



Shilbottle Primary School

Friday Flyer

2nd April 2026

Headteachers Update

Once again, we have had a brilliant week in school. We are very aware that pupils (and staff) are ready for the break but they have powered through with great determination and importantly, have had lots of fun along the way.

It has been particularly pleasing to see a number of our topics coming to a close this week, with children demonstrating a real depth of understanding in their learning. For example, in Geography, pupils have been exploring plate tectonics and learning how earthquakes and volcanoes are formed. It is fantastic to see the impact of our curriculum in action, with enthusiasm for learning clearly shining through.

A highlight of the week was on Tuesday morning, when our Reception and Key Stage 1 children visited Alnwick Playhouse to watch Billy Goats Gruff. By all accounts, it was a hilarious performance and even one of our parent helpers found themselves up on stage joining in with the actions! A great reminder that volunteers are never completely out of the spotlight but what a wonderful memory for everyone involved. A big thank you to Mrs Lowes for organising this opportunity.

As we reach the end of term, we are already looking ahead with excitement to the summer term. There are plenty of opportunities and enjoyable experiences planned and we are very much looking forward to what lies ahead.

We also held a fantastic celebration assembly on Thursday, well done to all of our pupils who were recognised. A huge thank you as well to AJ at the pharmacy for kindly donating a chocolate Easter egg for every child in school; this was a truly generous gesture and very much appreciated.

A quick reminder that the SPPA are hosting a bingo event this evening in the community hall. If you are able to attend, it would be lovely to see you there, starting at 6pm.

Overall, this week has perfectly rounded off what has been another fantastic term at Shilbottle. It really highlights the positive direction we are moving in and the many fun experiences we are providing for our children, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

We hope you all have a wonderful Easter break. Take time to relax, recharge and enjoy time together as a family. And to our Year 6 pupils, do try to fit in a little SATs revision over the holidays!

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 20th April.

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 JUSTALK KIDS

Justalk Kids is a child's version of the Justalk app – a highly popular social networking platform – designed for users up to 13 years of age, allowing them to video call, message and participate in group chats. While adults can link their own Justalk account to their child's and make use of parental controls, it's important to understand the risks associated with the app.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS

While Justalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a user premium account or a premium family account. In a case, this feature allows children to have access to extra fun features such as games they can play with others in a chat, exclusive stickers, a badge denoting them as a premium subscriber, and exclusive ring tones and themes.

RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS

Justalk Kids attempts to allow children the sense of having a chat-based app while allowing parents to set controls (within the app or from their own adult Justalk account). The basis behind this is positive, however, some children are challenging their parents by refusing to use Justalk Kids, preferring to use the adult version without any restrictions in place.

KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE

After downloading Justalk Kids, parents can set a passcode which user's must enter to add contacts. The parental controls help to manage which contacts can be added and also children can add up to contact that then allow children to chat with friends in a restricted environment. However, prospective controls don't have to know or track someone in theory, someone could type in a random name and be added them as a friend.

POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS

Justalk and Justalk Kids claim to be secure and encrypted, going so far as to state that even the developers themselves won't access your data. However, a security issue in 2022 highlighted that messages were not in fact encrypted – leading to concerns about the security of the app and the transparency of the development team.

CYBERBULLYING

Group chats can provide a sense of anonymity, leading some users to post things which they wouldn't normally say in person. Combined with the option of group chats, there's a risk that young people might get in with the kind of behaviour, including cyberbullying and potentially harmful adult should have experiences into something deeply negative.

TOO MUCH SCREEN TIME

A report by the UK Parliament Education Committee highlighted a 52% increase in children's screen time between 2020 and 2022 – as well as finding that 39% of children used their smartphones as a primary contact with screen activities, introducing children to social networking apps when they're too young can lead to less digital health and a reliance on technology from an early age.

Advice for Parents & Educators

JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS

If parents allow their child to use Justalk Kids, they should explain that they're putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to put their full name in the account and doesn't use a photo of themselves or their profile picture. This type of open discussion will help to ensure that a child is aware of the app's potential risks and knows how to reduce them.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS

Young children could be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they must be as a positive, respectful and responsible manner. While it can be easy to get caught up in a group chat, it's important to talk to others publicly and not out any behaviour. Discuss the importance of linking their contacts to people they know in real life and use parental controls to enforce this.

DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING

Some children might not understand the potential dangers of oversharing online. Set clear guidelines around what is and isn't safe to share on the internet, and discuss the concept of a digital footprint. Children need to understand that the things they say and share online can never be completely erased. Even if they delete it themselves, it can be saved and distributed by others.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Apps like Justalk can sometimes lead to wishes to bullying behaviours. Parents should monitor what their child is sending and receiving, check in with them regularly and encourage them to share their feelings both positive and negative if home. Remind them that they can block or report if someone is treating them disrespectfully.





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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	93.1%	93.7%
Mrs Kelly	97.8%	95.2%
Mr Phillips	95.2%	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

The final week of the Spring term has been a whirlwind of celebration and creativity!



The absolute highlight of our week was a visit to the Alnwick Playhouse. From the moment we arrived, the children were captivated. The theatre was filled with giggles and the children jumped into the songs and actions with full enthusiasm. A special shout-out goes to our parent helper, Dawn, for being such a fantastic sport and joining in the fun!



Most importantly, our pupils' behaviour was exemplary; they truly did the school proud. We would like to extend a massive thank you to Alnwick Playhouse, who generously covered the cost of both the tickets and the coach travel. This meant Bluebell Class could access the arts beyond the classroom for a wonderful experience, free of charge.

With our main topics wrapped up, we dived into the Easter spirit. Using the book 'We're Going on an Egg Hunt' as inspiration:

- Year 2 challenged themselves to compose descriptive sentences using adverbs.
- Year 1 hunted for "adventurous verbs" within the text to elevate their writing.

In Maths, Key Stage 1 successfully wrapped up their measurement unit. After the break, they will dive into statistics, while our Reception learners begin their journey into the world of 3-D shapes.

In PSHE, we explored how "small habits" lead to big changes in health and wellbeing. We focused on four pillars - eating healthily, staying active, sharing worries and prioritising sleep.

The week concluded with a beautiful display of teamwork. During Easter craft sessions, our older peers stepped up as mentors, modelling techniques and supporting our younger learners to create something special

Have a fantastic Easter everyone! **Mrs Blackhall**





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Classroom updates - Poppy Class

As the Spring term draws to a close, what a busy and exciting term it has been! We have had a particularly fun-filled final week, including Easter egg hunts and competitions. Well done to everyone for their fantastic egg competition entries, and a special congratulations to our winners, Harriet and Lochlan.

In Maths, we have started a new topic on measure and capacity. The children have been learning to measure in grams and kilograms, using practical activities to weigh different objects and deepen their understanding. In English, we have perfected our Viking poems and performed them to the class with great enthusiasm. We have also compiled them into a class book for everyone to enjoy.

In Geography, we brought our "Angry Earth" topic to a close by learning how scientists help us prepare for earthquakes. The children explored how seismic waves are monitored and how early warning systems can alert people, although often with only a short amount of time to respond.

In PSHE, we discussed how to recognise and manage stressful situations, thinking about strategies we can use if we begin to feel overwhelmed. We also had our final swimming session of the year, and it has been wonderful to see how much the children have progressed in both confidence and ability. We also enjoyed a slightly extended playtime. We also had our final rugby session with Amy. The children have thoroughly enjoyed these sessions, and we hope it may inspire some to continue developing their interest in the sport.

I hope you all have a lovely Easter break and enjoy plenty of chocolate! I look forward to welcoming everyone back for the start of the Summer term in a few weeks' time.

Happy Easter!

Mrs Kelly





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Classroom updates - Clover Class

What a magnificent finale to our Spring Term adventure! As this expedition reaches its final stage, **Clover Class** has focused on wrapping up the critical work, enjoying the fun bits, and finishing off our incredible "Fake Bakes."

This week, we successfully summited the final peak of our **Wonder** journey, completing our professional book reviews. We've also ventured deep into the land of **Equivalent Fractions and Decimals**, making brilliant progress on these complex coordinates. Our Year 6 explorers have been sharpening their toolkits with focused VIPERS practice, ensuring they are fully prepared for the big "May basecamp" (SATs) ahead!




In **Geography**, we concluded our investigation into Natural Disasters by packing a hypothetical '**Emergency Grab Bag**' (including taking the cat!) and analyzing the sophisticated mitigation strategies used in Sendai, Japan. We also launched the next phase of our **Peter Anton**-inspired project, applying the base layers to our sculptures. Mrs Slack and I are incredibly proud of their "**Fake Bake**" efforts—check out the Food Extravaganza photos on Dojo!



A huge thank you to **NUFC** and **Amy from Newcastle Red Bull**, and **Mrs Barber** for a fantastic final week of Spring sport and music. We think we have (finally!) decided on the Year 6 Leavers' assembly ukulele anthem—it's going to be awesome!

