

Governors voluntarily working on your behalf to ensure all aspects of the school's work are effective and compliant.
Chair: Mr T Watson
Vice Chair: Mrs J Winn
Co-opted: Mrs C Williams Ms A Marshall
Parent: Mrs R Cammiss, Mrs A Jones, Mrs C Langdon.
Staff: Mrs J Henry
You may contact any governor via the school. **Complaints in the first instance are to be communicated to the Head Teacher Mrs J Bowmaker.**

Autumn Term 1 Week 1
News
Week beginning 04.09.23

News is through e mail, Facebook and website – please make sure we have your e mail address.

ATTENDANCE
WHOLE SCHOOL

Shotton Hall Primary School
Working together to
S H I N E
Successful, Happy, Inspired
and Nurtured towards
Excellence

Head Teacher: Mrs J Bowmaker
Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs R Hext
Assistant Headteacher: Ms E. Metcalfe
Behaviour, Attendance and Safeguarding Officer: Mr K. Morgan
SENCO/Pastoral: Mrs R Hext
Site Manager: Mrs W. Fickling
School Business Manager: Mrs J. Johnson
Acting School Business Manager: Mrs J Treanor

Dear Parents and carers,

We have had a fantastic first week back in school. The weather has been beautiful and the children have participated in lots of outdoor learning. They have settled very well into their new classrooms after the Summer break.

It was lovely that so many of you attended the "Welcome meetings" this week. If you couldn't make it into school, please contact your child's class teacher over "dojo" if you have any questions.

Thank you for your patience and understanding this week regarding our school meals service. I am pleased to inform you that we now have two brand new ovens and the kitchen will be fully functional again on Monday.

I would just like to remind parents that if your child is in Classes 5-12 they can access the school site via the Passfield Way entrance. The gates are opened at 8.40am and close at 8.55am ready for lessons to begin promptly at 9.00am.

Chris Sumbly is our new ICT Network Manager and he has joined our team full-time. Chris will be sharing his expertise with staff and pupils across school. He will also be running some after school clubs starting with "Retro gaming". Please keep checking our diary of events as we introduce more activities across the Autumn Term.

Can I take this opportunity to wish our three members of staff, Mrs Pearson, Miss Lenaghan and Miss Feather good luck on Sunday as they are running in the Great North Run.....we will all be cheering for you!

Enjoy the weekend sunshine.

Kind regards

Joanne Bowmaker

Head teacher

CLASS DOJO: We are very pleased to announce that our admin team now have access to Class Dojo. This means you can message them directly for appointments or admin enquiries. You can send them a message under “Admin” in the message section.

We always need to speak to families when children are off school ill, therefore please continue to advise of any sickness absence by telephone.

You may have noticed that there have been a number of updates to Class Dojo recently. There has been a group messaging function added, which allows parents to include more than one teacher in a message. You may also now receive a 'class announcement' which are important messages sent directly to all parents in the class. Please ensure you have the most recent version downloaded to ensure this works correctly. If you have any difficulties accessing Class Dojo please let us and know and we will try to help.

Please be aware that teachers may not always respond to messages straight away as they are busy in class and teachers may not reply outside of school hours. If your query is urgent, please contact the school office directly.

AIR-UP BOTTLES: We have noticed in KS2 a lot of children are bringing “Air-Up” water bottles to school. (Fancy water bottles which have a scented pod at the top to trick you into thinking you are drinking flavoured water). They are very trendy at the moment and popular on TikTok. However, these bottles start at £39.95 – and therefore as a school we will not accept any liability in the event your child’s bottle is lost or broken.

ASSEMBLIES: Our “Celebration Assemblies” are continuing along with our “Citizenship Assemblies”. The “Citizenship Assemblies” are designed to help our children become responsible and informed members of our local, national and international communities. Every Monday, children in KS1 and KS2 will attend a Citizenship Assembly. In these assemblies, children come together in the Key Stages to reflect upon and learn about a diverse range of issues. Citizenship Assemblies are always age-appropriate. They cover topics such as:

British Values

UNICEF Rights of the Child

News Items (such as elections or the jubilee)

Stories about inspirational people

Special days or months (Black History Month, International Womens Day)

Religious festivals

Personal safety (anti-bullying week and internet safety)

DAY GATE: The “Day Gate” will continue to be locked between 3.00-3.25pm for safeguarding reasons.

THEATRE SCHOOL PLACES: The Academy at Shotton Hall are proud to offer each primary school 2 free places (4-11 yrs.) Theatre School runs Saturday term times 10am -1pm. Please contact the Academy direct if interested.



URGENT SAFEGUARDING: At SHPS we believe we all have a duty to keep all children

safe. If you have a concern about any child or young person ‘First Contact’ has made it very easy for you to get in touch with them and this can be done anonymously. Telephone: 03000 267979, E-mail:

scd@durham.gov.uk. www.durham.gov.uk/firstcontact Thank you so much for your vigilance.

