

Friday Flyer

Friday 13th June 2025

Headteacher Update

Some weeks a theme naturally presents itself for the Friday Flyer and this week that theme is sport - it has been a very active week in school!

Last Friday, our Y6 athletics team beat their opponents in each event to qualify for the County final of Quad Kids. This was one of the events in the competitive stream of our sports offer and the children showed impressive talent, effort and drive to succeed. The children were bouncing with excitement when they returned to school to share the news and, with such strong athletes, we're in with an excellent chance of bringing the trophy home!

Next up, was the inaugural Pele Trust Y5 & 6 swim gala organised by Mr Smith and involving all primary schools across the trust. The event was a huge success and gave us an opportunity to celebrate the talents of our young sports people in a field we aren't usually able to compete in. Congratulations to Tilly and Kobi for their first places and to the entire team who placed second overall. Thanks to Mr Smith for always looking to find new ways to expand and enhance our sports offer. Never one to rest on his laurels, the very next day after the gala, he approached me to say he has an idea for how to introduce an additional swim event into next year's calendar to open the opportunity up to more children!



Towards the end of the week, we had a sports coach in school to work with groups of children across both Key Stage 1 and 2 to develop their skills and confidence in PE. The children thoroughly enjoyed their session.

Meanwhile, our Upper Key Stage 2 Primary Stars football team headed to Wolverhampton for their biggest challenge yet. Having beaten all other local teams, they donned their black and white strips and represented Newcastle United in the Primary Stars final, playing at Wolves' Molineux Stadium. It was an incredible experience and the boys truly did themselves and our school proud, playing some seriously impressive football. They were defeated by Spurs who went on to win overall but even getting to the final and having the opportunity to play at a Premier League stadium was a win for the boys who I'm sure will never forget the experience. We are so proud of them! While this was the boys' first time playing on a Premier League pitch, Mr Tailford and Mr Drane are becoming old hands! Their talented coaching, expertise and dedication to the children's football has seen them take a team to the National Finals three times and I can't express my gratitude enough that they give up much of their own time to provide opportunities for the children to train and compete.



Kaleidoscope

USING OUR DIFFERENCES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Congratulations are also in order in a different realm as our wonderful KS1 Kaleidoscope choir performed at Party in the Park last Sunday. The rain stopped just in time for their concert which formed a very special part of the overall event. The children sang beautifully and should feel so proud of themselves.

On the note of Kaleidoscope, our KS2 Kaleidoscope Club have been rehearsing this week with other Pele Trust primaries ahead of their performance at Newcastle's Tyne Theatre and Opera House next Thursday which promises to be an amazing event. Enormous thanks to Mrs Adamson (aka Miss Madderson) who has run two extra-curricular clubs this year, and Miss Briggs who has supported her, to prepare the KS1 Kaleidoscope choir and the KS2 group for their respective performances.



Tickets are on sale if you would like to watch this fabulous performance. The children would love their friends to come and support them and you will not be disappointed!

[\]https://www.tynetheatreandoperahouse.uk/whatson/the-pele-trust-presents-kaleidoscope/#Tickets_in](https://www.tynetheatreandoperahouse.uk/whatson/the-pele-trust-presents-kaleidoscope/#Tickets_in)
Tickets can only be accessed via this link and the sale of tickets is not available to the general public.

Finally, school has been brightened in every corner by little rays of sunshine as we raised awareness of Cystic Fibrosis by wearing shades of yellow on our non-uniform day. One of our nursery pupils has the condition and Mrs Wilds has done a brilliant job of educating everyone, staff and children alike, about cystic fibrosis. It's particularly important that we all have a good understanding as there can be some hazards in school for children with CF but with everyone's awareness and collaboration, we can reduce any risks. Creative as ever, Mrs Wilds has run lunchtime activities for the children to give them a sense of how it is for a child to manage the condition on a daily basis. The children have been using space hoppers to exercise as this clears mucus from our lungs, blowing bubbles into empty water bottles to create their own bubble pep and performing some physiotherapy exercises. Our little girl with CF was so brave on Monday and Tuesday when she spoke to the older pupils in assemblies and they have really been inspired by her story. Thanks so much to her family for providing the resources to enable us to run the sessions for the children this week. If anyone is interested in learning more about Cystic Fibrosis or would like to make a donation to fund the work of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, please follow this [link](#).



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 GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY

Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unsuitable material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.

REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING

Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY

Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unmanaged, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.

UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES

Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or creative tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

IDEAS

Advice for Parents & Educators

ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.

PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.

ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keefe, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Eaton House Schools, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. As an author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, Brendan guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	93.6%	Year 3 (Pine)	92.7%
Reception (Chestnut)	98.0%	Year 4 (Alder)	93.5%
Reception (Pinecone)	97.0%	Year 4 (Yew)	99.0%
Year 1 (Holly)	94.3%	Year 5 (Oak)	93.5%
Year 1 (Ash)	98.7%	Year 5 (Beech)	97.9%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	90.7%	Year 6 (Elm)	95.3%
Year 2 (Willow)	99.3%	Year 6 (Birch)	82.3%
Year 3 (Maple)	94.8%	Whole school Cumulative from Sept	95.7%

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](#)

★ TRAIN TO TEACH WITH ★

Northumbria Teacher Training in School @



**Your Pathway to
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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:

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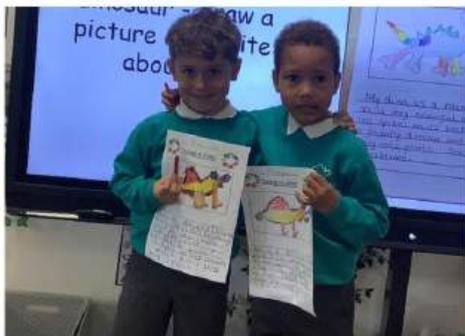
This week in Nursery

To celebrate the lovely sun that we have recently enjoyed in our Forest School session, nursery used some special paper to make some sun pictures. We placed the images on cards, we hope they all make it to the special people they were intended for on Sunday.



