cutting shapes. They then took it a step further by creating mathematical artwork—designing 'fraction birds' using circles cut into halves, quarters, eighths, and sixteenths!

In English, the children have begun exploring a poem about sunflowers. They've done a brilliant job identifying nouns, verbs, and adjectives in each verse, and will soon begin writing their own poetry using their own vocabulary choices.

As a class, we explored the theme of kindness. We discussed how small gestures—like smiling, saying "Good morning," and showing courtesy—can have a massive, positive impact on our own and others' wellbeing.

We took to the field for a game of Quick Cricket! Split into two teams, the children practiced both bowling and fielding. It was wonderful to see how incredibly supportive they were of one another.

Have a restful and safe half term everyone.

**Mrs Blackhall**





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## Classroom updates - Poppy Class

What a quick half term this has been, although we certainly seem to have packed a lot into it! We have had a lovely final week, beginning with a visit to Alnwick Town Juniors to take part in a multiskills festival. The children enjoyed activities including football, tag games, golf target practice, kwik cricket and dodgeball. The sun shone for us, everyone behaved brilliantly and we all had a fantastic time.

We also visited Alnwick Playhouse on Wednesday to take part in an art workshop focused on paint making. Once again, the children represented the school exceptionally well and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

In Maths this week, we finished our work on digital time and began looking at decimals, whilst continuing to work hard on our multiplication facts in preparation for the multiplication test after half term.

In English, we continued our work on our campaign speeches and explored the differences between a calm, peaceful classroom and a loud, noisy classroom. The children worked on writing comparison paragraphs whilst expressing their own opinions clearly and thoughtfully.

In PSHE, we looked at antisocial behaviour, particularly linking it to situations that could occur within our village and connecting this learning to the police talk we had last week. We discussed the consequences of antisocial behaviour and the impact it can have on other people and the wider community.

In French, we learned how to describe where we live and revisited many of the topics we have covered this year to help improve our speaking skills and confidence.

In Art, we continued our work on perspective, focusing on the artist Patrick Hughes and exploring how he uses perspective within his artwork to create optical illusions and depth.

Have a wonderful half term everyone. We look forward to seeing the children return rested, refreshed and ready for the final term of the year! **Mrs Kelly**





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## Classroom updates - Clover Class



What an incredible half-term it has been! Clover Class has managed to pack a mountain of achievements into the shortest half-term of the academic year.

The Year 6 children have worked tirelessly around their SATs, and I cannot overstate how incredibly proud I am of them all. Meanwhile, our Year 5 students have been working exceptionally hard, too. Beyond supporting the Year 6s, they have been busy sharpening their own skills for next year. One of the greatest benefits of our

mixed year group is that the Year 5s get a front-row seat to see exactly what they are capable of achieving next!

Our historical journey through World War I took a fascinating turn this week as we examined the Treaty of Versailles and debated its fairness. To bring history to life, the children were handed a surprise "invoice" for damaged and used school resources and told they had to sign it. Once they

signed, we revealed the total: a staggering £9 million! The sudden realization of how unfair that contract felt perfectly mirrored how Germany felt signing the Treaty of Versailles in 1919. It was a brilliant, mature debate.



In Art, our masterpieces are coming along beautifully. This week, the children developed their painting techniques by mixing flour into their paint to replicate the thick, dramatic impasto texture of Van Gogh's *Starry Night*.

On the sporting front, ten of our class members traveled to Kingston Park—the home of the Newcastle Red Bulls—to compete in an inter-school rugby festival. They did amazingly well, especially considering rugby is a brand-new sport for many of them! With a flurry of tries, superb defense, excellent communication, and immense teamwork, they represented our school brilliantly and walked away with their heads held high.



While there is still plenty of hard work to come, the upcoming final half-term is packed with exciting milestones to look forward to: The Year 6 residential trip to our capital city, London! A whole-class expedition to Woodhorn Colliery to study the Pitman Painters for our ongoing Centenary art project. Transition days, Sports Day, and hopefully, some warmer summer weather!

The children thoroughly deserve to rest and recuperate. I hope you all have a wonderful, relaxing half-term holiday!

**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**