



Shilbottle Primary School

Friday Flyer

17 July 2026

Headteachers Update

As we reach the end of another academic year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly incredible year at Shilbottle Primary School.

Looking back through our Friday Flyers, ClassDojo posts and the many memories we have created together, I am struck by just how much we have achieved. There have been so many successes, so many proud moments and alongside the hard work and academic achievements, plenty of fun and laughter too.

It has been an absolute privilege to be part of this wonderful school and wider community. Schools like Shilbottle are special. From the moment you walk through the doors, there is a sense of calm, kindness and belonging. Our children are polite, respectful, hardworking and caring, that is a credit not only to the staff who work with them every day but also to you as parents and carers. The values we see in school are a reflection of the support, guidance and encouragement our children receive at home.

This year has brought change and next year will bring further opportunities and developments. However, what continues to make me proud each and every day is the attitude of our children. No matter what challenges they face, they approach them with determination, resilience and positivity. They work hard, support one another and consistently rise to the occasion.

Academically, this has been one of the most successful years I have had the pleasure of being involved in. Our Year 1 children achieved a fantastic set of phonics results, reflecting the hard work of the children and the dedication of Mrs Blackhall and Miss Hedley. Our Year 4 children achieved a remarkable 100% success rate in the Multiplication Tables Check, thanks to their commitment and the support of Mrs Kelly and her team.

Yesterday we received our Year 6 SATs results and I can honestly say they are among the strongest results I have ever seen. We are incredibly close to achieving 100% across the board. These outcomes are a testament to the hard work, commitment and determination shown by our pupils throughout their time at Shilbottle. We could not be prouder of them and well done to Mr Phillips!

Of course, these achievements do not happen by accident. They are the result of the dedication, care and expertise of our staff team. Every member of staff plays a vital role in making Shilbottle such a special place. There is a huge amount of work that happens behind the scenes, often unseen, to ensure that every child receives the very best education and opportunities possible. I would like to thank every member of staff for their commitment throughout the year and wish them a well-deserved and restful summer break.



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I would also like to thank our fantastic SPPA. The support they provide is invaluable and the opportunities they create for our children make a real difference. Whether through discos, fairs, our centenary celebrations, special events or fundraising activities, they continually give their time and energy to support our school. The funds raised go directly back into enriching the experiences of our children. This year alone, for example, they helped support opportunities such as our visiting author for World Book Day and provided the buckets and spades that helped make our whole-school reward trip to Boulmer Beach such a memorable day. Thank you for everything you do.

To our parents and carers, thank you for your continued support, encouragement and trust. Your commitment to the school is greatly appreciated. Whenever challenges arise, they are approached with respect, honesty and a shared desire to do what is best for our children. That partnership between home and school is incredibly important and something I value enormously.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognise and thank some of the individuals and organisations within our wider community whose support has made a real difference this year.



Firstly, a huge thank you to Wynyard Homes for their continued support of the school. As one of the developers within our village, they have been incredibly generous and supportive throughout the year. From supporting our 100-year celebrations and providing gifts at Easter, to taking aerial photographs of our school, they have demonstrated a genuine commitment to our community. Most recently, they very kindly sponsored our Year 6 leavers' hoodies, ensuring that every child received one as a lasting memory of their time at Shilbottle Primary School. We are extremely grateful for their generosity and for the positive relationship we continue to build together.

I would also like to extend a special thank you to Vicky, who has given her time and expertise so generously throughout the year. Vicky created and designed work for both our centenary celebrations and our Year 6 leavers' hoodies, helping to create something truly special for our children and community. Her support has been greatly appreciated and has contributed to many lasting memories.

Finally, I would like to thank Ajay and the team at our local pharmacy for their continued kindness and support. Throughout the year they have supported the school in a number of ways, including providing gifts at Easter. Most recently, they have very generously donated two EpiPens to the school ahead of new statutory requirements coming into effect from September. This thoughtful donation represents a significant contribution to the school and is another example of the incredible support we receive from our local community.

