Shilbottle Primary School
Friday Flyer

6 November 2026

Executive Headteacher Update

Welcome back! I hope everyone has had a lovely half-term break and managed to enjoy some well-deserved rest and family time. It has been fantastic to see the children return this week, looking refreshed, enthusiastic and raring to go! We are super excited about the seven weeks ahead and all the fun activities, events and learning opportunities we have planned before we break up for the Christmas holidays on Friday 18th December at 1.30pm. There is plenty to look forward to, so please keep an eye on the school calendar to make sure you don't miss out!

It has been lovely to get straight back into our usual routines this week, with plenty happening already. Our Year 5 and 6 children have returned to their swimming lessons and this will be their final half-term travelling to Willowburn Leisure Centre in Alnwick. We are delighted that they have another opportunity to develop their confidence and skills in the water before completing this part of their curriculum.

The children in Poppy Class have also enjoyed a fantastic visit to Alnwick Playhouse this week, where they took part in a schools' programme called Instrument Stories. Featuring a sequence of stories with music by Emma Johnson and illustrations by Rebecca Price, the programme introduced the children to the different instruments of an orchestra and the wonderful sounds they can create.

A huge thank you must also go to our fantastic SPPA for organising what sounds like an absolutely brilliant Halloween Disco over the half-term break. It has been wonderful hearing all the stories from the event and it sounds as though so many of our families had a fantastic time. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported it. These events are such an important part of our school community, bringing families together and creating those lovely memories for our children. We really do appreciate everything our SPPA does - if you can support them please get in touch!

Looking ahead, please make a note of Friday 13th November, when we will be supporting Children in Need. This is a fantastic cause and we would love everyone to get behind it and help us support this worthwhile charity. Please also note that this Sunday the Village has their Remembrance Service so it would be wonderful if you could join Mr Phillips and our community to mark this occasion which is such an important part of our history.

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday, ready for another busy and exciting 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 95.6%. Our Whole School Target is 96%

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Mrs Blackhall	**96.0%**	**94.6%**
Mrs Kelly	**96.4%**	**93.0%**
Mr Phillips	**93.6%**	**95.1%**

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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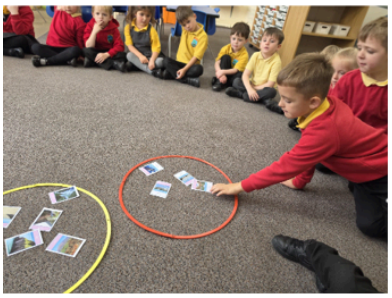
Classroom updates - Bluebell Class

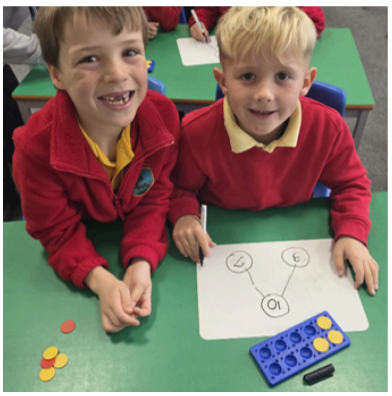
Welcome back, everyone! We have really enjoyed hearing all about your half-term and Halloween adventures. As we've settled back into our routines, the children have jumped straight into a fantastic week of learning and discovery.

To welcome the transition to darker nights and upcoming celebrations like Bonfire Night, Diwali, and eventually Christmas, we have created a cozy campfire role-play area in EYFS. Complete with a tent, snuggly cushions, and twinkly fairy lights, it has already been a huge hit! We look forward to building on this space throughout the term.

In EYFS literacy this week, Reception children shared a traditional tale in 'Drawing Club'. After reading *The Little Red Hen*, they drew some brilliant hens, with many children bringing their drawings to life using phonics codes like "'h' for hen" and "h-e-n." Well done, everyone! In maths, we began comparing circles and triangles through practical activities. Next up is a shape hunt, where we'll be spotting as many circles and triangles around our environment as we can find.

