Shilbottle Primary School
Friday Flyer

20 November 2026

Executive Headteacher Update

What a lovely week it has been in school! It has been fantastic to see everyone getting stuck into another busy and productive week, with lots of learning, activities and opportunities for our children to enjoy. We have now reached the end of week three, meaning there are just four weeks left of this half term. It really is flying by! As always, it has been lovely to see the enthusiasm, positivity and hard work across school and we are looking forward to everything the coming weeks have in store.

This week, we have had the opportunity to enjoy a little staff wellbeing get-together, with a cup of tea and some chocolate! It was lovely to take a little time out of our busy schedules to catch up, have a chat and enjoy each other's company. Looking after our staff team is just as important as looking after our children and these little moments are always appreciated. I am sure you'll all agree just how hard our staff work to make everyday so special at school.

On Tuesday, we also welcomed colleagues into school as part of our Safeguarding Review. We were incredibly proud of how brilliantly the children conducted themselves throughout the process. Most importantly, it was wonderful to see how confidently they spoke about school and how clear it was that they feel safe, happy and well supported here. This is something we should all be very proud of and a real reflection of the positive environment we work hard to create together.

Our Upper Key Stage 2 children have also enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Willowburn Leisure Centre to take part in the UKS2 Skipping Festival. The children had the opportunity to try a whole range of activities.. The sessions were led by Skip4Fit, who provided our Clover Class children with a really high-energy and high-quality experience. It was wonderful to see everyone getting involved, challenging themselves and supporting one another. It was also a great opportunity to mix with other schools within Pele Trust. Well done to all those who took part!

To finish the week, congratulations to all of our Outstanding Achievement Award winners and our Hot Chocolate winners this week. It is always wonderful to recognise the hard work, effort, kindness and positive attitudes shown by our children. Super work!

I hope you all have a lovely, relaxing weekend and I look forward to seeing everyone back in school next week.

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	**94.2%**	**96.8%**
Mrs Kelly	**93.2%**	**95.1%**
Mr Phillips	**96.8%**	**97.5%**

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 8.40am 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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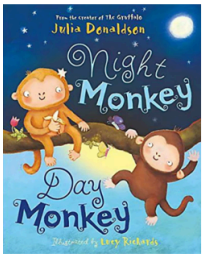
Classroom updates - Bluebell Class

It has been another busy, productive, and joyful week in the classroom! The children have thrown themselves into every activity with wonderful enthusiasm, and it has been fantastic to see how well Year 1 and Reception continue to work together and support one another. Here is a look at what we have been getting up to:

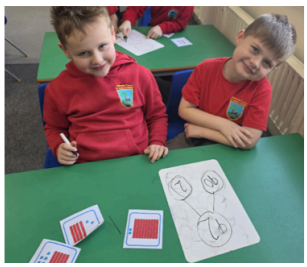
Maths In Key Stage 1, we have continued our exploration of Place Value within 100. This week involved practical work with Base 10 (tens and ones), where the children partitioned two-digit numbers using part-whole models before progressing on to finding missing numbers on number lines up to 100. Meanwhile, Reception ended the week by finding one more and one less than a given number, using buttons, counters, and multi-link cubes to explore numbers through hands-on activities.

English Our Year 1s finished their current unit on *Lost in the Toy Museum*. They worked very hard to construct sentences using past tense verbs and the conjunction 'and' to extend their ideas—we are so proud of their efforts! In Drawing Club, we focused on *Night Monkey, Day Monkey* by Julia Donaldson, and the children used 'm' for monkey beautifully in their own writing.

Science We have been grouping materials by their properties. I challenged the class to gather objects from our classroom environment and sort them into groups labelled soft, hard, smooth, rough, shiny, and dull. Our Year 1 children were excellent role models, supporting our Reception children as they sorted their items too.








