

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, Dr M Treanor.

Parent: Mr Angell, Miss Potts & Miss Patterson.

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.**

Autumn Term 1 Week 1

News

Week beginning 31.08.26

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

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,

Welcome to the Autumn Term - we hope that you have had a wonderful Summer!

The children have had a shorter week and we are so proud of how well they have returned to school and settled straight into their new routines.

Our youngest children in Pre-school have enjoyed exploring their new environment and have been focusing on their topic 'All about me'. They have also enjoyed singing songs and listening to stories. They are learning each other's names and Mrs Devine, Miss Baker and Miss White are very impressed with how independent they are - well done!

In Reception the children have enjoyed discovering areas of learning - both indoors and outdoors! They have been listening to the story 'The Colour Monster' and talking about their feelings. Our EYFS staff have been so impressed with how well the children are already following their new routines – well done!

Our Year 1 pupils have also impressed us, they have been learning about using finger spaces when writing and showing off their phonics skills. They have been working hard with Mr Rogers and Mr Haygarth. It is always a very 'big jump' from EYFS to Year 1 and we are so proud of them all. This is what some of the children thought.....

'I was a bit worried about going into Year 1 – but it is fun, I like learning' Tommy S

'We were learning about different types of animals. I have drawn a lovely picture of an animal -it was a bear with round ears. Nancy B

'It is fun in school; I like to be here. I loved to see all of my friends and Mr Rogers is funny – he makes us laugh' Ralph H

'I have been writing in my new book, Mr Rogers said I was a genius – it made me feel ecstatic'. Orlaith G

'I was crying on Wednesday about coming back to school but now I am happy – it is fun' Rowan F

Children in Year 2 have enjoyed reading maths challenges and using the NumBots. They have also enjoyed finding rhyming words and poetry. In Year 3 children have looked at the human skeleton, completed group challenges and discussed becoming a 'class family'. In Year 4 children have been

enjoying teambuilding challenges and making friendship bracelets. Our Year 5 pupils have also been completing lots of challenges which have included designing board games and moon missions! Whilst in Year 6, our pupils have been researching Louis Braille and Wilfred Owen. They have been fascinated by their lives and legacy and are preparing to write a biography – what a super start!

We hope you found the welcome meetings helpful and informative this week. If you couldn't make it into school, please contact your child's class teacher over "dojo" if you have any questions. We will be continuing with our parent workshops this year as we always have really positive feedback about these sessions!

Our Celebration assemblies will begin next Friday and we can't wait to share the fantastic achievements and all of the wonderful topics the children are learning about. It is always such a special time in school.

I would just like to remind parents that if your child is in Year 2- 6 they can also access the school site via the Passfield Way entrance. The gates are opened at 8.40am and close at 8.55am ready for lessons to begin promptly at 9.00am.

We will be adding dates to our diary soon - so please keep checking. On **Wednesday 23rd September** 'Tempest Photographers' will be in school and will take both individual photographs and also separate photographs with siblings of children in school.

Have a great weekend,

Joanne Leah Morgan

Head teacher



BIRTHDAYS:

Class 3: Freddie S.

Class 6: Beau H.

Class 8: Bligh R, Evelyn F, Aria W.

Class 9: Olivia C and Shaun P.

Class 12McK: Kai S.

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 20th April 2026 school meals have increased to £3.08 per day (£15.40 per week). **Preschool meals are at a cost of £3.70 per day (£18.50 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 needs to be booked and paid for in advance please through Parentpay under the Clubs section. As of September 2025 the cost per day is increasing to £3 for the first child and £2 for any siblings.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB: After School Club must be booked and paid for in advance on Parentpay under the Clubs section (this needs to be booked before 11am on the day). 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.

Holiday dates

Friday 23 rd Oct 2026	School closes
Monday 2 nd Nov 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 7th June 2027	School opens
Tuesday 20th July 2027	School closes for Summer holidays
Wednesday 21st July 2027	School closed to pupils (PD Day for staff)

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
23.09.26	Wednesday	Whole School	Tempest Photography	School photo's also with siblings (within school)

