



Shilbottle Primary School

Friday Flyer

02 October 2026

Executive Headteacher Update

It has been another busy and exciting week in school, with our children continuing to show just how much they are capable of when they are given the opportunity to take on responsibility, develop new skills and make a real difference to those around them.

Following the success of our summer article in the Scallop Shell, Mr Phillips has now set up our very own School Journalist Team! The team is made up of a group of Year 5 and Year 6 children who will be taking on the exciting role of investigative journalists for the school. They will be writing for the Scallop Shell about life at Shilbottle, our local community and wider issues that affect us as children and as a school. I am really looking forward to seeing what they produce and hopefully, we will see some fantastic articles appearing in future editions. It is a wonderful opportunity for the children to develop their writing, questioning and communication skills while also having their voices heard.

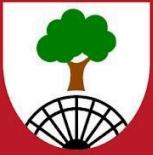
We have also continued with our Peer Mentor Training, with 10 of our Year 5 and Year 6 children taking part. The children are working towards successfully achieving an AQA Unit Award Scheme in Introduction to Peer Mentor (Entry Level). This is a fantastic opportunity for them and once their training is complete, we will have a group of trained children who can provide support, guidance and practical advice to other children across school.

We finished the week with our Celebration Assembly and Hot Chocolate with the Head, which is always one of my favourite ways to end the week! A huge well done to all of our award winners. It is fantastic to be able to celebrate the children who have shown great effort, kindness, resilience, responsibility and achievement throughout the week. You should all be incredibly proud of yourselves!

As always, thank you to our wonderful children, staff and families for another fantastic week at Shilbottle. There is so much to be proud of and it is a real pleasure to see our children continuing to grow in confidence, take on new challenges and make the most of the opportunities available to them.

Have a lovely weekend everyone, and we look forward to seeing you all again next 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 97.0%. Our Whole School Target is 96%

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Mrs Blackhall	94.6%	96.9%
Mrs Kelly	91.9%	96.2%
Mr Phillips	98.6%	97.9%

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.

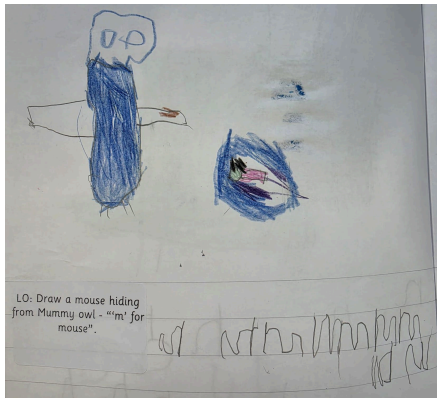
We have a continual focus on attendance and punctuality and this is of the utmost importance in your child's education. Please remember that our school gate closes at 8.40am as this is when our lessons begin. Anyone arriving after this time is classed as late and will miss valuable learning opportunities, such as phonics, which take place immediately after registration.



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Classroom updates - Bluebell Class

As the leaves have suddenly started to fall, it has been a wonderful week to begin exploring Autumn together. The children have loved bringing in their special collections of leaves and conkers. A special thank you to Mrs Powell for bringing us lots of fresh conkers to top up our collection! These inspired an exciting Autumn treasure hunt and allowed us to create beautiful transient art using our natural finds. Tying into these seasonal discoveries, Reception continued reading *Owl Babies*, which linked seamlessly into our science topic on Living Things and Their Habitats.



In 'Drawing Club', the children put their creativity to work with installations inspired by "n" for nest" and "m" for mouse." Meanwhile, in Phonics, Reception pupils have been hard at work practising blending their current sounds into words. They are brimming with excitement to bring their sound folders home next week as we introduce our next set of sounds.

In Key Stage 1 Maths, learning took a hands-on turn at the start of the week as the children enjoyed building a giant number line together in the school hall. We have now rounded off our Place Value unit by comparing and ordering numbers,

and we are looking forward to diving into Addition and Subtraction next. In History, our focus turned to how technology and the invention of plastic have changed toys through the ages. The children selected an old toy and a modern toy to draw, using their artwork to compare how play has evolved over time.

Wishing all of our families a fantastic weekend. See you next week for even more autumn adventures

Mrs Blackhall





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Classroom updates - Poppy Class

Another productive week in Poppy class. The children have worked incredibly hard this week and it has been lovely to see everyone getting stuck into their learning. We have been busy across all our subjects and the children continue to show great enthusiasm and a positive attitude.

In Maths, we have started our new unit on addition and subtraction, looking at adding and subtracting 1s, 10s, 100s and 1,000s. This has been particularly challenging for our Year 3 children as they get to grips with these new skills, but they have worked really hard and are beginning to build their confidence. Our Year 2 children have been enjoying lots of practical Maths activities, reinforcing their understanding of number and place value using a range of resources.

