

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 6

### News

Week beginning 09.02.26

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

ATTENDANCE  
WHOLE SCHOOL  
93.61%

## 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,

What an exciting week we have had at Shotton Hall Primary School!

On Monday, Class 9 visited 'Sambuca' Italian restaurant in Seaham for lunch. This was to support their English lessons to research and write a restaurant review. The children had an amazing experience and the staff were extremely friendly and accommodating. The children chose from a range of pizza and pasta options - finishing with delicious ice-cream. The children thoroughly enjoyed their food and their experience at the restaurant. In all of their years of working at Shotton Hall - Mrs Scollen and Mrs Pearson have never seen children eat so much! They all had a fabulous time and the verdict.... they would all highly recommend the restaurant!

On Wednesday, Classes 5 & 6 had a wonderful, creative and very therapeutic time making glass decorations. They used small pieces of glass which were glued onto templates of a turtle and a fish. The children created some very unique and exciting designs. These will be fired in a kiln and returned to school very soon. We can't wait to see the finished works of art! Well done everyone.

The excitement continued on Thursday when the whole school were treated to a special assembly delivered by the brilliant author Adam Bushnell. Adam has visited our school many times and he said he loves coming to Shotton Hall and working with staff and children. On this visit, Adam brought his 21-year-old tortoise 'Jet' which the children were delighted to see. As part of their Cultural Capital offer Adam worked with Year 3 throughout the rest of the day. The theme for the workshop was 'Witches and Twisted Fairy Tales'. The children created their own illustrations of a witch and described where a witch might live. The children also explored poetry and activities to describe a range of animals. The children are looking forward to using their resource pack in their English lessons next week!

Also, Class 10 had a fantastic day at the Heugh Battery Museum in Hartlepool. They learnt about how World War I and World War II impacted the local coastline and the role that the battery had in defending the local area. They learnt about a soldier's uniform and explored the wide range of artefacts from World War I and World War II. The children listened to real life stories of local people who described the bombing raids during the wars. They enjoyed visiting the replica World War I trench and imagining what life was like for the soldiers stationed there. Despite the very cold, wet weather - they all had a great day!

Today, our EYFS parents have been in school and our reception children in Class 1 and 2 thoroughly enjoyed spending time with their loved ones during their “Bring someone you love” to school session. They took part in a range of activities including crafts, valentines mark making, games, potion making and much more. A firm favourite was their biscuit decorating - let's just say they went down a treat! We always look forward to having parents in school and it was wonderful to see so many loved ones join us and share the love.

Miss Case couldn't believe that there were two correct guesses of the number of sweets in the jar – which was 600!! She put both names 'in the hat' and Alfie P won the whole jar! Well done to Frankie H, who won a runner up prize.

Also, Freddie S guessed the correct name of the bear – 'Berty'. We hope you all had a wonderful morning!

Wishing you all a very happy 'Saint Valentine's Day', have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Joanne Leah Morgan

Head teacher

#### Certificates:

**Resilient:** Harrison T C3, Theo B C6, Myla-Grace L C7.

**Reflective:** Max S PS, Annabelle R C2, Dexter W C10, Jessica B C11.

**Resourceful:** Beau H C4, Emily H C12McK, Billie R C12G, Lucas L C12G, Poppy C C8.

**Reciprocal:**

**Respectful:** Ollie K C1, Ella F C5, Jacob B C9.

**HEADTEACHERS AWARD:** KS1: Max H C3, Harrison T C3, Darcie D C3. KS2: Maisie A C12G, Fearne M C12G, Billie R C12G.

**Pen Licence:**

**Well done to you all!**



**BIRTHDAYS:**

**PRESCHOOL:** Erin A, Amelia E.

**CLASS 5:** Hallie P

**CLASS 10:** Dexter W.

**CLASS 12McK:** Jacob W.

**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. 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                               |
|----------|-----------|---------------|----------------------------|---|
| 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

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b> | <b>School closes</b>                              |
| <b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026</b>     | <b>School opens</b>                               |
| <b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026</b>   | <b>School closes</b>                              |
| <b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b>    | <b>School opens</b>                               |
| <b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026</b>       | <b>School closes</b>                              |
| <b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b>       | <b>School closed Bank Holiday</b>                 |
| <b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b>      | <b>School opens</b>                               |
| <b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026</b>      | <b>School closes</b>                              |
| <b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026</b>      | <b>School opens</b>                               |
| <b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026</b>     | <b>School closes</b>                              |
| <b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026</b>     | <b>School closed to pupils (PD Day for staff)</b> |
| <b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2026</b>     | <b>School closed to pupils (PD Day for staff)</b> |
| <b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2026</b>   | <b>School opens</b>                               |
| <b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2026</b>      | <b>School closes</b>                              |
| <b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2026</b>       | <b>School opens</b>                               |
| <b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2026</b>    | <b>School closes</b>                              |
| <b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Nov 2026</b>      | <b>School closed to pupils (PD Day for staff)</b> |
| <b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 2026</b>      | <b>School closed to pupils (PD Day for staff)</b> |
| <b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2026</b>      | <b>School opens</b>                               |
| <b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 2026</b>      | <b>School closes</b>                              |
| <b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2027</b>       | <b>School closed to pupils (PD Day for staff)</b> |
| <b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2027</b>      | <b>School opens</b>                               |
| <b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2027</b>      | <b>School closes for half term</b>                |
| <b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2027</b>      | <b>School opens</b>                               |
| <b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Mar 2027</b>    | <b>School closes for Easter</b>                   |
| <b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Apr 2027</b>      | <b>School opens</b>                               |
| <b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Apr 2027</b>      | <b>School closes</b>                              |
| <b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2027</b>       | <b>School closed Bank Holiday</b>                 |
| <b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2027</b>      | <b>School opens</b>                               |
| <b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2027</b>      | <b>School closes for half term</b>                |
| <b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2027</b>      | <b>School opens</b>                               |
| <b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2027</b>    | <b>School closes for Summer holidays</b>          |
| <b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2027</b>  | <b>School closed to pupils (PD Day for staff)</b> |



**Attendance** Yellow – 96.45% STM Blue – 93.60% NA Green – 92.82% SDA Red – 92.39% 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%  | 90.38%  | 93.23%  | 94.64%  | <b>97.28%</b><br><b>WINNERS!</b> | 94.50%  | 93.27%  | 86.96%  | <b>96.21%</b><br><b>WINNERS!</b> | 94.70%   | 95.22%   | 95.00%    | 93.00%      |

