



# Shilbottle Primary School Friday Flyer

**19 June 2026**

## **Headteachers Update**

There has been a real buzz around school this week, with plenty of exciting activities taking place and lots of opportunities for our children to shine.

The highlight of the week was undoubtedly our Sports Day, which took place on Tuesday afternoon. This year, we made the decision to hold the event on the Community Hall field, providing a flatter and more even surface for all of the activities. It was wonderful that so many parents and carers joined us for the afternoon and I hope you all enjoyed yourselves as much as the children did. I can only apologise for missing the event but it was for the best as I would have only upset Mr Phillips if I beat him in the sprint race!

I was told the atmosphere throughout the event was fantastic, with children demonstrating great determination, teamwork and sportsmanship. However, if I was judging purely by the excitement and anticipation beforehand, I think the parent race may well have stolen the show! I had several people asking me from Monday morning whether it was definitely going ahead, so thank you to everyone who took part and helped create such a memorable occasion.

A huge thank you also goes to our SPPA for providing refreshments during the event. We are incredibly grateful for the support they continue to provide and thank you to everyone who purchased refreshments and contributed. Every bit of support helps make a difference to the opportunities we can provide for our children.

On Wednesday afternoon, we welcomed our first group of children who will be joining us in September. It was lovely to have Friendly Frogs Preschool visit school as part of their transition programme. The children spent time with Mrs Blackhall, exploring their new surroundings and beginning to build relationships with staff. These visits are such an important part of helping children feel confident and excited about starting school and we look forward to welcoming them back again soon.

To round off another successful week, we held our Celebration Assembly and Hot Chocolate Awards. As always, it was a pleasure to recognise and celebrate the many achievements, successes and positive contributions of our children. Well done to all of this week's winners, we are incredibly proud of you.

We hope you all have a wonderful weekend. For those celebrating Father's Day on Sunday, we hope you have a very special day with family and loved ones.

**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**.

## World Cup 2026

The FIFA World Cup 2026 kicked off this week with the opening match between Mexico and South Africa and will conclude with the final on 19th July.

The World Cup can be an exciting time that brings people and communities together through a shared love of sport. However, the experience of major sporting events and football is not the same for everyone, particularly for women and those affected by Domestic Abuse.

We would like to remind all families that support is available for anyone experiencing Domestic Abuse or feeling unsafe at home. If you, or someone you know, needs help, the following organisations can provide confidential advice and support:

- National Domestic Abuse Helpline – 0808 2000 247
- Refuge: [www.refuge.org.uk](http://www.refuge.org.uk)
- Women's Aid: [www.womensaid.org.uk](http://www.womensaid.org.uk)
- In an emergency, always call 999

Please also speak to a trusted member of staff if you require any support or guidance.

We hope everyone enjoys the tournament safely and respectfully.





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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 94.7%. Our Whole School Target is 96%**

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Mrs Blackhall	90.9%	94.2%
Mrs Kelly	98.0%	95.2%
Mr Phillips	98.4%	94.6%

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 8.40am 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

Having had lots going on recently, we're ending the week feeling rather tired! However, the children have continued to put in their best efforts, as always. Here's what we've been up to:

While the KS1 children have been reading and writing about *The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch*, I thought our Reception children might enjoy the story too, so we brought it into 'Drawing Club'. The children worked together in a shared literacy lesson, designing their own 'decoy' sandwiches to scare away the pesky seagulls. The older children identified and developed a range of interesting vocabulary to describe their less-than-appetising creations. Mud and soy sauce sandwiches, anyone?



In maths, the KS1 children have rounded off their fractions topic by counting up to one whole using different fractions (for example, four quarters make one whole and three thirds make one whole). They used Cuisenaire rods to put this learning into practice, testing different fractions practically and exploring how a whole can be partitioned in a hands-on and engaging way.

Reception children have completed their sharing and grouping topic and have begun exploring and creating their own repeating A-B-C patterns. They have used both objects and colours to test and develop their ideas.

The children thoroughly enjoyed Sports Day, and we were proud to see such determined and focused participation. We were especially proud of our youngest children, who took part in their very first Sports Day and approached all of our practice sessions with enthusiasm, helping them to feel confident on the day. I was also very grateful for the fantastic support from our Year 5 and 6 children, who encouraged our younger learners wonderfully and set an excellent example through their motivation, kindness and conduct. Thank you!

