

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 5

News

Week beginning 02.02.26

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

ATTENDANCE
WHOLE SCHOOL
96%

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,

We have had some fabulous singing this week in school. From our celebration assemblies today to our amazing pre-school children, who learnt a very special song about friendship and respect! They are making so much progress and delighting Mrs Devine, Miss Brown and Mrs Wright every day – well done to you all.

Also, Mr Cleugh was so impressed when Class 5 learnt all of the words and actions to their song about 'feelings'. The children sang all of the words and learnt sign language too – he has uploaded the video onto our Facebook page for you to enjoy!

Our booster groups are going really well after school too. A special shout out to the 14 members of staff who are running the groups to help the children make progress, we can already see that the children are really benefiting from these sessions! Mrs Henry, who has been part of our school since 1996 (Yes, 30 years at Shotton Hall) is still giving up her own time to help and support children, she is also one of our school governors – what a superstar!!

Mrs Habicht and Mr Haygarth were thrilled to see their children working so hard with their very special visitor this week. As part of their History topic they took part in a Historic Workshop all about The Romans. The children had a very special visit from a Roman centurion called 'Tiberius' who discussed Roman life. They enjoyed a range of activities including; learning to be a Roman scribe, playing Roman board games and taking part in an archaeological dig.

This is what the children thought of their exciting day.....

'I loved the battle formations that we did, it was fun acting these out – we chanted some words in Latin and did a war cry – it was great'. Freddie L

'When we re-enacted out the famous battle, we had shields and pretend swords, it was good fun'. We played 'Three Men's Morris', an ancient game that the Romans played – it was fun'. Poppy C

'Tiberius the Roman soldier told us stories about how the Romans died in battle – I learnt lots of new things, it was so interesting' Oliver E

'I loved it when we did the archaeological dig in the sand. We found buttons, a zip and flint, which is what they used to make fires' Elsie S

The Roman visitor was so impressed with our children and their impeccable behaviour – he said he can't wait to return!

After last week's successful Class 4 parent workshop, this week was the turn of our Year 1 children in Class 3. The theme of the workshop was DT. Over the last few weeks, the children have been exploring the features of lunchboxes and have created their own design brief. During Thursday's workshop the children worked so hard with their parents - bringing their creations to life! They used a range of joins they've learned in DT, including *flanges, tabs, slots and L-braces*. Chosen design themes included *K-Pop, Sonic, Barbie, Minecraft* and *football*. Parents were so impressed by how independently the Year 1 children constructed their lunch boxes. We saw lots of determination and some fantastic resilience – well done to you all.

Mr Hagan and Mr Robinson took 16 of our KS2 children to the Swimming Gala on Thursday and they did an amazing job! Our Year 4 children finished in 2nd place and came back with silver medals and our Year 5/6 children finished in 2nd place too – this means that both groups qualify for the County finals. Thank you to all of the parents who cheered them on – I am sure you are very proud too! The children all came to the front of the hall in our celebration assembly today and we gave them a huge round of applause for their super efforts!

Finally, I have been contacted by Kate. Who is a Series Producer at Love Productions; the production company behind The Great British Bake Off, The Great British Sewing Bee and The Great Pottery Throw Down. She has contacted me to let you know that they have recently opened applications for the 12th series of **Junior Bake off**, a Channel 4 competition series celebrating Britain's young baking talent!

They are looking for young, budding bakers between **9-15 years old** and interested bakers can apply online at - www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk

Filming would take place from July 2026, but their **applications close on Sunday 15th March 2026** - Happy Baking!

Have a great weekend,

Joanne Leah Morgan

Head teacher

Certificates:

Resilient: Charlotte P C3, Belle P C9, Chester G C2.

Reflective: Hettie S C12McK, Jax B C8, Daisy S C10, Grace A C11, Leo K C12G.

Resourceful: Albie M C1, Skyler L PS, Evelyn F C6, Maisy H C4, Dakota H C7, Freddie P C5.

Reciprocal:

Respectful:

HEADTEACHERS AWARD: KS1: Zak P PS, Maya T C3, Harper-Rose B C6, Freya N C6. KS2: Natassia L C9, Aria C C11, Ava H C12McK.

Pen Licence: Tommy P C6, Ryan G C9,

Well done to you all!



BIRTHDAYS:

PRESCHOOL: Freddie H.

CLASS 1: Silja R & Reeve P.

CLASS 2: Dominic B, Ralph H, Lorelei A.

CLASS 4: Lucy S.

CLASS 6: Leo C.

CLASS 9: Wilson T

CLASS 12McK: Layla 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
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	Minibeast 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
Wednesday 21 st July 2027	School closed to pupils (PD Day for staff)



Geoff the Chef Award has been given to Class 8 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 Darcy F C1 and Hannah C C7.



Attendance Yellow – 97.87% STM Blue – 94.77% NA Green – 95.83% SDA Red – 94.88% 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
92.50%	96.63%	96.35%	96.43%	96.20%	100.00% WINNERS!	97.60%	97.28%	91.67%	98.86% WINNERS!	91.54%	96.00%	96.50%

