

Friday Flyer

Friday 5th September 2025

Headteacher Update

Six weeks is a long time and it would be understandable if the children (and parents!) found the return to the September school routine difficult but in school there has been no evidence of that and the children have returned full of excitement, positivity and a readiness to learn. It's amazing how much they all seem to grow up over the summer and they all look perfectly at ease in their new year groups. I was so proud in our celebration assembly this morning to hear about how many children have started the year demonstrating our school values, particularly those of respect, responsibility and effort, and in our 'Happiest Minute of the Week', we had shout-outs from lots of children, celebrating the kindness they have experienced this week from their friends and classmates. What a lovely start to the year!

I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to our new families who have joined us in Nursery and Reception. My highlight this week has definitely been spending time in our Early Years classrooms and getting to know our new pupils - I can't quite believe how well they've all settled; it's like they've always been here! I often think that it's an even bigger step for the parents than the children when their little ones start school so I hope you feel reassured having seen the photos on Tapestry of them enjoying their new setting and making new friends.

School may have been quiet during the summer but over in the forest there was a hive of activity as Autumn and Roman's dad, who is Regional Director of Bellway Homes, organised the most incredibly generous gift of a shelter, built by Tom at TA Joinery, to support our forest school provision. This is not the first time we have benefitted from Dan and Bellway's generosity as they also arranged for the scaffolding at our Kaleidoscope exhibition in the summer, entirely free of charge. Our forest school is such an important part of our Early Years provision, giving the children the opportunity to learn and explore outdoors, building confidence and important life skills. Our amazing new shelter will provide a safe, dry space for them to continue enjoying their activities - whatever the weather. Dan, we can't thank you enough!

Claire Johnson





Safeguarding & wellbeing

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 GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Returning to school after the summer holidays can be both exciting and daunting for children of all ages. Different routines, classes, schools, and academic pressures can cause anxiety or uncertainty. Parents play a vital role in easing this transition. This guide will help you support your child emotionally, mentally, and practically as they return to school.

1 RE-ESTABLISH ROUTINES

Gradually shift back to school-time routines a week or two before term starts. Regular bedtimes, wake-up times, and mealtimes can help children feel more secure and reduce the shock of change when school begins. Having a routine creates predictability and stability, helping to reduce anxiety while improving sleep and concentration.

2 TALK ABOUT FEELINGS

Encourage open conversations with children about their feelings. Ask them how they feel about returning to school, such as what they're looking forward to and anything they might be feeling unsure or worried about. Validating their emotions can help reduce anxiety and show them it's okay to talk about their emotional wellbeing.

3 SUPPORT WITH SLEEP

Children need adequate sleep for concentration, brain function, memory, and emotional regulation. Establish a wind-down routine without screens at least an hour before bed, and encourage relaxing activities like reading or listening to calming music.

4 LOOK OUT FOR SIGNS

Some children hide their anxiety. Watch for changes in their behaviour, such as withdrawal, stomach aches, and irritability. If worries persist, speak with their teacher or the pastoral team early to ensure your child receives support.

5 REFRESH SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Help children reconnect with school friends by arranging playdates or video chats in the week before school starts. Familiar faces and social interactions help the transition and provide emotional comfort on that first day back.

6 CREATE A CALM MORNING

Mornings set the tone for the day. Plan ahead with a consistent morning routine that allows time for breakfast, getting dressed, and talking calmly about the day. Avoid last-minute rushing to reduce stress for everyone.

7 FOCUS ON POSITIVES

Talk about the fun and interesting parts of school - seeing friends, favourite subjects, or exciting activities. One simple but powerful change parents can make is swapping "How's your day been?" for "What's been good about your day?" This invites more of a positive, open response. Focusing on positives can help shift children's anxious thoughts and reframe school as a safe and engaging place.

8 VISIT OR VISUALISE SCHOOL

If possible, encourage visits to the school grounds before the first day, especially if it's a new school. Walking the route or even looking at photos of classrooms and teachers can make the environment feel familiar. The school website is always a great go-to place for this. This is particularly helpful for younger children or those with additional needs.

9 PLAN AHEAD TOGETHER

Involve children in preparing for school - buying supplies, packing their bag, or choosing lunch options. This gives them a sense of control and builds excitement. Use checklists or calendars to prepare together, helping reduce last-minute stress.

