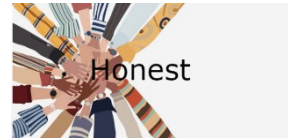




# SBPS News



20th February 2026

Issue 3

Price: FREE!

## End of half-term

As we come to the end of this busy half term, it's lovely to reflect on how much the children have achieved. We are now halfway through the school year, and we are incredibly proud of the progress, enthusiasm and resilience shown across the school. This half-term has been filled with great learning and new experiences and it has been wonderful to see the children continue to grow in confidence. Thank you for your ongoing support. We hope you all enjoy a well-deserved break and look forward to welcoming everyone back for an exciting new half-term.



## Makaton

Makaton is a language programme that uses a combination of signs, symbols and speech to help people communicate. It is designed to support understanding as well as spoken language, and can be used by everyone—children and adults alike. Using Makaton in school helps all learners develop their communication skills, supports inclusion and provides an additional way for children to express themselves with confidence.

A working party of staff have recently completed initial Makaton training and we are excited to begin sharing this across our school community. New signs will be introduced during assemblies so that every child can learn and practise them together. This will help create a consistent and supportive communication environment throughout school.

To help families join in, we will soon be offering a parent workshop where you can learn more about Makaton and how to use the signs at home. We will also share the signs we are learning through Facebook and in our school newsletter, so everyone can practise alongside the children. To start us off on our Makaton journey, we are pleased to introduce our new school rules, which we will be learning to sign together:

## World Book Day

We are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day in school. Children are invited to come dressed as a word or as their favourite book character, and throughout the day they will enjoy a range of exciting reading activities. Parents and carers have already received an email with full details of the day's events.

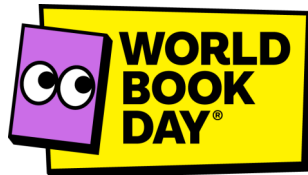
We also invite parents/carers to come into school to share a story with their child:

Lower School: 2:45pm

Upper School: 3:00pm (Parents with children on both sites can collect their Lower School child at 3:00pm.)

There will be a book sale of new and pre-loved books on both sites at the end of the day. Donations of books are very welcome.

Finally, children can take part in our fun Potato Book Character Competition, with prizes for the most creative entries.



## Our School Rules



Ready



Respectful



Safe



Mrs Atkinson  
Head Teacher



Mrs Pearson  
Deputy Head Teacher

## Safeguarding Leads

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.



Mrs Dryden  
Deputy Head Teacher/SENDCO



Mrs Lee  
Pupil Well-Being Lead

### FOSB Invitation

Earlier in the half term, we held our first FOSB (Friends of Shotley Bridge) meeting to discuss fundraising plans for the remainder of the year. A small group of parents met with Mrs Pearson and Mrs Lee to share ideas over a cup of tea and we are delighted to have some exciting events in the pipeline. To begin with, we will be hosting a movie night for the children and a Summer BBQ for families. Please keep an eye on the school calendar over the coming months for confirmed dates. If you would like to get involved, our next FOSB meeting will take place at **2:30pm on Monday 23rd March at the Upper School site.**



### PE Days

PE days this half-term are as followed:

Year 1—Tuesday and Thursday

Year 2—Tuesday and Thursday

Year 3- Wednesday and Friday

Year 4- Tuesday and Friday

Year 5- Monday and Thursday

Year 6- Monday and Wednesday



### Robotics Regional Competition

In January, a group of our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils took part in the VEX Robotics competition at Nissan, where they had the fantastic opportunity to work alongside other schools to develop their coding and robot-building skills. The children showed great teamwork, creativity and determination throughout the day, and we are incredibly proud to share that they achieved an impressive 5th place out of 15 schools. Their enthusiasm for robotics has been inspiring, and we are hoping to relaunch our robotics club in September so that even more children can get involved.



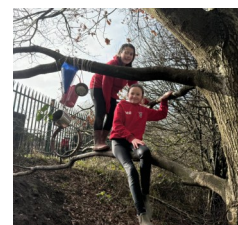
### Fundraising for Street Child!

One of our lovely parents, Sash, is running the Tokyo Marathon on 1st March and has set herself the target of raising £4,000 for the charity Street Child. This charity supports children who are growing up in poverty so they have access to safety, stability, and a decent education. Sash is striving to drive positive change for children, families, and communities facing the greatest challenges. If you are able to help her reach her target, she would be eternally grateful! Click [here](#) to donate! Good luck Sash!



