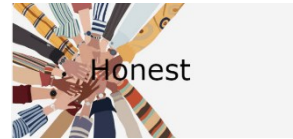




SBPS News



31st January 2025

Issue 5

Price: FREE!

Visit to India

This month, 27 Year 5 and 6 children got the opportunity of a lifetime to spend a week in Rajkot, India. Shotley Bridge Primary School were lucky enough to secure funding from the Turing Scheme so that the children could experience a different culture and learn new skills whilst doing so.



The children (and staff!) had an incredible time in Rajkot. They were warmly welcomed at Panchshill School with a welcome assembly and given roses. Following this, the children met and got to know the staff and students of the school and joined in some amazing activities such as garba dancing, crafts and mehndi.



Whilst in Rajkot, the children also visited the local zoo where they got to see a white tiger among other animals; learnt all about the life of Mahatma Gandhi at the Gandhi museum; immersed themselves in Gujarati culture at temples and churches; played lots of cricket, which is a very popular sport in India; and lots more.



This trip was a truly unforgettable experience for the children, which was highlighted when BBC Look North came to interview the pupils and staff about their experiences in India. This story was featured on BBC Look North on Wednesday 29th January.

A special thank you to Mr Vasarhelyi for securing the funding and organizing the trip. The trip would also not have been possible without Veena Sonil who arranged the link with Panchshill School and chaperoned the visit. We are already looking ahead to next year to see how we can plan enriching overseas visits for our children and create an ongoing link with Panchshill School.



Children's Mental Health Week

Next week—from Monday 3rd February—it is Children's Mental Health Week. We are kickstarting this week with 'Inside Out' day on Monday where all children are welcome to come to school in their own clothes and encouraged to wear at least one item of clothing inside out. Throughout the week, the children will be taking part in various activities promoting positive mental health.



Sporting News

Last week, a team of children from KS2 competed in the Derwentside Swimming Gala against local children from our surrounding schools. The team performed amazingly and showed great determination! SBPS finished 4th, just missing out on a medal position!

This week, the Y5/6 girls' football league has begun. Staff were super impressed by the effort of the team in their first two games where they won one match and drew another. We are looking forward to hearing about how the season unfolds!



Visit from Liz Twist



Labour MP for Blaydon and Consett, Liz Twist, visited Shotley Bridge Primary School last week to talk to the KS2 children about her role in parliament. The children asked her lots of interesting questions and found out all about the work she does for our community. Liz Twist also spent some time with our very own pupil parliament and she was very impressed hearing about their projects!

Valentine's Disco



The Valentine's discos will take place on Wednesday 12th February until 4:30pm. Tickets for the disco cost £3 and can be purchased on Arbor.

Year 5 Mini Police

Over the past three weeks, Year 5 have enjoyed their 'mini police' project with community support officers. They have learnt about different aspects of the law such as anti-social behaviour. Well done, Year 5!



Safeguarding Leads



Mrs Atkinson
Head Teacher



Miss Reid
Deputy Head Teacher



Mrs Dryden
Deputy Head Teacher and SENDCo



Mrs Lee
Pupil Wellbeing Lead



Mr Wood
Early Years Lead

If you have a concern about the safety of a child in our school, please contact one of our trained Designated Safeguarding Leads.

If you have a concern out of school hours, please contact First Contact on 0300026797 or the police.

OPAL Updates

The children on both sites are absolutely LOVING the new OPAL provision that has been introduced to their outdoor areas. Already staff are seeing the positive impact that OPAL is having on the children and their breaktimes.

- Following successful interviews, we are excited to welcome Mrs Lavery and Mrs Mulvain to our lunchtime OPAL play team. They are looking forward to beginning their roles in the next few weeks.
- We now have two amazing mud kitchens that the children are enjoying playing in when they are outside. All areas on the field can only be accessed when the children are wearing wellies so we really encourage all children to bring in a pair of wellies that can be left in school. During the half-term holidays, welly storage is beginning to be built, which will massively help the children gain access to their boots in a timely manner at playtimes.
- Because of the wet weather recently, the field is muddy when the children are playing here. Although we have ordered some waterproof trousers and jackets for the children to wear when playing on particularly muddy areas, we are also asking children to bring in their own waterproof clothing that they can pull on over their uniform. This will mean that school uniform is protected from the mud and dirt.
- On both sites, the children are enjoying playing with small world characters such as dolls and animal figures. However, we do not have enough of these toys for all of the children.

