



Shilbottle Primary School

Friday Flyer

12 September 2025

Headteachers update

What a wonderful start to the term we've had here at Shilbottle! The children have shown such fantastic behaviour and positive attitudes. It's been a joy to see them settle back into routines with big smiles and plenty of enthusiasm. Thank you also to all our parents and carers for supporting the small but important changes at the end of the day by collecting children from the playground – it really has made such a difference and we appreciate your support in keeping things calm and safe.

We are also bursting with amazing news to share! Friendly Frogs have officially been graded Outstanding by Ofsted. This is a truly remarkable achievement for Kelly and the team and we are so proud of the hard work and dedication that has led to this recognition. It's also a brilliant reflection of the outstanding start our youngest children are getting – and we simply can't wait to see them continue their journey here at Shilbottle Primary School.

Looking ahead, I'd love to expand the range of clubs and activities we offer our children. With a small staff team, this isn't always easy – so I'm reaching out to you, our wonderful parents and carers: if you have a skill, hobby or even just the enthusiasm to lend a hand, we'd love to hear from you. On a similar note, we are also hoping to get a PTA up and running. A strong PTA makes such a difference to a school and we'd be delighted if anyone is interested in helping to get this started. I believe in the past this has been a vital source of support and some of the events have been greatly supported which is an invaluable resource for a school.

From next week, there will be another small change to PE. To make life a little easier for the children, on their PE or swimming days, we'd like children to come to school wearing their PE kit. For this term, the whole school will have PE on Wednesdays and Fridays and we'll trial this arrangement to see how it goes. Please remember that PE kit is part of our uniform so we need to wear it with pride and we have high expectations around this: children should wear a red t-shirt, school hoodie or jumper and black shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms (preferably non-branded) with trainers, Football kits are not permitted. I am hoping that after our half term trial this will continue but only if expectations are met and maintained throughout.

Finally, as you are aware our classes this year have been changed and I feel that names are better than Class 3/4. Staff and the older children have therefore decided that classes are to be named after leaves due to our beautiful surroundings.

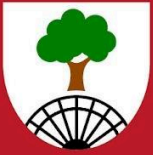
Mrs Blackhall = Bluebell

Mrs Kelly = Poppy

Mr Phillips = Clover

The week has ended with our new Celebration Assembly and Hot Chocolate treat so well done to all our winners. We have a school full of superstars and I am so proud of the first two weeks - keep it up!

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 and Mr Shaw**.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SMART TVs

Smart TVs connect to the internet without the need for a set-top box or streaming device, letting users access a range of features through the TV set itself: from on-demand content apps like BBC iPlayer to streaming services such as Netflix, as well as connecting to smartphones and other wireless devices. Most new televisions are internet enabled – so whether you're thinking of upgrading your home viewing system or buying an additional TV for your child's room, it's now even more important to consider the online safety aspects.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
From Netflix to Disney+ to Prime Video, there is a plethora of streaming services available. While these services offer content catering for younger viewers, they also provide material for more mature audiences. If you don't have parental controls set up on your accounts, your child could find themselves being exposed to shows and movies with adult themes, strong language and violence.
- INCREASED SCREEN TIME**
The array of content available through smart TVs could lead to your child spending excessive amounts of time in front of the screen. Not only can prolonged screen time distract from important activities such as schoolwork or exercise, but experts have also warned that endless hours in front of the box can lead to health problems including obesity, poor sleeping patterns and depression.
- REMOTE-CONTROL RETAIL**
Like many online devices, smart TVs facilitate digital purchases: buying a new app or the latest season of a favourite show, for example. If your child has access to a bank card and isn't restricted by spending controls on the system, they could run up a sizeable bill through a smart TV fairly quickly – especially if they're not quite old enough to fully appreciate the value of money.
- UNCONVINCING SECURITY**
As Internet of Things (IoT) devices, smart TVs can be uniquely vulnerable to attack. Experts warn that internet-enabled TVs tend not to support high-level security software, so you won't always be able to download strong antivirus programmes like you would on a phone or computer. Being targeted by hackers could be deeply upsetting for your child, as well as putting their personal data at risk.
- A SILENT SPY?**
Some smart TVs already collect data on users' viewing habits and then display targeted advertising based on that personal information – while there have also been reports of internet-enabled TVs (and the apps installed on them) being used to 'eavesdrop' on owners. In models with a built-in microphone (for voice activation), third parties could potentially listen in on someone's home life.
- CONTACT FROM STRANGERS**
Many smart TVs can be used for web browsing, social media and live streaming – all of which could allow unknown users to contact your child (or vice versa). If your child engages with these functions of the TV, a stranger could potentially discover their contact information and potentially then use it to obtain even more sensitive personal details, such as your home address.

