

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 16.02.26

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

ATTENDANCE
WHOLE SCHOOL
95.23%

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,

There have been a host of wonderful learning opportunities and cultural experiences taking place in EYFS this week. All of the children began the week by celebrating pancake day. Class 1 and 2 have written super instructions on 'how to make a pancake' and then followed them very carefully to make their own. They loved tasting the pancakes and trying different toppings! Eva said 'they look like splats!' Nancy said 'they were so yummy!' Rowan said 'my favourite topping was chocolate chips.' – how lovely, I think I agree!

Later in the week, they celebrated the Lunar New Year - The Year of the Horse. Preschool children carefully decorated a Chinese dragon and danced with scarves like the dragon itself. All children tasted traditional Chinese food including noodles, prawn crackers, and a variety of dipping sauces. Class 1 and 2 explored the story 'The Great Race' and talked about what it is like to win and lose.

Yesterday, Class 1 and 2 had a visit from Steve and his mini-beasts from 'Animal Ark'. Steve loves coming to our school and has been visiting for such a long time - some of you may even remember him! Some children were brave enough to touch or hold the stick insects, beetles, katydid, and millipede. Fortunately, they observed the tarantula and scorpion from a distance! This was a small taster of what's to come next half term!

I asked them what they had learnt and here is what they said...

'My favourite was the snail and the millipede. The snail was SO big it blew my mind. The millipede was my favourite because it pooped on Steve and made me laugh'. Lorelei A

'I liked the giant spider, it had eight long legs and it was very scary'. Eve H

'I loved the leaf grasshopper, it jumped off Nancy's hand and back on Steve's hand- it gave me a shock'. Eva L

'I liked the stick insect; it was camouflaged on another stick. It was so cool'. Alfie P

Mrs Hext and I have observed some wonderful lessons in school over the last couple of weeks. The children have loved sharing their work and explaining their learning to both of us. Please see all of the half-term 'round-ups' on our Facebook page.

The children have worked really hard to produce a fantastic episode for Radio Rumble with Mr Sumbly. Please follow the link below – we hope you are impressed.

<https://shottonhallprimary.durham.sch.uk/radio/>

We are delighted to inform you that we will be celebrating World Book Day again this year! On **Thursday 5th March**, children are invited to come to school dressed as a book character or dressed as something which is linked to a book. We will be involving children in lots of fun activities throughout the day! Your child should have received a World Book Token this week, to use over half term. As always, we will be sure to share our day with you on Facebook and Class Dojo.

We will also be supporting Comic Relief in school on **Friday 20th March**. The theme for this year is, 'Take Yourself Funny for Money!' Children are welcome to come into school wearing their red noses, t-shirts or their weekend clothes. We will have an afternoon of exciting activities in class! If you are able to, please make donations via Parent Pay. Thank you for your continued support.

School closes today for half-term and reopens to pupils on **Monday 2nd March**.

Enjoy the half-term break!

Kind regards,

Joanne Leah Morgan

Head teacher

Certificates:

Resilient: Reeva P (C1), Ada R (C4), Charlie A (C7) Liam P (C9)

Reflective: Orlaith G (C2), Amora D (C3), Dominic R (C8), Sebastian J (C11), Will CW (C12McK), Gracie O'G (C12G), Charlie S (C12G)

Resourceful: Florence W (P.S.), Tilly F (C5), Olivia C (C10)

Reciprocal: Robin M (C6)

HEADTEACHERS AWARD: KS1: Jacob C (C4), Maisy H (C4), Kreed C (C5) KS2: Megan S (C7), Lilah S (C8), Heath A (C10), Sebastian J (C11)

Pen Licence: Freya N (C6), Sofia L (C8), Mila F (C8)

Well done to you all!



BIRTHDAYS:

Pre-School: Harlow

Class 4: Nancy S, Aurora G,

Class 7: Charlie A

Class 9: Jack L, Alice F

Class 10: Jacob C

Class 11: Sebastian J

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
04.03.26	Wednesday	Classes 5 & 6	St Cuthbert's Church Visit	Please see class letter
05.03.26	Thursday	Whole School	World Book Day	More info to follow
12.03.26	Thursday	Class 7 & 8	The Baltic 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
20.03.26	Friday	Whole School	Comic Relief	More info to follow
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 11 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 Charlie S (C6) and Hallie-Grace D (C7).



Attendance Yellow – 96.88% STM Blue – 95.78% NA Green – 95.20% SDA Red – 93.58% 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
94.00%	89.90%	92.19%	94.64%	95.11%	96.00 % WINNERS!	93.27%	99.43% WINNERS!	98.48%	95.83%	96.69%	96.00%	96.50 %

