



Shilbottle Primary School Friday Flyer

7th November 2025

Welcome back, everyone! I hope you all had a lovely half-term break and managed to find some time to rest, relax and recharge. Whether you spent it exploring the outdoors, catching up with family or simply enjoying a few quiet moments at home, I hope it was just what you needed. We've got seven busy but exciting weeks ahead as we make our way towards Christmas and it's been fantastic to see how positively the children have returned to school. They've come back with smiles, energy and a real readiness to learn, which is exactly what we love to see at Shilbottle.

This week has been all about settling back into routines and reconnecting as a school community and it's been lovely to see the children showing such care, focus, and kindness towards one another. The classrooms are buzzing once again and it's a real reminder of what a happy and hardworking school we have.

Next week is set to be a busy one with several special events taking place. On Monday, children are invited to come into school wearing odd socks as we take part in Anti-Bullying Week. It's a simple but powerful way to celebrate what makes us all unique and to remind everyone that being different is something to be proud of. Children can come in their PE kit with odd socks if they wish and we look forward to seeing a sea of colourful socks around school!

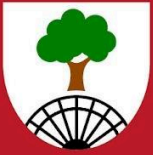
On Tuesday, we'll be holding a special Remembrance assembly where we'll take time to reflect and pay our respects with a minute's silence. This is always a moving occasion and the children at Shilbottle I have no doubt will approach it with real thoughtfulness and respect.

Then on Friday, it's time for Children in Need - one of the highlights of the year! Children are invited to wear non-uniform (spots are optional) and to bring along a £1 voluntary donation to help support the fantastic work of the charity.

Finally, I'm really pleased to share that this year, for the very first time, we'll be supporting Action for Children with their Christmas Appeal. This charity does incredible work supporting children and families across the North East who may be facing challenging circumstances, particularly at this time of year. We'll be inviting families to fill shoeboxes with small gifts and essential items that will be distributed to those in need this Christmas. A letter has gone out from the office with all the details and I know that, as always, our Shilbottle community will come together with kindness and generosity to make a real difference.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, warmth, and enthusiasm for everything we do here at Shilbottle. It makes such a difference to our school and to the children. I hope you all have a lovely, relaxing weekend, and we'll look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday - hopefully with a little more sunshine than we've seen this 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**.

**What Parents & Educators Need to Know about
GENERATIVE AI SAFETY**

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY**
Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.
- EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unsuitable material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.
- PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY**
Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.
- REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING**
Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.
- DIGITAL DEPENDENCY**
Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unmanaged, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.
- UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES**
Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or creative tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES**
Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.
- PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION**
Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.
- ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION**
Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.
- ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS**
Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.



Shilbottle Primary School

Friday Flyer

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 91.5%. Our Whole School Target is 96%

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Mrs Blackhall	96.4%	90.5%
Mrs Kelly	97.5%	91.8%
Mr Phillips	95.8%	91.6%

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.



Shilbottle Primary School Friday Flyer

Classroom updates - Bluebell Class

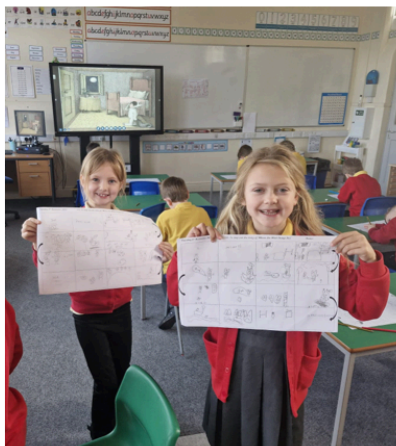
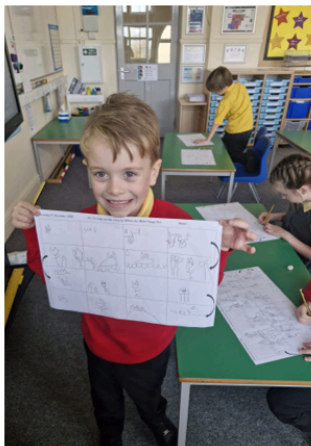
I hope you have all had a lovely half term. The children have returned to school recharged and ready to learn. As a class, they have settled back into routine incredibly well this week.

In Reception, our home corner has been transformed into Shilbottle Primary School Doctor's Surgery. Bones have been repaired, medicines administered and babies have been cared for by our Reception Class midwives.

In maths, Reception children have been learning about shapes. The children went on a shape hunt around school to see how many different shapes they could identify, while Miss Hedley captured their discoveries. Not only did they remember and identify lots of different shapes, but their respectful conduct while visiting different classrooms was also noted. Well done everyone!



In key Stage One, our children have continued to explore the text: 'Where The Wild Things Are'. This term, we've progressed onto producing our own creative writing by designing our own 'Wild Things' and describing them. Yesterday, the children started to map out the story in images, in preparation for planning and writing their own Wild adventures next week.





Shilbottle Primary School Friday Flyer

Classroom updates - Poppy Class



Back refreshed and full of enthusiasm and energy, Poppy Class have had a good start to the new half term.

In Maths, we've been continuing our work on subtraction, practising exchanging and using different methods to solve problems with growing confidence. In English, we've started our exciting new book *Pugs of the Frozen North*. The children have loved diving into the story and have written some amazing setting descriptions of the icy landscapes and the ship trapped in frozen waters from the start of the book. We've also been learning about similes and we have used these in our setting descriptions to make our writing even more engaging.

In Science, we've been looking at healthy eating and exploring the different food groups, learning why our bodies need each one and what might happen if we didn't get enough of one particular group. In Geography, we've been exploring the topic of migration, having thoughtful and mature discussions about immigration and asylum seekers and using maps to find out where people move from and to around the world.

