

Shilbottle Primary

Shilbottle Grange

Shilbottle

Alnwick

Northumberland

NE66 2XQ

01665 575285

admin@shilbottle.northumberland.sch.uk

www.shilbottle.northumberland.sch.uk

Northumberland

Northumberland County Council

Shilbottle Primary

Fun, Respect & Friendship



Friday 11th October

Dear Parents and Carers,

Subject: Review of Wraparound Care Charges

As you are aware, schools are continually facing the challenges of ensuring that the services they provide are financially viable. We have been working closely with our colleagues at Northumberland County Council to review and update our wraparound care offer, which includes our morning and after school clubs. Currently, this provision is being subsidised, a situation that is no longer sustainable.

To ensure we can continue offering this essential service to our parents, we have undertaken a comprehensive review of how the increased costs can be managed, and we have compared our pricing structure with those of other providers across the county to ensure our rates are fair and reasonable.

We understand that the prospect of increased childcare costs may raise concerns, and we would like to highlight several ways parents can receive support:

Universal Credit:

Have you applied for Universal Credit? We have been advised that parents currently in receipt of Universal Credit can claim up to 85% of their childcare costs for children attending our morning and afternoon school clubs. We strongly encourage families to check whether they are eligible for this benefit.

For further information on how to claim, please visit [Gov.uk Universal Credit](https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit).

If you require assistance with the application process, the Citizens Advice Bureau is available to provide one-to-one support. More information can be found at [Citizens Advice Bureau](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/).

Please note that if you are successful in claiming Universal Credit, you may also be eligible for benefit-based Free School Meals, which entitles you to discounted school trips. We kindly ask that you inform the school if your Universal Credit claim is successful so we can provide further information on Free School Meal claims.



Childcare Choices:

All parents are urged to access the Childcare Choices website [Childcare Choices](#). This user-friendly system will guide you through a series of questions, allowing you to ascertain your eligibility for various support options.

If you indicate that you receive Universal Credit, our colleagues at Northumberland County Council have informed us that you should be eligible to claim 85% of the payments made to the school for any wraparound care. If you are not receiving Universal Credit, you may still be able to claim 20% of payments under the Tax-Free Childcare scheme. Additionally, parents who are currently studying, for example at university or college, may also be eligible for support.

Child Tax Credits:

Parents who are unable to receive support through the Childcare Choices website may still be eligible for assistance via the Child Tax Credits scheme. Further information can be accessed through this link: [Gov.uk Child Tax Credit](#).

Increased Charges

Regarding the new charges, we intend to increase our fees effective Monday, 25th November. The updated charges are as follows:

- **Morning Club:** A set fee of £3.50 for children attending between 7:45am and 8:30am, which includes toast and juice. (If reclaiming 85% this would cost parents 53p)
- **After School Club:**
 - Attendance from the end of the school day until 4:00pm will be charged at £3.50. (If reclaiming 85% this would cost parents 53p)
 - Attendance between 4:00pm and 6:00pm will be charged at £4.50 per hour, or part thereof. (If reclaiming 85% this would cost parents 68p per hour)
 - Specific clubs that conclude at 4:00pm (such as NUFC Football) will be the same rate as attendance to after school club, £3.50.
 - Other clubs finishing at 4:30pm will incur a fee of £5.50 for the entire session (83p if reclaiming 85%). However, should a child remain in after school care past 4:30pm, the standard rates will apply.

Please be aware that late collections beyond 6:00pm will incur an additional fee of £20, which cannot be reclaimed under the aforementioned schemes.

We sincerely hope that you can appreciate that this increase is the only viable option for the school to maintain our wraparound services in the future, and we trust that you will seek support through the various schemes outlined above.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mr G Parnaby
Headteacher
(On behalf of the Governing Body)