

Friday Flyer

20th December 2024

Headteacher Update

What a lovely end to a lovely term we've had. The children have all enjoyed their parties this week, from disco dance parties in the hall to cosy pyjama parties with a Christmas movie in the classroom, all of course, with some tasty treats. Our KS1 choir visited Grange Lea Care Home to perform carols for the residents and to give gifts of handmade stars - scroll down to see lots of happy faces. Thank you to Miss Madderson for leading the choir and organising such a special visit for the elderly residents. While we've had some festive themed learning over the week, including baking mince pies, we have also had some other exciting, non-Christmas related activities. Y3 went on a walk to drop off their inspirational pebbles around Ponteland to brighten the day of others in our community. Y1 have had a focus on careers with two of our parents who kindly volunteered to come into class to talk about their work as biomedical scientists. Our Y6 Sports Leaders took over Mr Drane's PE lessons yesterday and taught the Reception children. Mr Drane was blown away by the effort the children put in and the skill they showed. Definitely some future teachers!

In our assemblies this week we've focused on our value for December which is collaboration. We couldn't have picked a more apt value to focus on in the most festive month of the year as the children have developed their collaborative skills to great effect in putting on their Christmas performances. They understand that communication is a vital part of teamwork and that listening is just as important as talking. I'm sure they'll make good use of these skills for the rest of the year.



You may remember that back in October we collected books to send to Ukraine. These were gratefully received by the Ukrainian children and this week we received a gift in return. This morning in assembly the children enjoyed watching a video of their Ukrainian peers creating bracelets, baubles and gifts for us. We couldn't believe our eyes when we opened the magical box they had created which kept unfolding to reveal smaller and smaller boxes and more and more presents!

Speaking of gifts, thank you so much to everyone who donated a gift for our Norah's North Pole campaign which was organised by Miss Allan and the fundraising committee. Miss Smith and Mrs Wright delivered the gifts and the Norah's North Pole elves are now busy delivering lots of Santa Sacks to local children.

Last week the PTA served tea, coffee and mince pies at the Christmas performances and sold raffle tickets for two wonderful hampers, raising £522.50. Congratulations to our winners: Charlie M - Hotel du Vin hamper, Eden D - Alnwick Garden Hamper.



As we reach the end of this very busy term, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all of the staff for their hard work and the effort they put into making the children's experience at school so valuable and enjoyable. This term we have had some important accreditations which we feel very proud of: Flagship Status from Inclusion Quality Mark which recognises our inclusive approach in all aspects of school life; the Carnegie Mental Health Award which reflects the importance we place on supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our staff and pupils; the Tynedale Sport Award which celebrates our commitment to sport and providing a wide range of opportunities for our pupils to participate and compete in. And if that wasn't enough our U11 Football Team won the Pele Trust U11 league!



Finally, please open the attachment, 'A Visit from St Nicholas', which Mrs Maccoy has shared, along with some tips for reading with your child over the festive period.

I hope everyone who celebrates has a wonderful Christmas and enjoys the opportunity to spend quality time with family. We look forward to welcoming the children back into school on Monday 6th January.

Merry Christmas, Claire Johnson

Key Stage 1 Choir Carol Performance

On Tuesday afternoon our Key Stage 1 choir performed Christmas carols at Grange Lea Care Home. They sang so beautifully and the residents were thrilled to see so many lovely visitors. The children also made the residents some star decorations to give to them as a gift and the residents were very thankful. The children were even asked if they would like to come back to perform another time! They were lovely ambassadors for our school and made lots of people very happy. Well done KS1 choir!





Safeguarding Update

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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, travelling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, topping Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>

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Domestic abuse is everyone's business

You are not alone



Northumberland Integrated Domestic Abuse Support Service

- DASSN for adults (Harbour) – 01670 820199
- Children & Young People Counselling & Outreach (Acorns) - 0191 3498366
- Changing Behaviour (Harbour) - 03000 202525
- DA in Rural Areas (NDAS) – 01434 60 80 30
- DA Counselling (Cygnus Support) – 01670 853977

Visit: nland.uk/DomesticAbuse



Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	77.3%	Year 3 (Pine)	92.0%
Reception (Chestnut)	93.3%	Year 4 (Alder)	98.7%
Reception (Pinecone)	86.0%	Year 4 (Yew)	98.0%
Year 1 (Holly)	95.3%	Year 5 (Oak)	96.5%
Year 1 (Ash)	96.0%	Year 5 (Beech)	90.3%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	92.7%	Year 6 (Elm)	98.7%
Year 2 (Willow)	99.0%	Year 6 (Birch)	86.3%
Year 3 (Maple)	93.2%	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?