Meanwhile in Key Stage 1, we are wrapping up our unit on addition and subtraction. The children have worked incredibly hard on finding missing parts in part-whole models and identifying eight corresponding number facts using "Fact Families" (which is also featured in this week's maths homework). In English, we've been focusing on using the conjunction 'and' to combine details within a single sentence. We have also launched two exciting new units: exploring Shilbottle and the local area in Geography, and learning all about "Everyday Materials" in Science.







Across the school, we've had a creative week taking time to talk about Bonfire Night. Miss Hedley and Mrs Powell helped the children create some stunning bonfire artwork (keep an eye out for pictures coming soon!). We've also been crafting poppies ahead of Remembrance Sunday, which we will explore further next week using CBeebies' gentle, child-friendly animation.

Thank you all for a wonderfully productive first week back!

Mrs Blackhall

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Classroom updates - Poppy Class

I hope everyone has had a lovely half-term holiday! It has been a short week to get us back into the swing of things, but we have certainly packed lots in and it has been lovely to see everyone back and settling into school routines.



A real highlight of our week was our visit to Alnwick Playhouse to enjoy *Instrument Stories*, a wonderful musical performance designed to introduce children to the different instruments of the orchestra. Emma Johnson and her talented musicians brought the stories to life, accompanied by beautiful illustrations by Rebecca Price. The children loved listening to the different sounds of instruments such as the bassoon, French horn and oboe. They particularly enjoyed having the opportunity to conduct the music and clap along to the different rhythms. It was a lovely experience and a fantastic introduction to the magic of live music!

In Maths, we have been looking at complements to 100 and 1,000, as well as exploring inverse operations and how we can use these to check our calculations. The children have worked hard to develop their understanding and apply these skills.

In English, although we have finished reading *Anglo-Saxon Boy*, we are continuing to develop our persuasive speeches, taking on the role of Magnus as he tries to persuade the warriors to fight for their homes and land. We have been exploring different persuasive techniques, including rhetorical questions, emotive language, repetition, direct address and powerful vocabulary, to make our speeches more convincing.

We have also started our new Geography topic, Northumberland. We began by sharing what we already know about our local area before using maps and research to investigate some of Northumberland's physical features. We have been learning what we mean by a physical feature and identifying the natural features that make our county so special.

In Science, our Year 3 and 4 children have started exploring the question 'How does the human body break down food and extract energy?' We have been introduced to the digestive system and discovered how different organs, including the mouth, stomach and intestines, work together to break down the food we eat so our bodies can absorb nutrients. Our Year 2 children have been investigating different materials and their uses, thinking about the properties of materials and why they are suitable for particular objects.

In Art, we have been busy creating poppy decorations in preparation for Remembrance Sunday this weekend. The children have enjoyed producing their own poppies, which will help us remember and honour those who have served and sacrificed.

It has been a lovely, productive first week back. I hope you all have a lovely weekend and look forward to another busy week in Poppy Class! **Mrs Kelly**

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Classroom updates - Clover Class

The start of a new half-term often brings unexpected occurrences that take everyone by surprise. While most of the shock on Day 1 came from Cassius and Torin displaying new trendy haircuts, it was Day 2 that really brought about the unexpected.



The Clover Class International Swim Team arrived at Alnwick Sports Arena to commence their final half-term swimming training and were met by a very unexpected event. It appears that Suzuki have taken the opportunity to sponsor our swim team and had left a couple of cars outside the Arena for photo opportunities. This obviously was gratefully received by the Swim Team and they are all looking forward to wearing their new sponsored swim gear next half-term. At this moment in time, Mr Phillips can neither confirm or deny that Suzuki are actually aware of this new sponsorship deal.