10 STAY POSITIVE AND PRESENT

Children pick up on your outlook. Stay calm, positive, and present, especially during drop-offs. Avoid lingering goodbyes, and let them know you'll be there at pick-up. A consistent, reassuring presence builds their confidence and resilience.

Meet Our Expert

This guide was created by Jo Morton-Brown, an Emotional Health Practitioner with nearly 15 years' experience supporting children and young people's mental health. She produces uplifting YouTube content for pupils and trains adults to better support young people's wellbeing, with a mission to help every child feel valued and understand their emotions.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	89.7%	Year 3 (Pine)	96.7%
Reception (Chestnut)	98.1%	Year 4 (Alder)	95.2%
Reception (Pinecone)	100%	Year 4 (Yew)	99.2%
Year 1 (Holly)	94.2%	Year 5 (Oak)	98.4%
Year 1 (Ash)	99.1%	Year 5 (Beech)	99.6%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	99.2%	Year 6 (Elm)	98.4%
Year 2 (Willow)	100%	Year 6 (Birch)	96.1%
Year 3 (Maple)	95.0%	Whole school Cumulative from Sept	97.4%

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?

At KS2, pupils who attended school nearly every day in Year 6 (with an attendance rate of 95-100%) were 1.3 times more likely to achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to pupils who only attended 90-95% of the time. **This means missing just 10 days of year 6 reduced the likelihood of reaching the expected standard by around 25%.** Pupils who attended nearly every day were 1.8 times more likely to achieve the standard than persistently absent pupils who only attend 85-90% of the time (relating to 4 -6 weeks more time in school).
DfE report: [Link between attendance and attainment, March 2025](#)

This week in Nursery

Nursery had their first session in school, enjoying playing inside and outside with their new friends. We can't wait to see you all next week for your full days at school!



This week in Reception

Our brand new Reception children are off to a flying start. They have loved exploring all that we have to offer and making new friends. Next week the children who came to our nursery will join us and we will have our full cohort - lots more friends to be made



This week in Year 1

What a fabulous first week back to school! Our new Year 1 cohort have settled in so well and myself and Mrs Kenyon are so proud.

We have been familiarising ourselves with our new routines, exploring our new areas inside and outside of the classroom, and we have been having lots of discussions around our feelings and emotions. Throughout their school years your children will utilise the Zones of Regulation language to help them express their feelings and create their own self-regulation tool boxes.

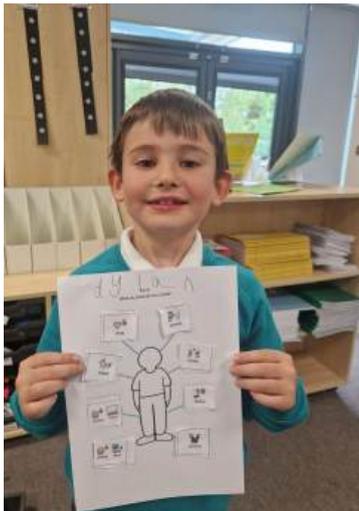
Alongside this we have been recapping lots of Reception learning including some literacy and maths jobs, and of course our favourite Rainbow Challenges!



Miss Storey and Mrs Kenyon

This week in Year 2

What a brilliant first week in Year 2. We've enjoyed time getting to know each other through games, talking and some PSHE lessons. We've also tried some maths and writing tasks and our effort has been outstanding. Such a super start to the year.



This week in Year 3

Welcome back! It has been so lovely to see the children back in school and get to know them over this last week. It is clear that they have all grown up over the summer and are very ready for year. We have spent the week embedding new routines (especially since we are now upstairs), reminding ourselves of the school rules and classroom rules and having the opportunity to settle into life in year 3. We have enjoyed a range of books this week like Ruby's Worry and Words and Your Heart which have supported us to identify the impact our actions can have in both a positive and negative manner as well as supporting us to manage big feelings. As well as this, we have looked at stories like Our Class is a Family and How to Get your Teacher

Ready for School which have helped us to consider goals for the year and how we can work collaboratively.

On a side note PE will be on a Thursday morning and Friday afternoon. On these days children will come to school in the correct PE kit and will remain in this for the day.



