

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.**

## Spring Term 1 Week 2

### News

Week beginning 12.01.26

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

ATTENDANCE  
WHOLE SCHOOL  
97%

## 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

Lead: Mr K. Morgan

SENCO/Pastoral: Mrs R Hext

Site Manager: Mrs W. Fickling

School Business Manager: Mrs J Treanor

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of another cold week, we would like to share with you all of the lovely things that are happening in school to help make you feel warm inside!

Our Year 1 pupils have had great fun working with Mr Sumby our ICT Manager. They have been learning how to programme the 'EaRL' educational coding robots which are small green aliens! The children worked in pairs to follow instructions and learnt about coding and directional input to guide their robots around obstacles! The children had great fun working together – well done!

This is what they had to say.....

*'I pressed the buttons on the robot and typed in 4 moves to the left, 4 forward, 4 backwards and then STOP. It was good fun'* James. B

*'My robot kept going backwards and forwards then left and right – it was funny'* Darcie D

*'I like working with the robots because they look like little Aliens running fast'* Archie. D

*'I like working with the robots, watching them moving backwards and forwards, it was lots of fun making them move in different directions'* Amora D

Year 4 pupils in Classes 9 and 10 had a very exciting and interesting Science lesson this week. As part of their topic on the human body, they made a model digestive system, which demonstrated how the body digests food through the mouth, stomach, small and large intestines. The children then discovered how the food is excreted and how the human body makes 'poo'! The children all found this very funny and I am sure it will be a very memorable learning experience.

*'To make the poo we had to mush up some crackers, grapes, banana and a cup cake inside a bag. Then we had to squeeze the bag until the juices came out and then it was pushed out of the end of the sock. It was lots of fun'*. Roman P

*'We learned how the digestive system processes the food. I didn't realise how much fluid came out of the food. It was really interesting'*. Olivia C

*"I didn't realise all of the parts that are inside the human body. I learned about the small intestine and the large intestine and couldn't believe how long it is and how far it would stretch out - I was curious as to how we would make it'* Ivy J

Our SATs booster classes begin after school on Monday 19th January for our Year 6 pupils. Mrs McKitten, our leader of teaching and learning and Year 6 teacher has organised 16 groups, which will run until Easter. A BIG thank you to all of the staff who have volunteered their time after school to run these groups and help make a difference.

Finally, can we say a huge thank you to all parents for supporting us with our attendance targets. We have surpassed our target this week and hit a magnificent

**97 % – keep it up!**

Have a lovely weekend and stay warm!

Kind regards,

Joanne Leah Morgan

Head teacher

#### Certificates:

**Resilient:** Zak P PS, Luca A C3, Elijah D-M C1.

**Reflective:** Jonah R C2, Charley T C12McK.

**Resourceful:** Esmae C C5, Jack B C7, Aaron W C12C/Hx, Alia W C11.

**Reciprocal:** Charlie S C6, Liam J C8, Harper R C10.

**Respectful:** Olivia S C4, Emily W C9.

**HEADTEACHERS AWARD:** KS1: Freddie S C1, Charlotte P C3, Rosie P C6. KS2: Sophia L C8, Ryan G C9, Alisha-Mae S C10.

#### **Pen Licence:**

**Well done to you all!**



#### **BIRTHDAYS:**

**CLASS 1:** George J

**CLASS 5:** Effie C

**CLASS 8:** Santi B

**CLASS 12C/Hx:** Una R

**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 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.



**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](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. 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
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
29.01.26	Thursday	Class 11	Life Centre Workshop	Please see class letter
04.02.26	Wednesday	Classes 7 & 8	Historic Workshop	Please see class letter
05.02.26	Thursday	Class 3	Parent Workshop	9.15am large hall, parents/carers welcome
11.02.26	Wednesday	Classes 5 & 6	Glass Workshop	More info to follow
12.02.26	Thursday	Class 10	Heugh Battery Museum	Please see class letter
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
19.02.26	Thursday	Classes 1 & 2	Minibeast Workshop	More info to follow
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
24.03.26	Tuesday	Preschool	Wharton Park Visit	Please see class letter
24.03.26	Tuesday	Classes 1 & 2	Washington Wetlands	More info to follow
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 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	School closes
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2026	School opens
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2026	School closes
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	School opens
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2026	School closes
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	School closed Bank Holiday
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	School opens
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026	School closes
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026	School opens
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	School closes
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	School closed to pupils (PD Day for staff)



Geoff the Chef Award has been given to Class 10 this week for the best behaviour over lunchtime KS2 – Well Done!



Sue the Chef Award has been given to Class 1 this week for the best behaviour over lunchtime KS1 – Well Done!



Kindness Tree Award has been given to Megan S C7 and Poppy B C4.



**Attendance** Yellow – 97.44% STM Blue – 94.91% NA Green – 97.02% SDA Red – 96.70% 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
96.00%	<b>99.00%</b> 0 lates <b>WINNERS!</b>	94.27%	95.98%	98.37%	99.00% 2 lates	97.12%	<b>98.37%</b> <b>WINNERS!</b>	96.97%	97.73%	95.22%	95.19%	92.00%

