



Friday 17th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to begin by thanking you all for your support, not only over the past year but throughout the pandemic. The past 18 months have brought challenges none of us could have foreseen and we have all tried our utmost to come through this safely. Your support for the school team has made the difficult decisions and often last minute changes much easier to deal with and knowing we can work together toward a common goal demonstrates the power of teamwork.

We are hopefully on our way to returning to a more normal way of life and when the school reopens in September we will continue to follow the Guidance applicable on that date to continue keeping everyone safe.

Practical things you need to be aware of...

Below are the arrangements for September. I have attempted to divide these into areas which will not change and those which are subject to change should any guidance be updated during the break. I ask that you check your messages toward the end of the summer break and particularly on Monday 6th September for any last minute updates which may be necessary.

Areas which will not change

- School reopens Tuesday 7th September
- **All** children will arrive at the same gate (corner next to road leading to Community Hall). They will make their way to the school yard where they will be supervised until they enter the school.
- The school gate will close at **8:40am prompt** so that the children can be sat at their desks for the first lesson of the day to start at 8:45am without interruption from other children arriving late.
- Children will be dismissed at the following gates and times.

Reception, Years 1 and 2 - 3:10pm from the school door at the top of the ramp opposite the Portacabin.

Years 3,4,5 and 6 from the gate next to the road leading to the Community Hall (same as entrance) at 3:15pm.

- School uniform must be worn, including all black shoes. Uniforms are available from Tesco or Tots2teams (early ordering is recommended). Please note white polo shirts are only allowed in the summer term and children are expected to wear yellow polo shirts in the Autumn and Spring terms.
- Hoodies can be worn by children in **Years 5 and 6 only**. (Younger children wearing these will be asked to replace these with either jumpers or cardigans, therefore we kindly ask you not to waste money buying these for younger children).
- Reading - children are expected to read at home at least five times per week for 20 minutes. For younger children this will include talking to their supporting adult about the book. Older children may be able to record this in their own reading record whilst younger children will need adult support.

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"
reads **20 minutes**
each day

3600 minutes in
a school year

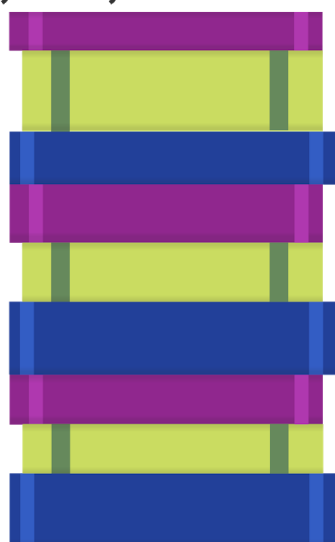
Student "B"
reads **5 minutes**
each day

900 minutes in
a school year

Student "C"
reads **1 minute**
each day

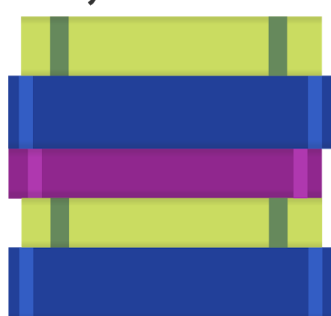
180 minutes in
a school year

1,800,000 words



90th percentile

282,000 words



50th percentile

8,000 words



10th percentile

- Homework will be set each Friday and should be returned no later than Thursday morning, preferably earlier.
- Correct PE kit must be worn (it is recommended that children have a kit suitable for both indoor and outdoor activities and that these are brought to school each Monday and returned home either at the end of the week or fortnight).
- No earrings will be permitted at any time
- No nail varnish
- **All** children with long hair are expected to have this tied back to enable them to work without distraction.
- Children do not need to bring any stationery to school as this is all provided for them.
- Children bring a water bottle at all times.
- Attendance will be closely monitored as children are expected to achieve a minimum of 96% attendance.
- School lunches will be charged at £2.30 per day from September. (County School Meals Service currently charge up to £2.50 per day). We ask that all school meals are paid for via Parentmail as we aim to minimise the use of cash, this also helps parents track payments made. If you feel you may be entitled to income based Free School Meals please see the Northumberland County Council website for details how to apply. Children receiving income based free school meals will also be entitled to a 50% reduction in any school trips and residentials.

- **Contacting the school**

Parents can contact the school in a variety of ways:

Phone 01665 575 285 - please note this is not staffed between 12noon and 1pm but there is an answering machine service. Please note Mrs Lowes manages the office Monday to Thursday and Miss Hood each Friday.

- Email: admin@shilbottle.northumberland.sch.uk or Class Dojo messages sent will be responded to within **5 working days** between 8am and 5pm Monday to Friday. (Teachers have been instructed not to respond to messages at evening or weekends)
- Any questions, feedback or concerns about your child should always be sent to the class teacher in the first instance. If you are unhappy with the response you should then ask the class teacher to arrange a meeting at a mutually agreeable time (this may be via telephone) with a Phase Leader and then the Headteacher.

