

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 3

News

Week beginning 14.09.26

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

SHINE

**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,

This week many of our Year 6 pupils attended the residential at Howtown in Ullswater. They have been working together, showing resilience and determination whilst participating in a range of exciting experiences. They have enjoyed gorge walking and were really tested by the weather and waterfalls. The children have impressed the staff with their rock climbing and abseiling skills. Afterwards, they worked together to light their own campfire and toasted marshmallows to enjoy with their hot chocolate. The children were thrilled after they had been on the lake in their canoes - as they enjoyed an exciting speed boat ride. They cooked their own hotdogs and the boys washed up (well done) whilst the girls tidied the kit room. Also, the children have been on lots of exciting walks, caving, tunneling and orienteering – well done and a HUGE thank you to Mr Scorer, Mr Cleugh and Ms Oliver for braving the elements all week - you will be ready for a well-deserved rest this weekend!

The children who did not attend the residential have been taking part in different projects in school this week. They have been exploring what life was like in 'World War One' as a soldier and have written their own WW1 free verse poetry. Mrs McKitten was so impressed with their flair for poetry.....so much so - she will be entering them into 'The Young Writers Poetry' competition for the chance to win £1000 for our school..... we can't wait to see what happens! The children have also created some fabulous pieces of art inspired by the book, War Game – well done to you all.

Mr Hagan has been busy over lunchtimes this week with lots of sporting activities. He has conducted girls football trials, girls netball trials, boys football team practises, cross country and will continue next week with more trials - including tag rugby!

A huge 'THANK YOU' to all of our parents, grandparents and friends of the school for your kind contributions to 'Tommy's Trek'. We have raised an incredible £3,800 in sponsorships, which has been banked and is ready to hand over to 'East Durham Veterans'. We know that when we present the cheque that they will very much appreciate all of your kindness and generosity - which never ceases to amaze us!

I know it is very early, but I am sure that parents and grandparents will appreciate as much notice as possible for our Christmas events! We have added our performances to the diary so you can add them to yours! Please keep checking our events calendar as we do love to see as many of you

coming into school as possible – the children love it too! Please come along for a mince pie and a hot cup of tea or coffee as we celebrate the festive season together. We will hold one performance of our ‘Pre-school sing-a-long’ and two performances of our EYFS Nativity and our Year 1 & 2 Nativity. As always, we will hold our concert performances for Key Stage 2 (Classes 7-12C and 12McK) in the morning, as well as another performance after school. Exact times and ticket information for all performances will be shared nearer the time.



Date	Day	Class/Year	Event	Information
1.12.26	Tuesday	Preschool	Christmas sing-a-long	Morning session in the school hall.
02.12.26	Wednesday	Reception Classes 1+2	Christmas Nativity Performance	Two performances to be held am and pm. More details to follow.
4.12.26	Friday	Years 1+2 Classes 3-6	Christmas Production	Two performances to be held am and pm. More details to follow.
7.12.26	Monday	Classes 7 + 8 + 9	Christmas Concert	Two performances to be held am and after school. More details to follow.
8.12.26	Tuesday	Classes 10 + 11	Christmas Concert	Two performances to be held am and after school. More details to follow
9.12.26	Wednesday	Classes 12McK + 12 C	Christmas Concert	Two performances to be held am and after school. More details to follow
10.12.26	Thursday	Pre-School	Durham Gala Theatre	Morning session
10.12.26	Thursday	Whole School	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch	More details to follow
14.12.26	Monday	Pre-school, Class 1 +2	Christmas Party	Morning session in school
14.12.26	Monday	Classes 3 + 4	Christmas Party	Afternoon session in school.
15.12.26	Tuesday	Classes 5 + 6	Christmas Party	Afternoon session in school.
16.12.26	Wednesday	Classes 7 + 8 +9	Christmas Party	Afternoon session in school.
17.12.26	Thursday	Whole School	Rock band	Morning session
17.12.26	Thursday	Classes 10 +11	Christmas Party	Afternoon session in school.

18.12.26	Friday	Classes 12C +12McK	Christmas Party	Afternoon session in school.
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Staff are busy mapping out all of the educational visits for this academic year. They include lots of exciting trips and visitors linked to their cultural capital offer. As soon as the dates are finalised, we will share these with parents too!

Just a reminder that 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.

Thank you for your continued support.

