

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 C Langdon  
Co-opted: Mr A Cammiss, Mrs W Fickling x 2 vacancies.  
Parent: 2 x vacancies.  
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 L Morgan.**

**Autumn Term 1 Week 1**  
**News**  
**Week beginning 01/09/25**

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

**ATTENDANCE**  
**WHOLE SCHOOL**  
**97.39%**

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

Head Teacher: Mrs J L Morgan  
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 Treanor

Dear Parents/carers,

Welcome to the Autumn Term!

We have had a very busy week and we are so proud of how well our children have returned to school and settled straight into their new routines. Our youngest children in pre-school have enjoyed exploring their new environment and have been making new friends. Mrs Devine, Miss Brown and Miss Pratt are very impressed with how independent they are - well done!

In Reception the children have enjoyed discovering areas - both indoors and outdoors! They have been listening to the story 'The Colour Monster' and talking about their feelings. Our Year 1 pupils have also impressed us, they have been learning about using finger spaces when writing and showing off their phonics skills. Year 2 have been very busy with more super learning about castles and some poetry lessons too.

Across the rest of school our older pupils have been working hard on lots of different topics including 'The Best Part of Me' and describing their reasons for their choice. Here are some of their ideas.....

*'The best part of me is my chest because it holds my heart. My heart is full of love and it pumps blood around my body'.* Jack B.

*'The best part of me are my ears because I can hear when someone is talking to me. I can hear music and birds singing.* Olivia C

*'The best part of me are my hands because I can do homework and give cuddles'.* Hayden L

*'The best part of me is my hair because I can braid it and put pigtails in, I have long brown hair'.* Esme.R

Also, children have been researching information about Ancient Egypt, Vikings and World War I – well done to you all.

It was lovely that so many of you managed to attend 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.

Next week our Year 6 pupils are going to Ullswater to experience a range of outdoor activities! We know that they will have a great time and we can't wait to find out about their adventures.

I would just like to remind parents that if your child is in Class 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.

We have added some dates to our diary of events and will be adding more soon - so please keep checking. On **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** Tempest photographers will be in school and will take both individual photographs and also separate photographs with siblings of children in school.

Celebration assemblies will begin next Friday and we can't wait to share the fantastic achievements, it is most certainly my favourite day of the week!

Have a lovely weekend.

Joanne Leah Morgan

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 you 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.



**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](mailto:scd@durham.gov.uk). [www.durham.gov.uk/firstcontact](http://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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 school meals have increased to £2.95 per day (£14.75 per week). **Preschool meals are at a cost of £3.37 per day (£16.85 per week).**

**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:** Earrings need to be removed for PE and swimming. Your child is fine to do this in school, however if they struggle with this then can they be removed at home. Unfortunately, taping them up isn’t a safe option. If for whatever reason they cannot be removed, then there will be parts of the lesson that they are unable to participate in for their own safety.

**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. **As of September 2025 the cost per day is increasing to £3 for the first child and £2 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. As of September 2025 the cost per day is increasing to £5.50 for the first child and £4.50 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/chocolate bars 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 2.45pm.

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.

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.

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.

#### Dates for Your Diary

This diary is given in good faith to enable you to set your own diaries. There may be some changes beyond our control and we will communicate this through text or via the newsletter. There may also be additional events which we will inform you of as they occur. Please make sure we have your up to date phone number and e mail.

| Date      | Day       | Class/year               | Event                    | Information                                                |
|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8-12.9.25 | Mon-Fri   | Year 6                   | Ullswater Residential    | Relevant information has already been received.            |
| 22.9.25   | Monday    | Whole school             | Tempest Photography      | School photos and photos with siblings (already in school) |
| 13.10.25  | Monday    | Whole school             | Nasal flu vaccine        | More info to follow.                                       |
| 22.10.25  | Wednesday | Classes 3-8              | Halloween Disco 3.30-5pm | More info to follow.                                       |
| 23.10.25  | Thursday  | Classes 9-12C/Hx & 12McK | Halloween Disco 3.30-5pm | More info to follow.                                       |
| 24.10.25  | Friday    | Preschool Classes 1&2    | Halloween Disco (am)     | More info to follow.                                       |
| 04.11.25  | Tuesday   | Whole School             | Parents evening          | Appts made via class dojo                                  |
| 06.11.25  | Thursday  | Whole School             | Parents evening          | Appts made via class dojo                                  |
| 14.11.25  | Friday    | Whole School             | Children in Need         | More info to follow.                                       |
|           |           |                          |                          |                                                            |

#### Holiday dates

|                                       |                                            |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2025  | School closes                              |
| Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025  | School opens for Autumn Term 2             |
| Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 | School closed to pupils (PD Day for staff) |
| Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2025  | School opens                               |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025 | School closes                              |



Geoff the Chef Award has been given to Class this week for the best behaviour over lunchtime KS2 – Well Done!



A cartoon illustration of a green turtle with a brown shell, looking forward with large blue eyes. The turtle is positioned in the center of the page, facing slightly to the right. It has a friendly expression with a small smile. The background is a solid light blue.



| CLASS<br>1 | CLASS<br>2 | CLASS<br>3 | CLASS<br>4 | CLASS<br>5 | CLASS<br>6 | CLASS<br>7        | CLASS<br>8         | CLASS<br>9 | CLASS<br>10         | CLASS<br>11 | CLASS<br>12C/Hx | CLASS<br>12McK |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 96.00%     | 95.43%     | 99.45%     | 92.35%     | 95.65%     | 100.00%    | 100.00%<br>1 late | 100.00%<br>2 lates | 93.07%     | 100.00%<br>WINNERS! | 99.16%      | 97.25%          | 97.71%         |