### OPAL Updates

Despite the wet and gloomy weather this half term, the children are still thoroughly enjoying our OPAL outdoor play areas. Their enthusiasm hasn't been dampened at all! To help keep our play spaces safe and organised, Mr Murphy launched a welly-storage competition, and the winning classes were rewarded with extra playtime this week—a very popular prize.



As we continue to develop our OPAL provision, we are looking for donations of loose parts to enrich the children's play even further. Useful loose parts include items such as wooden reels, crates, pipes, guttering, cable reels, clean pots and pans, fabric, tarpaulins, planks, tyres, and sturdy boxes. If you have any suitable items at home, we would be very grateful for your support.

As previously communicated, our Great Welly Walk will take place on Monday 2nd March. Children should come dressed in warm outdoor clothing (coat, hat, gloves and wellies/walking boots). They will need a packed lunch and a water bottle in a bag they can carry themselves; children on school dinners will receive a packed lunch from the kitchen. Sponsor forms have been sent home and any money raised should be returned by Friday 6th March. Thank you for



### Sporting News!

This half term, our children have taken part in a wide range of sporting events across Derwentside, showing fantastic enthusiasm, teamwork and determination.

A KS2 swimming team represented the school brilliantly at the local swimming gala, competing in a variety of individual and team races. They demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship throughout and narrowly missed out on a medal, finishing in a very impressive 4th place.



Our Year 5 and 6 pupils also took part in a tag rugby competition, enjoying a brilliant day of matches and working exceptionally well together as a team. In addition, our girls' football team competed against several local schools, playing with real confidence and developing superbly as a team.

We are incredibly proud of all the children who have represented Shotley Bridge this half term.

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



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



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



What?: More Bikes and Scooters  
Why? Transport to school  
How much? £500



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



What?: Outdoor sandpit  
Why? OPAL  
How much? £500



What?: Den building equipment  
Why? OPAL  
How much? £300



What?: Bike racks  
Why? Transport to school  
How much? £500

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



What?: Outdoor speakers  
Why? OPAL  
How much? £500



What?: Helmets  
Why? Scooter and bike safety  
How much? £300

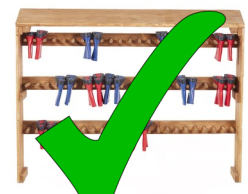
**Purchased**  
Using funds from sponsor walk—  
Thank you!



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



What?: Scooters  
Why? OPAL  
How much? £500



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

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!

# Shotley Bridge Primary School

## LOWER SCHOOL CLUBS

At Shotley Bridge Primary School, we are committed to offering a wide range of exciting and enriching after-school clubs as part of our extra-curricular programme.

Please see below for information about the clubs available in lower school during the second half of the Spring term.

When?	What?	Who?	How much?
Monday 3:20-4:20pm	<b>Creative Kitchen</b> Children will enjoy fun, hands-on cooking activities while learning basic food skills and recipes- ran by Creative Kitchen.	Reception and Year 1	£6 per session payable on Arbor
Monday 3:20-4:20pm	<b>Little Ballers</b> A high-energy club focused on developing basketball skills through games and drills—ran by Little Ballers.	Reception and Year 1	£3 per session payable on Arbor
Tuesday 3:20-4:20pm	<b>Multi Sports</b> Children will enjoy fun, active sessions trying a range of sports and games while developing teamwork and coordination - led by Consett AFC.	Reception and Year 1	£3 per session payable by following the link below
Thursday 3:20-4:20pm	<b>Art Club</b> Children will enjoy fun, hands-on art and craft activities while exploring colour, painting and making their own creations - led by Miss Blythe	Reception and Year 1	£3 per session payable on Arbor

Clubs will go live for booking on Arbor at 6:00pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Payment must be made at the time of booking—unpaid bookings will be automatically cancelled. We look forward to another great half-term of fun and learning beyond the classroom!

# Shotley Bridge Primary School

# UPPER SCHOOL CLUBS

At Shotley Bridge Primary School, we are committed to offering a wide range of exciting and enriching after-school clubs as part of our extra-curricular programme. Please see below for information about the clubs available in Upper School during the second half of the Spring term.