This week in Year 4

The children have made an absolutely fantastic start to Year 4 this week! We have been so impressed with the children's readiness to get stuck in and immerse themselves in their new classrooms. We began the week by writing letters to our future selves, in which we discussed our aspirations for the year ahead and reflected on any worries we may have. In Maths this week, we began our first topic on place value and practised partitioning numbers using Base 10 manipulatives. Later in the week, we revisited some strategies linked to our Zones of Regulation and considered how we could utilise these when we are in a particular zone. The children rounded off their first week in Year 4 by designing some beautiful, nature inspired suncatchers for the classroom windows. We can't wait to see these displayed in the sunlight!

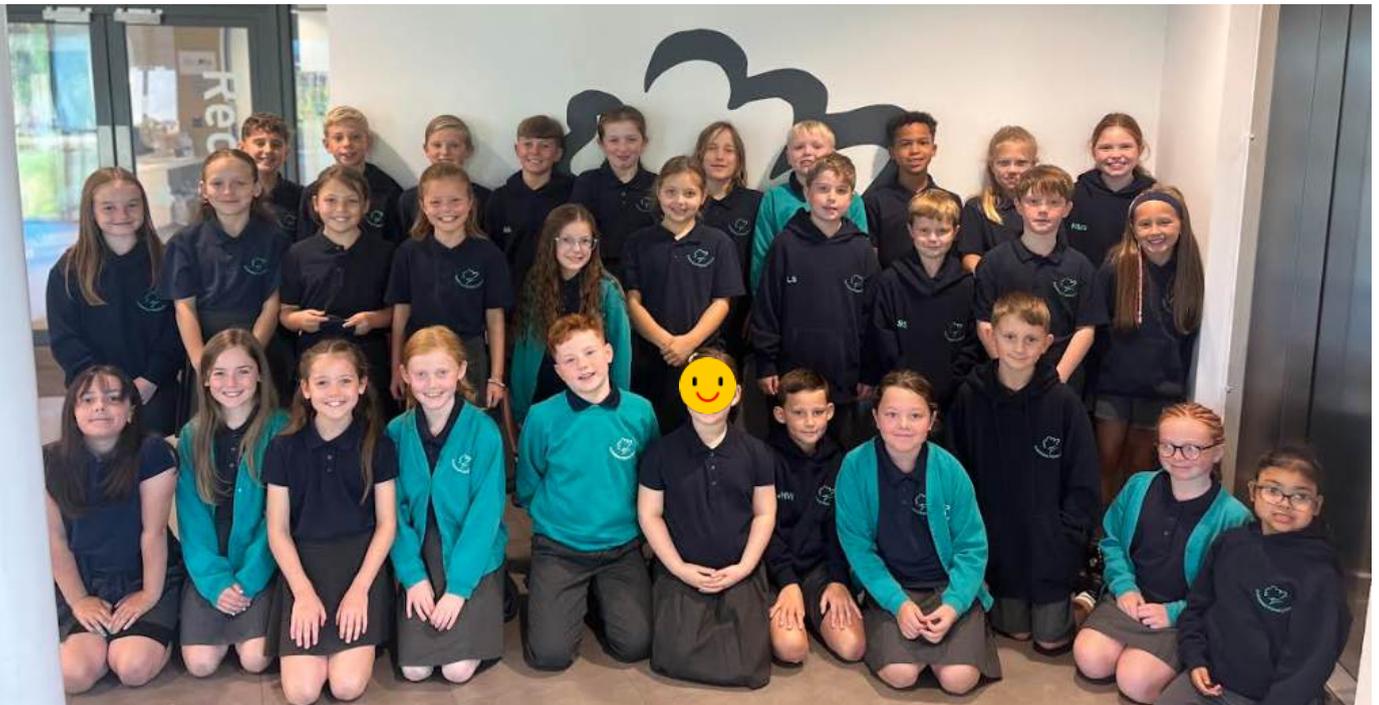


Miss Davis and Mrs Bell

This week in Year 5

We've Had a Class Week

We have been impressed with the attitude and maturity of our new Year 5 cohort this week, this makes a great start to the year. It's always good to get routines set early and hit the ground running, so we've spent our afternoons with some team building games and discussion to help us make good choices. It was also fantastic to have our first music lesson in Upper Key Stage 2 with Mrs Wigham - we look forward to creating our own melodies and playing them on keyboards very soon.



Mr McCourt and Mr Tailford

This week in Year 6

It has been lovely getting to know our new year 6 children, many of whom Mr Orme and Miss Allan have taught before. We have begun the week full of positivity and enthusiasm and are ready for the challenges that lay ahead. We started our week by recapping and developing our oracy skills by having a class debate. And it was an important one! Which is the best miniature hero? We built on the ideas of others and gave our opinions in a mature and sensible manner. Keep up the good work year 6!