Finally, your children will be bringing home some carefully guarded secrets this evening. As part of our discussions around Father's Day, we talked about the many different people who care for and support us. Children were encouraged to create their cards and gifts for a special person of their choosing, and they have taken great pride in preparing something thoughtful to share at home.



**Mrs Blackhall**



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## Classroom updates - Poppy Class

There is still lots of work to fit in before the end of the school year, and the children have continued to work incredibly hard this week. In Maths, we started a new topic on money. We discussed the role of money in society today and how many people now use bank cards or contactless payments for most purchases. We talked about why it is still important to understand the value of money and recognise different denominations so that we can work out costs, calculate change and decide whether we can afford items.

In English, we have continued our work on non-chronological reports. We have been using dragons as our focus and have explored the differences between facts and opinions. The children have also been developing their writing skills by practising extended sentences, using ambitious vocabulary and writing engaging introductions to capture the reader's interest.

We have completed a lot of Science this week. In our plants topic, we looked at the life cycle of flowering plants, learning about the stages from germination through to seed dispersal. The children explored how plants reproduce and the important role that pollination plays in the process. We have also begun our new topic on forces and magnets. We investigated how different surfaces affect movement by carrying out a comparative test. The children rolled marbles across a range of surfaces and measured how far they travelled, helping them to understand the effects of friction. The practical investigation was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and led to some excellent scientific discussions.

In Computing, we have been developing our programming skills using Scratch. The children learned how to create and control a character using a sequence of commands and began exploring how coding instructions can be used to make characters move and interact.

The highlight of our week was, of course, Sports Day. The children were absolutely fantastic, showing excellent sportsmanship, determination and encouragement towards one another. Every child gave their best effort, and it was wonderful to see everyone participating with such enthusiasm and positivity.

Have a lovely weekend, and we look forward to another busy week ahead. **Mrs Kelly**





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## Classroom updates - Clover Class

First up on the press desk: we have officially completed and submitted our first journalistic article for **The Scallop Shell** community newsletter, complete with a few great photographs. We cannot wait to see our hard work in print! We also took the opportunity to hold some serious, high-level class debates this week. While Mr. Phillips won't stop talking about the Men's Football World Cup, the rest of the class had their eyes on a major current event: the government's decision to follow Australia's lead and propose a ban on social media for children under 16.



The discussions were absolutely fascinating. We ran a couple of classroom polls which revealed some incredibly mature insights: One poll showed that the majority of the class did *not* agree with a total ban while another simultaneously showed that the majority believed that social media *does not* make them happier.

We concluded with a formal "For and Against" discussion. As always, the maturity, respect, and critical thinking shown by the children was worthy of the highest praise.

In **Mathematics**, we continued our investigation into geometry by tackling the area of **parallelograms**. Aside from it being a notoriously tricky word to say, the class found calculating the area quite straightforward once they realized you can easily rearrange a parallelogram into a rectangle—a shape we are already experts at solving! We also expanded our spatial skills into 3D, exploring **volume** and mastering the use of cubic centimeters



The rest of our week was a brilliant blur of creativity and athleticism. Our **Pitman Painters art project**—which uniquely incorporates the swirling, texturized style of Vincent van Gogh—is really starting to take shape. We can't wait to unveil the final landscape masterpieces.



As for **Sports Day**, it was absolutely ace! We had a spectacular time, and numerous parents, staff, and visitors have commented on how phenomenally well Clover Class conducted themselves. Mr. Phillips was incredibly proud of the group, noting:

*"Clover Class allowed the adults to supervise the younger children, safe in the knowledge that our oldest students were independently making sure all the sports equipment was in the exact right place at the right time."*

Even more impressively, the children acted as fantastic role models, cheering on and encouraging the Key Stage 1 pupils to do their absolute best.

It has been another stellar week of growth, but the Year 6 children currently have their eyes on the horizon. They are so excited because next week, they are officially heading off to our capital city for their residential trip!

**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)
Monday 29th June	9.20 - 12.00	Y6 Multi Sports Festival
Tuesday 7th July	9.00-2.00	Whole School trip to Boulmer Beach (packed lunch required) Letter to follow
Friday 17th July	1pm	School closes for the Summer holidays



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

**Teddi - Bluebell Class  
Ava - Poppy Class**