Shilbottle Primary School
Friday Flyer

22 October 2026

Executive Headteacher Update

We have made it to the end of a very busy half term at Shilbottle and what a lot we have achieved! The children have learnt so much, made fantastic progress and we have already come such a long way. We are incredibly proud of them all and everything they have accomplished over the past few weeks.

A huge thank you must also go to all our staff, both teaching and support, who make Shilbottle such a special place to learn. We really do have a formidable team who work tirelessly to provide the very best opportunities and experiences for our children. Their dedication, commitment and care make such a difference, and it is wonderful to see the impact of this in school every day.

The highlight this week was our Harvest Festival at St James Church, where, as always, we were delighted to see such a fantastic turnout from our families and wider community. The children were absolutely amazing and sang beautifully, making it a really special occasion for everyone who attended. A huge thank you to all the staff and everyone who helped prepare the children and to our families for coming along and supporting the event. It is always lovely to come together as a community and celebrate the season of harvest.

We have certainly had plenty of Halloween excitement this week! On Tuesday, the children enjoyed a fantastic Halloween-themed lunch, with Monster Burgers, Pumpkin Patch Soup and Slime Jelly on the menu. A huge thank you to Katelyn for helping make lunchtime that little bit spookier and creating such a fun experience for the children!

Looking ahead, please don't forget that the SPPA has organised a Tricks and Treats Halloween Party on Thursday 29th October, from 5.30pm to 7.00pm. There will be food included, so it promises to be a brilliant evening for the children and families. A huge thank you to the SPPA for organising these events and continuing to create such wonderful opportunities for our school community.

We finished the week with our wonderful Hot Chocolate treat and final Celebration Assembly of the half term, recognising and celebrating the children who have gone above and beyond. It was a lovely way to end a busy and successful few weeks and celebrate all that has been achieved.

I hope all our families enjoy a lovely, well-deserved half-term break. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another busy and exciting half term!

