



Shilbottle Primary School

Friday Flyer

19 September 2025

Headteachers update

It has been another really positive week here at Shilbottle, with children and staff now back into full swing and adjusting well to the new timetable and the small tweaks we have introduced. We are already seeing some really encouraging early signs – exciting times ahead!

As we move forward through this year, please do keep an eye on Class Dojo, as we are aiming to share more pictures and updates each week so that you can see what the children have been doing in school. Parents/Carers are a big part of the children's educational journeys and the more we can share the more you can engage with them at home. If we all work together we will be able to create exceptionally well-equipped pupils for when they eventually move on.

A big thank you for ensuring the children came in their PE uniform on Wednesday and Friday – they all looked super smart and comfortable and we have received lots of positive comments. Just a reminder that PE jumpers must be the School Red jumper or hoodie please. To support this we do have a wide range of clothing that has been generously donated over last year so feel free to contact the office and we can check sizing. Equally, if you have a uniform that is now too small please hand it in at school.

We've had a really positive response to the PTA request last week and I am excited to hopefully share some news with you very soon about upcoming events. Please speak to the office if you are able to help in any way but a big thank you to those who have already offered your support.

Further to the letter sent out on Wednesday regarding the potential 'new **pupil**', please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any further questions. We want everyone to feel comfortable about the idea and have no doubt it will be a real asset to the school and more importantly the children.

It was wonderful to see Clover Class head off on their first school trip of the academic year to Alnwick Playhouse. They had a fantastic time and were exemplary in showing off why Shilbottle children are the best!

Finally, the week has ended with our Celebration Assembly and Hot Chocolate treat - the children have been asking all week if they have been chosen so it must be a hit! Well done to all our winners this week but to everyone else as I know we all work super hard every day.

I hope you all have a wonderful and restful 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 and Mr Shaw**.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI-ENABLED SCAMS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is quickly becoming a widely used tool, with lots of positive applications being discussed and developed. Sadly, however, as with most technology tools, there are those who will seek to use it for malicious and dishonest practices, with children and other vulnerable groups particularly at risk.

PHISHING EMAILS: BETTER & QUICKER

Phishing emails - emails designed to trick people into handing over login details or money - are not new, and do not rely on AI. However, AI has made them far more dangerous. Criminals can now generate highly convincing emails at speed, mimicking an organisation's tone, branding and language with ease. This makes phishing attempts harder to spot, especially for young people who may not yet know what to look out for.

ONLINE MARKETPLACE FRAUD

Online marketplaces are now a common way to buy and sell everything, from second-hand clothes to cars. Criminals are exploiting this by using AI to enhance or completely fake product photos and videos, and pressure buyers into paying deposits or full prices up front. These tactics are becoming more sophisticated, making it vital to pause, check, and verify the site before parting with any money.

VOICE IMPERSONATION

AI can now realistically impersonate a person's voice when given a small sample of someone's speech patterns. This is especially concerning where voice has been enabled as an alternative to password-locked logins. One such example was the use of AI deepfake audio as part of a home kidnapping scam: the criminals used an AI voice clone of a 12-year-old to convince her parents she had been kidnapped and elicit a ransom.

EMPLOYMENT SCAMS

Using AI, criminals can create fake online profiles that seem completely real. These synthetic identities can chat with young people about fake job offers, asking for money to secure a visa or passport. In 2023, The Guardian reported a scam targeting young people with promises of quick cash, posing as TikTok staff.

INFLUENCER & INVESTMENT SCAMS

AI tools now make it easy to manipulate video and audio, with technology pipelines that can generate entirely fake content using the likeness of celebrities or influencers. Criminals are using this to create convincing videos of well-known figures promoting fake products or services, which young people can be particularly susceptible to. Cryptocurrency scams are a common tactic, using people into investing in schemes that do not exist. Once payment is made, the criminal simply disappears with the money.

ROMANCE SCAMS & EXTORTION

AI chat bots can now mimic real conversations, often accompanied with realistic fake photos and videos, which makes it easier for criminals to build trust with young people - among other things, this can lead to fraud or extortion. In 2024, the UK's Cyber Security Centre received 380 reports of extortion, a 100% increase in the first five months alone, police received an average of 157 monthly reports involving under-18s, showing how serious and targeted this threat has become.

Advice for Parents & Educators

THINK CRITICALLY

The key to addressing the increasing growth of AI-enabled scams is to think critically and show caution. Ask children that if something is too good to be true, then it probably is. Encourage them to stop and carefully consider what they are seeing and reading before taking any action. For example, if a social media post expresses urgency, proceed with caution; if content seems unusual, even from a known person, it may be that their account has been hacked.

USE TRUSTWORTHY SITES AND SERVICES

Online marketplaces are useful when buying and selling items, however, where possible, encourage children to use reputable companies and their online shopping sites. These companies are likely to have more sophisticated cyber-security safeguards in place, underpinned by consumer legislation, enabling them to control how products and services are displayed and traded on their sites.

SEEK TO VERIFY

Criminals may broadcast on influencers' accounts or spread misinformation and fake content; however, their approach will generally be limited to a single account, site or service. Where possible, show children how to verify information to check its legitimacy before proceeding. Small actions, such as phoning the person who is the subject of a suspicious email, or checking content via an individual or company website or social media sites can make the difference. The greater the risk, the more effort we should expend to confirm whether the information presented is true or false.

