



Shilbottle Primary School Friday Flyer

26 September 2025

It has been another fantastic week at Shilbottle and we are so proud of the children for their hard work and enthusiasm. On Thursday we celebrated European Languages Day and the children loved learning how to say hello, goodbye and thank you in different European languages. The enthusiasm was incredible and the range of languages shared was very impressive – I think the small sweet reward definitely gave a little extra motivation too!



The news about our school dog Arthur has been met with great excitement. I am delighted to let you know that he will be collected on Sunday, and we will be sharing updates with you as he begins to settle in. The children are buzzing about it, and I know many parents are just as excited too!

An important aspect of the school is ensuring the children are receiving the best possible education. In order to achieve this I often walk around the school and call in the classrooms to get to know the children better but also to look at books. Not only am I blown away by the attitude to learning from our children but they have really impressed me with their enthusiasm and efforts in writing. I believe that having this high expectation is exactly what we need if we want to challenge ourselves to be successful.

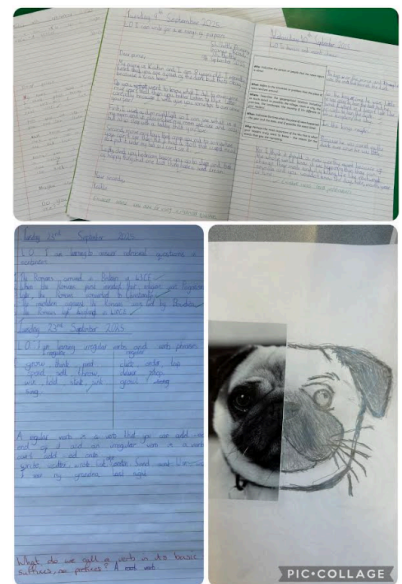
I've not only been amazed by the children but by our wonderful parents and carers. The other week I mentioned that I would like to re-establish a PTA in school and thankfully a number of you have volunteered which is just fantastic. A vibrant PTA in a small school is priceless so I am excited to hear that they are already planning the first event which will be a Halloween Disco. Keep an eye out on Class Dojo for more information in the next few weeks.

We finished the week with our Celebration Assembly and a well-deserved Hot Chocolate for our award winners – the perfect way to round off another great week at Shilbottle.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement, it really does make such a difference to the culture of a school when we are all working positively together.

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend, ready for another brilliant week ahead.

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 YOUTUBE KIDS

As its name suggests, YouTube Kids is a child-friendly version of Google's online video-sharing platform. Its colourful user interface is designed with young people in mind, and it offers a curated, family-friendly experience with features like age-based content settings and parental controls.

AGE RESTRICTION 4+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT BYPASSING FILTERS**
YouTube Kids is designed to show age-appropriate content from YouTube, but there have been reports of the app showing age-inappropriate content to young viewers. One user posted a video that YouTube Kids had shown videos that parents said showed weight loss, drug culture and firearms to children as young as two. An inappropriate content filter bypassed the platform's algorithm and is more noticeable.
- BE WARY OF ADVERTISING**
Like Google's regular YouTube app, YouTube Kids features pervasive advertising on its video player. While these ads are designed to be family-friendly and are subject to strict review processes, it's worth noting that YouTube Kids offers to inform targeted content and advertisements.
- DESIGNED TO BE ADDICTIVE**
YouTube Kids is designed to be addictive. The platform's design features, such as the constant stream of new videos and the reward system of points for virtual stickers, can be very engaging and make it difficult for children to watch less. Research has shown that spending too much time using digital devices with no breaks can lead to screen addiction, affecting children's daily routines, studies, and even to social lives.
- SETTINGS CAN BE CIRCUMVENTED**
YouTube Kids offers built-in parental controls, enabling you to set screen time limits and curate the content of what's able to be viewed. However, children are often more tech-savvy than we think. They can easily bypass or tweak these settings if they have access to the associated Google account password, thereby exposing themselves to age-inappropriate and potentially dangerous content.
- AI-GENERATED MISINFORMATION**
There is also a risk of children accessing videos that contain disinformation and misinformation, such as AI-generated news. These videos are often more convincing than real news, and they can be used to spread false information. It's important to be aware of this risk and to ensure that children are not misled by AI-generated content.
- DATA COLLECTION RISK**
While there are limits on the data that YouTube can collect on a device, and if a child uses an app, YouTube can still collect data if you give away personal information when using YouTube Kids. The platform collects data on children's viewing habits, content searches and location, which YouTube and third-party advertisers can use.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- PARENTAL CONTROLS**
YouTube Kids offers several settings that allow you to manage what content children can view. For example, you can choose what level of content you want them to access, such as 'Preschool' or 'Younger'. You can also turn off a search function, so that only the videos approved on the YouTube Kids team's channel will appear in a child's recommendations list.
- SET TIME LIMITS**
The built-in parental controls let you keep a tab on how long children spend watching videos. You can set a limit that limits screen time and disables the YouTube Kids app once it has been reached. It's also worth noting that the platform collects data on children's viewing habits, content searches and location, which YouTube and third-party advertisers can use.
- CHECK WATCH HISTORY**
YouTube Kids has made it easy for you to keep an eye on what the child has been watching. You can see a list of all the videos that the child has watched, and you can see which videos they've been watching, and how much of each. If a child watches YouTube Kids while signed into a Google account, you can view their history through Google's 'My Activity' page.
- WATCH TOGETHER**
It's important that you try to make YouTube Kids a fun and positive experience for children. One way to do this is by introducing watching sessions, where you sit with your child and watch the videos together. This allows you to see what they are watching, and you can discuss any videos that you have recently watched. This can be a great way of giving your child new things to talk about and of keeping an eye on what they're watching.