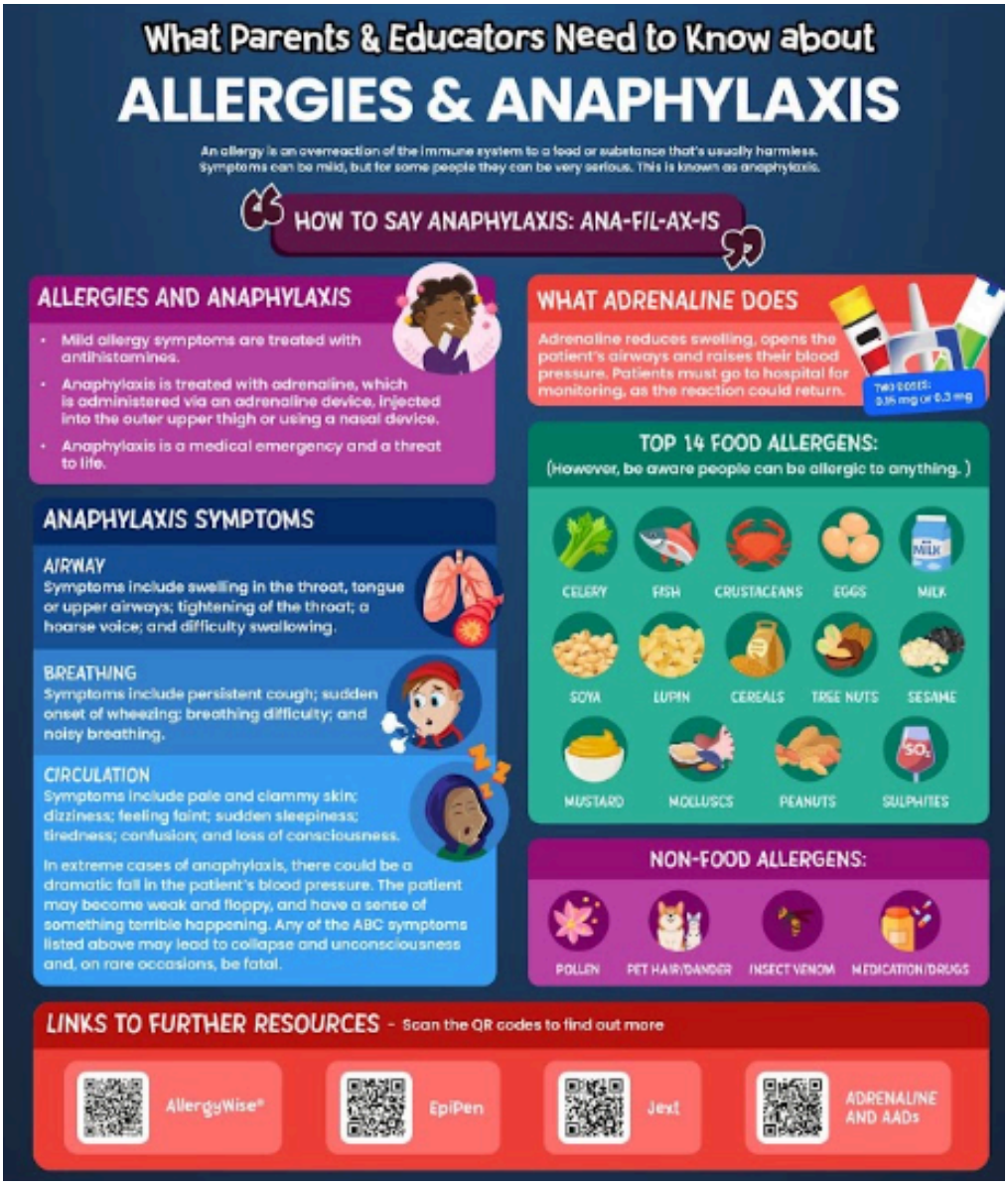
Mr Shaw

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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.**



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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 96.5%. Our Whole School Target is 96%

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Mrs Blackhall	**92.0%**	**96.1%**
Mrs Kelly	**91.5%**	**95.3%**
Mr Phillips	**97.0%**	**98.0%**

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.

What are the risks of missing a day of school? 'Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing and wider development. Pupils with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE results. The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments.' The Education Hub - Department for Education.

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Classroom updates - Bluebell Class

What a lovely end to a busy half term! The children have handled their first half term of the academic year remarkably well, and I am so proud of how well they have settled into all of our daily routines and learning.

They have also taken a few changes to their routine entirely in their stride this week. Between Harvest singing practices, visits to the church, and a wonderfully spooky Halloween lunch, the children embraced every change with positive energy. They were absolute stars during our walks up to the church, behaving brilliantly throughout. A special thank you goes to our older children, who acted as caring buddies and supported us so well as we walked through the village!

In phonics, our Reception children finished off learning their single letter sounds with 'z' and 'x'. Upon our return to school, please bear with me as we consolidate everything we have learned so far, using magnetic boards to boost word-building confidence and reinforce letter recognition. Meanwhile, our Key Stage 1 children have just been assessed and re-grouped; they will receive their brand-new reading books after the break.

Our literacy and creative sessions have been filled with imagination. In Drawing Club, we shared the classic story *Room on the Broom*, concluding with a magical challenge where the children drew cauldrons, selected three ingredients, and were supported in labelling each one with its initial sound. In Year 1, the children have started crafting expanded noun phrases to describe characters from *Lost in the Toy Museum*.

Maths and science have been equally hands-on. In maths, we have been busy learning how to add three single-digit numbers. Our Reception class successfully completed their unit on numbers 1–3 and will dive into the exciting world of shapes next term. In science, we continued exploring food chains by constructing our own, carefully selecting images and placing them in order, always making sure to start with a plant.






During circle time, I loved hearing so much excited chatter about upcoming Halloween crafts and planned outfits. I hope you all enjoy a wonderful, restful half term filled with fun Halloween activities, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back soon! **Mrs Blackhall**

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Classroom updates - Poppy Class

We have finally reached the end of a busy first half term. The children have worked incredibly hard over the last few weeks and definitely deserve a well-earned rest. We have had a lovely final week in Poppy Class, with lots of learning and excitement as we prepared for our Harvest Festival.

In Maths, we have been working on column subtraction, focusing on exchanging and making sure our calculations are set out correctly. We have also applied these skills to problem-solving activities, putting our learning into practice. In English, we have been exploring persuasive speech, taking on the role of Magnus as he gathers the warriors and tries to persuade them to fight to save their homes and land. The children have enjoyed thinking carefully about the language they could use to convince others and make their arguments powerful and convincing.