PSHE & Nativity In PSHE, we talked about the key elements of being a good friend, and the children were tasked with creating their very own 'recipes for friendship'. Finally, the festive spirit is building as we continue to practise our Nativity songs—and this week, we even started practising our lines!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support at home. Have a wonderful, restful weekend, and we look forward to seeing everyone on Monday morning.

Mrs Blackhall

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Classroom updates - Poppy Class

The children have been working hard across all areas of the curriculum, developing new skills and building on what they have already learned.

In Maths, we have been exploring the relationships between the 2, 4 and 8 times tables, looking at how these numbers are connected and using this knowledge to solve different multiplication and division problems. We have been thinking carefully about patterns and using what we know to help us work out trickier calculations. In English, we finished writing our persuasive speeches as Magnus and had the opportunity to perform them to the class. Some children were a little more enthusiastic about performing than others, but everyone gave it a go and should be proud of themselves! We have now moved on to exploring non-fiction texts, looking at their different features, retrieving information and organising information into paragraphs ready for our own non-chronological reports.

In Geography, we have been developing our map-reading skills. We explored how maps use different symbols to represent features and looked at the difference between physical and human features. We then put our skills into practice using maps of Northumberland to identify and locate some of these features. We have been learning about the weather in French, particularly the phrase *il pleut* (it is raining)! This has certainly been a useful phrase to practise given the amount of rain we have had this week! In Art, we have continued our exploration of clay sculpture, looking at different sculptures and decorative tiles featuring sculpted designs. We have been thinking about how artists create shapes, patterns and textures to add detail and interest to their work. We have managed to get outside for PE again this week, although it has certainly been chilly! Please make sure children come to school with suitable clothing for outdoor PE as the temperatures continue to drop.






Music with Mrs Barber has continued to have a festive feel as we practise our Christmas songs. Our Year 2 children have also been assigned their parts as narrators for the Nativity, so there is plenty of excitement building! In Computing with Mr Wilkie, we have continued developing our programming skills, this week focusing on giving instructions to navigate our way around a maze. The children have been working hard to sequence instructions and think logically to find the correct route. Another busy week of learning and lots to be proud of! The children continue to work hard, and we are looking forward to seeing what next week brings.

Have a great weekend, everyone! **Mrs Kelly**

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Classroom updates - Clover Class

It was an interesting week at the Alnwick Sports Arena this week as the Clover Class Swim Team were left slightly disappointed due to the fact that it looked like Suzuki may be withdrawing their sponsorship deal. With only one car left outside the building for photo opportunities, many children were left disappointed at this shock news. However, dedicated as always, the Swim Team committed 100% to their practice session and left the Arena happy and content with their performance.

In other news, the Clover Class Mathemagicians have been conjuring up some serious maths magic! It turns out that, once you unlock the secrets of **The Rules of Divisibility**, you can predict whether a number is a multiple of 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 15 and more – all without reaching for a calculator or waving a magic wand! Did you know that both **123,456 and 1,234,560** are multiples of 2, 3 and 6? The Mathemagicians did! They spotted the magical clues in the numbers and knew the answers before the calculations had even begun. Who needs Hogwarts when you've got a little mathematical magic in Clover Class?

The trauma suffered by Victorian Schoolchildren looks to be coming to an end as our Clover Class Concerned Educators finalise their formal persuasive letter draft to Her Majesty's Chief Inspector demanding that the brutal and barbaric punishments of Victorian Board Schools are brought to an end. Despite Mr Phillips calling for a recall of punishment devices such as Finger Stocks, the arguments presented by the Clover Class Children are pretty convincing!



The Clover Class Fluvial Geomorphologists used the landscape shaped by last week's glacier to investigate how rivers shape the land through erosion and sediment deposits. Standing in the rain seemed appropriate as Mr Phillips, armed with a watering can, modelled how rain forms rivers and shapes the land through erosion and deposition. Although wet, the Clover Class Geographers remained upbeat and used 4-figure grid references to identify and locate the features of the River Coquet on a map.

Cette semaine, en français, tout tournait autour des chiffres. The Clover Class linguists applied their knowledge of numbers in French this week making some pretty clever calculations using numbers 1 - 100. Madame Slack was very impressed.