RE started with the story of Noah and a focus on the covenant he made with God.

Finally, we celebrated Bonfire Night in style with a fun lunchtime treat. Some children from Poppy class were chosen to help Katelyn make delicious chocolate apples and s'mores which were a big hit!

It's been a great start to the half term and we are looking forward to more exciting learning as we head towards Christmas.

Mrs Kelly



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Classroom Updates - Clover Class: Secrets, Rainclouds, and Outer Space!

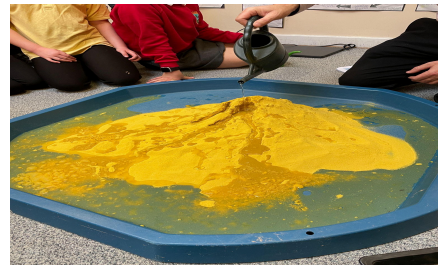
We've officially survived the first week back, and what a week it's been! We've hit the ground running, and everyone is already buzzing with new topics, top-secret projects, and some very... *unusual*... weather in the classroom. Here's a little peek at what we've been up to!



The Great English Mystery - In English, Mr. Phillips has introduced our new class book... or has he? In a cunning move to boost our "inference and prediction skills," he's keeping the title a complete secret. All we've seen are some *really* cool illustrations. We're all playing detective, trying to piece the clues together. The suspense is brilliant! We know this mystery book will help us write a "discussion text," which (as we've learned) is a fancy way of saying we'll be writing a balanced argument, looking at all the pros and cons of a topic. The catch? We don't know that topic either! Mr. Phillips just smiles mysteriously and says it has *something* to do

with our geography. We will, of course, keep you updated as this spy thriller unfolds.

Mr. Phillips Becomes a Cloud - We brought the Cheviot Hills right into our classroom! Well... a model of them. (Ours was, perhaps, a *slight* shade yellower than the real ones). The real highlight was when Mr. Phillips transformed into a human rain cloud, pouring water over our mini-landscape. It was a fantastic way to see exactly how rivers are formed and how they, like our local River Aln, have shaped the landscape over time. Ask us about our new vocabulary: erosion, deposition, meanders, and floodplains. Go on, we dare you! (It genuinely helps us remember).



Maths, Art, and Beyond! We had a special guest in Maths this week, as Mr. Shaw stopped by to lead a fun lesson on short multiplication. It was a great refresher and reminded us all that *everything* in maths gets easier with practice. We were also thrilled to welcome Mrs. Slack back! She's kicking things off with our new art topic: Portraits. This week, we explored the *seven elements of art* to help us eventually create realistic likenesses, and we'll soon be studying artists like Sarah Biffin and Noor Bahjat. And as if all that wasn't enough, we're heading to the final frontier... Space! We're about to tackle the big questions: Why is the Earth spherical? How do all the planets move? We're ready for takeoff! Oh! And we've started to grow an avocado!

Mr Phillips



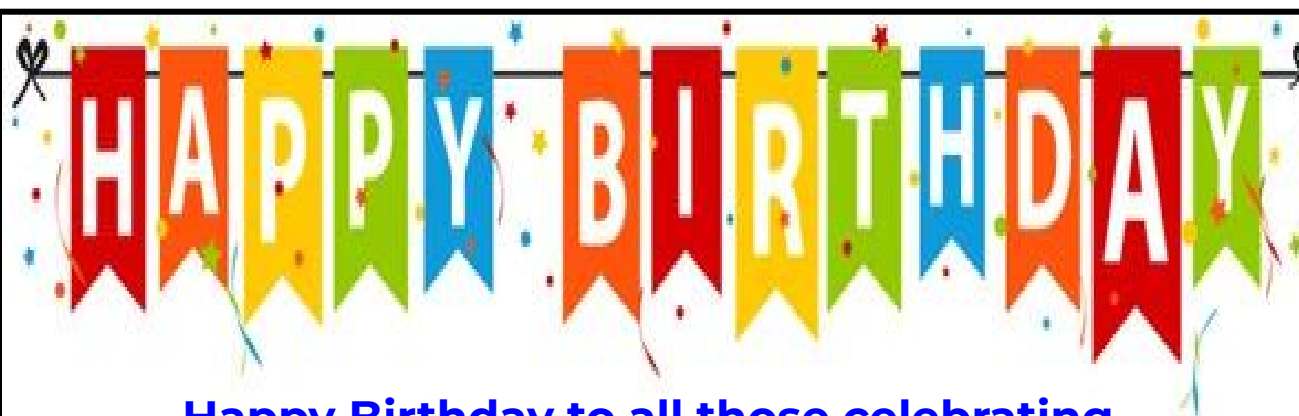
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Friday Flyer

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 10th December
Monday 10th November	All day	Odd Sock day
Friday 14th November	All day	Children in Need-non school uniform day wear spots (£1:00 donation)
Saturday 6th December	17.30-19.30	Magical Christmas Evening with Jonny Diggins (see flyer below)
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**

Dougie - Poppy Class



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Shilbottle Primary Parents Association
Presents:

A Magical Christmas
Evening with
Saxophonist

Tonny Diggens

Noel

MUSIC.FOOD.TREATS

Locally made gifts for sale

Mulled wine and Mince pies

If you would like an opportunity to showcase your
products it's £10 per stall. Enquire at :
katewilliams00@hotmail.com

Shilbottle Community Hall NE66 2XH

Entry: voluntary contribution to Shilbottle Primary

Saturday 6th December
17:30-19:30