While struggling to live up to the excitement of Wednesday afternoon, the rest of the week has supplied its own interest and adventure. Tuesday saw Stanley stage a classroom coup as he took over the geography lesson with his remarkable knowledge of rocks. Studying 'Wishing Stones' found by MrP on Beadnell Beach, the Clover Class geologists were surprised that these rocks were actually older than Mr Phillips. They were even older than the Pele Tower next to St James' Church. And, they were even older than the Cheviot hills. In fact, they were over 350 million years old and to confirm this interesting fact, the geologists retraced the journey of a small, Northumberland rock right back to an age before the dinosaurs roamed Shilbottle! It is amazing what you can find on the local beach!

On Thursday, Clover Class enjoyed a much needed break from the refreshed Mr Phillips and relaxed into a calmer, more serene classroom atmosphere as Mrs Slack stepped in to steady the ship once more. Making poppies for Remembrance Day is an area of expertise for Mrs Slack and this year's collection were, probably, some of the best that have ever been made. The Shilbottle Primary children have been invited to attend the War Memorial service at 2pm this Sunday and they are welcome to the Haven afterwards for cake, where their poppies will be on display.

On Friday, Mr Phillips returned to cause more disruption by introducing our new science topic - The Circulatory System. The Clover Class Vascular Specialists discussed what the circulatory system consisted of and what job each part does.

All in all, it was quite a full-on first week in Clover Class and we look forward to seeing what adventures we can get up to this half-term!
🍀**Mr Phillips**

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Dates for your Diary

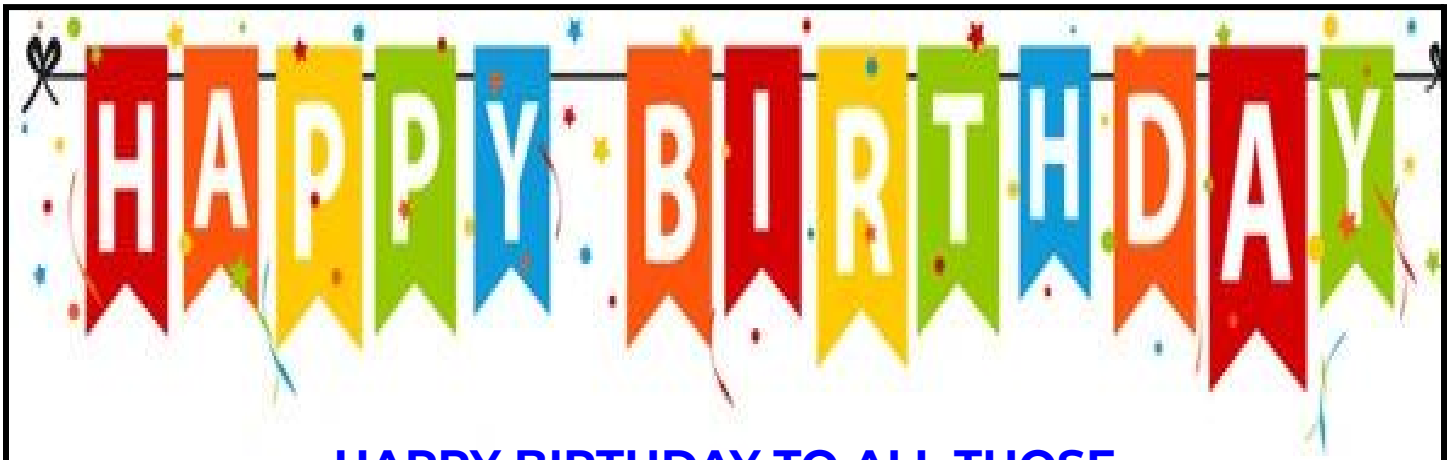
Events could be subject to change and will be communicated if required

Date	Time	
Tuesday 8th December	**10am show**	Whole School - Aladdin Christmas Panto - Tyne Theatre
Wednesday 9th December	**Carol Concert**	Details to follow
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
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

Dougie - Poppy Class

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