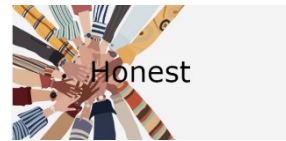




SBPS News



1st October 2025

Issue 1

Price: FREE!

Welcome Back

It's hard to believe that the first month of the new academic year has already flown by! It has been wonderful to see the children settle back into school life and to hear all about their exciting summer adventures. A special welcome to our new Pre-school and Reception children, who have joined our school family this year and are already settling in brilliantly. We are looking forward to the year ahead and all the learning, achievements and memorable moments it will bring.



Our New Early Years Unit



After months of development over the summer, we were delighted to open the doors to our brand-new Early Years unit this September. The children have settled in wonderfully and are already enjoying their new environment. Since the start of term, they have been getting to know their teachers, making new friends and beginning to learn lots of exciting new things. It is so lovely to walk through the unit and see the children happy, engaged and thriving in both their learning and play. Staff have been really impressed with the children's enthusiasm and curiosity, and are very excited about the adventures that this year will bring.



Year 2 Visit to Washington Wetlands

Year 2 had a fantastic visit to Washington Wetlands this week! They enjoyed pond dipping to discover and identify creatures, went on a mini-beast hunt in the woods and even saw flamingos at



feeding time. The children had a wonderful day out and their guide was full of praise—not only for their excellent behaviour but also for their impressive knowledge of habitats.

Colour Run



We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who sponsored our Colour Run. Upper School raised an incredible £2,132.20! Our partner school in Nekacheya are extremely

grateful and will be using the money to purchase a photocopier and to supplement their books. We are also looking forward to welcoming John back into school later this year to share some exciting updates from Nekacheya.



Macmillan Coffee Event

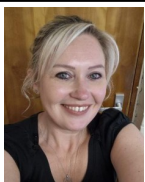


Thank you to everyone who joined us last Friday for our Macmillan Coffee Afternoon in support of such a worthy cause. We are also extremely grateful to those who kindly baked cakes for the event - they were absolutely delicious! We are delighted to share that, together, we raised an amazing £719 for Macmillan Cancer Support.



Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening will take place for all children on Monday 20th October and Wednesday 22nd October, from 3:30-6:00pm. Appointments will last no longer than 10 minutes. This first meeting is a valuable opportunity to discuss how your child has settled into the new school year with their class teacher. Bookings will open on Arbor from 4:00pm on Friday 3rd October.



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

Sporting News

On Monday, a team of 24 children from Upper School took part in a cross country event against other local schools. Our pupils represented Shotley Bridge Primary exceptionally well, showing fantastic determination, with several children finishing in the top 20. Equally important, every child was a supportive team member, cheering and encouraging one another throughout the event. Miss Williams is extremely proud of all the children who took part.

Our Year 5/6 boys' football team have also got off to an excellent start to the season by winning both of their opening games.



Wellies and Waterproofs

At lunchtimes and playtimes, we encourage the children to make full use of our wonderful school grounds, including the grass and woodland areas. However, with the recent wet weather making the grass muddy and waterlogged, we are unable to allow children onto it in their school shoes. To help with this—and to protect their clothing and shoes—we kindly ask parents to send in wellies and waterproof clothing in a labelled carrier bag. These can be stored on pegs in Lower School and in the welly storage area in Upper School.



Children will then be able to change into them at the beginning and end of playtimes, ensuring they can continue to enjoy all areas of our grounds whatever the weather.

Uniform Reminders

We would like to thank parents for supporting us with our uniform policy since returning to school in September. The children seem to be very much enjoying our new relaxed uniform. We would just like to give you a gentle reminder that:

- Hair that touches the shoulder should be tied up at all times.
- No earrings are permitted in school.
- All uniform should have your child's name written in (we already have a growing pile of lost property without names!)



OPAL Updates

The children have been thoroughly enjoying our OPAL playtimes since returning to school in September! As you can imagine, the equipment and resources need to be regularly updated and replaced to keep playtimes exciting and engaging.



We would be very grateful for donations of any of the following items: bikes and scooters, toy cars, toy dinosaurs, dolls and toy pushchairs, old suitcases, planks of wood, old pipes, fancy dress costumes and accessories, tarpaulin, den-building items, spades and buckets.

If you have any of these at home that you would be happy to donate, please send them into school FAO Mr Murphy. Thank you for helping us keep OPAL playtimes creative, fun and full of adventure!