REPORT IT

As the sophistication of scams increases, the likelihood of being tricked by them also increases, especially when not paying attention or acting quickly. It is important that young people know how to report incidents as they happen. Show children how to report their concerns to the social media site, Action Fraud, banks, and other individuals or organisations listed or involved. If you are unsure of the most effective reporting channel, contact Action Fraud.



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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%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Mrs Blackhall	92.8%	95.9%
Mrs Kelly	94.15%	95.1%
Mr Phillips	98.3%	96.5%

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.



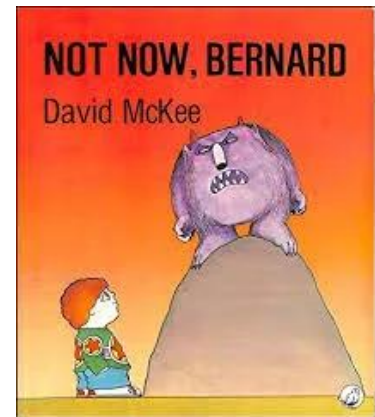
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Classroom updates - Bluebell Class

What a week we've had in our newly named 'Bluebell Class'!

As a whole class, we've shared the story 'Not Now Bernard!' and the children have drawn their very own monsters, inspired by the story.

Reception children have been working hard to recognise 'm', 'a', 's' and 'd' sounds. The children have been beginning to practise letter formation in handwriting sessions and they have been developing their fine motor skills through play involving lots of pinching, grasping and gripping of small objects. Maths lessons this week have involved comparing different sized groups of items. Reception children also had their very first PE lesson this week. They were incredibly enthusiastic to learn different ball skills. They did well to listen to and follow instructions carefully and respectfully. Keep up the brilliant work Reception.



After learning about toys from the past (1950-1980) in history, the children made their very own cup and ball toys. After writing step-by-step instructions on how to make one, they couldn't wait to try them out. Well done everyone. Enjoy a well earned rest this weekend.

Mrs Blackhall

Our Key Stage 1 children have listened to more of 'Diary of a Killer Cat' and have been beginning to learn to identify nouns and verbs. In maths, the children have been learning to use 'more than', 'less than' and 'equal' symbols to compare objects and numbers from 0-100.





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Classroom updates - Poppy Class

Welcome to Poppy Class! We've had a busy week full of exciting learning across many subjects.

Maths lessons have again focused on place value and partitioning numbers, which helps us break down and understand larger numbers more confidently. As part of our English work, we've been exploring the features of newspaper reports and are now preparing to write our own reports based on *The King Who Banned the Dark*. We also had some thoughtful discussions about fake news—how to spot it and why it's important to check facts carefully.

During PE, we developed our dribbling skills and have now moved on to practising our passing and tackling. The children have shown great progress and teamwork. Our PSHE discussions this week centered around, what makes each of us unique, encouraging everyone to celebrate their individual strengths. In French, we've been practising salutations and learning how to greet others using key phrases such as “Bonjour” and “Au revoir” and asking how someone is with “Ça va?”

History lessons have brought our topic on the Stone Age to Iron Age to a close, with this week's focus on Bronze Age and Celtic life and how daily living developed over time. Looking ahead, we're excited to begin our new Science topic next week – all about the skeleton!

Our class story *Toro Toro* has sparked some thoughtful discussions on bull fighting in Spain.

Enjoy the weekend and look forward to another productive week..





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Classroom updates- Clover Class

☐ Clover Class – Feeling Lucky Already! ☐



It looks like our new class name really is bringing us luck! Clover Class has burst into this week with bundles of enthusiasm, and it's making us all feel really positive about the term ahead.

We kicked off the week as budding historians. The children jumped straight into role play, stepping into the shoes of Justus the Roman civil servant and Lucius the Roman soldier. Let's just say... they weren't too happy with life in Britannia at the end of the 4th Century! Together, we pieced together why the Romans finally packed their bags and how that opened the door for the Saxons, Angles and Jutes to make their mark on our shores.

Our scientific minds have been hard at work too! This week, we've been exploring friction and air resistance with a very high-tech piece of equipment... printer paper! After scrunching, dropping, and testing different shapes, we learned a lot about how surface area affects movement through the air. (Mr Phillips *may* have promised parachuting next week, but we think he's joking... instead we'll be planning our very own parachute investigation!)

Over in art, the children debated whether doodles count as "real" art. After seeing their creations, there's no doubt that Monet and Van Gogh would be impressed – Clover Class doodles are definitely masterpieces in their own right!

The week finished on a high with a fantastic trip to Alnwick Playhouse for music and performance with two great percussionists. Joining other schools from the Alnwick area, the children had a great time listening to wonderful jazz and other genres played on the drums, marimba and xylophones. Our very own Scarlett was also selected to take part in an improvisation ensemble! The children were absolute stars and represented the school beautifully.



And finally, a big well done to all of our Head Girl, Head Boy and Deputies. The presentations this year were the best we've ever seen, and the votes were incredibly close (we even needed a second round for Deputy Head Girl!). Every single pupil should be proud of how confidently they presented themselves – we can't wait to see how our new team helps lead and improve our school. **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 17th December
Thursday 23rd October	1:15-3:00	Harvest Festival at St James Church
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**

**TOMMY B
JONAH T**



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**WILLOWBURN
HOLIDAY
CAMP**

AGES 5 - 12
£25 PER DAY - MEMBERS
£30 PER DAY - NON-
MEMBERS

October 27th - 31st
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Willowburn Sports & Leisure Centre

SEE YOU THERE!