

Friday Flyer

12th December 2024

Headteacher Update

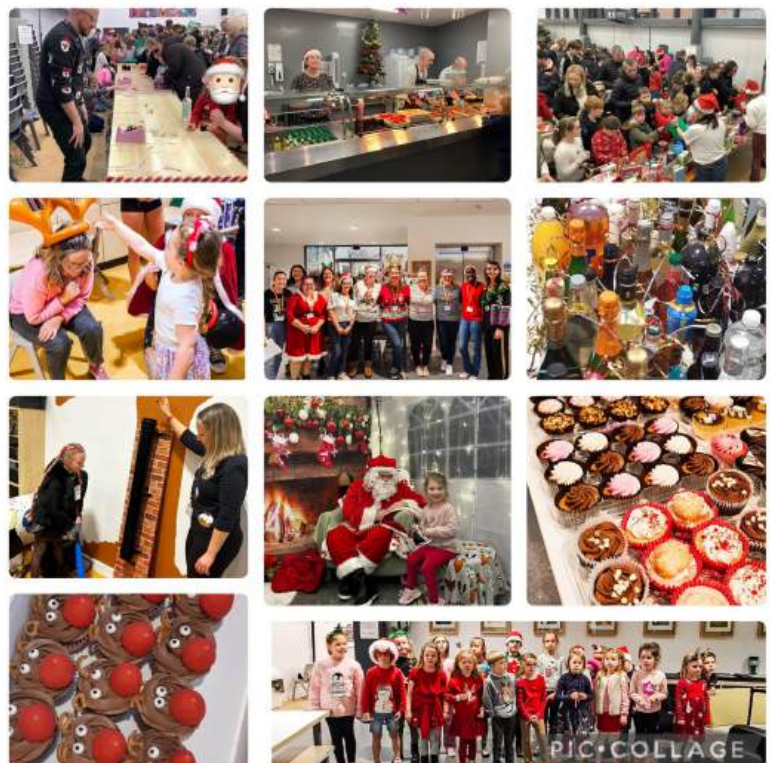
I think I probably say this every year, but what a privilege and a joy it is to work in a primary school at this time of year. Across four days we have enjoyed 9 performances, with all 462 of our pupils involved, from nursery all the way up to Year 6. We've had children cast in the traditional roles of shepherds, sheep and wise men and the less traditional roles of rapping elves, grandads and, my personal favourite, doors! Each and every one of them has done themselves proud with beautiful singing and they have truly spread Christmas cheer. A big well done to the staff too for organising such special nativities for the children to enjoy performing in and for you to enjoy watching. Thank you to all of our families who made up the audiences across this week - I hope everyone is now feeling suitably Christmassy!

As if 9 performances weren't enough, we've also managed to squeeze in our Christmas lunch. We donned our Christmas jumpers and enjoyed turkey with all the trimmings on Wednesday, all while singing along to our favourite Christmas tunes. Mr Bell, Mr Rowe and all of the team did a magnificent job and, as Henry said to me, 'it was the best Christmas lunch ever'!

The festivities haven't ended there as classes have been taking part in the Santa Dash since last Friday and that will continue into next week too.

Finally, I wanted to share an update with you from our Christmas fair - we raised a whopping £4436.07!!! Thank you all so much for your incredible generosity; the money will be spent on resources for the children to enhance their experience in school. I've said it before, but what an incredible PTA we have! They are so dedicated and, fresh from the enormous undertaking of the Christmas fair, they have been in school twice a day, every day, this week to serve teas and coffees at performances. They will still be selling raffle tickets for the fabulous Christmas hampers until next Wednesday so don't miss out on your chance to win a voucher for Hotel du Vin as well as some gorgeous festive treats. Best wishes, Claire Johnson

Safeguarding Update





At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO MANAGE CONFLICT EFFECTIVELY

Disagreement is a natural part of human interaction. This can seem particularly true when dealing with the sensitive issues that arise for secondary-aged pupils. This guide brings you 10 top tips which can help prevent conflicts arising or mitigate their impacts when they do.