In English, we have continued to explore our story *Anglo-Saxon Boy* and have made some fantastic links with our History learning. We have been discussing the end of Anglo-Saxon rule in Britain, including the invasion by the Normans and the Battle of Hastings. Our story has now introduced us to William the Conqueror, which has made our reading even more interesting! We have also been looking closely at the features of a diary, as we begin preparing to write our own diary entry from Magnus's point of view.

In History, we have continued learning about the Anglo-Saxons and the events that led to the end of their rule. The children have been particularly interested in finding out about the Norman invasion and William the Conqueror. In Science, we have been learning how to classify invertebrates and had a go at creating our own classification charts. The children enjoyed thinking carefully about the features animals have in common and how these can be used to sort them into different groups. Our Year 2 children also enjoyed a minibeast hunt around the school grounds on a lovely sunny afternoon. They had great fun searching for different creatures and thinking about the habitats they might live in.

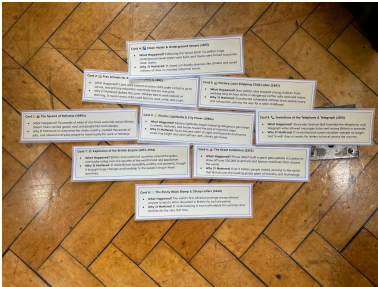
In Art, we have continued our work on patterns, and this week we have been exploring henna and mehndi patterns. The children were fascinated by the intricate designs and enjoyed creating their own patterns inspired by what they had seen. In Computing with Mr Wilkie, we have continued developing our programming skills in Scratch. This week, we have been learning how to add sound to movement, making our programmes more interactive and exciting. The children have worked so hard and should be very proud of all they have achieved. Have a great weekend everyone, and we look forward to another busy week of learning next week! **Mrs Kelly**





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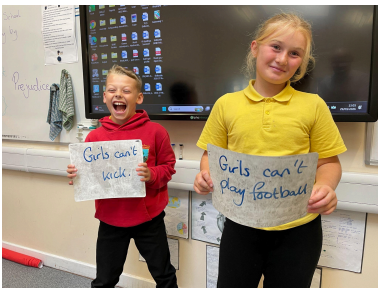
Classroom updates - Clover Class



Unfortunately, while the Clover Class International Synchronised Swimming team was performing at the Alnwick Sports Arena this week, Mr Phillips found himself attending matters elsewhere. However, our elite athletes were left in the capable hands of Mrs Slack and Miss Hood and early reports are that it was the best week yet! Maybe I should stay away more often!

Laden with strategies, resources and knowledge of place value, Clover Class mathematicians set about solving the mystery of negative numbers. Using thermometers as our visual guide, we soon mastered the art of moving through zero and confidently added on by moving right on a number line and subtracted by moving left!

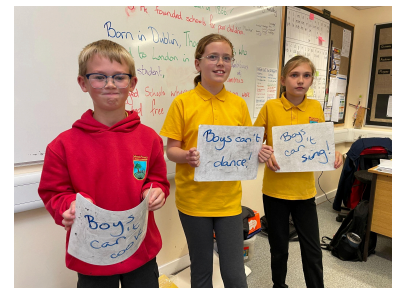
Dr. Barnardo left enough of a legacy to warrant Clover Class writing a biography about the man. Inspired by our reading of the most excellent novel, *Street Child*, children set about researching facts. Perhaps the most amazing fact discovered is that Jim Jarvis (the main character in *Street Child*) is actually a real person, who inspired Dr. Barnardo to establish his first home for boys.



Our historical work looked to compare and order some of the many interventions that occurred during Queen Victoria's reign. Clover Class historians had to discuss and order the inventions from most important to the least important and many interesting conversations were had, such as: is clean water more important than preventing young children from working in factories or down the coal mines?

Another excellent debate was had as we looked at how stereotypes can limit our potential. Using the excellent 'Like a Girl' video from Always, we explored when doing something 'like a girl' became a bad thing. This led into an unexpected conversation about Protected Characteristics and we explored how we would challenge stereotypes in the future.

Another intriguing week for Clover Class and we've even had our first 20 read awards - well done Gracie and Jaxon - and we are looking forward to welcoming more of the class to this first milestone of a very important club!



 **Mr Phillips**



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Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Thursday 22nd October	1:30-3:00	Harvest Festival (Confirmed)
Tuesday 8th December	10am show	Whole School - Aladdin Christmas Panto - Tyne Theatre
Wednesday 9th December	Carol Concert	Details to follow
Tuesday 15th December	12:00-1:00	Christmas Dinner
Friday 18th December	1pm	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**