Advice for Parents & Carers

- MAKE IT A FAMILY THING**
Family TV time is a great way to model the responsible enjoyment of technology – showing your child how to use the smart TV safely for when they're old enough to watch it independently. You could also take this opportunity to establish some healthy TV boundaries, such as time limits on their daily viewing or how to make sure they're only watching content that's appropriate for their age.
- CREATE CHILD PROFILES**
Much like with smartphones and tablets, apps can be downloaded onto smart TVs: from free content platforms such as BBC iPlayer to paid-for services like Prime Video. Most of these apps allow you to create a separate account for your child which has different settings to your own – suggesting more child-friendly material and reducing the possibility of them viewing explicit content.
- SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS**
It's likely that your smart TV has built-in parental controls, which not only let you filter out age-inappropriate shows, movies and games but can also restrict in-app purchasing, so your child can't accidentally spend money through the device. When you've enabled these safeguards, have an open conversation with your child about the reasons, helping them to understand the potential risks.
- CONSIDER THE LOCATION**
If you're concerned about the online safety hazards that a smart TV might pose to your child, you could consider where in your home you put the device. The safest option would be to place the smart TV in a shared family space – so that an adult is usually nearby and able to supervise while your child's watching it – rather than in the relative privacy of a bedroom.

HELLO OSCAR



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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 97.8%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Mrs Blackhall	97.6%	97.6%
Mrs Kelly	100%	100%
Mr Phillips	96.25%	95.07%

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.

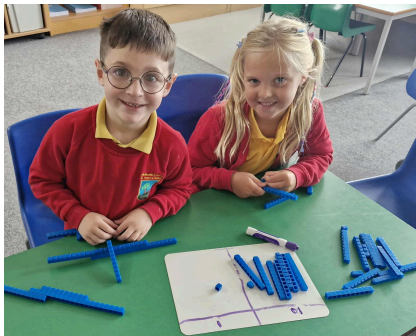
We have a continual focus on attendance and punctuality and this is of the utmost importance in your child's education. Please remember that our school gate closes at 8.45am as this is when our lessons begin. Anyone arriving after this time is classed as late and will miss valuable learning opportunities which take place immediately after registration, such as phonics.



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Classroom updates - Mrs Blackhall's Class

In our first full week back in school, EYFS and KS1 children have really impressed us with their attitudes to learning. Key Stage 1 classes have worked incredibly hard in all of their lessons, but they have shown particular enthusiasm and determination in maths this week. Year 2 have been working on partitioning numbers up to 100 into tens and ones while Year 1 have been representing numbers using objects. In English, Key Stage 1 have started to read 'Diary of a Killer Cat' by Anne Fine. The children have been making predictions and inferences from illustrations.



In Reception, the children have been bringing lots of positivity into the classroom and their learning tasks. Working as a team, the children have been solving problems involving finding pairs and matching corresponding pictures. The children started their very first phonics lessons this week and they have been proud and excited to share their new sounds. Sound books are being sent home in children's reading folders, so please do ask them about the sounds they have been learning. I am confident that they will impress you with their knowledge and enthusiasm!





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Classroom updates - Mrs Kelly's Class

It's only the second week of term, but Year 3 and 4 have been working so hard. In Maths, we've continued to look at place value and have worked with numbers up to 10,000. The children have really been extending their reasoning and problem solving skills and challenging themselves with our Bronze, Silver and Gold challenges.

In English, we continued reading our text 'The King who banned the dark'. We wrote letters to the King to help him overcome his fear of the dark, using empathy to understand how he might be feeling and offering kind, thoughtful advice.

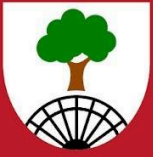
In History, we continued our journey through prehistoric times, moving from the Stone Age into the Iron Age and learning how people's lives and tools changed over time. The children are currently working on their own mini project on life in a Celtic tribe.

In French, we've been learning about France and its culture, discovering where it is, its famous landmarks and some interesting facts about life there. Over the next few lessons, we will start learning basic greetings like "Bonjour" and "Au revoir," and how to introduce ourselves by saying "Je m'appelle..." The Year 4s will be expanding their knowledge but it will all be completely new for the Year 3s!

In PE, we have made a strong start to hockey, practising our dribbling and control skills.

