

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: 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 2 Week 6

News

Week beginning 08/12/25

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

ATTENDANCE
WHOLE SCHOOL
96.59%

Shotton Hall Primary School

Working together to

SHINE

**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,

As we approach our last week of term, our Christmas festivities are coming to an end. Our children have been so enthusiastic throughout the 12 Christmas performances – not to mention the rehearsals and dress rehearsals too! From our youngest pupils in pre-school performing their fabulous 'Sing-a-long' to our Year 6 pupils with their last performance today - Phew!! They all did a great job and we noticed that lots of our parents and grandparents had to reach for their handkerchiefs! We hope that you have all enjoyed joining us for the performances and managed to enjoy a mince pie and coffee. It was lovely to see parents and grandparents having their photograph taken in front of our fabulous tree with their children and grandchildren, what lovely memories.

It is a very busy time for us in school; setting up the hall, teas, coffees, mince pies, biscuits, craft packs and lots of chairs every morning, only to restack them again ready for lunch and repeating it all again in the afternoons (1,800 chairs to be precise). We would like to thank you all for the lovely compliments – it means so much to the staff and we very much appreciate it - it makes it all worthwhile!

We do have one final concert on Monday 15th December at 3.30pm, when our musicians and school choir will perform for their families.

On Wednesday, our amazing choir attended Ushaw Moor Chapel for the grand final of the 'Primary School Choir of the Year Competition' Although they did not finish in 1st place, they performed beautifully and will always be our winners! Please click the link below to listen to their incredible performance.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xTGvQh7Pb5s>

Also, on Wednesday, our Pre-School children enjoyed a trip to Durham Gala Theatre. They watched the pantomime 'Christmas Eve'. The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance and were up singing and dancing. The children were so excited to see bubbles floating down from the ceiling of theatre and enjoyed 'popping' them! Thank you to all of our parent helpers – we hope you enjoyed it too!

Yesterday, we all enjoyed our Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day! All of the children sat together in the hall with the staff, listening to Christmas songs and chatting with their friends. There was a lovely atmosphere and everyone enjoyed the festivities. Please check our Facebook

pages to see the lovely photographs. Well done to all of the catering staff who managed to serve all of the children and staff too!

Yesterday, Classes 1 and 2 walked to the post box to post their letters to Santa. They had written the letters independently and they are so excited to see if they get a response.....

Today, they continued with their excitement as they visited Grampian Court Care Home. The children sang some of their favourite Christmas songs and wore their Christmas hats! The residents were thrilled to see them again and they put huge smiles on everyone's faces – how lovely!

Next week, is the last week of term and we will have our Christmas parties. Please check our diary of events and class dojo for dates. The children are welcome to come into school dressed in their outfits and will have a 'snack', a drink and a special gift to take home.

We will end the week next Friday with a visit from the 'Rock band' who will play lots of Christmas songs - which the children always enjoy!

Just a reminder that school closes on **Friday 19th December** and reopens to children on **Tuesday 6th January**.

Have a lovely weekend,

Joanne Leah Morgan

Head teacher

Date	Day	Class/Year	Event	Information
15.12.25	Monday	Choir & Musicians	Christmas Music Extravaganza	3.30 in the large hall
15.12.25	Monday	Pre-school, Class 1 +2	Christmas Party	Morning session in school
15.12.25	Monday	Classes 3 + 4	Christmas Party	Afternoon session in school.
16.12.25	Tuesday	Classes 5 + 6	Christmas Party	Afternoon session in school.
17.12.25	Wednesday	Classes 7 + 8	Christmas Party	Afternoon session in school.
18.12.25	Thursday	Classes 9+10	Christmas Party	Afternoon session in school.
19.12.25	Friday	Whole School	Rock band	Whole school
19.12.25	Friday	Classes 11,12C/Hx + 12McK	Christmas Party	Afternoon session in school.