Miss Allan and Mr Orme

Dates for your diary in 2025



9 - 10 September 2025	Author Adam Bushnell visiting
Tue 30th September 2025	Year 6 - Victoria Tunnels Trip - Packed lunches needed
Tue 14th October 2025	Flu Immunisations Day
Wc 20th October 2025	Captain Chemistry
Wc 27th October 2025	October Half Term
Mon 3 November 2025	Teacher Training Day
Tue 4th November 2025	School resumes
Wed 26th November 2025	Individual Photo Day
Fri 19th December 2025	School breaks up for Christmas break - School finishes at 1.30pm
Mon 5th January 2026	School Resumes

Opal Needs You!

The children thoroughly enjoy exploring the different zones of OPAL and it has really enhanced our playtime experience. If you are having a clear out, we would love to take some of your old equipment off your hands. If you have any of the following items, please bring them to the school office after the Christmas break:

- Wellies
 - Waterproofs
 - Barbies/dolls
 - Toy trucks/cars
- Shop items: till, fruit and veg baskets etc
 - Metal pots and pans
 - Children's Gardening Tools
 - Dressing up items

Is your child struggling with sleep?



*For children and young people aged between 4-25 years

- Understanding sleep cycles
- Causes of sleep issues
- The importance of sleep
- What you can do to support your child to sleep better

Virtual Sleep Workshop

Delivered **virtually** over one session.

BOOK NOW 

Thursday 11th September 12:30-2:30pm

Wednesday 15th October 10:30-12:30pm

Visit our website

[http://](http://nland.cc/familyhubs)



nland.cc/familyhubs



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- Excellent employment support and guidance

What we offer:

A PGCE (Primary) accredited by Northumbria University

Two training routes:

- Primary 3-7 years
- Primary 5-11 years

Training in schools across the Pele Trust in Ponteland.

Entry Requirements:

- A degree (preferably 2:1 or above – a 2:2 is considered)
- GCSEs at grade C/4 or above in English, Maths and Science
- School experience is desirable but not essential – contact us to arrange a visit

Trainee Testimonials:

"This has been a fantastic experience, allowing me to feel equipped and ready to be a primary school teacher."

– M. Thomas

"The support from staff and pupils has been excellent. This is the best way to get into teaching." – A. Cragg



Contact us:

Alistair McCourt
alistair.mccourt@ppschoool.uk
Lynn Blain
l.blain@peletrust.org.uk

Apply Now:

3–7 years course:

<https://www.find-postgraduate-teacher-training.service.gov.uk/course/16S/Q718>

5–11 years course:

<https://www.find-postgraduate-teacher-training.service.gov.uk/course/16S/2YVQ>

Apply:

<https://www.apply-for-teacher-training.service.gov.uk/candidate>

Can you help our PTA?

PONTELAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA



Ways you can help...

EMPLOYER

Are you employed by one of the biggest employers in the North East who offer Grant Match Fundraising? Could they help you help your School? Or will they allow you paid time away from work to help with fundraising events? Chat to your HR department today to see if there's a way to help!



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NISSAN
SAGE
GREGGS
BARBOUR
DELOITTE
VIRGIN MONEY
BELLWAY
NORTHERN POWERGRID
VERTU
...AND MANY MORE



TIME

Do you have time available to help plan, organise, set up, clean up and be a volunteer at our many fundraising events throughout the year? We appreciate any available time, even if just for one event. Please contact us on pontelandpta@gmail.com

MONEY

We understand that time is not something everyone has to offer and we are often asked about the ability to make regular or one off cash donations to the PTA as an alternative.

Should you wish to do so please reference 'Donation' along with your name to the Ponteland Primary PTA account:

Acc no: 20669059

S.C: 20-59-61



SKILLS

Do you have a skillset that could help the School PTA? Marketing, PR, Graphic design, finance, events planning, social media and so many more skills are valuable to us. This may be offered as your time or as feedback to what you see and experience from the PTA.

"WHEN PARENTS ARE ENGAGED AND TAKE PART IN SCHOOL AFFAIRS, IT CREATES A POSITIVE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDENTS"

Pontelandpta@gmail.com



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

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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

**20-59-61
20669059**