We are excited to invite parents and carers to our OPAL event at 1:30pm on Thursday 6th November. Our OPAL mentor, Kate Gallon, will be delivering a presentation about our OPAL journey and the positive impact that play has on children. Following this, parents and carers will be warmly invited to join the children in our outdoor area to experience OPAL play in action.

Enrichment Payment

At Shotley Bridge Primary, we provide a wide range of enrichment opportunities for children, including trips, workshops and whole-school experience days. To help cover costs, we ask for a termly contribution of £15 per child, which includes transport, visitors, and resources. Payments for the Autumn term can be made via Arbor under 'Trips'. To see the exciting opportunities we have planned for each year group this year, please visit the 'enrichment' page on our school website.

Extra-curricular activities (e.g. discos) and residential (from Year 3) will have separate costs. Thank you for your continued support!



Community Defibrillator



Shotley Bridge Primary School has donated £300 to help with the upkeep of our community defibrillator! This money was raised at our summer fair in June. In the new year, the pads of the defibrillator will need replacing, and this donation will go towards covering those costs. The defibrillator can be found at the entrance of Upper School. Eloise will be back at school later in the year to deliver Restart a Heart workshops later in the year.

Halloween Discos

Get ready for some spooky fun! Our Halloween discos will be held in school on Monday 3rd November from 3:30-4:30pm in both school halls. Children should come to school in their Halloween costumes and can stay in their costumes throughout the day, regardless of whether they are staying for the disco.



The cost of the disco is £1, which includes party games, juice and a snack. We will let you know when the payment is available on Arbor.

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?: More scooters
Why? OPAL
How much? £500



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



What?: More bikes
Why? OPAL
How much? £500



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



What?: Lower School Welly Storage
Why? OPAL
How much? £5,500

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

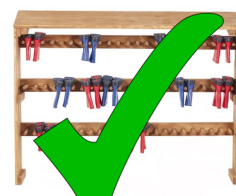


What? Small sofas
Why? KS2 entrance
How much? £300 each



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

Purchased
Using funds from sponsor walk—
Thank you!



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



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



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!

Diary Dates



2025 October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1	2	3 Reception - Y6 National Poetry Day Workshops
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16 Y3 Visit Hindu Temple and Discovery Museum	17 Year 5 Residential to York Class 3 at Gymnastic Carousel at Durham City Gymnastics Club
20 Y3 Kindness Workshops Parents' Evening - 1	21	22 Parents' Evening - 2	23	24 Upper School OPAL afternoon
27 Half-term holidays	28 Half-term holidays	29 Half-term holidays	30 Half-term holidays	31 Half-term holidays

TRICK OR TREAT



2025 November



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Halloween Discos 	4 Y2 Fundamental Movement Festival at Consett Academy 	5	6 OPAL Parents' Event - 1:30pm in Upper School	7
10 Lower School African Dance Workshops 	11 Upper School African Dance Workshops	12	13 	14
17 	18	19	20	21 Robin Hood Pantomime in School
24 	25	26	27	28 Non-Uniform Day: Donations for Christmas Market





2025

December



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3 Christmas Market - 2pm in Upper School 	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15  Reception and Y1 Nativity - 9:30am C6, C8, C10, C12 Christmas performance at St Cuthbert's Church - 2:30pm	16 Reception and Y1 Nativity - 9:30am C5, C7, C9, C11, C13 Christmas performance at St Cuthbert's Church - 2:30pm	17  Pre-school (inc 2 year olds) Christmas Singalong - 9:30am Y5/6 Christmas Party Reception and Y1 Nativity - 2pm	18 Pre-school and Reception Christmas Party Y3/4 Christmas Party Y6 Trip to Victoria Tunnel	19 Y1/2 Christmas Party 
22 Christmas Holidays	23 Christmas Holidays	24 Christmas Holidays 	25 Christmas Holidays 	26 Christmas Holidays
29 Christmas Holidays 	30 Christmas Holidays 	31 Christmas Holidays		



WINTER OFFER

For Shotley Bridge Primary School parents!

Are you looking to update the family photos? Book in with a special offer of 5 digital images and a FREE 8x6 print.

Bring along the grandparents, family dog or just the kids for thirty minutes of fun! Offer available until end of Feb 2026

Call to book on 01207 438825
Or get in touch via our social media pages www.sarahthew.co.uk













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8:30AM TILL 3:00PM

AGES 4-12







£15 PER DAY
OR £60 FOR THE WEEK

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