Monthly plea: If you have any unwanted small world toys (such as dolls, animals, dinosaurs, cars, action figures etc.) school would be very grateful of your donations.



Sponsor Walk

On Friday 21st February, all pupils at SBPS will take part in a sponsor walk to raise money to help us develop provision for OPAL on our school grounds. The whole school will work together to raise money where they will be rewarded with special treats in school for reaching different goals. Sponsor forms will be sent home on Friday 31st January, which will include full details of the sponsor walk, payments and rewards up for grabs!



Safer Internet Day

This year, Safer Internet Day falls on Tuesday 11th February. The day is a chance to further focus on the safety and wellbeing of children and young people online.

Here are a few useful websites for you to explore at home that explain how to keep children safe online:
www.internetmatters.org
<https://saferinternet.org.uk>



Piano Tuition

The Tapiola Piano School is currently offering 1-1 tuition at Shotley Bridge Primary School!

Our lessons are 30 minutes in duration and take place during the school day. In addition to lessons, students are encouraged to participate in concerts, music examinations and festivals, whilst benefiting from creative tutorials on our exciting YouTube channel. The Tapiola Piano School also hosts a prestigious annual Christmas concert at The Bowes Museum, where every student is invited to perform.



For further information, please visit www.tapiolapianoschool.com or contact Rudi Eastwood on Tel: 07972 151346/
Email: rudi.tapiola@gmail.com

Parking Reminders

We understand that there is limited parking in Shotley Bridge and this can be an issue when dropping off and collecting children from both buildings. Please be mindful when parking in residential areas so that you are not blocking residents' drives or obstructing paths, which can be very dangerous to pedestrians. School can not enforce parking rules, however, we have suggested that residents contact community police if they have ongoing problems.



Support from Harrington Brown

We would like to once again thank Harrington Brown for their ongoing support with fundraising for school. Last month, they raised another £650 from sales, taking the total raised to £1100! We are incredibly grateful to Jennifer Hartburn and the team at Harrington Brown for this money, which we will be using to buy resources for OPAL.



BLACKFYNE FC
GIRLS DEVELOPMENT GROUP

ACCREDITED

SESSIONS ARE FREE BUT MUST BE CONFIRMED IN ADVANCE

BLACKFYNE FC 1998



Indoor sessions (at Consett YM)
start Thursday Feb 6th

Yr 1 & 2 16:30 to 17:30
Yr 5 17:30 to 18:30

YR1 & 2 CONTACT TIM
07866305686

YR5 CONTACT ANDY
07769224304

DM or message for info

@BLACKFYNE JFC

Fundraising in Shotley Bridge Primary School

Throughout the year, we have a number of different fundraising events that take place in school (such as the summer fair, bingo night and the Christmas market) that set out to raise money for 'school fund'. Recently some very generous local businesses have approached us to offer support to school by purchasing items for us. During last month's PTA meeting, we agreed it would be a fantastic idea to share with parents and carers what our fundraising efforts are in aid of. Here is some of our most recent fundraising wishlist...



What? Small sofas
Why? KS2 entrance
How much? £300 each



What?: Bean Bags
Why? Classrooms
How much? £100 each



What?: Waterproof Clothing
Why? OPAL
How much? £1000



What?: Scooters
Why? OPAL
How much? £1000



What?: Outdoor Tuft Tray
Why? Pre-School
How much? £150



What?: Welly Storage
Why? OPAL
How much? £15,000



What?: Small World Figures
Why? OPAL
How much? £300



What?: Bell tent
Why? OPAL
How much? £700

As we reach our fundraising goals, we will share with you the items that have been purchased through your donations.



What?: Large Storage Boxes
Why? OPAL
How much? £120



What?: Outdoor Shed
Why? OPAL
How much? £2000



What?: Sand
Why? Refill sandpits
How much? £2,300



What?: Water Tray
Why? Pre-School
How much? £190



What?: Playground Toys
Why? KS1/KS2 Yard
How much? £400

**Purchased
Using funds raised at Summer/
Christmas Fair — Thank you!**

The fundraising wish list may grow or change as we respond to the needs of the children in school. If you have any items at home which you would like to donate, we would welcome loved second hand items too!



PRESCHOOL VISITS

WE WARMLY WELCOME THOSE LOOKING TO APPLY FOR NURSERY PLACES FOR 3-4 YEAR OLDS FROM SEPTEMBER 2025 TO VISIT OUR SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL.