Rather worryingly, some children were seen causing Double Dutch Trouble by skipping school on Thursday afternoon as the Clover Class Skipping Team ventured back to the Alnwick Sports Arena to pitch their skipping mastery against other local schools. Forever the Hop-tomists, our Skip-sational skippers certainly showed that they knew the ropes by leaving other teams tied up in knots. We even had a trip on a bus (there was no skipping on the bus!)

All in all, another great week in Clover Class - I can't wait to see what adventures we go on next week.
🍀**Mr Phillips**

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Dates for your Diary

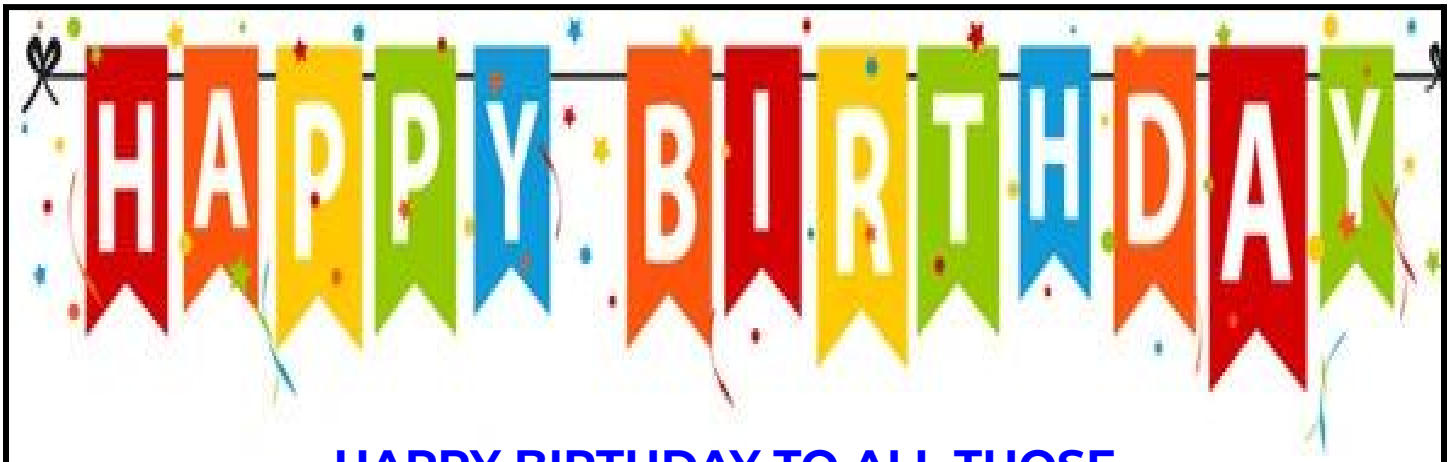
Events could be subject to change and will be communicated if required

Date	Time	
Friday 4th December	**1:30-2:30**	KS2 Christmas Carol rehearsal
Tuesday 8th December	**10am show**	Whole School - Aladdin Christmas Panto - Tyne Theatre
Wednesday 9th December	**5:30-6.30**	KS2 Christmas Carol Service - St James' Church Shilbottle
Thursday 10th December	**9:30-10:30**	Reception, Y1 & Y2 Christmas Nativity (Families with siblings)
Thursday 10th December	**2.00:3:00**	Reception, Y1 & 2 Christmas Nativity (Families **WITHOUT** siblings)
Tuesday 15th December	**12:00-1:00**	Christmas Dinner
Tuesday 15th December	**1:30-2:30**	Reception & Year 1 Christmas Party
Wednesday 16th December	**1:30-2:30**	Year 2, 3 & 4 Christmas Party
Thursday 17th December	**1:30-2:30**	Year 5 & 6 Christmas Party
Friday 18th December	**1:30pm**	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

Elliott - Bluebell Class

Stanley - Clover Class

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