

Friday Flyer

Friday 4th July 2025

Headteacher Update

We've had a busy week in and out of school with the first of our end of year assemblies for Years 3 and 5 and trips to Arbeia Roman Fort for Year 3 and Druridge Bay for Year 4. We're looking forward to seeing the rest of our parents and carers in school over the next week for the end of year assemblies.

We're particularly excited about our Kaleidoscope exhibition which runs from Tuesday to Thursday next week and the concert on Thursday evening. The children will all be visiting the exhibition with their class but we would also encourage you to visit as a family. The exhibition will showcase over 1000 pieces of artwork produced by pupils across the Pele Trust and promises to be truly magical.



Kaleidoscope
USING OUR DIFFERENCES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Pele Trust Schools invite you to an exhibition of creativity, community, and young voices. Join us for the Kaleidoscope Exhibition.

Tuesday 8th to Thursday 10th July, 8am-9pm

Ponteland Leisure Centre

Best wishes,

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APPLE IPADS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Tablets remain a staple of children's digital lives – and Apple's iPad is by far the most popular model. According to Ofcom, over half of younger children regularly use a tablet to play games, watch online content or access apps. With their broad functionality, iPads can be helpful tools, but without supervision, they may expose children to risks ranging from inappropriate content to screen overuse.

COSTLY TO REPAIR

Unlike some child-friendly tablets, the iPad is not built for rough handling. Its slim design and high cost mean that a drop or spill can result in a costly repair. If a child is using the device regularly, a sturdy case and screen protector are strongly recommended to help prevent accidental damage.

DATA PRIVACY

While Apple is known for strong privacy protections, a recent study found that many iOS apps aimed at children still share personal data. Over 40% of the tested apps sent at least one piece of user information to third parties, raising concerns about advertising and analytics being targeted at underage users.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The App Store and Safari browser provide almost unrestricted access to online material. Children may stumble upon age-inappropriate content, whether through apps, advertisements or online searches. Even recommended content algorithms can surface unsuitable material.

BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS

Siri – Apple's voice assistant – can potentially override restrictions, especially with the newer text-based commands introduced through Apple Intelligence. Without safeguards in place, children may inadvertently access inappropriate topics simply by asking a question, bypassing certain filters previously set by adults.

SCREEN ADDICTION

iPads can be highly immersive, and excessive screen time may affect a child's emotional and behavioural development. Signs of overuse might include mood swings, irritability, and difficulty focusing on non-digital activities.

REDUCED ATTENTION & COGNITIVE IMPACT

Prolonged use of tablets has been linked with reduced memory, slower processing speeds and difficulties in concentrating. Research shows that children who spend excessive time gaming or consuming media on tablets may struggle with language development and executive functioning over time.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Family Sharing allows you to create a dedicated Apple ID for your child and manage their activity. You can approve purchases, control what content they can access, and set time limits – all done remotely from your own device. It's a simple but powerful way to maintain oversight.

FILTER APPS, WEBSITES & IN-APP PURCHASES

Parental controls in iOS let you block explicit content in Safari, restrict app downloads, and manage in-app purchase permissions. You can also filter websites automatically to prevent access to adult material and disable the installation of certain app types completely.

USE SCREEN TIME FEATURES EFFECTIVELY

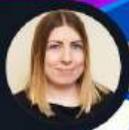
Tools like Downtime and App Limits can reduce device overuse. Downtime allows you to block access during key times – such as before bed or during homework – while App Limits sets daily time caps on specific games or apps. Alerts help children anticipate when their time is almost up.

PREVENT UNAPPROVED SPENDING

Children can accidentally (or intentionally) make purchases within apps. Activating Ask to Buy under Family Sharing ensures you receive a notification to approve any app or in-app purchase. This stops surprise charges and allows you to discuss purchases together before they're made.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is a seasoned technology journalist with over a decade of experience. Formerly a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly now writes for publications including WIRED, Forbes, TechRadar, and Tes. With a deep understanding of online safety, she brings a valuable perspective to parenting in the digital age.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	89.2%	Year 3 (Pine)	91.7%
Reception (Chestnut)	97.3%	Year 4 (Alder)	97.1%
Reception (Pinecone)	95.3%	Year 4 (Yew)	97.7%
Year 1 (Holly)	95.3%	Year 5 (Oak)	95.8%
Year 1 (Ash)	89.0%	Year 5 (Beech)	95.2%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	90.0%	Year 6 (Elm)	96.3%
Year 2 (Willow)	92.0%	Year 6 (Birch)	98.0%
Year 3 (Maple)	95.2%	Whole school Cumulative from Sept	95.6%

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](#)

★ TRAIN TO TEACH WITH ★

Northumbria Teacher Training in School @



Ponteland

**Your Pathway to
Exceptional Training and
Teaching Starts Here...**
Inspire the Next Generation

Are you ready?

