

Friday Flyer

Friday 11th April 2025

Headteacher Update

We had such a treat in our music assembly this week! Mrs Wigham arranged for Mr Rozier, who leads music at Ponteland High, and Mr Lord, who teaches brass lessons, to introduce the children in Key Stage 2 to the instruments which make up the brass section of an orchestra. To do this they brought with them students from the high school who performed a concert of theme tunes, pop songs and classical pieces - it was the most inspiring way to start the day and all of the children were captivated by the music. Mr Lord offers lessons in school for pupils from Year 3 upwards and the children are then able to continue their tuition into high school; please see the email from yesterday with details of how to sign up for a free trial after Easter. It was so lovely to see some of our former pupils, Henry and Callum, perform their instruments as well as Henry and Martha from Y5 and Freddie and Dan from Y6 - well done to all of them for having the courage to perform in front of such a large audience!



We had another special assembly this morning as Miss Allan and the Fundraising Committee shared some information about Newcastle's Cat and Dog Shelter which is a charity they have chosen to support. We learned that sadly some animals are abandoned and, in order to support them, the shelter relies on donations of blankets, food and toys. If you would like to support the charity, please bring second-hand donations into Miss Allan's class or the shelter's wishlist can be found [here](#).

Our numbers in school significantly increased yesterday as we welcomed over 60 children plus staff from our partner Greek school! Our Forest Ambassadors took them over to the woods where the Greek pupils practised their English with our children while exploring and building dens. Thank you to Miss Allan for arranging such a purposeful and exciting visit for both the Greeks and the English!

I hope you enjoy reading below about the interesting work the children have been engaged in this week as part of our Made in the North East week. Every year we dive into our local history and learn about our heritage and the North East luminaries who changed the world, such as William Armstrong. Each year group has ventured out into the region to enjoy trips to Cragside, the Locomotive Museum and Woodhorn to name a few.

I hope everyone has a lovely break and for those who will be celebrating, a very happy Easter.
Claire Johnson

Safeguarding & wellbeing



Easter Reading



Regular reading helps children keep up their confidence, fluency and enjoyment—even during the holidays. The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) highlights that “reading comprehension strategies are high impact for very low cost,” especially when reading is purposeful and enjoyable.

Here are a few ways to keep reading going over Easter:

- Read together daily - a bedtime story or shared reading supports vocabulary and understanding.
- Follow a recipe - reading and following instructions supports real-world literacy -try this Easter egg cheesecake recipe!
<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/cheesecake-filled-easter-eggs>
- Let children choose what to read - comics, joke books, magazines and non-fiction all count.
- Encourage reading for a reason and get some fresh air - try our school Easter scavenger hunt.
- Use audiobooks - they can help children enjoy stories independently and support listening comprehension. The National Literacy Trust reports that audiobooks can reduce stress, increase motivation to read and boost access for children who find reading challenging.
- Talk about what they've read - conversation supports understanding and enjoyment.

Happy Easter and Happy Reading!



Photo credit - BBC Good Food website

Mrs Maccoy



Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	97.3%	Year 3 (Pine)	98.7%
Reception (Chestnut)	93.0%	Year 4 (Alder)	96.1%
Reception (Pinecone)	96.3%	Year 4 (Yew)	98.7%
Year 1 (Holly)	98.0%	Year 5 (Oak)	94.8%
Year 1 (Ash)	98.7%	Year 5 (Beech)	94.8%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	96.0%	Year 6 (Elm)	94.7%
Year 2 (Willow)	99.0%	Year 6 (Birch)	91.3%
Year 3 (Maple)	96.8%	Whole school Cumulative from Sept	96.0%

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](#)

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!



ACCENTURE
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

Our Eggcellent Easter Creation Winners

Thank you so much to all of the entrants into our PTA Easter creations competition. It was so tricky to judge but here are our winners (minus Year 4 who were on their trip). Thank you to the fabulous PTA for organising such fun Easter activities for the children.



This week in Nursery

A busy last week in nursery school! We went on our first class trip, walking to Waitrose to find Pease Pudding to put in our stotties for Made In the North East Week before trying them back at school. We had a trip to the soft play and the Easter bunny even visited us in the woods for Welly Wednesday! Let's hope he visits our houses too!



PIC•COLLAGE

This week in Reception

Our focus in Reception for Made in the North East week has been on farming. We have learnt all about why farming is so important in the North East and how farming has changed over the years. - in EYFS we talk about 'past' and 'present' in our history work. The highlight of our week was undoubtedly our trip to Whitehouse Farm where we had a wonderful day. We had a tractor ride, fed lots of animals including brand new lambs, played in the soft play and we even met a huge Rainbow Python.