The children have made a really positive start to the new term.





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Classroom updates- Mr Phillips Class



Welcome to Clover Class – our chosen class name following a British Wildflower theme that fits in with all the biodiversity work the school has been doing over the past couple of years.

After many discussions with the Y5/6 children, we decided that we should be known as Clover Class. So, why Clover? Clover may look like a small and simple plant, but it is an important lifeline for bees, providing food when they need it most. Just as clover helps bees to thrive, we want our class to be a place where children support one another and help each other grow. Clover is also full of heart-shaped leaves, which for centuries have been seen as symbols of love, kindness and good fortune. A four-leaf clover, as many of you will know, is said to bring faith,

hope, love and luck. These are wonderful values for children at this stage in their school journey, as they take on challenges with courage and optimism. In English folklore, clover fields were thought to be places where fairies danced and played. Clover was even carried as a charm of protection and bravery. We loved this connection to story, imagination and magic – a reminder that childhood should always hold a sense of wonder. And, of course, clover blooms beautifully. A single flower may seem small, but together, many tiny flowers create something vibrant and lasting. This is how we see Clover Class: each child's unique contribution matters, but together they make something even greater. So Clover Class is not just a name – it's a symbol of support, kindness, imagination, courage, and growth.

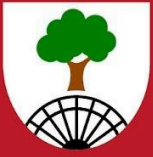
In PSHE we've been celebrating what makes us unique and how we can build respectful, inclusive relationships. We even created a Class Charter to remind us to try new things, support each other and celebrate successes.

The class have also impressed Mr Phillips with their improved presentation, and several children have already moved up swimming groups – not bad for week two!

We continued our investigation into the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings and looked into the influence they had on Northumberland (Land north of the River Humber), such as the place names of where we live. Why is Shilbottle called Shilbottle? And what does Alnwick actually mean? Ask Clover Class – they'd love to tell you!



Mr Phillips



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Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Wednesday 3rd September	12:20	Year 5/6 swimming lesson, last session Wednesday 17th December
Friday 19th September	9.30-11.30	Y5 & Y6 Interactive Schools concert in Alnwick Playhouse
Thursday 23rd October	1:15-3:00	Harvest Festival at St James Church
Thursday 11th December	5:30-6:30	Carol Service at St James Church
Wednesday 17th December	9.30-11.30	Alnwick Playhouse Christmas Panto



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

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REGGIE R**



Shilbottle Primary School

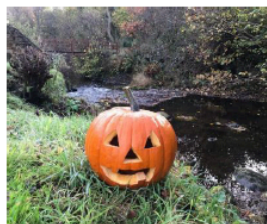
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TRIDENT SOCCER



OCTOBER HALF-TERM HOLIDAY 2025



CAMP INCLUDES:

*Learn New Skills *Goalkeeping *Futsal *Tournaments *Awards *Speed Radar Challenge

Group 1:	School Years: R, 1 & 2
Group 2:	School Years: 3, 4 & 5
Group 3:	School Years: 6, 7 & 8

Location	Venue	Dates	Times	Cost
Alnmouth	Alnmouth F.C./Alnmouth and Lesbury C.C	October 27 th , 28 th , 29 th & 30 th	9.30am-12.30pm	£50.00

Trident Soccer coaches are UEFA Qualified; FA and SFA Qualified. Trident Soccer coaches are First-Aid qualified and fully Police checked. **PARTICIPANTS MUST BRING:** Trainers and boots, shin-pads and refreshment drinks, plus a change of dry clothing/track-suit etc.

For more information or to reserve/guarantee a place for your child, fill in the booking form below and ☎ 01665 581555 or e-mail tridentsoccer@gmail.com (BACS Payment only) Places given out on a first-come/first-serve basis. (Payment of £50.00 set fee in advance of camp). (BACS Details: Trident Soccer. Sort Code: 30-54-66. Account Number: 13418960) Return forms to Trident Soccer, Hazon Mill, Guyzance, Acklington, Morpeth, Northumberland. NE65 9AT



Tick box for intended group:

Alnmouth Group 1 <input type="checkbox"/>	Alnmouth Group 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	Alnmouth Group 3 <input type="checkbox"/>
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Name.....Address.....
Postcode..... Age.....D.O.B.....School Yr(2025/26).....
Telephone number.....Emergency Number.....
E-mail Address.....
Please could you advise of any allergies or medical conditions which your child may have:

Signed Parent/Guardian.....

Children must be delivered and picked up by a responsible person. Trident Soccer is exempt from any loss or injury during the course.

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