When?	What?	Who?	How much?
<b>Monday</b> 3:25-4:25pm	<b>Tennis</b> Children will enjoy fun coaching sessions learning tennis skills, rallies and mini-matches while improving coordination and confidence- led by AE Coaches	Y2-Y6	£3 per session payable on Arbor
<b>Tuesday</b> 3:25-4:25pm	<b>Musical Theatre</b> An exciting club where children can explore singing, acting and movement while building confidence and creativity. Musical Theatre club will be rehearsing to perform a show for parents in the Summer Term - led by Mrs Orrick and Miss Simm.	Children who attended the club last half-term	£3 per session payable on Arbor
<b>Wednesday</b> 3:25-4:25pm	<b>Mixed Football</b> A fun and active club where children can improve their football skills and enjoy team games - led by Consett AFC.	Y2-3	£3 per session payable on Arbor
<b>Thursday</b> 3:25-4:25pm	<b>Craft Club</b> Creative craft activities making a variety of projects while developing design skills and imagination - led by Miss Hunter	Y2-Y6	£3 per session payable on Arbor
<b>Thursday</b> 3:25-4:25pm	<b>Creative Kitchen</b> Children will enjoy preparing simple recipes while learning basic cooking and food safety skills - led by Creative Kitchen.	Y2-Y6	£6 per session payable on Arbor
<b>Friday</b> 3:25-4:25pm	<b>Street Games</b> Energetic playground-style games and team challenges while building fitness and cooperation - led by AE Coaching.	Y2-Y6	£3 per session payable on Arbor

Clubs will go live for booking on Arbor at 6:00pm on Friday 20th February. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Payment must be made at the time of booking—unpaid bookings will be automatically cancelled. We look forward to another great half-term of fun and learning beyond the classroom!

# Diary Dates

2026  
**March**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Back to School The Great Welly Walk	3 SEN Review Meetings	4	5 World Book Day Reception 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' Event	6
9 Reception/KS1 Minibeasts Workshop British Science Week	10 Year 3/4 Dinosaur Dig and Fossil Workshop British Science Week	11 Year 5/6 Forensic Crime Scene Workshop British Science Week	12 British Science Week	13 Special Ladies' Day Afternoon KS1 Invasion Games Festival British Science Week
16	17	18	19 Author Peter Baker visiting EVFS and Y1	20
23 Class 8 Bikeability Sessions	24 Class 10 Bikeability Sessions	25 Class 10 Bikeability Sessions Y5/6 Rugby Skills Festival	26 Class 10 Bikeability Sessions EVFS Forest School Day	27 KS2 Orienteering Day
30 Class 9 Bikeability Sessions	31 Class 11 Bikeability Sessions Y1 'Come Dance With Me' Festival			

2026  
**April**















Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 Class 11 Bikeability Sessions	2 Class 11 Bikeability Sessions Early Years Sports Festival	3 Bank Holiday (School closed)
6 Easter Holidays	7 Easter Holidays	8 Easter Holidays	9 Easter Holidays	10 Easter Holidays
13 Easter Holidays	14 Easter Holidays	15 Easter Holidays	16 Easter Holidays	17 Easter Holidays
20 Back to School!	21 Year 1 Trip to Beamish KS2 Quidditch Event Y3 Multi Skills Event	22	23 Y3/4 Tennis Skills Festival	24
27	28	29 Health and Fitness Day	30	

**EGG HUNT**

# Diary Dates

2026				
May				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1  INSET Day (School closed to children)
4	5 Year 4 Hadrian's Wall Residential 	6 Pre School and Reception trip to Hall Hill Farm 	7	8
11 Y6 SATs - SPaG Tests 	12 Y6 SATs - Reading Test	13 Y6 SATs - Maths Tests 1 and 2	14 Y6 SATs - Maths Test 3 	15 Y1 Disney Themed Festival 
18	19	20 National Numeracy Day Y2 Striking and Fielding Festival 	21 Samba Drumming Workshops 	22 
25 Half Term	26 Half Term	27 Half Term	28 Half Term	29 Half Term








2026				
June				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2 Y5/6 Athletics Festival 	3	4 Y5/6 Countdown Mixed Cricket 	5 World Environment Day  Y5/6 Girls Cricket
8 Y3 Residential to Beamish 	9 Y4 Cricket Festival 	10	11	12 Stinger Netball Competition
15 Japan Trip Y2 Durham Cathedral Trip 	16 Japan Trip 	17 Japan Trip 	18 Japan Trip 	19 Japan Trip Special Gentlemen's Afternoon 
22	23 Y1 Trip to Sunderland Winter Garden 	24	25 	26 Summer Fair
29 Y6 London Residential Reception Superhero Festival 	30 Y6 London Residential 			

# Diary Dates

2026

# July



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 Y6 London Residential	2 	3
6	7	8	9 SBPS Family BBQ	10 
13 Y5/6 Quidditch Festival 	14 End of Year Celebration 	15	16 	17 Last Day of School
20 Summer Holidays	21 Summer Holidays	22 Summer Holidays	23 Summer Holidays	24 Summer Holidays
27 Summer Holidays	28 Summer Holidays	29 Summer Holidays	30 Summer Holidays	31 Summer Holidays

