

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 2 Week 4

News

Week beginning 23.03.26

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

ATTENDANCE
WHOLE SCHOOL
94.16%

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 an extremely busy time in school this week.

On Monday morning Key Stage 2 children performed their class poems in the hall to celebrate 'World Poetry Day'. In the afternoon Key Stage 1 performed their poems too, there were some very interesting poems and everyone did a fantastic job -well done!

The coffee morning went well on Monday too, when parents met with Theresa from the Communication and Interaction Team at the Local Authority and our SENDCo, Mrs Hext. If you didn't manage to make it, we will be arranging another one next term!

The children enjoyed Chartwells taster session on Monday lunchtime. They were able to sample a variety of different foods, highlighting the new summer menu. It was a great success, with lots of the pupils trying new recipes.

On Tuesday Classes 1 and 2 visited Washington Wildfowl Park. The children enjoyed pond dipping and discovered some interesting facts. They also went on a mini-beast hunt, saw the otters feeding and were delighted when the pink flamingos made a special appearance too! The children were excited to tell me that they went on the 'Julia Donaldson' trail around the park and that they were thrilled to meet two squirrels – what fun they had!

Pre-School had a great time on their trip to Wharton Park too. They met Rachel and Nicky from the team who showed them lots of photographs of birds. The children then matched the birds to the eggs, made birds nests, created clay birds and bird feeders to take home. The children also enjoyed feeding the birds too. They ended the trip with a lovely song and were all tired out by the time they returned to school. Thank you to all of the adult helpers who joined them. The children continued their learning on Thursday when they had an Easter Egg hunt in our Forest School. They hunted with their coloured baskets to match the right coloured eggs. They also enjoyed having fun with their friends whilst egg rolling too. They are looking forward to inviting parents into school next week for their Easter Parade!

Our Year 4 and 5 pupils have been treated to a performance of Annie at the Academy this week. They thoroughly enjoyed the performance and managed to spot some former pupils too!

Yesterday, Class 9 enjoyed their parent workshop where they looked at artwork from two pitman painters - Norman Cornish and Tom McGuinness. The children then used different media to create their own piece of artwork, inspired by these artists. The parents and grandparents also enjoyed making some artwork of their own!

Class 10 have taken part in a local area fieldwork study in Geography. They walked around the perimeter of the school counting how many pieces of litter they found, and how many of those are single use plastics. They were shocked with the large number of plastic bottles near to the Passfield Way gates. They will follow up this work by writing to the local council for more litter bins and campaigning for a clean-up of the area. Well done Class 10.

The Fire Brigade have been in school today to talk to Year 5 and 6 about anti-social behaviour, starting fires in the local area and peer pressure. The children had the opportunity to ask the fire fighters a range of questions after the session. While they were in the hall Mrs Devine and Miss Brown took our pre-school children out to look at the fire engine, the fire fighter showed them the lights and the infra-red cameras they used – the children were so excited!

Today, some of our children attended the 'Cross Country County Finals' and really enjoyed their races. Our Year 3 / 4 boys team and our Year 3 / 4 girls team both came in 3rd place and were so proud returning to school with their bronze medals! A special 'shout out' to Alia W in Year 5 who came 3rd in her race against all Year 5 and 6 children across the County. Well done to everyone who took part – you are all winners!

Your child will have brought home their report this evening. If you have any worries or concerns staff will be available for parent consultations on **Monday 30th March** and **Wednesday 1st April**. If you would like to arrange an appointment to speak to the class teacher, please contact them directly over class dojo.

We are looking forward to holding our annual 'Easter egg competition' in school this year. The children can bring in their hard-boiled eggs to decorate from **Monday 30th March** and any craft items they wish to use. We will have lots of resources available in school to help them with their ideas and create their designs. Our Staff Governor Mrs Henry and our ICT Network Manager, Mr Sumbly will have the tricky job of judging the eggs on **Thursday 2nd April**. And then the children will take their creations home – good luck everyone!

Just a reminder that school closes to pupils on **Thursday 2nd April** and reopens on **Monday 20th April**.

Have a great weekend,

Kind regards,

Joanne Leah Morgan

Head teacher

Certificates:

Resilient: Oscar S (P.S.), Kalen J (C4), Alfie S (C5), Pippa A (C5), Lacey F (C8), Ava F (C10)

Reflective: Grayson W (C2), Bligh R (C6), Archie M (C7), Ryan G (C9), Joshua L (C11), Matthew S (C11), Lincoln B (C12G), Matthew TS (C12G)

Resourceful: Hettie S (C12McK)

Respectful: Silja R (C1), Max H (C3)

HEADTEACHERS AWARD: KS1: Leo H (P.S.), Nancy S (C4), Sienna M (C6) KS2: Jack L (C9), Alice A (C9)

Well done to you all!



BIRTHDAYS:

Class 9: Liam P

Class 10: Dolcie W

Class 11: Shaun P

Class 12G: Gracie O, Sofia K

Class 12McK: Charley T

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
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

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 10 this week for the best behaviour over lunchtime KS2 – Well Done!



Sue the Chef Award has been given to Class 2 this week for the best behaviour over lunchtime KS1 – Well Done!



Eco Turtles Award has been given to Class 5 and Class 8 this week – Well Done!



Kindness Tree Award has been given to Esmae C (C5) and Arlo W (C8)



Attendance Yellow – 95.60% STM Blue – 95.15% NA Green – 93.39% SDA Red – 92.44% 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
93.00%	91.83%	87.50%	100.00% WINNERS!	98.91%	93.50%	96.15%	93.18%	87.50%	95.08%	95.45%	94.50%	97.50% WINNERS!