In PSHE, we have been thinking about feeling lonely and discussing what we can do when we or someone else feels this way. We explored how small acts of kindness, including inviting someone to join in, listening and offering support, can make a real difference.

We continued working on our Rangoli masterpieces in Art, developing our colourful patterns and intricate designs. The children have worked hard on these and it has been lovely to see their creativity shine through.

We also thoroughly enjoyed our spooky Halloween-themed menu on Tuesday, which certainly created a wonderfully spooky atmosphere! A huge thank you to Katelyn for all her hard work and effort in making the experience so special for the children.

Our highlight of the week was our Harvest Festival on Thursday. We spent lots of time rehearsing our songs and even visited church for a practice beforehand. The children performed beautifully, and we are incredibly proud of them all. Thank you so much to everyone for attending the event. What a fantastic end to our first half term.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back for another busy term, as we begin the exciting run-up to Christmas! Have a lovely half term everyone and enjoy the rest.

Mrs Kelly

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Classroom updates - Clover Class

If there's something strange in your neighbourhood this next week, it will no doubt be children from Shilbottle Primary celebrating Halloween and looking to scare people at their doorway in return for sweets.

There has been a big Halloween theme this week in school, including Mr Phillips looking extremely tired and underfed on Class Dojo. Our Clover Class food critics enjoyed their Monster Burgers and slime jelly giving Head Chef Katelyn a massive thumbs up. There is also a very exciting Halloween Disco being held at the Welfare Hall over the holidays, which, according to many conversations around school, will attract many wonderful costumes!

Other than Halloween, there is a distinct Harvest Festival theme going on. While cauliflowers may be fluffy and Big Red Combine Harvesters might be Chug, Chug, Chugging along, Clover Class have got on with the serious business of practising their lines to read to the public. What a great job they did as well.

In between all the festivities and their rehearsals, the Clover Class authors finished the reading of their class novel, Street Child. It is fair to say, that this book has gripped the attention of the whole class as they followed the traumatic journey of a Victorian child, who lost his mother to cholera, escaped from the dreaded Workhouse, worked for a man who beat him, joined the circus and lived on rooftops, all before he met a man called Barnado. Jim Jarvis's story inspired Dr.Barnado to make sure that no child would ever be turned down for a place to stay and saw the start of Barnado's legacy that still helps thousands of children today.



We've also been looking at addition and subtraction strategies and how we can use our knowledge of the inverse operation to solve ever-tricky missing number problems.

As the half term comes to an end, we have also finished our history topic with a bit of an end-of-topic quiz to see how much we have learned about the Industrial Revolution - Mr Phillips says he is impressed, so we can't have done too bad!

On reflection, it has been a very exciting and busy start to the school year. As children settle into their new roles of Year 6 and Year 5, they have done a great job. Some children have achieved 40 reads (very impressive!), some children have used their entrepreneurship to raise close to £200 for the school through cake stalls and tombolas (thank you to everyone who made these events so successful) and some children have flourished in the Clover Class International Swim Team - some have even managed to put their whole head under the water (a big achievement!) With all that behind us, we can't wait to see where we go next and see what adventures Autumn 2 can bring!

Enjoy your holiday and see you in November! **Mr Phillips**

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Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Thursday 22nd October	**1:30-3:00**	Harvest Festival (Confirmed)
Friday 23rd October	**CLOSED**	Teacher Training Day
Thursday 29th October	**17:30-19:00**	Halloween Kids Party - Organised by Shilbottle Parents Association
Monday 2nd November	**CLOSED**	Teacher Training Day
Wednesday 4th November	**10:30**	Yr2, 3 & 4 Alnwick Playhouse free workshop (*Instrument Stories)*
Friday 4th December	**10:30-11:00**	Decorating the village Christmas Tree
Tuesday 8th December	**10am show**	Whole School - Aladdin Christmas Panto - Tyne Theatre
Wednesday 9th December	**Carol Concert**	Details to follow
Tuesday 15th December	**12:00-1:00**	Christmas Dinner £2.80 per child
Friday 18th December	**1pm**	School closes for the Christmas holidays (no after school club)
Thursday 25th February 2027	**10:00-12:00**	Reception/Y1/Y2/Y3 & Y4 Pupils - visit to Alnwick Playhouse Free Performance: 'Our World - Rainforest Animals'

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL THOSE CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

Jenson - Bluebell Class

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