

Friday Flyer

Friday 19th December 2025

Headteacher Update

If last week was all about the children's acting talent, this week has been all about their singing and dancing with lots of fun being had at class parties and some very special concerts performed by both our KS1 choir and the Pele Trust KS2 choir.

I can't tell you how moving it was to watch our Year 1 and 2 children singing Christmas songs to the elderly residents of Grange Lea Care Home. It very much brought Christmas joy into the home and the residents enjoyed every minute. The children had spent time in school, prior to visiting the home, creating Christmas cards and angels which they shared with the elderly people. It was a truly memorable afternoon, made all the more special when Mrs Adamson, who has the most beautiful voice, led the residents in a sing-a-long with some Christmas classics.

Another highlight this week was Mrs Wigham's annual Pele Trust Primary Schools Carol Concert at St Mary's. The church is always packed full and this year was no exception with standing room only well before the concert was due to begin! The choir outdid themselves, singing beautifully and filling the audience with Christmas cheer. Mrs Wigham's band has grown in numbers since the start of the autumn term with an upsurge in keen recorder players, thanks to her excellent teaching of this instrument in Year 4 classes this term. The musicians played alongside children from the other schools which was all the more impressive given they only had two hours to rehearse together yesterday morning! All the children, in both choir and band, should feel very proud of their excellent performance.



We are now at the end of the longest term of the academic year and I think everyone - children, parents and staff - are all ready for a break! I hope everyone is able to have some quality time with their families over the festive period and we look forward to seeing the children back in school on **Monday 5th January**.

Merry Christmas,
Claire Johnson

Safeguarding & wellbeing

This time of year can be challenging for some families and especially so if you are experiencing domestic abuse. Please know that school staff have all been trained in understanding domestic abuse and you are always welcome to come into school for support. We are an Operation Encompass school which means we receive notifications from the police if they are called to a domestic incident and we are therefore well placed to provide support to families where needed.

DASSN

Domestic Abuse Support Service Northumberland

01670 820199

DASSN@placesforpeople.co.uk

- Domestic abuse phone line
- Refuge accommodation
- IDVA service (Independent Domestic Violence Advisors)
- Specialist outreach service

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Service (NDAS)



01434 608030



- Emotional and practical support
- Advice
- Information and signposting

Acorns

Children and Young People Counselling and Outreach (Acorns)

0191 3498366

Offers a range of services to support families affected by domestic abuse in Northumberland and North Tyneside such as:

- Counselling and Play Therapy
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Support
- First Response
- Services for Parents and Carers
- Group Work Programmes

Women's Aid

www.womensaid.org.uk

Online chat available (Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm)

Specialist support and resources for women and children.

Offers advice, safety tools and local service directories.

Domestic Abuse Support Services Northumberland (DASSN) for adults

Harbour – 01670 820199

Changing Behaviour (Harbour)

03000 202525

Domestic Abuse in Rural Areas (NDAS)

01434 60 80 30

Domestic Abuse Counselling (Cygnus Support)

01670 853977

National Domestic Abuse Helpline (Refuge)

0808 2000 247

www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk

Men's Advice Line (by Respect)

0808 801 0327 (Mon-Fri, various times)

www.mensadvice.org.uk

Confidential support for men experiencing domestic abuse.





Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	80.2%	Year 3 (Pine)	94.0%
Reception (Chestnut)	93.0%	Year 4 (Alder)	93.9%
Reception (Pinecone)	94.0%	Year 4 (Yew)	93.3%
Year 1 (Holly)	94.0%	Year 5 (Oak)	94.2%
Year 1 (Ash)	96.6%	Year 5 (Beech)	95.3%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	96.3%	Year 6 (Elm)	96.8%
Year 2 (Willow)	94.7%	Year 6 (Birch)	90.0%
Year 3 (Maple)	92.7%	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](#)

This week in Nursery

Nursery have enjoyed their last week of 2025 in school by experiencing their first Christmas party at Ponteland Primary School. We enjoyed some party games, including pass the parcel, taking photos with props and a snowball fight! A lovely way to get ready for Christmas. Have a lovely break everyone and see you in 2026!



This week in Reception

We have had a fabulously festive week in Reception. We have made lots of different Christmas crafts and shown great care when using the glue guns. On Tuesday we had a visit from the big man himself - we were so happy to see Santa and to find out that we were all on the good list, even the teachers! We also danced our hearts out at our Christmas party on Wednesday. Wishing all our lovely families a joyful Christmas!



