



Shilbottle Primary School Friday Flyer

19th December 2025

Good afternoon everyone ☺✨

And just like that... we've reached the final Friday Flyer of the Autumn Term – and what a term it has been at Shilbottle Primary School.

As I sit down to write this, I can't help but feel incredibly proud, festive and more than a little bit reflective. This has been my very first term at Shilbottle and honestly, I've loved every single minute. From day one, I've been welcomed with open arms by the children, staff, families and wider community – and that warmth, kindness and togetherness is something truly special. The children are nothing short of amazing: caring, funny, resilient, enthusiastic and full of character. There is a real buzz about the place – a community that you can sense the moment you walk through the doors and I feel extremely lucky to be part of it.

This week has been the perfect way to round off the term. Our visit to the pantomime at Alnwick Playhouse on Wednesday morning was an absolute joy – full of laughter, big smiles and some brilliantly cheeky jokes that the children (and adults!) thoroughly enjoyed. Alongside this, we've had class parties and festive fun throughout the week, helping everyone burn off that last burst of energy before the Christmas break arrives.

Looking ahead, there is so much to be excited about. We've now conquered the longest term of the year (well done everyone!) and there are lots of exciting things waiting for us in 2026. One date I'd love you to pop in your diaries now is Friday 1st May 2026, when we will be celebrating Shilbottle Primary School's 100-year anniversary. Plans are already quietly taking shape behind the scenes and we're determined to make it a truly memorable, classic Shilbottle day that does justice to such an important milestone.

For now though, it's time to slow down, wrap up warm, eat a few too many mince pies and enjoy a well-earned rest. I hope you all have the most magical Christmas and a very happy New Year. I also hope Santa is especially kind to all of our wonderful children.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 5th January 2026, refreshed, recharged and ready for another exciting term ahead.

Thank you for your continued support and thank you for making Shilbottle such a special place to be.

Warmest festive wishes,

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.**

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

- 1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY**
Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Establishing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.
- 2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS**
The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, coasters and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and know how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.
- 3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS**
More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.
- 4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES**
Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or epinephrine. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.
- 5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS**
Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasize hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.
- 6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD**
Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distorted driving, pedestrian safety and inebriated motorists can compromise road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.
- 7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS**
Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if unattended. Frayed wires, taping Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.
- 8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS**
Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.
- 9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE**
Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision-making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.
- 10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY**
Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modeling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.



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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 94.0%. Our Whole School Target is 96%

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Mrs Blackhall	94.4%	92.7%
Mrs Kelly	97.5%	95.0%
Mr Phillips	95.4%	94.2%

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

This week has been bustling with Christmas activity. The children have added their finishing touches to the Christmas crafts they've been working on and these were sent home on Thursday. We hope you love them.

Our Christmas party was a huge success with a lovely surprise visit from a VIP. Thank you Mrs Lowes for all of your help with organising this. We also had our school trip to Alnwick Playhouse to see Hansel and Gretel. Despite the changes in routines and the bubbling excitement for Christmas, our Children have handled this well. Their behaviour this week has been fantastic and they represented our school wonderfully on our trip out. We were also lucky to finish our Christmas week with 'Teddy



Day'. Children brought in teddies for a teddy bear's picnic, provided by Katelyn.

Reading books and reading records have been collected back in for Christmas and homework books have been distributed to KS1 with next term's spellings in them. We hope you all have a lovely Christmas break and we look forward to welcoming the children back into the classroom on Monday

5th January 2026.

Mrs Blackhall



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Classroom updates - Poppy Class

As the week has gone on, it has become more and more Christmassy and excitement has reached fever pitch in Poppy Class. However we have also done some work!

In Maths, we finished off our topic on area and completed our end of term assessments. In English we focused on the mythical creature the Kraken, who appeared in our story and we wrote detailed and descriptive pieces about this fearsome beast and drew what we imagined it would look like.

Christmas has truly begun and we have enjoyed lots of festive craft activities. The children enjoyed their movie and craft evening provided by the SPPA. We also thoroughly enjoyed a trip to see Hansel and Gretel, where they were wonderfully behaved. Wednesday afternoon was our party where there were lots of party games and dancing, including the Can Can! We finished off the week with a Teddy Bears' Picnic on Friday lunchtime.

Thank you so much for all your support this term — I wish you a wonderful, restful Christmas and look forward to welcoming the children back ready to learn in the New year.



Mrs Kelly



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Classroom Updates - Clover Class

□ **What a week! What a half term! What a term!** We have officially made it to the Christmas holidays, and we certainly finished in style. This week has been absolutely packed with festive fun.

We kicked the week off at full speed! We started with a Reading Treasure Hunt, followed by some high-energy musical games (a game called "Hedgehog" is officially the new class favourite). We even squeezed in a game of Kabaddi in PE. And that was just Monday!

We didn't slow down on Tuesday. In English, we planned a Christmas story about a robin's journey home for Christmas. In Maths, we headed outside to help Santa fix a "candy cane fuel issue" with his sleigh by solving maths problems. Then, the biggest surprise of all...

Santa visited! Wow! We all received a selection box and had one last chance to whisper that special gift wish to him.



Wednesday was Panto Day! —oh yes it was! The whole school set off for a wonderful visit to Alnwick Playhouse to see Hansel and Gretel. A fantastic time was had by all.

Thursday: The Clover Class Christmas Party lived up to the hype. We had the **Christmas Wrap Battle, Pass the Parcel, the Snow Blower Game**, and plenty of food. **Official Dance-Off Champions:** Rebecca and Clayton! It was ace, and it left us all very red-faced and happy.

We finished the week with the legendary Pirate Game, where we get to rob points, wipe out entire rows of players, and bank money. It is, officially, the best game ever!

Lots has happened this Autumn term, including choosing our name: Clover Class. Now that we have finished our first term together, it is clear how perfectly the name fits. Just like clover—which may look small, but plays a vital role in keeping the soil healthy, helping other plants grow and bees to thrive—the children have supported one another with kindness, encouragement, and teamwork.

They have shown **faith, hope, and courage** in their learning, embraced **imagination**, and brought their own **unique strengths** to the group. Just as many small clover flowers bloom beautifully together, this class has grown into a caring, confident, and thriving community.

Have a wonderful, restful Christmas and I'm already looking forward to next year!

Mr Phillips





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Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Friday 19th December	1:00pm	School shuts at 1pm
Monday 5th January 2026	8:40	School will resume after Christmas holidays



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

Amelie - Clover Class