Joanne Leah Morgan

Head teacher

Certificates:

Resilient: Jorgie B C1, Phoebe J C4, Tom C C7, Jenson H C10, Oliver Hu C10, Florence W C2, George J C3,

Reflective: Galen W C12C, Max F C12McK, Grayson A C5,

Resourceful: George Ridley PS, Abe R C11, Nancy S C6,

Reciprocal: James S C8,

Respectful: Axel M C2, Bella U C9,

Pen Licence:

HEADTEACHERS AWARD: KS1: Eadie W PS, Zak P C1, Harley H C2, Anna C C3, Lydia H C4, Halle E C5. KS2: Nataliah B C7, Hallie P C7, Matthew S C12McK, Muskan P C12C.

Well done to you all!



BIRTHDAYS:

Class 4: Charlie P.

Class 8: Freddie P.

Class 9: Mila F, Bea R.

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 your 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 30th Apr 2027	School closes
Monday 3rd May 2027	School closed Bank Holiday
Tuesday 4th May 2027	School opens
Friday 28th 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)
07.10.26	Wednesday	Preschool	Treasure Hunt at Castle Eden Dene	More info to follow.
08.10.26	Thursday	Class 7	Parent Workshop	9.05am in the large hall
15.10.26	Thursday	Class 8	Parent Workshop	9.05am in the large hall
21.10.26	Wednesday	Class 5,6,7,8,9	Halloween Disco	3.30 – 5pm in the large hall
22.10.26	Thursday	Class 9	Parent Workshop	9.05am in the large hall
22.10.26	Thursday	Class 10,11,12McK,12C	Halloween Disco	3.30 – 5pm in the large hall
23.10.26	Friday	Preschool, 1,2,3,4	Halloween Disco	9.15 – 11.15am in the large hall
05.11.26	Thursday	Class 10	Parent Workshop	9.05am in the large hall
12.11.26	Thursday	Class 11	Parent Workshop	9.05am in the large hall
13.11.26	Friday	Whole School	Children in Need	More info to follow
19.11.26	Thursday	Class 12McK	Parent Workshop	9.05am in the large hall
26.11.26	Thursday	Class 12C	Parent Workshop	9.05am in the large hall
14.01.27	Thursday	Class 6	Parent Workshop	9.05am in the large hall
21.01.27	Thursday	Class 5	Parent Workshop	9.05am in the large hall
28.01.27	Thursday	Class 4	Parent Workshop	9.05am in the large hall
04.02.27	Thursday	Class 3	Parent Workshop	9.05am in the large hall
11.02.27	Thursday	Class 1 and 2	Parent Workshop	9.05am in the large hall
25.02.27	Thursday	Class 11	Parent Workshop	9.05am in the large hall
04.03.27	Thursday	Class 10	Parent Workshop	9.05am in the large hall
11.03.27	Thursday	Class 9	Parent Workshop	9.05am in the large hall
18.03.27	Thursday	Class 8	Parent Workshop	9.05am in the large hall
25.03.27	Thursday	Preschool Easter Parade	Parent Workshop	9.05am in the large hall
22.04.27	Thursday	Class 7	Parent Workshop	9.05am in the large hall
29.04.27	Thursday	Class 6	Parent Workshop	9.05am in the large hall
06.05.27	Thursday	Class 5	Parent Workshop	9.05am in the large hall
20.05.27	Thursday	Class 4	Parent Workshop	9.05am in the large hall
27.05.27	Thursday	Class 3	Parent Workshop	9.05am in the large hall
17.06.27	Thursday	Class 1 and 2	Parent Workshop	9.05am in the large hall



Geoff the Chef Award has been given to Class 7 this week for the best behaviour over lunchtime KS2 – Well Done!



Sue the Chef Award has been given to Class 3 this week for the best behaviour over lunchtime KS1 – Well Done!



Eco Turtles Award has been given to Class 9 this week – Well Done!



Kindness Tree Award has been given to Carter T C8 and Miss Pratt – Well Done!



Attendance Yellow – % STM Blue – % NA Green – % SDA Red – % QEII

CLASS 1	CLASS 2	CLASS 3	CLASS 4	CLASS 5	CLASS 6	CLASS 7	CLASS 8	CLASS 9	CLASS 10	CLASS 11	CLASS 12C	CLASS 12McK
95.00%	99.00%	99.00% WINNERS!	95.00%	98.96%	94.64%	97.73%	94.92%	97.18%	93.75%	98.66% WINNERS!	89.06%	93.75%