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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.

Our attendance is worryingly low given the fact we are only 4 weeks into the new academic year and the only people who can help stop this are our parents and carers. Our staff go out of their way to make school enjoyable so to give our children the best possible opportunity we need them here every single day.

Current Whole School attendance is 94.0%. Our Whole School Target is 96%

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Mrs Blackhall	89.6%	94.2%
Mrs Kelly	90.3%	93.9%
Mr Phillips	84.4%	93.2%

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 8.45am 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.



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Classroom updates - Bluebell Class

The children have been full of enthusiasm this week. Although we often complete lessons in separate year groups, sometimes it is lovely to come together and share our learning. Here are Bluebell Class taking part in some active science where the children identified and named different parts of the human body. This helped our reception children to remember the names of body parts and our older children to go on to label body parts on a scientific diagram.



As part of our science exploration into the human body, our Key Stage 1 children carefully completed detailed studies of their own facial features and drew self portraits. The children will go on to study the five senses as we continue our science topic next week.

Our Reception children have had a very busy week. The highlight though, was definitely our visit to St James' Church where the children completed some insightful activities to help them learn more about their local church and the special areas within it. We are so proud of how well the children behaved and represented our school on their first visit.



Mrs Blackhall



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Classroom updates - Poppy Class

Years 3 and 4 have had another busy week with a wide range of engaging activities.

In Maths, the children have been working on rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000, building their confidence with place value. We are also getting much better at our speedy multiplication facts, practising them daily.

In English, we've continued reading *The King Who Banned the Dark* and the children have written some fantastic newspaper articles based on events in the story. Mr Shaw commented on how beautiful our handwriting was.

Our Science topic is the skeleton and we have been exploring the names and functions of different bones.

Our PSHE lesson has focused on human rights and how these link to the protected characteristics, which has encouraged mature, thoughtful and respectful discussions.

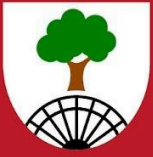
We're also very pleased to welcome back our music teacher Mrs Barber, who has been helping the children prepare Harvest songs in music lessons.

In PE, the children have enjoyed sessions with Owen from NUFC and we have been practising cross country on the school field in preparation for an upcoming event.

Happy weekend everyone.

Mrs Kelly





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Classroom updates - Clover Class

The weeks are absolutely flying by in Clover Class, and the children just keep on impressing us. Their effort, enthusiasm, and attitude have been brilliant—I'm so proud of them, and they should be proud of themselves too. Long may it continue!

This week, we welcomed back our much-loved music teacher, Mrs Barber. Now, Mr Phillips may not have fully understood what was happening when he peeked in (there may have been a lot of clapping, stomping, and possibly some unusual noises), but it definitely looked fun! Photos coming your way next week, I promise.

We also launched our brand-new P.E. day, which means we get to enjoy the novelty of coming to school in our P.E. kits on a Monday instead of a Friday. Owen from NUFC kept spirits high with a fantastic football session in the afternoon—though I think some children may already be eyeing up his job!



In the classroom, Tuesday was a day of surprises. Not only did we swap history and PSHE to Tuesday instead of Monday (much to Mr Phillips' confusion), but we also acted out some role-play scenarios about positive friendships. From dealing with best friends who score the winning goal to handling the disappointment of being left out, Clover Class proved they've got the wisdom (and the drama skills!) to cope.

History had us investigating the clues left behind after the Romans packed up and left Britannia. We even dipped into the writings of our very own Northumberland hero, the Venerable Bede (born in 673 CE, fact fans!). Who knew learning from a monk could be so exciting?

In art, inspired by the much-anticipated arrival of Arthur (🐾), we put our monochromatic pencil skills to the test by drawing dogs. The results? Let's just say even the great masters would have been impressed.

Have a wonderful weekend, everyone—Clover Class is already gearing up for another week of adventures, learning, and probably a little more chaos!

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 3rd September	12:20	Year 5/6 swimming lesson, last session Wednesday 17th December
Monday 6th October	3:00-5.30	Parents Evening
Tuesday 7th October	3:00-5:30	Parents Evening
Thursday 23rd October	1:15-3:00	Harvest Festival at St James Church
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**

ELSIE



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**WILLOWBURN
HOLIDAY
CAMP**

AGES 5 - 12
£25 PER DAY - MEMBERS
£30 PER DAY - NON-
MEMBERS

October 27th - 31st
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Willowburn Sports & Leisure Centre

SEE YOU THERE!