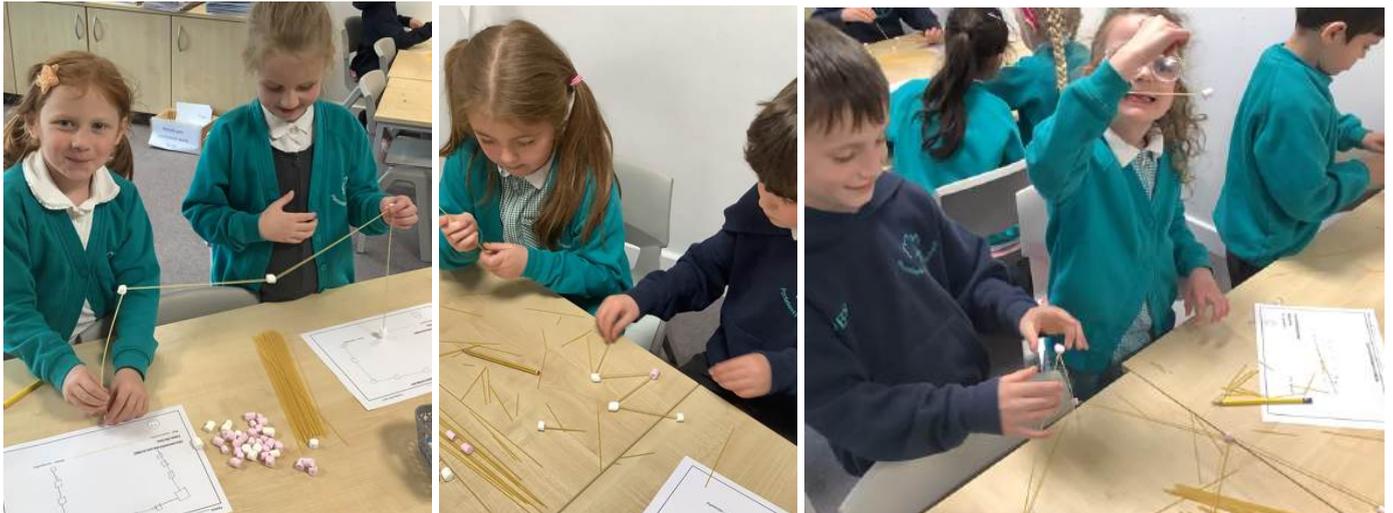


This week in Year 1

This week Year 1 have been learning about bridges as their Made in the North East Week topic. We now know the whereabouts of the River Tyne, where it starts and where it leads to, and we have looked in detail at the 7 main bridges along the Quayside section of the Tyne.

We have looked at how bridges are constructed and how the clever use of shapes and materials helps to reinforce and strengthen them. During DT we have used this learning to design and construct our own bridges using spaghetti and marshmallows, and it was fantastic to see the children utilising their learning from the week into their work!

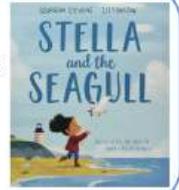
To round off our week we have been on a fantastic trip to the Discovery Museum which included a tour of the Tyne and looking at how the bridges have changed over the years, learning about the different mechanisms used on bridges for both their construction and movement, why the bridges were constructed and finishing off with a hands-on workshop about bridge building. Today, we even got to handle actual pieces of the Tyne Bridge which were kindly brought in from a class family member who is currently working on the bridge repairs. Amazing!



This week in Year 2

For Made in the North East week, we have learned a lot about how inventions from the North East have changed society. We learned about hydroelectricity and visited Cragside, the first house in the world to be powered by hydroelectricity. We even created our own waterwheel models to show how they work. We also made our own baked good, inspired by one of the greatest North East creations - Greggs!

Our focus text this week has been Stella and the Seagull.



This week in Year 3

For Made in The North East week, Year 3 enjoyed a fantastic trip to Alnwick castle as part of our learning about castles in the North East! The sunny weather made the whole day even more enjoyable. The children were amazed by the grand state rooms and loved learning about the beautiful interior design. We also learnt why castles were built – mainly for defence and protection – which helped us understand more about life in the past. A highlight of the visit was taking part in an exciting workshop. Everyone got involved as we reenacted storming the barbican, bringing history to life in a fun and active way. It was a brilliant day full of adventure and learning!



Miss Mears and Miss Choudhury

This week in Year 4

Our focus for Made in the North East week has been transport. We have looked at lots of different types of travel within the North East of England with a specific focus on Metros and rail travel, which is the focus of our Locomotion trip. We have had loads of fun planning and budgeting travel from Ponteland to South Shields, written postcards from the perspective of somebody riding a steam train for the first time and even created our own, 'Mini Metros', to name but a few of the wonderful things we have been doing this week.



Miss Davis, Mrs Maccoy and Mrs Bell

This week in Year 5

Pit Stop

Our focus of Made in the North East week in Year 5 is mining, so we thought what better way to launch the topic than a trip to Woodhorn museum! We enjoyed three workshops: Deaths, Dangers and Disasters; Working Down the Pit and Woodhorn Colliery Tour. Our hosts were very knowledgeable as our children peppered them with many questions about all things mining. In class we've looked in detail about different jobs in the mine, the dangers of working down there and the importance of it to the north east before their closures. Many of our children fancy themselves working at the coal face so please use this information when asking them to complete chores over the holidays! Have a wonderful Easter break.



This week in Year 6

This week we have been delving into the fascinating history of the North East's part in global shipbuilding from its origins to its end in the 1980s. We spent a few days studying the history of the industry on the River Tyne, the jobs that people did on a shipyard and some of the notable vessels that were built in its many shipyards over the years - in particular, the Turbinia and the Mauritania. On Tuesday we went to the Discovery Museum on Tuesday to see the real life Turbinia and take part in a workshop based on the jobs shipbuilders had to undertake. The children loved the workshop and also found the museum exhibits fascinating and were keen to explore and add to what they had already learned at school.



Dates for your diary in 2025



14th April 2025	Easter Break
28th April 2025	School resumes
Monday 5th May 2025	Early May Bank Holiday
12th May - 15th May 2025	KS2 SATS Week
Wc 26th May 2025	Half Term
2nd June 2025	School resumes
3rd June 2025	Year 6 - Northumberland Zoo Trip (Packed lunches needed)
25th June 2025	Year 1 - Gibside Trip (Packed lunches needed)
23rd - 27th June 2025	Year 6 France Trip
18th July 2025	Last School Day. Close at 1.30pm

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
- Dressing up item

Shop items: till, fruit and veg baskets etc
Metal pots and pans Children's Gardening Tools



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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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

**20-59-61
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