1 INSPIRE RESPONSIBILITY

The best approaches to conflict resolution are restorative. This means that rather than adults imposing their own solutions on children who have had a disagreement, they should work with them. Allowing them to handle it can feel empowering to young people and will hopefully teach them to manage their own disputes as they move towards adult life.

2 ACTIVELY LISTEN

Remember to give every child the opportunity to voice their opinion, regardless of their age, stage of development, special educational needs, or other individual requirements. This can be done using a variety of different communication methods. For example, some children find it easier to express how they're feeling using pictures and drawings, while some prefer to write their ideas down.

3 BE CURIOUS

Demonstrating how to approach conflicts with a mature and empathetic mindset can set a good example to children, which can prove a useful skill for them later in life. Model this by asking inquisitive-yet-respectful questions about the issue at hand. Really try to understand where all parties are coming from, and share information between them when and where appropriate. This should encourage young people to mirror your behaviour, teaching them to be curious about the other sides of a conflict, and thus being more willing to hear them out.

4 PROMOTE DIFFERENCES

Children and young people may come from a range of different backgrounds and cultures or have protected characteristics which may cause them to see things from various angles. Having a school and community culture which celebrates and embraces diversity in all things - including diversity of opinion - means people are more likely to feel heard and understood.

5 BE SUPPORTIVE

Discussions may be sensitive or, in some cases, even trigger negative emotions. Pupils may have mixed feelings about the issue at hand. They could be nervous or anxious before even coming to the table to talk about it. Try and create a space where all parties feel safe, welcome and comfortable. Allow breaks and time-outs if the conversation gets heated, to prevent anyone from saying something they might later regret.

6 MENTALLY PREPARE

Think of how you can approach the conflict in a calm and regulated manner. Consider taking some extra time to prepare beforehand and finding somewhere quiet to relax. Even if you're not directly involved with the conflict, mediating can be a stressful experience in its own right. Make sure you're hydrated, fed and comfortable, and do the same for the young people involved. These may seem like insignificant factors, but it's important to remember that physical discomfort can trigger dysregulation, which can make it much harder to have a calm, productive conversation.

7 GET YOUR FACTS STRAIGHT

Make sure you have all the facts, figures and timelines of the situation prior to the discussion. This should be done as objectively as possible with the aim of resolving the ongoing issue. You may want to risk assess any problems that may arise and look for possible solutions during your preparation time.

8 STICK TO THE POINT

Make the reason for, and purpose of, any meetings or communications clear prior to setting them up. Provide an agenda. Act as a neutral chairperson who can keep all parties on track. Make sure everyone has a chance to air their concerns about the issue being discussed and try to avoid talking about unrelated incidents. Close off with some action points, detailing what everyone can do to resolve the conflict.

9 BE SOLUTION FOCUSED

It's often said that the art of diplomacy is about giving others ladders to climb down. This means the main aim of any meeting or correspondence should be finding mutually acceptable and amicable solutions. Parents, carers, teachers and pupils should be aware there may need to be a compromise for the common good - and, most importantly, the good of the children you're supporting.

10 DON'T IGNORE OR AVOID CONFLICT

No one benefits from allowing concerns and grievances to fester, as this can lead to further division and mistrust, and ultimately doesn't help the children involved. Use our tips to open meaningful lines of communication. These should help you find a suitable resolution and minimise the number of conflicts you're faced with mediating overall.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lewer is a neurodivergent former SENCO and advisory teacher. She founded her company, Neuroteachers, to improve inclusion for neurodivergent people. She works with nurseries, schools, colleges and businesses providing consultancy, training and mentoring to create belonging and understanding for people with the full range of neurotypes.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/supporting-children-to-manage-conflict-effectively>



Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	80.8%	Year 3 (Pine)	98.3%
Reception (Chestnut)	99.2%	Year 4 (Alder)	92.1%
Reception (Pinecone)	92.1%	Year 4 (Yew)	95.8%
Year 1 (Holly)	96.3%	Year 5 (Oak)	98.0%
Year 1 (Ash)	92.5%	Year 5 (Beech)	96.1%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	92.5%	Year 6 (Elm)	100%
Year 2 (Willow)	97.1%	Year 6 (Birch)	97.5%
Year 3 (Maple)	99.6%	Whole school Cumulative from Sept	96.2%

98% - 100%	Excellent Attendance
95% - 97.9%	Good Attendance
92% - 94.9	Caution (below national)
90% - 91.9%	Cause for concern
Below 89.9%	Persistent Absence - Serious Concern

Absence Procedures

If your child is ill, please keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school. **Please notify us by phone call or email before 9.15am** if your child is to be absent, and continue to inform us on a daily basis if they continue to be ill.

We have a continual focus on attendance and punctuality and this is of the utmost importance in your child's education. Please remember that our school gate closes at 8.55am as this is when our lessons begin. Anyone arriving after this time is classed as late and will miss valuable learning opportunities which take place immediately after registration, such as phonics.

What does the Government say about school attendance?

"If children aren't in school, it doesn't matter how effective or well-supported teaching and learning is, we will not see better outcomes for young people. That holds back our society, widens social and economic divides and leaves us all worse off." Catherine McKinnell

This week in Nursery

Thank you to our lovely families for coming to see us perform our festive show. We enjoyed performing our story, singing some songs and showing our dancing skills. However, our favourite part was definitely our visit from Santa Claus!



This week in Reception

We were so incredibly proud of our Reception superstars when they performed Whoops—Daisy Angel on Tuesday. FAB-U-LOUS!



This week in Year 1

This week, the children in Year 1 have blown our socks off with their fantastic Christmas performance. They sang their hearts out, danced beautifully and were true super stars! We hope all the grown ups enjoyed our show. These children are destined for the bright lights!



Mrs Rogers and Miss Storey

This week in Year 2

This week in Year 2, we have been bringing the festive cheer with two wonderful nativity performances. We enjoyed collaborating on the performances and the staff are all so proud to see it come together in such a wonderful way. We had stars shining throughout, from sheep to shepherds, wisemen to choir singers. Well done to all of Key Stage One for putting on such a show! And thank you to all the family members who came to watch us.

This half term, we are exploring the book, *The King Who Banned the Dark* by Emily Haworth-Booth



Miss Briggs and Mr Massey

This week in Year 3

The festivities have well and truly begun for us.

We have been such incredible stars in the Christmas performances - we started the week of shows and ended it too! We've put in so much time and effort to practice and learn songs.

In our festive outfits we have really looked like stars.

This week we also got to enjoy our Christmas dinners and we're able to wear our festive jumpers. It was delicious!

We are so ready to embrace the festivities next week.

This half term,
we are
exploring the
text 'Lubna
and Pebble' by
Wendy
Meddour.





Miss Choudhury and Miss Mears

This week in Year 4

It has been a very festive week in Year 4! We have enjoyed our delicious Christmas lunch, had two Oscar winning performances and even had time to make savoury smores in the woods which we are so excited to make for you over the Christmas holidays using our festive leftovers. Ask us to share our recipe with you!



Miss Davis, Mrs Maccoy and Mrs Bell

This half term, we are exploring the text 'The Dragon's Hoard: Stories from the Viking Sagas' by Lari Don.



This week in Year 5

Yule Blog.

This week we have been writing about our passions and interests through the medium of blogging.

We went old-fashioned with paper to start with and planned our ideas with what we wanted to include in our blogs. There were some very interesting concepts such as ranking our top 10 foods to talking about our love for certain sports.