Join our highly regarded, school-centred teacher training programme, accredited by Northumbria University and start your journey towards becoming a confident capable and successful teacher.

Our Course:

We are a very supportive training course that helps you towards your goal of becoming a qualified teacher.

- School-based training, in main placement school from September
- A second placement, in a contrasting school in January
- Weekly training days with expert-led workshops
- Continuous support and development through observations, feedback and assignments
- Teaching build-up to prepare you for teaching your class in 2026
- Extensive time in schools – more than most traditional PGCEs
- Hands-on teaching from day one
- Support from experienced mentors, tutors, and peer networks
- Access to university resources, facilities, and academic sessions
- Training across diverse school settings in the North East
- 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>

This week in Nursery

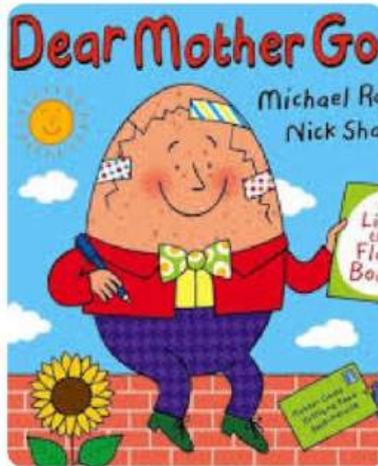
Nursery released their butterflies into the wild this week. Over the past few weeks we have watched caterpillars grow, spin into their cocoons and turn into butterflies. We found out they liked nectar, which you can find on flowers. We released them from their habitat next to the flowers where some stayed and some fluttered off. Bye, bye butterflies!



PIC•COLLAGE

This week in Reception

Over the last couple of weeks our focus has been on our core text, Dear Mother Goose. We have used this to think about solving problems. We have become agony aunts to both the nursery rhyme characters and even school staff and written some fabulous letters. We have also completed an excellent science experiment. We had to decide which materials were best to protect Humpty Dumpty from smashing when he was dropped from height. There were varied results but we all had fun!



This week in Year 1

This week, Year 1 have been learning about money in maths. They learnt to identify different coins and notes by looking at their size, shape, colour and numbers. They ordered them by value from which is worth the most to the least money.



Mrs Rogers and Miss Storey

This week in Year 2

Year 2 were printing in the art lesson this week. We created our own war landscapes using a pencil in polystyrene. This was in the style of Paul Nash. We then used ink to roller and create prints of our design.



Miss Briggs and Mr Massey

This week in Year 3

We have been really enjoying our learning about the Romans this half term. On Wednesday we had a trip to Arbeia, a Roman fort located in South Shields. While there, we took part in a workshop called "Time Quest - The Dig". This allowed us to become archaeologists and helped us to consider how we discover new things about history and use the clues from things we find to learn about the past. We found some interesting things from pieces of tile, types of pottery like jugs, tools and even bones. We also had a tour of the site where we got to find out about how some of the Roman army lived - the commanders had a very different living experience compared to the soldiers. After some lunch we had the chance to explore the site in more detail by going into the museum and the West Gate.



Miss Mears and Miss Choudhury

This week in Year 4

Year 4 had their final school trip of the year this week! We cannot believe how time has flown! Despite the chillier weather, the children had an absolutely brilliant time working in teams to design Ancient Greek-inspired sand structures. There were some truly impressive creations, complete with olive groves, pillars and bridges! The children also loved exploring the park next to the visitor centre. We even managed to squeeze in some time for an ice-cream! The Year 4 team would like to thank all of our parent volunteers - you were super!



Miss Davis, Mrs Maccoy and Mrs Bell

This week in Year 5

Watt's going on in Blyth?

This week, as you may have spotted during our assembly, we've been learning all about the coastal town of Blyth in Northumberland.