ONLINE SAFETY: The game “PC Horror puzzle game” which is PEGI rated 12+ is not suitable for younger children. However, the game is being imitated on the popular game Roblox and it is also very popular on Youtube. Because of the innocent name of the game many videos are not being picked up by YouTube’s filters. We urge parents to be vigilant in what their children are playing and watching online.

BREAKFAST CLUB: Can we kindly remind you that due to insurance purposes we cannot allow pupils to enter site before 7.45am for Breakfast Club and that the Day Gate buzzer will not be answered before this time. Also there is no access to Breakfast Club through the staff car park. Thank you.

ROAD SAFETY: Please can we remind parents **NOT** to use the entrance to the school in Waveney Rd as a turning circle, as there has been damage done to the fence and it can cause a problem for staff entering the site. Thank you.

BIKES & SCOOTERS: Please can we remind you that bikes and scooters are **not** to be used on school site as this is a safety hazard. Thank you.

LUNCHES: Please inform the school office if you would like to change your child to either packed lunch or school dinners, we need 2 weeks notice to make the necessary changes. Thank you.

SCHOOL MEAL CHARGES: As of Monday 4th September 2023 school meals have increased to £2.50 per day (£12.50 per week) until September 2024.

WEARABLE TECHNOLOGY: Please could we remind parents that pupils are not allowed to wear Apple watches or Smart watches in school as they can be connected to the Internet and are also expensive items.

JEWELLERY: Small stud earrings can be worn but necklaces, bracelets and other hooped or dangle earrings are not allowed for safety reasons. Earrings must be removed for P.E or plasters provided from home to cover them.

BREAKFAST CLUB: Breakfast Club is open to Reception children up to Year 6, this does not need to be booked but will need to be paid for in advance please through Parentpay. The cost per day is £2 for the first child and £1 for any siblings.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB: 'Night Owls' Club must be booked via the office (NOT on Class Dojo) and paid for 1 week in advance via Parentpay. The club is open to Reception children up to Year 6 from Monday to Thursday. Due to low numbers there is no club on Friday.

Collection is via the day gate which needs to be pushed as it does not open automatically and from the small hall doors next to reception. We do not release children to walk down the drive for safeguarding reasons. Siblings must be minimum 14 yrs of age to collect other siblings and a form will need to be completed to authorise this. **Children must be collected no later than 5 pm.** The cost per day is £4.00 for the first child and £3.50 for any siblings.

CONTACT DETAILS: Please can you ensure we have up to date contact numbers in case of illness or accidents in school.

PACKED LUNCHES: We operate as a healthy school. Children with sweets and chocolates will not be able to eat them at lunchtime so please do not put them in their lunch boxes. We ask children to take their rubbish or leftovers home for parents/carers to see what they have eaten.

PARENTPAY: Please pay by card rather than bank transfer as these take longer to process. Please pay for dinners either weekly or monthly in advance.

SCHOOL TIMES:

Gates open 8.40 am and close at 8.55 am, reopen at 3 pm and close at 3.30 pm.

Preschool entry 8.50 am, gate opens for collection 11.45 am.

Classes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 8.55am - 3.15 pm

Classes 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12G, 12M 8.55am-3.20 pm

POLITE REMINDERS:

Contact the office to report sickness as messages via Dojo do not come to the office.

Complete a leave of absence form for any time taken out of school time.

Contact the office if your child has to attend an appointment- they do not have access to Dojo.

Keep your dog on a lead and away from the entrances.

In line with DCC policy this is a non smoking site including vapes.

Please do not play loud music in your car whilst waiting for your child, as this can be disruptive for our neighbours. Thank you.

Our admin staff do not have access to Dojo so please ring them to report absence.

Holiday dates

Friday 27 th Oct 2023	Last day of school before Autumn Term
Monday 6 th Nov 2023	School opens for term 1b
Friday 24th Nov 2023	CPD Day school will be closed to pupils
Monday 27 th Nov 2023	School opens
Tuesday 19 th Dec 2023	Last day of school before XMAS holidays
Wednesday 3rd Jan 2024	CPD Day school will be closed to pupils
Thursday 4 th Jan 2024	School opens for term 2a
Friday 16 th Feb 2024	Last day of school before Spring half term
Monday 26 th Feb 2024	School opens for term 2b
Thursday 28 th Mar 2024	Last day of school before Easter holidays
Monday 15 th Apr 2024	School opens for term 3a
Friday 3 rd May 2024	Last day of school before May Day bank holiday
Monday 6 th May 2024	School closed May Day
Tuesday 7 th May 2024	School opens
Friday 24 th May 2024	Last day of school before Summer half term
Monday 3 rd June 2024	School opens for term 3b
Friday 19 th July 2024	Last day of school before Summer holidays
Monday 22nd July 2024	CPD Day school will be closed to pupils
Tuesday 23rd July 2024	CPD Day school will be closed to pupils
Wednesday 4 th Sept 2024	School opens for term 1a