Once we had a plan written on paper, we created a blog template and typed up our blogs on Chromebooks to make them more realistic - with added pictures of course!



If you still don't know that much about me from the section above, maybe here could be your lucky chance. Well i really like Newcastle United fc (it's the best in my opinion by the way you can like any football club because it's your choice not someone else's)

I also like my friends that i've made through out of my football experience because they are very nice and they stand up for you all the time. Now if your from around Ponteland / Newcastle you could try PONTELAND UNITED FC (i'm sure you will find a Nice team that you will like their coaches are lovely and i'm sure They will give you the experience of a lifetime).



I love the hotness in other countries . I love going on holiday to other countries its a lovely adventure . I like it when it gets about forty degrees hot and more . Like going on either Jet 2 or TUI they are good airlines and good serving food. I sometimes go to first class and that is the best . I like jumping of the pier into the sea . I hate the salty water when it gets in your mouth. It's horrible, it feels weird and it stings .

Yeah so I like food. Some foods just make me ill though . Because of that I'm gonna rank my top-5 least favourite foods [in order].



5. Parsnips] Parsnips are so bad, they're basically just a worse version of potatoes . why do we need them if we already have a better version [The only reason I think there a worse version of potatoes is because there worse than potatoes and have the same texture

4. Broccoli] no questions asked.

3. Mushrooms] Again no questions asked.

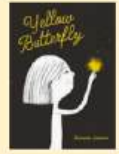
2. Dog food flavoured jelly beans] I got jelly beans in London when I was on holiday and some of them were amazing and others were horrible, dog was the most disgusting out of all of them.

1. Curry] I don't know why but I just hate curry.

This week in Year 6

This week, year 6 were lucky enough to be invited across to the high school for their performance of the hit musical, We Will Rock You. The children loved every minute and could clearly see the amount of effort that went into producing such an amazing show. We laughed, we sang, we clapped and had a fantastic time. Perhaps we will have some budding Queen fans in year 6 now, ready to carry on the rock and roll dream!

This half term we are exploring the text 'Yellow Butterfly' by Oleksandr Shotokhin.



Miss Allan and Mr Orme

Dates for your diary in 2024



20th December 2024	Last Day of School for Christmas break - School finishes at 1.30pm
6th January 2025	School resumes
Wc 24th February 2025	Half Term
Monday 3rd March 2025	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 4th March 2025	School resumes
14th April 2025	Easter Break
28th April 2025	School resumes
Monday 5th May 2025	Early May Bank Holiday
12th May - 15th May 2024	KS2 SATS Week
Wc 26th May 2024	Half Term
2nd June 2024	School resumes

Upcoming PTA Meetings

Day	Date	Time	Location	Rough Agenda
Tue	14/01/25	17:30	The Hive	Discuss new term events
Wed	05/02/25	17.30	The Hive	Planning upcoming events
Wed	05/03/25	17.30	The Hive	Planning Easter events
Thur	03/04/25	17.30	The Hive	Confirming details of easter events
Wed	07/05/25	17.30	The Hive	Planning summer events



Got an itch? Tummy trouble? Tickly cough?

NHS



**Head to your
local pharmacy.**

Did you know?
Pharmacists across
the North East and
North Cumbria can
offer advice and FREE
treatment for a wide
range of common
conditions* – just like
having a prescription
from your GP!

**Please ask your
pharmacy team
for more details
and eligibility.**

UTI's non pregnant women 16–64 years

Shingles 18 years+

Impetigo 1 year+

Sore throat 5 years+

Sinusitis 12 years+

Infected insect bites 1 year+

Earache 1 to 17 years

Additional conditions can be treated, without the need to visit a GP.
Ask a member of your pharmacy team about the minor ailments scheme.

Step 1

**Go to your local community pharmacy (chemist)
about your illness and they will offer advice.**

Step 2

**If needed, you will be offered treatment and
if you qualify, this will be given free of charge.**

Step 3

A suitable medicine may be offered to you.*

*You qualify for free treatment if you do not pay for your prescriptions.



