

Friday Flyer

Friday 12th September 2025

Headteacher Update

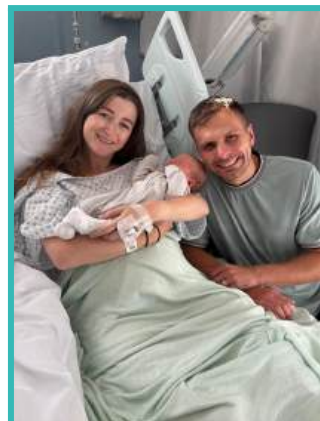
It isn't really September at Ponteland Primary School until we've had our annual visit from our favourite author, Adam Bushnell! I'm absolutely certain that he's someone you will have all heard about as the children love working with him so much - you may have even spotted him standing on the gate with me on Thursday morning. Adam brought his storytelling magic to every child in school as he worked in all classes from Nursery to Y6 across the week. The creativity Adam inspires in the children is second to none and he used his storytelling skills to bring our curriculum to life. Isabella in Reception told me about the story of a dragon who came to life when his eyes were painted and then (with the help of his 21 year old pet tortoise Jet), Adam managed to make his toy tortoise come to life too! At the other end of school, Elena in Y6 explained that working with Adam had helped her create a setting description using the five senses as the class watched footage and explored smell boxes, giving them an understanding of how it would feel emerging from an air raid shelter in WW2.

Adam's visit isn't the only landmark event in September and lots of our children took part in the equally exciting Great North Run last weekend! The children very proudly wore their medals to our celebration assembly this morning and Orla in Y4 told us that it had been an amazing experience to run along the quayside. It wasn't only the children who took part in last weekend's run as Mr Orme and Mr Shaw both ran in the adult race and achieved very impressive times!



Finally, I'm delighted to share with you the lovely news that Mrs Rogers had her beautiful baby boy towards the end of the summer holidays. His name is Zack and he is absolutely beautiful - we can't wait to meet him!

Claire Johnson



Safeguarding & wellbeing

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Online Safety Tips for Children

Wow, it's September already! The month when autumn officially starts and ... oh yeah, the beginning of a new school year. Every cloud has a silver lining though! Another term means new friends to make, different stuff to learn, fresh online trends to jump on and exciting new games to play on your phone, computer or console. We've compiled a list of our top tips to ensure that - whether you're going online to chat, research things or just have fun - you can do it safely.

Be cautious with your profile

Be careful not to give out too much info on your social media or gaming profiles. Details like your full name, address or school's name could all help strangers to actually find you offline. A trusted adult can help you make your profiles private - so only your family and actual friends can contact you.

Lock your devices

Taking your phone or tablet to school? Turn password protection on. It keeps your private info safe and stops anyone accessing your device without permission. Passwords should be memorable to you - but difficult for anyone else to guess. Get a trusted adult to write it down in case you forget it!

Be smart with screen time

Too much screen time, especially just before bed, can affect your quality of sleep. Losing sleep, or not sleeping well enough, messes with your concentration and energy levels. Try muting notifications so you don't get pinged late at night; you'll feel fresher and more focused the next day.

Know how to deal with bullies

Sadly there are people online who enjoy picking on other users. If you ever feel like you're being bullied online - by anyone, not just someone from school - talk to a trusted adult about it. Together, you can discuss possible steps, such as blocking or reporting the person who's targeting you.

Manage online relationships wisely

Most people in a relationship chat to their partner online. Just be mindful that once you send a pic or message (even if it's private), you no longer control who else might see it. Messaging someone you've never actually met - and who might not be who they say - is definitely best avoided.

React well to inappropriate content

When you're researching something online, there's always a chance of finding content that makes you feel uncomfortable or upset. If this happens, you can report it as inappropriate and (hopefully) get it taken down. Tell a trusted adult what happened; they'll help you decide what to do next.

Report offensive in-game chat

If you game online with your mates, you'll know things can get competitive and heated on the in-game chat. Playing against people you don't know (especially if they're older) raises the risk of offensive comments and even threats. Our advice? Find out how to block or mute those bad losers.

Learn to spot fake news

If you're looking into a topic for homework or a project, be careful not to get taken in by fake news: content that's deliberately created to mislead people. Check the story with credible sources, like the BBC or Sky News. Trust your instincts, too - if it seems too unbelievable to be true, it's probably fake.

Keep it 'real' with online friends

Everyone enjoys adding friends and followers on social media. It's important, though, that the people you interact with online really are your friends. If they're just random people you've connected with to increase your contacts, you don't know if they could be trolls or bullies (or worse).