Certificates:

Resilient: Archie D C3, Lola M C12McK, Macie-Ella W C11, Skyler S C7, Tiffany D C8, Jonah R C3, Layla C C12McK, Buddy H C2, George J C1, Wilson T C9, Bella U C7, Harry B C10.

Reflective: Cece R PS, Lincoln B C12C/Hx, Hudson H-C C5, Rowan F C2, Sofia L C8.

Resourceful: Jack A C6, Jacob C C4, Halle P C5, Maisy H C4, Erin A PS, Joey D C4, William B C11.

Reciprocal: James B C3, Jacob B C4.

Respectful: Freya N C6, Thea W C12C/Hx.

HEADTEACHERS AWARD: KS1: Ida R PS, Mason B C1, Chester L C2. KS2: Millie W C10, Maddie L C10, Matthew T-S C12CHx, Freddie P C12CHx.

Pen Licence:

Well done to you all!



BIRTHDAYS:

CLASS 4: Tommy E-K, Zachary L

CLASS 5: Pippa A

CLASS 6: Solomiia Z, Freya N

CLASS 7: Roman P

CLASS 9: Cole D

CLASS 11: Harrison A, Henry M-S, Jazmin N

CLASS 12C/Hx: Daniel W

CLASS 12McK: Cody M

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. 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 31st 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. Please DO NOT include anything with nuts in, as we are a NUT FREE school and have children with severe allergies.** 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
16.12.25	Tuesday	Year 5	"Peter Pan" Panto at Billingham Forum (Part of Cultural Capital)	Please see class letter
21.01.26	Wednesday	Class 6	Parent Workshop	9.15am large hall, parents/carers welcome
22.01.26	Thursday	Class 5	Parent Workshop	9.15am large hall, parents/carers welcome
29.01.26	Thursday	Class 4	Parent Workshop	9.15am large hall, parents/carers welcome
05.02.26	Thursday	Class 3	Parent Workshop	9.15am large hall, parents/carers welcome
13.02.26	Friday	Class 2	Parent Workshop	9.15am large hall, parents/carers welcome
13.02.26	Friday	Class 1	Parent Workshop	9.15am large hall, parents/carers welcome
12.03.26	Thursday	Class 11	Parent Workshop	9.15am large hall, parents/carers welcome
19.03.26	Thursday	Class 10	Parent Workshop	9.15am large hall, parents/carers welcome
26.03.26	Thursday	Class 9	Parent Workshop	9.15am large hall, parents/carers welcome
02.04.26	Thursday	Preschool	Preschool Easter Parade	9.15am large hall, parents/carers welcome

Holiday dates

Friday 19 th December 2025	School closes
Monday 5 th January 2026	School closed to pupils (PD Day for staff)
Tuesday 6 th January 2026	School opens
Friday 20 th February 2026	School closes
Monday 2 nd March 2026	School opens
Thursday 2 nd April 2026	School closes

Monday 20th April 2026	School opens
Friday 1st May 2026	School closes
Monday 4th May 2026	School closed Bank Holiday
Tuesday 5th May 2026	School opens
Friday 22nd May 2026	School closes
Monday 1st June 2026	School opens
Friday 17th July 2026	School closes
Monday 20th July 2026	School closed to pupils (PD Day for staff)



Geoff the Chef Award has been given to Class 7 this week for the best behaviour over lunchtime KS2 – Well Done!



Sue the Chef Award has been given to Class 4 this week for the best behaviour over lunchtime KS1 – Well Done!



Kindness Tree Award has been given to Thea W C12CHx.



Attendance Yellow – 97.44% STM Blue – 97.09% NA Green – 97.59% SDA Red – 93.97% QEII

CLASS 1	CLASS 2	CLASS 3	CLASS 4	CLASS 5	CLASS 6	CLASS 7	CLASS 8	CLASS 9	CLASS 10	CLASS 11	CLASS 12C/Hx	CLASS 12McK
98.00%	93.50%	97.92%	100.00% WINNERS!	98.91%	95.50%	90.38%	97.83%	98.00%	96.15%	98.16% WINNERS!	94.32%	96.97%