- THURSDAY 9TH JANUARY - 4PM
- MONDAY 27TH JANUARY - 4PM
- THURSDAY 20TH FEBRUARY - 4PM
- THURSDAY 13TH MARCH - 4PM
- MONDAY 31ST MARCH - 4PM
- THURSDAY 1ST MAY - 4PM
- MONDAY 19TH MAY - 4PM



THIS IS AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY TO COME SEE OUR PRESCHOOL (WITH OR WITHOUT YOUR CHILD) AND MEET SOME OF THE SCHOOL STAFF.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BOOK YOUR SPACE ON ONE OF THESE VISITS, PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE OR [CLICK HERE](#).



GET IN TOUCH

- shotleybridgeprimary@durhamlearning.net
- 01207 260444
- shotleybridgeprimary.durham.sch.uk/

February



Monday 3rd	Inside Out Day for Children's Mental Health Week	
Wednesday 5th	Y5/6 Tag Rugby Competition	At Consett Rugby Club
Tuesday 11th	Y3 Transition afternoon at Consett Academy	
Wednesday 12th	Valentine's Disco	3:30-4:30pm
Monday 17th	Parents' Evening 1	
Tuesday 18th	Parents' Evening 2	
Friday 21st	Sponsored walk to raise money for Opal and School Fund	
	Break up for half-term holidays	

March



Monday 3rd	Back to school	
Wednesday 5th	SEND Review meetings	
Thursday 6th	World Book Day	
Wednesday 12th	Class 3 Invasion Games Festival	PE kits required
Thursday 13th	Y4 School of Noise Workshop	
Friday 14th	Comic Relief	
Thursday 20th	Y2 sleepover	
Wednesday 26th	Year 3 Egyptian workshop in school	
	Year 5 Mayan workshop in school	
	Class 12 Rugby festival	at Consett Rugby Club
Friday 28th	Special ladies' afternoon	KS2 - 1:30-2:15pm

April

Wednesday 2nd	Class 6 Tri-Golf Festival	am—Lanchester EP. PE kit required
Friday 4th	Reception trip to Forest Adventurers	
Tuesday 8th	Year 1 trip to Beamish	
Friday 11th	Break up for Easter Holidays	
Monday 28th	Back to school	
	Seven Stories workshops in school	
Tuesday 29th	Seven Stories workshops in school	

May

Friday 2nd	Pre-school and Reception trip to Hall Hill Farm	
Monday 5th	Bank Holiday	
Tuesday 6th	INSET—School closed to all children	
Monday 12th	Y6 SATs—SPAG papers 1 and 2	
Tuesday 13th	Y6 SATs—Reading paper	
Wednesday 14th	Y6 SATs—Maths papers 1 and 2	
Thursday 15th	Y6 SATs—Maths paper 3	
	Y4 Residential to The Sill and Hadrian's Wall	1 night—details to follow
	Family Bingo Night	5:00-7:00pm in KS2 Hall
Monday 19th	Year 6 Bikeability Workshops	Monday-Thursday
Friday 23rd	KS2 Hoopstarz workshops	
	Break up for half-term holidays	

June

Monday 2nd	Back to school	
Wednesday 4th	KS2 Orienteering Day	
	SEND Review meetings	
Monday 9th	Y1 Phonics screening check	To be administered this week
Tuesday 10th	Y3 Residential to Moor House Activity Centre	1 night—details to follow
Wednesday 11th	Y6 Residential to London	2 nights
Friday 13th	Special Gentleman's afternoon	KS2 - 1:30-2:15pm Preschool/YR/KS1 - 2:30-3:15pm
Tuesday 17th	Y1 trip to Sunderland Winter Gardens	
Friday 20th	Summer Fair	From 2:00pm—KS2 building/field
Wednesday 25th	Move-up day—children spend the day in their new class	
Monday 30th	Sports Day	

July

Tuesday 1st	Reserve Sports Day
Tuesday 15th	Shotley Fest
Friday 18th	Break up for Summer holidays!

**AGES
4-12**

**FEBRUARY HALF TERM
SPORTS CAMPS
IN THE
CONSETT AREA**

HELD AT ST. MARY'S PRIMARY

SCHOOL - BLACKHILL - DH8 8JD

MONDAY 24TH FEBRUARY TILL FRIDAY 28TH FEBRUARY

**£15 PER DAY
OR £50 FOR THE WEEK**

8:30AM TILL 3:00PM

**AE
SPORTS COACHING**

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE FOR ALL BOOKINGS CONTACT US VIA:



**CALL OR TEXT
07952 562950**



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AESPORTSCOACHING.CLASSFORKIDS.IO**



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