This week in Reception

There have been some very strange happenings in our forest area this week. Mr Bray got an alert that there were trespassers and when we checked the CCTV we were shocked to see a T-rex, a velociraptor and a stegosaurus! We have loved looking at non-fiction books to find out dino facts, playing in our dino swamp and engaging in dinosaur challenges and activities. We also found lots of dino debris in the woods including footprints and real bones!



This week in Year 1

In Science this week, the children investigated the leaf size of plants. They predicted whether bigger plants would always have bigger leaves and measured the leaves on plants in the woods. The children identified an oak tree, horse chestnut tree, pine tree and dock plant. They circled whether the plant was 'big' 'medium' or 'small' and measured the leaf to see whether the biggest plant had the biggest leaf. The children learnt that the biggest plant didn't always have the biggest leaf. Excellent investigating and observational work!



Mrs Rogers and Miss Storey

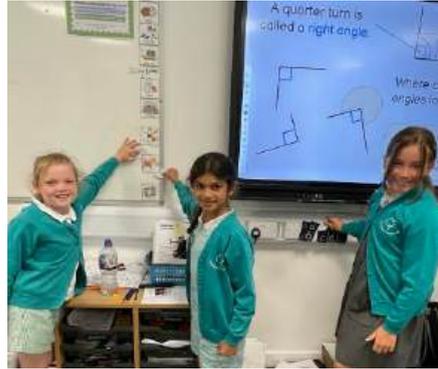
This week in Year 2

This week, Year 2 have looked at Paul Nash's landscapes of WW1 and WW2. They used chalk pastes to blend their own dramatic skyscraper. They look wonderful!

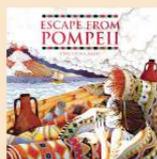


This week in Year 3

This week in maths, Year 3 had a lot of fun learning about right angles! We were excited to use a right angle eater to find objects around the classroom that had a right angle. It was amazing to see how many things we found, like books and tables! We also had a task where we had to identify right angles in different shapes. It was a great challenge, and everyone worked hard to spot them correctly. We can't wait to keep exploring angles in maths!



This half term,
we are
exploring the
text 'Escape
from Pompeii'
by Christina
Balit.



This week in Year 4

In Geography, our local study of Ponteland began by investigating some old photographs of the area. The children were amazed at how many places and points of interest they could recognise! After this, we learnt about some key historical events involving Ponteland, such as the signing of the Treaty of Newcastle in 1244, the destruction of Ponteland Castle (now the Blackbird Inn!) in 1388 and the construction of the first passenger train from Ponteland to Newcastle in 1905.



Miss Davis, Mrs Maccoy and Mrs Bell

This week in Year 5

We've Had a Howler.

We thought we'd continue the sporting theme in this week's Friday Flyer by sharing our athletic prowess. Mr Drane has been putting us through our paces with a series of track and field events throughout this half term; a great way to prepare us for sports day on Wednesday! We have been practising sprints, middle distance running, standing long jump and throwing using a howler and a shot put. Even on warm days like today, we are still demonstrating our progress and setting personal bests.



Mr McCourt and Mr Tailford

This week in Year 6

We have had another busy week in Year 6. On Monday, we were lucky enough to have a visit from La Petite Creperie. Julien told us all about french cuisine before teaching us how we would order a crepe with a variety of toppings in French. Even better, he then invited us to place our order and made us all a delicious crepe to eat. Later in the week, we began our final history unit of work about people who are 'historically significant'. We looked back across our primary journey to consider why the people we have studied in previous groups were so significant and what mark they have left on the world. We then considered who has been significant in our own personal history.



Miss Allan and Mr Orme

Dates for your diary in 2025



18th June 2025	Sports Day - Years 4/5/6 - 9.30am start. Gates open 9.15am. Sports Day - Years 1/2/3 - 1.40pm start. Gates open 1.30pm.
20th June 2025	Dress Down Day - for donation for our adults bottle pull - Sporty clothes
20th June 2025	Summer Fair 3.15pm to 5.00pm
25th June 2025	Year 1 Trip - Gibside Trip (Packed lunches needed)
27th June 2025	Year 2 Trip - Beamish (Packed lunches needed)
23rd - 27th June 2025	Year 6 France Trip
1st July 2025	International Joke Day - £1 per entry winner announced for best joke
1st July 2025	Year3 Trip - Arbeia Roman Fort - (Packed lunch needed)
1st July 2025	Year 4 Trip - Druridge Bay - (Packed lunch needed)
3rd July 2025	Year 3 assembly and information meeting with Yr 4 teachers - 9.15am
4th July 2025	Year 5 assembly and information meeting with teachers - 9.15am
8th July 2025	Year 2 assembly and information meeting with Yr 3 teachers - 9.15am
9th July 2025	Year 5 Movie night after school
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
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**