The strength of Shilbottle Primary School has always been rooted in its community. Whilst I will have missed off a few key names no doubt, the support we receive from local businesses, organisations and individuals is invaluable and never taken for granted. On behalf of everyone at the school, thank you for



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everything you do. Your kindness, generosity and commitment help us provide even more opportunities and experiences for our children, and for that we are truly grateful.

I would also like to thank our Academy Committee members. Their support, challenge and commitment help ensure that we continue to move forward as a school and provide the very best for our children and community. We are fortunate to have such dedicated individuals supporting us behind the scenes.

Today, we say goodbye to our Year 6 pupils. Whilst it is always difficult to see them leave, we do so with immense pride. They have been exceptional role models and have left a lasting legacy at Shilbottle Primary School. Each and every one of them has contributed something special to our school community. They leave us as confident, capable and caring young people and I have no doubt that they will continue to achieve great things as they move on to The Duchess's Community High School.

This particular Year 6 cohort has been outstanding. They have led by example, embraced every opportunity that has come their way and consistently demonstrated the values that make Shilbottle such a special place. They have set a very high standard for those who follow and have left a legacy that future pupils will aspire to match. I feel incredibly privileged to have known them and to have shared even a small part of their journey before they move on to the next exciting chapter of their lives.

As I reflect on my first year at Shilbottle, I can honestly say that the school has quickly become a place that means a great deal to me. Whilst there have been changes throughout the year and more changes ahead, what has remained constant is the unwavering commitment of everyone connected to this school to do the very best for our children. It is a wonderful school filled with wonderful people and I feel very fortunate to be part of it.

Overall, this year has been a huge success. Whether measured through our exceptional academic outcomes, the opportunities provided to our children, the friendships formed, the memories created or the support shown by our community, there is so much to celebrate. Thank you for welcoming me, supporting me and allowing me to be part of this remarkable journey.

Finally, all that remains is for me to wish you and your families a fantastic summer holiday. I hope you find time to relax, enjoy precious moments together, make wonderful memories and hopefully enjoy plenty of sunshine along the way. The children have earned a well-deserved break, as have our staff and I hope everyone returns in September refreshed, re-energised and ready for another exciting year ahead.

Thank you for your support throughout the year. Have a safe and enjoyable summer and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

With very best 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**.

STAYING SAFE TOGETHER: YOUR PARENT'S GUIDE TO A SECURE SUMMER

WATER SAFETY

- ✓ Always supervise children near water (pools, beaches, lakes).
- ✓ Swim only in designated areas.
- ⚠ Look out for warning flags.
- ✓ Learn CPR.
- ✓ Learn to swim.

SUN SAFETY

FARM SAFETY

- ✓ Keep away from working machinery and vehicles.
- ✓ Do not approach farm animals alone.
- ✓ Stick to marked footpaths.
- ✓ Look for safety signs.
- ✓ Close gates.

ROAD & OUTDOOR SAFETY

- ✓ Teach children road crossing rules (Stop, Look, Listen).
- ✓ Use pedestrian crossings and obey traffic signals.
- ✓ Encourage helmet use for bikes and scooters.
- ✓ Wear bright, reflective clothing for visibility.
- ✓ Play in designated safe areas, away from traffic.

ONLINE & COMMUNITY SAFETY

- ✓ Set clear online rules & supervise internet use.
- ✓ Remind them to keep personal info private.
- ✓ Know where your children are going and who they are with.
- ✓ Agree a return time.

ENJOY A FUN & SAFE SUMMER! FOR PARENTS & CARERS



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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 96.3%. Our Whole School Target is 96%

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Mrs Blackhall	97.4%	94.0%
Mrs Kelly	98.9%	95.5%
Mr Phillips	97.9%	94.0%

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



What a busy, adventurous year it has been for our reception, Year 1, and Year 2 superstars in Bluebell Class! We are immensely proud of how much each and every child has grown, learned, and filled our classroom with fun. To our brilliant parents and carers, thank you for your support, partnership, and encouragement throughout the year. We will miss our Year 2 children as they move up to Poppy Class with Mrs Kelly. However, I am very happy to be with our wonderful Reception children for another year as they journey into Key Stage 1. Words can't quite sum up this year, so we think these photos of our favourite moments will speak for themselves. Have a safe, happy, and sun-filled summer break!

