



Shilbottle Primary School Friday Flyer

24th April 2026

Headteachers Update

A very warm welcome back to the Summer Term. This is always one of the most exciting terms of the year and we are looking forward to all that lies ahead. We now just need some sunshine so we can make the most of our fantastic outdoor spaces alongside the excellent learning taking place in classrooms each day.

It is an important academic term for several year groups. Our Year 6 children will soon complete their SATs, Year 4 pupils will take part in the Multiplication Tables Check and Year 1 children will complete their Phonics Screening Check.

This week we focused on Earth awareness and the importance of caring for our planet. As part of this, a group of pupils took part in a litter pick at the local park. We had many more children wanting to join than places available, which was wonderful to see. The children did an amazing job, finding all sorts of unexpected treasures while helping to tidy the area. A huge thank you to Mr Phillips for organising the event and taking the children out. It was clear they had a fantastic time while learning valuable lessons about caring for and respecting their local village environment.

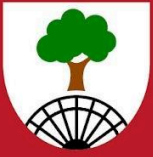
Looking ahead, next week brings our very special Centenary Celebration at Shilbottle Primary School. This will take place on Friday afternoon, beginning at around 1:00pm. Families should already have received letters with further details and we very much hope you will be able to join us. There will be plenty to enjoy throughout the afternoon, including hot dogs, a drinks van, cake sale, music and a display of historic school photographs in the hall. For the children, the SPPA are kindly providing a marquee with arts and crafts activities, free face painting and a couple of rides free of charge. We are also hoping to have outdoor games such as giant Jenga available.

Please come along and support this special occasion. It would mean a great deal to the school to see as many members of our community there as possible. If you know friends, former pupils, family members or others in the local area who may like to attend, please spread the word – everyone is very welcome.

To finish the week, we enjoyed our Celebration Assembly on Friday, along with our Hot Chocolate winners. It has been lovely to begin these summer term traditions once again.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend and look forward to a very big week in Shilbottle history.

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 MARVEL RIVALS

Marvel Rivals launched in December 2024 and amassed a player count of nearly 100,000 in mere weeks. This player versus player (PvP) shooter packs in a host of recognisable comic-book characters, pitting two teams of six against each other. Despite the game's cartoonish nature, there are several potential risks for parents and educators to be aware of.

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 12
Violence, some bloody action, the age of 12 or above only

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

IN-GAME CHAT
Kids or adults are able to speak to teammates and opponents within the game. In a competitive environment, some opponents can become aggressive. Not all in-game chat is filtered for using of bad language (PvP) and all too often an in-game chat ban is imposed on those who are not helpful. Moderation of adults is always best as it is important to recognise that potentially inappropriate messages could be sent to a child.

IN-GAME PURCHASES
While Marvel Rivals is free, there is an in-game store, with a variety of skins, from superhero costumes and a whole host of items. Each character also has their own PVP Battle Pass (or skin) for those who prefer to spend and not to play, offering a variety of exclusive cosmetic items. These are not available for free but they can be purchased using the in-game store, creating a fear of missing out.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS
With such a large player base, it is impossible to predict who you will be meeting when playing a game. They're virtually unable to get into stronger than high school level chat. For parents, some of these people will be no ordinary gamers using the codes, but there is the risk of some cyberbullying, inappropriate with younger players - either intentionally, or because they don't realise that they're speaking to a child.

VIOLENT CONTENT
There's no gore in Marvel Rivals, and the violence depicted is not graphic but it is violent - but the job of the characters is to win, not to kill. However, there are some graphic depictions of the PVP, including when one character kills another. Within the game's nature as a shooter, this may make some parents and carers uncomfortable. In some situations, it will be the responsibility of each other.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
The game includes some depictions of a whole theme in the game, which may be inappropriate for younger children. This includes depictions of violence, including from a child and family-friendly game perspective. As an adult, I would recommend the removal of this game from the child's device. Inappropriate, using their screen to make them to parents by harmful content.

FAMILIAR CHARACTERS
The inclusion of iconic superheroes might make Marvel Rivals appear more appropriate than other games in the genre, with recognisable characters that are up to date and relevant. This could lead to more interest from younger players, increasing the likelihood of children playing the game without properly understanding the risks.

Advice for Parents & Educators

FOLLOW ESRB RATINGS
The ESRB rating for Marvel Rivals is rated as 'M' (Mature) 17+. This means that the game is not suitable for children under the age of 17. However, it is important to note that the content of the game is not suitable for children under the age of 17, even if the game is rated as 'M' (Mature) 17+.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF
The game's inclusion of familiar characters is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, it can be a great way to introduce children to the game. On the other hand, it can be a great way to introduce children to the game's content. It is important to be aware of the game's content and to be able to explain it to children.

MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT
We are not able to turn off chat within the game's settings. If you're particularly concerned about speaking to others and playing people in them, however, you can disable both forms of chat in the game's settings. If a child ever by to play, change the friends, remove them from they can use their own own party chat. Features of chat a child can play with the Marvel.

DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS
Parents should ensure that any payment options - such as debit cards - are linked to the game, to prevent a child from making purchases. Children can be tempted by watching in-game offers without fully understanding the costs. To ensure you're not making any purchases, you should be able to disconnect payment options from the game's settings. This will prevent any purchases from being made.





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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 94.8%. Our Whole School Target is 96%

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Mrs Blackhall	97.7%	94.0%
Mrs Kelly	98.9%	95.3%
Mr Phillips	92.5%	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

It has been a wonderful start to the new term, and we have already dived into some exciting new topics across EYFS and Key Stage 1

Our youngest learners have been busy exploring 3-D shapes. This week, they investigated the relationship between 2-D and 3-D shapes by dipping the flat faces of models into paint and printing them to create giant collaborative artworks! We will continue our shape exploration next week.

Years 1 & 2: The children rounded off a week of Statistics by learning how to interpret and analyze pictograms.

We have officially commenced our new History topic - Grace Darling. We've been exploring how lighthouses work and designing our own models. A huge thank you to the parents who sent in cardboard tubes—we'll be using them to finish our models next week.



In Science, we are learning how to group animals using animal classification guides. This links perfectly with our new English text, *Frogs* by Elizabeth Carney. Ask your children if they can tell you a few facts about amphibians!



To mark Earth Day, some of our students joined Mr. Phillips at Shilbottle Park for a community litter pick. They were so pleased with their hard work that they are already asking to go back! We are incredibly proud of the interest they are taking in looking after their local environment and we hope to visit the park again this term to continue to take care of this area.

Our Wednesday PE sessions have officially moved to the pool! We were very impressed with how quickly and independently the children handled the changing rooms. Most importantly, we were especially proud of their efforts in the water—everyone gave it a real go, even those who felt a bit nervous at first. Well done!

Have a lovely weekend, everyone!

Mrs Blackhall



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Classroom updates - Poppy Class

It has been a lovely start to the Summer term, helped by the improved weather which has allowed the children to enjoy more time outdoors at play. We have had a busy and productive first week back. In Maths, we have revisited fractions, reminding ourselves how to convert between improper fractions and mixed numbers before moving on to adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominators.

In English, we have begun our new text, *Sound – Let's Investigate*, with the aim of planning an explanation text. The children have explored the key features of explanation writing and have been introduced to new vocabulary linked to sound.

In PSHE, we focused on the important topic of mental health, discussing what mental health means and how it is just as important as physical health. The children explored different ways to look after their wellbeing, such as talking to someone they trust, staying active, getting enough sleep and taking time to relax. We also discussed how to recognise when someone might be struggling and how we can show kindness and support to others.

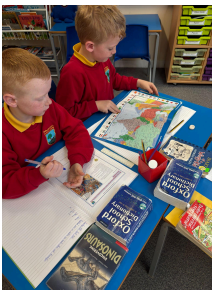
In History, we started our new topic, "Why was Baghdad such an important city in AD 900?" and explored its significance as a centre of mathematical and scientific excellence.

In Science, we continued our topic on light, identifying natural and human-made light sources. During a practical investigation, the children explored which objects could act as light sources in a dark box. It was interesting to see that many initially thought items such as aluminium foil and mirrors produced light, leading to some great discussion and learning.

In Art, we continued our work on monochromatic drawing, focusing on how artists use perspective. The children practised applying this technique in their own sketches.

We enjoyed PE with Emra earlier in the week, and our swimming sessions have now been replaced with PE lessons with Mr Wilkie on Friday afternoons. A group of children also took part in a litter pick at the park, which was a fantastic effort — they collected five bags of rubbish as well as discarded bikes and scooters, making a real difference to the local environment.

Have a great weekend. We are all looking forward to our 100-year celebrations next week!



Mrs Kelly



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Classroom updates - Clover Class

Welcome back to the Summer Term! We have a colossal celebration on the horizon: next week, the entire school will be celebrating its 100th Birthday. While Mr. Phillips has spent much of this week trying to convince Clover Class that he wasn't actually present at the school's grand opening, the children have jumped straight back into their learning with immense enthusiasm and enjoyment.

This term is obviously a significant one for Year 6 as they approach their end of KS2 SATs. They have been working hard for this for several years now, and as we enter the final stretch, I am pleased to report that their attitude in this first week back has been incredibly positive. They are receiving fantastic support from their Year 5 classmates, making the classroom a true team environment.

