

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 4

News

Week beginning 26.01.26

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

ATTENDANCE
WHOLE SCHOOL
94.82%

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

Lead: Mr K. Morgan

SENCO/Pastoral: Mrs R Hext

Site Manager: Mrs W. Fickling

School Business Manager: Mrs J Treanor

Dear Parents/Carers,

At last, we are almost through the month of January. What a long, dark, cold month it has been, but our wonderful children never fail to light up our days! We are so proud of each and every one of them!

I would like to share lots of lovely things that have been happening in school this week.....

Class 10 and 11 have had an exciting time bringing their history topic to life. They arrived at school on Wednesday dressed in their evacuee costumes. Their day began in September 1939 with an announcement from the Prime Minister declaring the start of World War II. The children then had to prepare to be evacuated from the city to the countryside. The children made evacuee labels and chose their special items for their suitcases. The children were all given new identities, practised air raid drills and listened to news announcements! The children took their time to write postcards to their families, learnt some wartime songs and used their rations to buy some wartime sweets- rhubarb and custards! Finally, it was announced that the war was over and they could return to their families - this is what some of the children had to say about their special day.....

'My favourite part of the day was when we had to introduce ourselves. My name was Billy Scaife and my brother was Alan Scaife. I was sent to Penrith in Cumbria. It felt a bit weird but I knew I would be safe in the countryside'. Kai S

'I liked it when the air raids went off and we had to go under the tables, we pretended to put gas masks on. It felt scary even though they weren't real air raids. Alia W

'My favourite part of the day was when we were singing the wartime songs! My favourite song was 'Yes, we have no bananas'. Lilah B

'My favourite part of the day was when we had to write the postcards to our families. It made me feel happy to know that they were okay'. Aria C

'I really enjoyed choosing what items I would pack in my suitcase, I chose a puzzle, socks, gloves and my ration book'. Flynn W

Also, Class 11 enjoyed a visit to the Life Centre to see the stunning Planetarium and enjoy a workshop called "Our Place in Space". They learnt about the Solar System, its stars, planets and moons. They discovered the name of some constellations and even saw inside a nebula to understand how planets are born. It was a wonderful trip that really helped put this term's Science topic of Earth and Space into context.

Our School team captains and I have had a meeting today about lots of ideas they would like to implement. They have expressed an interest in additional clubs, reorganising our school library and are going to plan a careers event to be held in the Spring Term. They take their roles and responsibilities very seriously and are doing a superb job!

Class 4 enjoyed their parent workshop on Thursday morning. They have created some super lunch boxes with some very interesting designs! Thank you to all of the adults who came into school to work alongside the children, we hope you had fun too!

Polite reminder – If you have any library books at home can you please return them to school once the children have read them. We are re-stocking our library (again) to ensure that all children, across all reading levels, have access to a range of texts and genres. Thank you for your support with this.

Have a lovely weekend.

Joanne Leah Morgan

Head teacher

Certificates:

Resilient: James B C3, NB C4, Bonnie Blu H C2.

Reflective: Max H C3, Louie L C12G, Hayden L C7, Kai S C11, Gracie B C11.

Resourceful: Amelia E PS, Thomas P C12McK, Alice A C9, Colin C C8, Maddie L C10.

Reciprocal: Bligh R C6, Halle G C5, Elsie W C5.

Respectful: Anna C C1.

HEADTEACHERS AWARD: KS1: Eva L C2, James S C5, Alfie S C5. KS2: Zachary W C8, Aria J C10, Charley T C12McK.

Pen Licence: Hannah C C7, Bella U C7, James W C7, Hayden L C7, Olivia C C7, Mila B C7, Ruby J C9.

Well done to you all!



BIRTHDAYS:

PRESCHOOL: Elliott C

CLASS 7: Hannah C

CLASS 9: Belle P

CLASS 10: Oliver Hu

CLASS 11: Kate J, Aria P

CLASS 12G: Charlie S

CLASS 12McK: Oliver C

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 |
|----------|-----------|---------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 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 |
| 09.02.26 | Monday | Class 9 | Sambuca's Seaham | Please see class letter |
| 11.02.26 | Wednesday | Classes 5 & 6 | Glass Workshop | Please see class letter |
| 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 | Minibeam Workshop | Please see class letter |
| 04.03.26 | Wednesday | Classes 5 & 6 | St Cuthbert's Church Visit | Please see class letter |
| 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 | Please see class letter |
| 26.03.26 | Thursday | Class 9 | Parent Workshop | 9.15am large hall, parents/carers welcome |
| 31.03.26 | Tuesday | Class 9 | Beamish Visit | More info to follow |
| 02.04.26 | Thursday | Preschool | Preschool Easter Parade | 9.15am large hall, parents/carers welcome |
| 22.04.26 | Wednesday | Preschool | Tweddle Farm Visit | More info to follow |

Holiday dates

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Friday 20 th February 2026 | School closes |
| Monday 2 nd March 2026 | School opens |
| Thursday 2 nd April 2026 | School closes |
| Monday 20 th April 2026 | School opens |
| Friday 1 st May 2026 | School closes |
| Monday 4 th May 2026 | School closed Bank Holiday |
| Tuesday 5 th May 2026 | School opens |
| Friday 22 nd May 2026 | School closes |
| Monday 1 st June 2026 | School opens |
| Friday 17 th July 2026 | School closes |
| Monday 20 th July 2026 | School closed to pupils (PD Day for staff) |
| Tuesday 1 st Sept 2026 | School closed to pupils (PD Day for staff) |
| Wednesday 2 nd Sept 2026 | School opens |
| Friday 23 rd Oct 2026 | School closes |
| Monday 2 nd Oct 2026 | School opens |
| Thursday 26 th Nov 2026 | School closes |
| Friday 27 th Nov 2026 | School closed to pupils (PD Day for staff) |
| Monday 30 th Nov 2026 | School closed to pupils (PD Day for staff) |
| Tuesday 1 st Dec 2026 | School opens |
| Friday 18 th Dec 2026 | School closes |
| Monday 4 th Jan 2027 | School closed to pupils (PD Day for staff) |
| Tuesday 5 th Jan 2027 | School opens |
| Friday 12 th Feb 2027 | School closes for half term |
| Monday 22 nd Feb 2027 | School opens |
| Thursday 25 th Mar 2027 | School closes for Easter |
| Monday 12 th Apr 2027 | School opens |
| Friday 30 th Apr 2027 | School closes |
| Monday 3 rd May 2027 | School closed Bank Holiday |
| Tuesday 4 th May 2027 | School opens |
| Friday 28 th May 2027 | School closes for half term |
| Monday 7 th June 2027 | School opens |
| Tuesday 20 th July 2027 | School closes for Summer holidays |



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 5 this week for the best behaviour over lunchtime KS1 – Well Done!



Kindness Tree Award has been given to Sophia R C2 and Mr Harrison



Attendance Yellow – 95.03% STM Blue – 97.38% NA Green – 94.74% SDA Red – 91.38% QEII

| CLASS 1 | CLASS 2 | CLASS 3 | CLASS 4 | CLASS 5 | CLASS 6 | CLASS 7 | CLASS 8 | CLASS 9 | CLASS 10 | CLASS 11 | CLASS 12G | CLASS 12McK |
|---------|---------|---------|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| 95.00% | 85.10% | 97.92% | 99.11% WINNERS! | 96.74% | 96.00% | 96.63% | 96.74% | 92.42% | 96.97% WINNERS! | 95.22% | 88.30% | 96.50% |