Areas which are subject to change.

We intend to apply these from Tuesday 7th September should Government guidelines permit.

- **Swimming**

We are pleased to announce that we will recommence our weekly swimming lesson every Wednesday at Willowburn Leisure Centre. In the first term (Autumn) we will be taking Year 6 and their first lessons will be on Wednesday 8th September. It is then our intention to take Years 4 and 5 in the Spring Term. Arrangements for the Summer term have not yet been finalised. The cost of the lesson and transport will be £6.20 (50% reduction for income based Free School Meals, £3.10). If your child is going into Year 6 please ensure they have a swimming costume ready for the first lesson in the week we return.

- **Morning Club/After School Club**

Morning Club (7:45am to 8:00am) will recommence from Tuesday 7th September should the lifting of bubbles go ahead. This will incur a cost of £2.00. Toast and squash will be provided.

After School Club (Monday to Friday finishes at 5:30pm **prompt**). This will incur a cost of £2.50 for the first hour (or part of) and £1 for every subsequent half hour (or part of). Late collections will incur an additional fee of £10. If you wish to use this facility please request a copy of the After School Contract which parents must sign before sending their child.

Photographer

We have arranged for the photographer to visit the school on Thursday 9th September. Please note that they are unable to offer having photographs taken of children who are not registered in school. Children will have both individual and sibling photographs taken.

Class trips and residentials

These are an extremely important part of a child's learning experience. Having not been able to take the children out of school since March last year it is our intention to start organising trips and residentials in the new academic year. Whilst contributions toward the cost of these visits is voluntary it may be necessary, at times, to cancel any intended educational visits if there are not sufficient funds to cover the costs.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is all our responsibilities. As adults in the community it is important that we protect and care for all the children we encounter. Therefore, Northumberland County Council established their bespoke reporting system known as OneCall which all adults can contact if they think a child may be at risk. If at any time, but particularly in the school break, you feel a child may be at risk of harm please report this to **OneCall on 01670 536 400**. Obviously, if you think a child may be in immediate danger please call the Police on 999.

Now to some nicer things...

Reading

Once again, we have lots of children who have been avid readers and quizzing whilst the school has been partially closed. Some children have read and successfully passed quizzes on 180 books!

This year we have achieved more Word Millionaires. A huge congratulations to you all for reading over 1,000,000 words this school year. That is an incredible average of 25,641 words every school week!

Our Word Millionaires are:

Lily P - Year 6 - 1,228,773 words
Finley M - Year 6 - 1,217,266 words
Amelia S - Year 5 - 1,179,149 words
Euan R - Year 6 - 1,008,790 words

Even more amazing, we have surpassed our record for the number of children achieving Word Multi Millionaire.

Our amazing Word Multi Millionaires are:

Orla M - Year 6 - 3,106,680 words
Michael G - Year 3 - 2,969,106 words
Vincent B - Year 6 - 2,075,397 words

As we are unable to take our amazing readers to the Running Fox for their usual treat this year we have given them all a voucher instead to reward their exceptional effort.

Mathematics

This year we have also had 16 children achieve their Gold mathematics award, who will all receive a voucher as a reward:

Amelia M, Lydia B, Lucas A, Orla M, Izzy M, Morgan H, Michael G, Charlotte M, Archie B, Daniel K, Luisa J, Phoenix P, Maia, R, Imogen R, Isabella M and Amelia S

Well done to you all!

Thanks

I would also like to thank all those who have supported and encouraged the school, not only in the past year but during your time working with us. The staff and governors have continued to work extremely hard to ensure that work has been provided for every school week missed, often hand delivering this work. They have also worked very hard to ensure those children who have attended school have done so in a safe and, extremely importantly, a caring environment.

MUGA

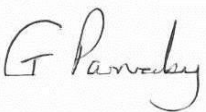
We are hoping to see our Multi Use Games Area constructed over the summer break so look out for it if you are passing the school which will be a fantastic opportunity for us to develop our outdoor area alongside our PE curriculum.

Finally, all the children, staff, governors and fellow parents of Shilbottle Primary would like to wish the children in Year 6 a fond farewell and the very best of luck at the Duchess High School in September when they start the next phase in their education. We are confident they will all go on to achieve the goals they have set themselves and be excellent ambassadors of our school. We work closely with the DCHS and the staff there often report back about the quality of the children we have sent to them, both in terms of academic achievement and their kind and caring nature. The children enjoyed a Leavers Disco last night and we would like to thank parents for the donations towards this, particularly, Claire Metcalf who provided lots of food, drink and decorations! For some families this is the last time we will be working with you, some of whom have had children in the school for the past 25 years, and we would also like to thank you for your support over the years.

Please keep in touch and let us know how the children develop as we are always interested in finding out about past pupils of the school and their achievements.

We hope you have a very enjoyable and, most importantly, safe summer and look forward to working with you next year when your child returns to us alongside our new children joining in September.

Regards



Mr G Parnaby

(On behalf of the governors and staff of Shilbottle Primary)