We made a stellar start by exploring the interconnected world of Fractions, Decimals, and Percentages. The children have been flying this week, demonstrating great ability and understanding. Our English focus has been on exploring different text types and studying Biomes for Earth Day and researching the legendary Vincent Van Gogh in preparation for an exciting new art project.



World War One was sparked by the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, but Clover Class went historically deeper, investigating the powerful undercurrents that actually started the conflict: The M.A.I.N. Tensions (Militarism, Alliances, Imperialism, and Nationalism).

The children worked in expert groups to master one of the tensions, before teaching their classmates. They then created impressive Fact Files, compiling all the elements that had turned Europe into a powder keg. (Again, Mr. Phillips has had to rigorously defend his

alibi that he wasn't around for this era, either!)

Mrs. Slack was on hand, as always, to lead us in French and to launch our exciting Van Gogh project. We began by researching the man behind the canvas, learning fascinating new facts about his life and his unique painting style. We cannot wait to see which of his masterpieces we will study in depth next week!

Clover Chat-ter: Ask your child:

You've been studying the 'M.A.I.N.' tensions—which one do you think was the biggest 'powder keg' for starting World War One?

Mr Phillips



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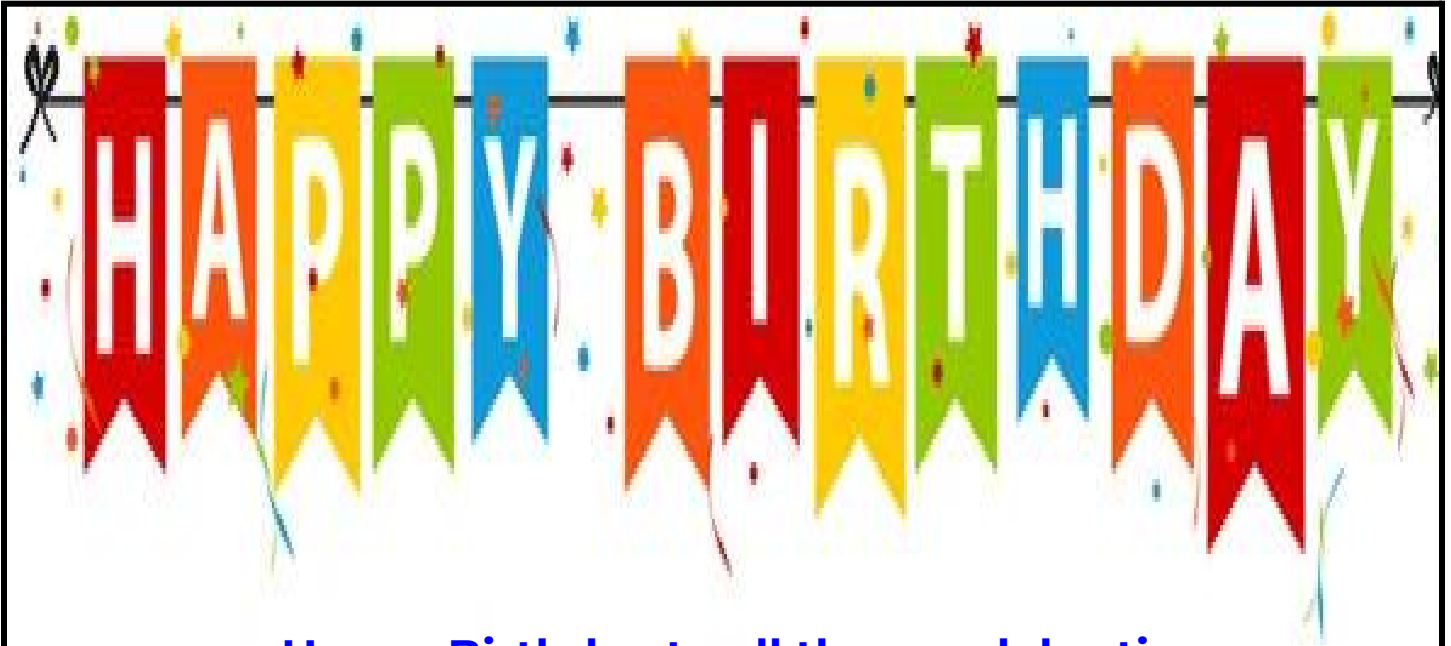
Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Wednesday 22nd April		Reception/Year1 & Year 2 Swimming (every Wednesday)
Friday 1st May 2026	13.00-15.00	Shilbottle School 100-Year Celebrations
Monday 11th May - 14th May		Year 6 SATs



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



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