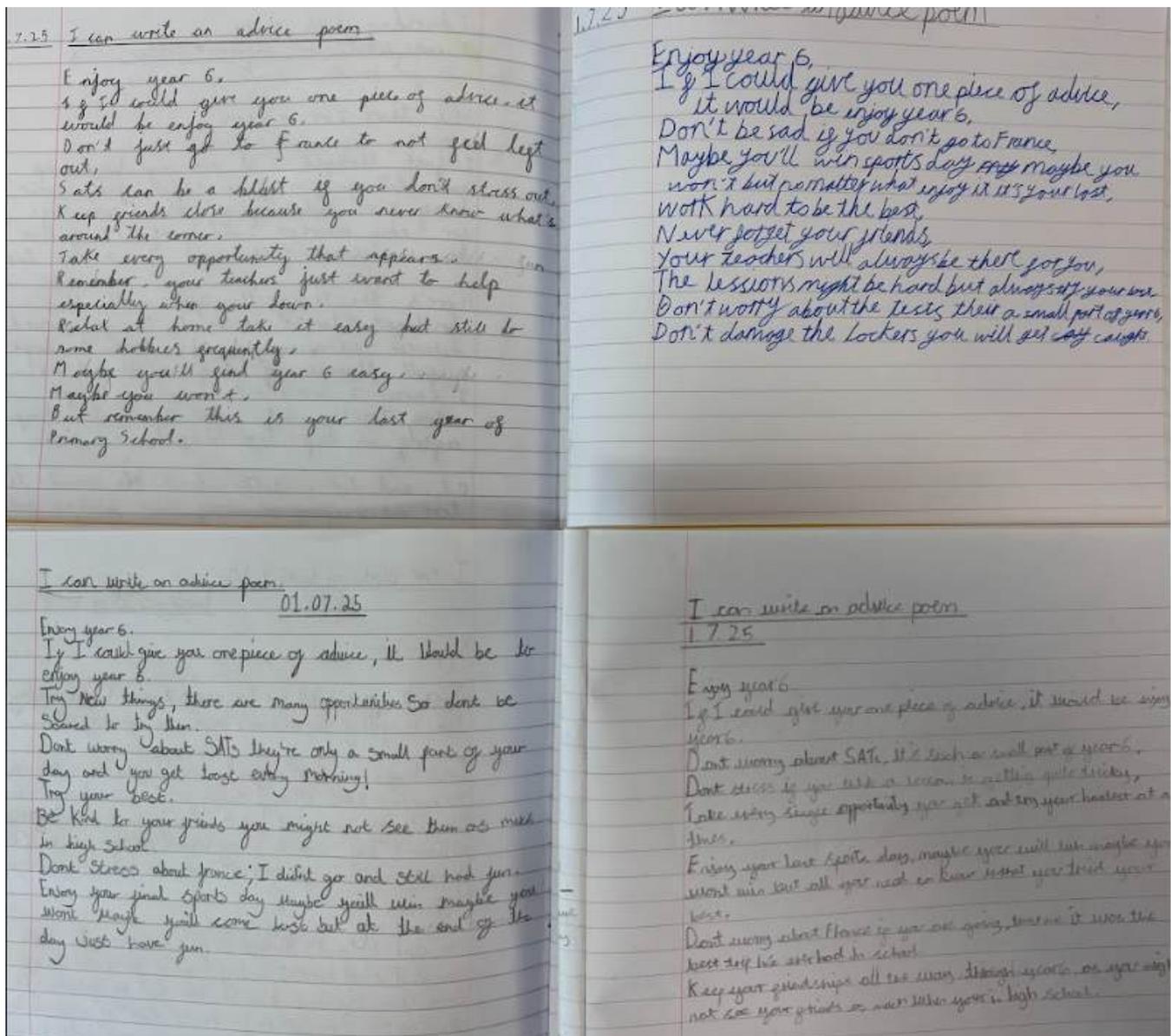
The children have thrown themselves into discovering the town's geographical features – from its beaches to its port – and have been absolutely *blown away* by how energy is produced there, especially using wind turbines.

To round it all off, the class became travel agents, artists, and geographers rolled into one as they created some brilliant posters to show off all that Blyth has to offer. Whether it's to inform, persuade, or just impress with their artistic flair, these posters are well worth a look.



This week in Year 6

This week in Year 6, we began preparing for a very special event: the Leavers' Assembly. The children started by recalling their favourite memories and funniest moments from their time here with us. It was a lovely—and somewhat emotional—trip down memory lane. Next, they reflected more specifically on their time in Year 6 and wrote some thoughtful advice for the next cohort of Year 6 children. For the last two days, our classrooms have fallen quiet as the children attended their high school transition days. We can't wait to welcome them back on Monday and hear all about their experiences.



Dates for your diary in 2025



7th & 8th July 2025	Kaleidoscope Art Exhibition - Leisure centre sports hall
8th July 2025	Year 2 assembly and information meeting with Yr 3 teachers - 9.15am
9th July 2025	Year 5 Movie night after school. £5 per ticket.
9th July 2025	Year 1 assembly and information meeting with Yr 2 teachers - 9.15am
10th July 2025	Year 4 assembly and information meeting with Yr 5 teachers - 9.15am
11th July 2025	Reception Assembly and information meeting with Yr 1 teachers - 9.15am
11th July 2025	Rocksteady Concert - 1.15pm prompt start - Years 4-6 & 2.15pm prompt start for Years 1-3
Sat 12th July 2025	Wine & Cheese Tasting. Parents/Carers only. £25 per ticket. St Mary's Church Hall.
16th July 2025	Year 6 leavers assembly - 2pm
18th July 2025	Last School Day. Close at 1.30pm
1st September 2025	Teacher Training Day
2nd September 2025	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

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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PROCTOR & GAMBLE
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**