You cannot end the Spring term without Easter celebrations! The children created some **EGGcellent** designs for the Easter Egg competition and tackled an **EGGciting** hunt on Thursday. The entire class were **EGGstatic** and **SHELLebrated** when they received a lovely egg from **AJ at K-Chem, the village pharmacy!** This was such a kind gesture and very much appreciated.



☘ Clover Chat-ter  To help unlock the details of this week's finale expedition, try this "Compass Question" at home:

1. "You built an '**Emergency Grab Bag**' for a natural disaster—what were the top three most important items you packed, and why?"

Have a well-deserved and restful Easter holiday.

Mr Phillips



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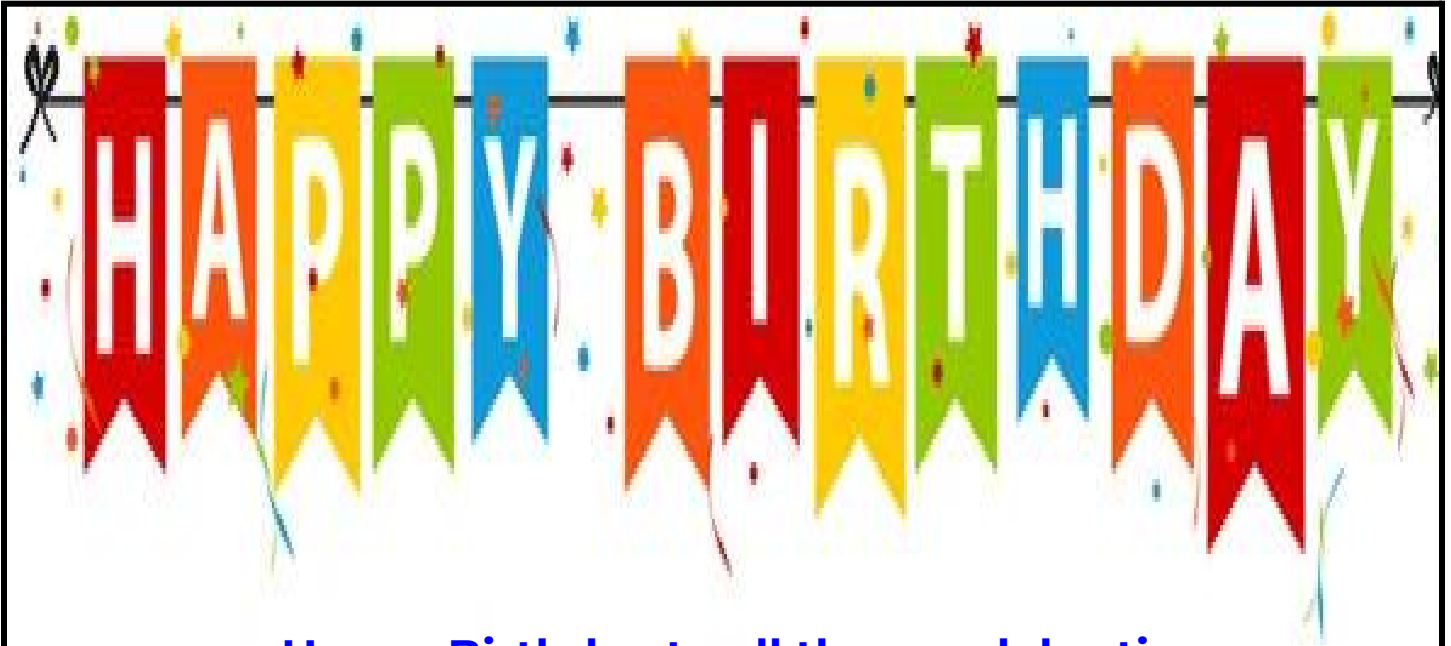
Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Thursday 2nd April 2026	15.20	School closes for the Easter holidays After school club finishes at 4pm
Thursday 2nd April	18.00	Easter Prize Bingo - Community Welfare Hall- everyone welcome
Wednesday 22nd April		Sponsored Litter Picking - World Earth Day
Wednesday 22nd April		Reception/Year1 & Year 2 Swimming (every Wednesday)
Friday 1st May 2026	13.00-15.00	Shilbottle School 100-Year Celebrations



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



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SHILBOTTLE PRIMARY
PARENTS ASSOCIATION'S

Egg-Cellent

EASTER BINGO

FUN FOR ALL OF THE FAMILY

Shilbottle Community Hall

THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND
DOORS OPEN 6:00PM

FREE ENTRY

TEA, COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS

Greetings ISLAND