This week in Year 1

We've had a great final week of term in Year 1! In science, we used our learning about the four seasons to create our own calendars. The children really challenged themselves with their Christmas cards, using their DT skills to stitch a wooden bauble. These baubles are a little keepsake for parents – and we talked about how it doesn't matter if they're not perfect, as they show the children's effort and learning. We also had lots of fun celebrating together at our Christmas party. 🌲 ✨



This week in Year 2

Year 2 have had a lovely festive week but we've also been learning about AI. We spent time thinking critically about images and trying to decide which were real photos and which were AI. We watched some AI videos of animals and then talked about how we knew they weren't real but also about how realistic they were. Then we sorted pictures, deciding which were real and which were not. We were incredibly sensible about how and why to think critically about what we see online but also enjoyed seeing what AI can do.



This week in Year 3

What an incredible final week we have had to wrap up a brilliant term! Our classroom has been a hive of festive activity; we've been busy baking delicious mince pies, crafting beautiful Christmas cards, and look-ahead to the future by designing our very own 2026 calendars. We even put our numeracy skills to the test, successfully solving complex maths equations to help Santa with his "Reindeer Dilemma!" The highlight of our week was undoubtedly our Year 3 Christmas Slumber Party, where we all got cozy in our pyjamas to enjoy popcorn, classic Christmas movies, and plenty of party games.

It has been a wonderful term, and every single student deserves a well-earned rest. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready to go in 2026!



This week in Year 4

S'mores galore!

Off to the forest, stomp stomp STOMP,
Alder and Yew went jumpity-plomp!
Boots went squelch and socks went *oh no*,
"Who stepped in mud?" — "I DID!" — "EWWWWW!"

Mrs Bell said, "Line up straight!"
But squirrels did flips and refused to wait.
Miss Davis ducked as a twig said *WHACK!*
"Was that a tree... or a sneaky attack?"

Mr Armstrong said, "Stay calm, stay cool,"
Then slipped on a leaf like a wobbly stool.
Mrs Hurst laughed, holding sticks up high,
"S'MORES ARE COMING!" she shouted to the sky.

Tummies went GRUMBLE, feet went sore,
"Are we there yet?" — "Just five steps more!"
Finally—FIRE! And marshmallows galore,
Some went on sticks... some fell on the floor.

Chocolate was melty, goo everywhere,
On noses, on jumpers, in someone's hair!
Alder and Yew cheered, sticky and proud,
"This is the BEST SCHOOL TRIP EVER!" they vowed.

Back through the forest, tired but glad,
With full tummies and memories mad.
And one final thought as they trudged out the view...
"Can we come back tomorrow?"
(Teachers said, "NO." 😊)



Miss Davis and Mrs Bell

This week in Year 5

Yule Blog

This week in year 5 we've been hardworking little elves. Although the teaching staff have channelled their inner Grinch and still made sure work was done, we at least made sure they had a Christmas twist on them. We've used our maths knowledge to help crack codes to solve mysteries, completed Christmas crafts and completed our English unit by creating blogs about ourselves.

Of course, this is also a time for celebration so we couldn't complete the final week of term without watching a Christmas movie with some popcorn and snacks!

Have a wonderful Christmas break and a Happy New Year everyone. See you in 2026!



This week in Year 6

What a wonderfully busy week it has been in Year 6 as we reached the end of the autumn term! We began with a short trip along the corridor to the high school, where the fantastic sixth form staff and students hosted a Christmas film morning. We enjoyed watching *That Christmas* in their lecture theatre, which was a real treat. Back in our own classroom, we celebrated with a cosy Christmas party—movies, comfy clothes, and plenty of snacks and drinks to keep the festive spirit alive. Alongside all the fun, we still found time for learning: plotting Christmas coordinates in maths, producing a fantastic piece of writing in English, and getting creative with some festive crafts.

We are now ready for a well-deserved Christmas break and would like to wish all our wonderful families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Dates for your diary in 2025



Mon 5th January 2026	School Resumes
Wed 14th January 2026	Year 5 trip to Robinwood. Return Friday 16th January
Wc Mon 16th February 2026	Half Term Break
Mon 23rd February 2026	Teacher Training Day
Tue 24th February 2026	School Resumes
Easter Break 2026	School closed on Friday 3rd April 2026
Mon 20th April 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

After School Club Needs You!

We would love to take any of these off you:

- Loom Bands
 - Complete Jigsaws
 - Chess Sets
 - Dolls House Furniture
- Beads**
Lego & Duplo
Knex



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



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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 easyfundraising

Help us make a difference when you shop.
Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk



- 1 Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk
- 2 Sign up and search for Ponteland Primary School PTA
- 3 Your favourite brands donate between 0.5-15% to us whenever you shop with them, with no charge to you

Shop with 7,500+ brands including:

Booking.com

ebay

M&S

GROUPON

Argos

TUI

JOHN
LEWIS



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