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#WakeUpWednesday

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Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	96.5%	Year 3 (Pine)	99.3%
Reception (Chestnut)	100%	Year 4 (Alder)	99.0%
Reception (Pinecone)	98.6%	Year 4 (Yew)	98.7%
Year 1 (Holly)	95.7%	Year 5 (Oak)	97.1%
Year 1 (Ash)	100%	Year 5 (Beech)	99.0%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	100%	Year 6 (Elm)	97.1%
Year 2 (Willow)	99.3%	Year 6 (Birch)	94.8%
Year 3 (Maple)	94.7%	Whole school Cumulative from Sept	97.7%

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

The Nursery children have enjoyed their first full week at school this week. We have practised getting familiar with our new routines by following our visual timetable. We had our snack-time, our first school lunches and some of us have even stayed for a full week! We can't wait to see what next week brings!



This week in Reception

This week we have our full classes altogether and it has been lovely to see all of the new friendships blossom. We had our first PE lesson with Mr Drane and it was so much fun! We played lots of tag games including toilet tag, which we thought was hilarious. Mr Drane was so impressed with our listening skills.



Mrs Blyth and Mrs Adamson

This week in Year 1

This week was the first time the Year 1 children had PE with Mr Smith and what a brilliant time we had.

We joined the Paw Patrol Training Academy! The children practised their throwing skills, focusing on standing correctly, pointing their arms towards the target, and aiming carefully.

Through fun 'rescue missions' inspired by Chase, Marshall and the rest of the paw patrol team, the children threw different-sized balls 'under bridges', through hoops and aimed at different targets.

They worked hard on accuracy, coordination and control and had lots of fun being Paw Patrol recruits!



This week in Year 2

Year 2 loved their visit from Adam Bushnell this week! We had a focus on power and leadership and we got to try on some armour. We also got to design our own shields using colours that represented different personality traits like friendship, bravery and wisdom.



Mrs Nowosielska and Mr Massey

This week in Year 3

We were so excited this week to have a visit from Adam Bushnell who kicked off our topic 'Life in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age'. With Adam we were really lucky to see a range of Stone Age artefacts which helped us imagine what life was like. We noticed lots of tools and weapons were made of a stone called flint, lots of clothing was made from animal furs and we even got to see and feel some examples. Adam showed us an artistic representation of a Stone Age community which showed people living in tents, moving in boats, settling near rivers and fishing. We had some amazing questions too, about life in the Stone Age and animals that might have existed!



Thank you to Adam for such an exciting introduction to our topic.



This week in Year 4

The children have started their new music topic with Mrs Wigham over the past two weeks and are starting to learn the decant recorder. Each week, the children will build on their skills and build a wealth of musical knowledge and vocabulary. The children learnt what legato and staccato mean- so test us on this! They also listened to a range of different recorder music including a performance from the one and only Mrs Wigham, who really is a musical guru! The children were really impressed with her amazing skills and I am sure she has inspired many to get their skills even better than they already are. If your child doesn't already have a decant recorder, these are very reasonably priced. Most children like to have their own instrument so that they can practise both at home and in school, however we always have spares in school.

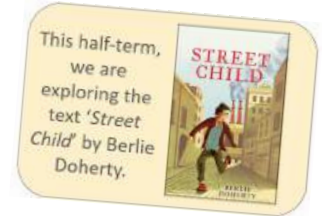


This week in Year 5

Bots going on!?

We've had a fantastic second week in Year 5, with the children settling into new routines and diving enthusiastically into their learning.

This week, we welcomed author Adam Bushnell, who helped launch our new theme: *Social Justice and Equity*. He spoke to the children about global challenges, from population growth to inequalities affecting communities around the world.



Adam then inspired the children to use their imaginations to redesign a robot called *Jibo*, created to tackle social problems. The ideas were brilliant: some robots aimed to reduce pollution, others helped people experiencing homelessness, some provided access to clean water, and others delivered food to those in need.

Year 5 used creativity and compassion to think about how they can make the world a better place.

We also got to meet Jet, his pet tortoise!



This week in Year 6

Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed their session with Adam Bushnell this week, which served as a brilliant introduction to our global curriculum theme for the term: 'Peace and Conflict'. We explored what life might have been like on the streets of London during the Blitz, sparking ideas that we later used to craft vivid and imaginative setting descriptions. The World War II artefacts Adam brought in added a fascinating hands-on element to our learning, and we were especially delighted to have one last visit with Jet the tortoise.



Miss Allan and Mr Orme

Dates for your diary in 2025



Tue 30th September 2025	Year 6 - Victoria Tunnels Trip - Packed lunches needed
Thur 2nd October 2025	Year 6 - Open Evening at Ponteland High School - 5.30pm to 7.30pm
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



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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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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TUI

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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

**20-59-61
20669059**