**Find further information at:
www.thinkpharmacyfirst.health**





Ponteland Primary School is committed to keeping all children safe. Our staff regularly participate in safeguarding training and are fully aware of how to keep our pupils safe and what signs to look out for. Our pupils know they can share any concerns and we have robust policies and procedures in place which underpin safeguarding. It is our paramount priority to keep all children healthy and safe.

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are:



Mrs Johnson (Head Teacher)
Lead DSL



Mrs Wright (Family & Behaviour
Support Adviser) Deputy DSL



Miss Dinning (Deputy Head Teacher)
Deputy DSL

Calling all amazing parents! Join the Ponteland Primary School PTA and make a real difference in your child's education! 🎉

Are you passionate about supporting your child's school and creating a nurturing learning environment? The Ponteland PTA is seeking enthusiastic parents like you to join our incredible team! ✨

By becoming a member of the Parent-Teacher Association, you'll have the opportunity to contribute to your child's school experience in a meaningful way. With your help, we raise essential funds that go beyond the school's budget, allowing us to provide valuable resources and enhance educational opportunities. 📖 ✨

We understand that time is precious, and every contribution matters. Whether you can spare just one hour or offer more of your valuable time, your involvement will make a tremendous impact. From organising fundraisers and social events to collaborating on exciting projects, there's a role for everyone. 💪 🙌
Here are just a few reasons why joining the PTA is a rewarding experience:

- 1 Active involvement:** Be an active participant in your child's education journey by collaborating with dedicated teachers, staff, and other passionate parents.
- 2 Making a difference:** Together, we can support the school's growth and help provide additional resources that benefit every child's learning experience. In June 2023, the PTA were able to donate a fantastic £10,000 towards the 2 new climbing frames that have been installed in the playground. More recently, we have been able to fund new football kits. And we love to hear new ideas to keep our fundraising activities fresh and interesting for everyone.
- 3 Building connections:** Forge new friendships with like-minded parents who share your commitment to education and community.
- 4 Fun and rewarding activities:** Get involved in exciting events, from school fairs and fundraisers to special projects that bring joy to the entire school community. We have the followings events coming up that you could be involved with:
Providing refreshments at various events, for example, end of year assemblies
Pre-loved uniform (an ongoing initiative to recycle usable uniform to assist with the school's sustainability ethos)
Halloween Disco
- 5 Role modelling:** Show your child the importance of giving back and making a positive impact by actively participating in their school life.

Join us today and be part of an amazing community dedicated to empowering our children's futures! Together, we can create an extraordinary learning environment that nurtures growth and inspires success.



To express your interest or learn more about the PTA, please reach out to [✉️ pontelandpta@gmail.com](mailto:pontelandpta@gmail.com) or pass your details to school. We can't wait to welcome you!! #PontelandPTA #ParentPower

Turn your daily shopping into everyday magic for us with easyfundraising

You shop, brands donate to us. It won't cost you any extra!



 easyfundraising

Help us make a difference when you shop.
Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk



- 1 Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk
- 2 Sign up and search for Ponteland Primary School PTA
- 3 Your favourite brands donate between 0.5-15% to us whenever you shop with them, with no charge to you

Shop with 7,500+ brands including:

Booking.com

ebay

M&S

GROUPON

Argos

TUI

JOHN
LEWIS



Viking

ASOS



Uber Eats



PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM



Do you have school uniform in good condition that your child no longer wears but could be worn by someone else in the school community?

Please donate your pre-loved, wearable uniform via the donation basket in reception.

Looking for uniform?

All items washed and ready to wear. Please contact pontprimaryuniform@gmail.com to let us know what you're looking for, including sizes!

Voluntary contributions to the PTA welcomed.

Money box at reception or bank transfer:

Ponteland Primary School Parent Teacher Association

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