



Shilbottle Primary School Friday Flyer

9 October 2026

Executive Headteacher Update

It has been another really positive week at Shilbottle, with lots happening across school and plenty of opportunities for the children to learn, grow and develop some really important life skills.

Our Year 5 and 6 children have been focusing on water safety as part of their swimming sessions and we have been particularly impressed with their knowledge. They have been learning what to do in different emergency situations, including who they should contact and which emergency number they should use. These are incredibly important life skills and it has been fantastic to see the children taking this learning so seriously.

Across school, the children have also been thinking about how they can keep themselves and each other safe. We have introduced a new system of co-regulation to help children understand and manage their emotions, with guidance from our staff when needed. Hopefully, this will help create an even calmer school where children feel supported and increasingly equipped to follow our three simple expectations: Be Respectful, Be Safe and Be Ready.

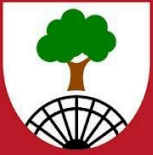
We have also introduced Family Groups at lunchtime to improve the children's dining experience. All staff have given up their own dinner time to sit and talk with the children in the dining hall, encouraging conversation and creating a lovely family atmosphere around the tables. It has been great to see everyone enjoying this time together.

Our annual tree inspection has also taken place and I am pleased to say that all of our trees are doing well. A few need a little trim, so our Nature Club will be looking at this after Christmas – another great opportunity for the children to take an active role in caring for our school environment.

We finished the week with our Celebration Assembly, and a huge well done to all of our Outstanding Achievement Award winners and our Hot Chocolate children! It is always lovely to recognise the children who have worked hard, shown our school values and made a really positive contribution during the week.

Please remember that next week is Parent Evenings so your appointment should have now been received. This is a great chance to speak to your child's teacher and celebrate the wonderful hard work they have been producing so far this 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.**

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ALLERGIES & ANAPHYLAXIS

An allergy is an overreaction of the immune system to a food or substance that's usually harmless. Symptoms can be mild, but for some people they can be very serious. This is known as anaphylaxis.

HOW TO SAY ANAPHYLAXIS: ANA-FIL-AX-IS

ALLERGIES AND ANAPHYLAXIS

- Mild allergy symptoms are treated with antihistamines.
- Anaphylaxis is treated with adrenaline, which is administered via an adrenaline device. Injected into the outer upper thigh or using a nasal device.
- Anaphylaxis is a medical emergency and a threat to life.

WHAT ADRENALINE DOES

Adrenaline reduces swelling, opens the patient's airways and raises their blood pressure. Patients must go to hospital for monitoring, as the reaction could return.

TWO DOSES:
0.15 mg or 0.3 mg

ANAPHYLAXIS SYMPTOMS

AIRWAY

Symptoms include swelling in the throat, tongue or upper airways; tightening of the throat; a hoarse voice; and difficulty swallowing.

BREATHING

Symptoms include persistent cough; sudden onset of wheezing; breathing difficulty; and noisy breathing.

CIRCULATION

Symptoms include pale and clammy skin; dizziness; feeling faint; sudden sleepiness; tiredness; confusion; and loss of consciousness.

In extreme cases of anaphylaxis, there could be a dramatic fall in the patient's blood pressure. The patient may become weak and floppy, and have a sense of something terrible happening. Any of the ABC symptoms listed above may lead to collapse and unconsciousness and, on rare occasions, be fatal.

TOP 14 FOOD ALLERGENS:

(However, be aware people can be allergic to anything.)

CELERY	FISH	CRUSTACEANS	EGGS	MILK
SOYA	LUPIN	CEREALS	TREE NUTS	SESAME
MUSTARD	MOLLUSCS	PEANUTS	SULPHITES	

NON-FOOD ALLERGENS:

POLLEN	PET HAIR/DANDER	INSECT VENOM	MEDICATION/DRUGS
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LINKS TO FURTHER RESOURCES

Scan the QR codes to find out more

AllergyWise®

EpiPen

Jewel

ADRENALINE AND AADs



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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

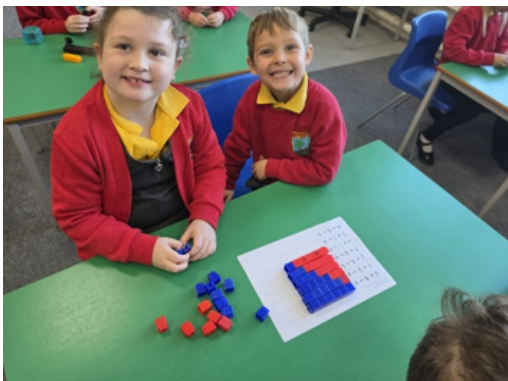
This week, we adopted a whole-school approach to co-regulation by exploring the "Zones of Regulation." Our Key Stage 1 children identified the emotions linked to each colour zone and discussed strategies to re-regulate when feelings become big or tricky. We agreed that big emotions are completely normal and healthy, but learning to manage them helps us return to the "green zone", our optimum state for emotional regulation and readiness to learn. Meanwhile, our EYFS children explored emotional regulation through the story *Daisy's Dragons*, a wonderful book about a young girl whose invisible dragons represent her feelings.