Mrs Blackhall



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Classroom updates - Poppy Class

Well, we have finally reached the end of another school year. It's hard to believe how quickly the time has passed. Looking back, the children have achieved so much, not only academically but also in confidence, independence and maturity.

I would like to say a huge well done to every child in Poppy Class. They have worked incredibly hard throughout the year, tackled new challenges with determination and should all be very proud of what they have achieved. It has been wonderful to watch them grow in confidence and develop into kind, thoughtful and hardworking members of our school community.

A special mention must go to our Year 4 children as they prepare to move on to Upper Key Stage 2. You have been fantastic role models for the younger children, and I know you will continue to work hard and achieve great things. I wish you every success and happiness in Year 5.

I would also like to thank you, as parents and carers, for your continued support throughout the year. Whether it has been listening to your children read, helping them to practise their times tables, attending parents' evenings and school events or simply encouraging them every day, your support has made a real difference.

Finally, thank you for your kind words, cards and generous gifts. They are greatly appreciated and mean so much.

I hope you all have a wonderful, relaxing summer and enjoy a well-deserved rest. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September. Have a fantastic summer!

Mrs Kelly





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Classroom updates - Clover Class

This time of the school year is always a season of reflection. As the final bell approaches, our thoughts naturally turn to our wonderful Year 6 children, who are about to leave Shilbottle Primary for their next big adventure at the Duchess's Community High School (DCHS). Their early school years in Reception and Year 1 were disrupted by the Covid pandemic. This brought unique challenges to their early learning—a crucial time when children usually build the foundational school skills that carry them through life. Yet, during their emotional Leavers' Performance last Tuesday night, our trip down memory lane showed just how much they overcame. The evening was packed with laughter, brilliant memories of school trips, playground games, and a few confessions about sneaking sweets into school when they thought the adults weren't looking! While those mischievous memories are precious, it is their **academic achievements** that truly stand out as they graduate. Through sheer hard work, immense effort, and a deep dedication to their learning both at home and at school, their final results across the board this week were nothing short of incredible. They have built a magnificent foundation to carry with them to high school. I am incredibly proud of every single one of them; they leave behind an inspiring example for the younger years to follow.

This week, the Year 6 children went on a special walkabout around the village to personally thank the local heroes who consistently support our school:

- We paid a visit to **Ajay and the team at K-Chem** to say a big thank you for their constant kindness (and those lovely Easter eggs!).



- We stopped by **Wynyard Homes** to show off and take photos in our fantastic new Leavers' Hoodies, which they very generously sponsored.

- We popped into **Londis** for a well-deserved sweet treat.

- Finally, after saying hello to some parents and grandparents along the way, we stopped at the park for one last play on the swings and slides—doing it now before they decide they are "too cool" for them!

Of course, we couldn't wrap up the year without our

annual **Year 5/6 Water Fight** on the "back, back field!" As has become tradition, Mr. Phillips led the charge. However, he quickly realised that the children's tactical speed had finally caught up with him, and he ended up getting significantly wetter than he had originally planned. It was a joyful, laughing end to a highly emotional and celebratory week.

We wish all our Year 6 children the absolute best for their bright futures. Shilbottle will always be a part of you, so please make sure to come back and visit us to let us know how you are getting on!

To our Year 6s: go shine at DCHS. To our Year 5s: get ready to rule the school!

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 17th July	1pm	School closes for the Summer holidays (no after school club)
Tuesday 1st September		TEACHER TRAINING DAY
Wednesday 2nd September		School will resume
Monday 7th September		Individual; Sibling & Class Photographs
Wednesday 9th September		Year 5 & Y6 Swimming (every Wednesday) 9/9/26 - 16/12/26
Tuesday 8th December	10am show	Whole School - Aladdin Christmas Panto - Tyne Theatre



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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL THOSE
CELEBRATING THIS WEEK**

Frankie Lowes