We continued our exploration of *Daisy's Dragons* in Drawing Club, where the children drew their own feeling dragons, designed dragon eggs, and created tasty snacks for hungry dragons. Each drawing linked to a phonic sound learned so far. Sound folders are back in action this week with new phonics practice inside. Thank you for encouraging your little ones to engage with these at home! In Reception maths, children continued counting and representing

numbers to 3. Continuing our autumn theme, they also worked hard placing sparkly leaf sequins onto their written names, a lovely activity that strengthened both name recognition and fine motor skills.

In Key Stage 1 maths, we began our new unit on "Addition and Subtraction." Our focus was understanding systematic number bonds within 10. Using visual, hands-on cubes of contrasting colours helped children spot numerical patterns. In English, we are building on our historical context by shifting to a narrative focus with our next text, *Lost in the Toy Museum*.



Inspired by our history topic, "Toys from the Past," the children also became engineers in Design & Technology! After carefully planning their designs and listing required materials, they crafted their very own cup-and-ball toys using paper cups, string, and foil

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Mrs Blackhall



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Classroom updates - Poppy Class

We have worked exceptionally hard this week and have continued to build on our school routines and expectations. A big focus across school has been our message of “Hands Off, Bodies Safe”, with a strong emphasis on keeping everyone safe and making sure our school is a happy and respectful place for everyone. We have been learning about Zones of Regulation and thinking about how we recognise our emotions and use different strategies to help ourselves get back into the green zone, where we are ready to learn. We have also talked about what makes a kind friend, thinking about how other people might be feeling and how our own actions and reactions can affect those around us. We have reinforced our school motto this week: Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe.

In Maths, we have been focusing on column addition and, in particular, the importance of setting out our calculations correctly. We have spent lots of time practising how to line up our numbers carefully and have worked hard to develop accuracy and confidence. In English, we have continued exploring diary entries and have now started planning our own diary entry from Magnus's point of view, describing the attack he experiences. We are focusing particularly on his feelings and actions so that we can really show the reader what Magnus is going through.

We revisited the Anglo-Saxon story of Beowulf and learned a little more about how these stories were written in Old English. We particularly enjoyed exploring the story of Grendel's Lair and thinking about how these tales have been passed down through history.

In Science, we made the most of a lovely sunny afternoon by exploring our local environment. We looked at the different things around us and considered whether they have a positive or negative impact on the environment and whether they were human-made or natural.

We continued our work on Mehndi patterns, creating designs on our hands. We also spent time evaluating our artwork, thinking about what we liked, what worked well and what we could improve. We have also really enjoyed continuing our Harvest songs with Mrs Barber and our PE sessions with Emra and Mr Wilkie.

Another very busy and productive week complete! Happy weekend everyone! Not long to go until half term!

Mrs Kelly





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Classroom updates - Clover Class



The Clover Class International Rescue team rehearsed their water safety drills at the Alnwick Sports Arena this week in preparation for any major disaster that should come their way. Recalling emergency numbers and emergency services with ease, the team showed impressive knowledge and confidence in what they should do if Mr Phillips is ever swept away to sea.

While many dreamed of Mr Phillips being swept away to sea, Mr Phillips got on with the hard work of educating children, especially in maths, where children looked to use their accumulated knowledge of

place value to solve some very complex, multi-step problem-solving and reasoning questions, which included negative numbers and Roman numerals up to 10, 000, 000.

Can it be more impressive than that? Well, when you are looking to use vocabulary such as philanthropist, destitute, orphan and evangelist in a biography about Dr. Thomas Barnado in



complex sentences that include relative clauses, fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases and subordinating conjunctions, I think it is fair to say that these children are impressive across the board.

Historians often have to compare and contrast information and surmise connections between similar items to form an opinion on the effectiveness of historical advances and their effect on modern society. The Clover Team Historical Society used their collective historical skills to research Victorian inventions and decide and discuss how they connect with each other and how they still influence our lives today ... impressive stuff!

This week, along with Bluebell and Poppy class, we have been looking at how we can make our school a calmer place and make sure staff and pupils are safe in the school environment. Using Zones of Regulation, we have been discussing different states of energy and how they affect our behaviour. Exploring ways of getting our bodies into the Green Zone (so we are ready to learn), we experimented with different types of regulation strategies: STAR Breathing, 10 second wall pushes, sips of cold water and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Grounding where we name three safe things and touch two things without moving.

All in all, the multi-talented Clover Class continue to impress and show that they know how to keep people safe, through International Rescue activities and regulation techniques, we can only keep going from strength to strength.



 **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)
Wednesday 4th November	10:30-11:45	Alnwick Playhouse (Free Performance)
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
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**
Archie S - Bluebell Class
Charlie O - Bluebell Class
Hugo - Poppy Class