"If children aren't in school, it doesn't matter how effective or well-supported teaching and learning is, we will not see better outcomes for young people. That holds back our society, widens social and economic divides and leaves us all worse off." Catherine McKinnell

This week in Nursery

What a fabulous time we have had at our Christmas party, we have enjoyed lots of dancing, playing pass the parcel, corners and a snowball fight! Merry Christmas! 🎅 🎄



This week in Reception

We have had a fabulously festive week in Reception. On Tuesday we danced our hearts out at our Christmas party followed by a visit from the big man himself yesterday. We were so happy to see Santa and to find out that we were all on the good list, even the teachers! Wishing all of our lovely families a wonderful Christmas, see you next year.



This week in Year 1

We started off this week being inspired by two biomedical scientists! Ruby's parents kindly came into school to tell the Year 1 children about their careers. The children even had a look through the microscope that they use! Of course, we have all been feeling very festive in Year 1 too. We had a super Christmas party where the children danced, played games and ate some yummy snacks too. We also enjoyed a festive maths treasure hunt in the woods, delivered by one of Santa's elves who left us all a tasty Christmas treat! We are definitely in the Christmas spirit and very excited for Christmas!



This week in Year 2

The festive spirit is very much alive in Year 2 this week! We have been exploring 3D shapes in maths and as geographers we have been studying how maps have changed over time. The most exciting part of the week though has to be our Christmas party, where we got to enjoy a little boogie together in our party clothes! Thank you families at home for all of your support this half term and enjoy a wonderful Christmas break!



This week in Year 3

The busy festive period has continued right through till the last week of term! Earlier this week in Year 3, we enjoyed designing pebbles with positive affirmations, kind messages and Christmas wishes. Later in the week, we took a lovely, refreshing walk around Ponteland Park and placed our pebbles in different spots for local people to find and keep. We really hope our pebbles will put smiles on faces, make people feel cared about and spread lots of festive joy! We hope you have a wonderful Christmas and New year with your loved ones and be sure to rest where you can! See you all in the New year / term 😊



Miss Choudhury and Miss Mears

This week in Year 4

Year 4 have loved their week of festive activities! We kicked off the week with a cosy pyjama movie afternoon, wrote a recipe for a Christmas-themed s'more, used all of our maths skills to crack some Christmas puzzles (ask us which hungry reindeer ate all of Santa's carrots!) and even crammed in some time to create beautiful Christmas cards and calendars. The children have worked exceptionally hard this half term and we are all so proud of their continued effort and enthusiasm. We wish you a very merry Christmas and can't wait to see you all back in 2025!



Miss Davis, Mrs Maccoy and Mrs Bell

This week in Year 5

Christmaths.

This week we've been hard working little elves in Year 5. 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 fractions knowledge to help crack a code and find the owner of a missing Christmas jumper and been very crafty making some cards and calendars.

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!

A very Merry Christmas to you all - see you in 2025.



This week in Year 6

As well as enjoying lots of Christmas activities this week, we concluded our history topic by thinking about how Britain changed after World War II. We learned about the reasons why the British Empire declined and then completed an enquiry into the experience of the people of the Windrush Generation. We learned about why so many people moved from their home in the Caribbean to come to Britain and sadly, how many of them faced discrimination when they arrived. We also read a book called 'Coming to England' which told the story of one young girl's experience during this period.



Miss Allan and Mr Orme

Dates for your diary in 2024



6th January 2025	School resumes
Wc 24th February 2025	Half Term
Monday 3rd March 2025	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 4th March 2025	School resumes
14th April 2025	Easter Break
28th April 2025	School resumes
Monday 5th May 2025	Early May Bank Holiday
12th May - 15th May 2024	KS2 SATS Week
Wc 26th May 2024	Half Term
2nd June 2024	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 Christmas 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 items
- Shop items: till, fruit and veg baskets etc
- Metal pots and pans
- Children's gardening tools

Thank You!

Upcoming PTA Meetings

Day	Date	Time	Location	Rough Agenda
Fri	17/01/25	19.00	The Station House	PTA social night - all welcome
Wed	05/02/25	17.30	The Hive	Planning upcoming events
Wed	05/03/25	17.30	The Hive	Planning Easter events
Thur	03/04/25	17.30	The Hive	Confirming details of easter events
Wed	07/05/25	17.30	The Hive	Planning summer events



Got an itch? Tummy trouble? Tickly cough?

NHS



**Head to your
local pharmacy.**

Did you know?
Pharmacists across
the North East and
North Cumbria can
offer advice and FREE
treatment for a wide
range of common
conditions* – just like
having a prescription
from your GP!

**Please ask your
pharmacy team
for more details
and eligibility.**

UTI's non pregnant women 16–64 years

Shingles 18 years+

Impetigo 1 year+

Sore throat 5 years+

Sinusitis 12 years+

Infected insect bites 1 year+

Earache 1 to 17 years

Additional conditions can be treated, without the need to visit a GP.
Ask a member of your pharmacy team about the minor ailments scheme.

Step 1

**Go to your local community pharmacy (chemist)
about your illness and they will offer advice.**

Step 2

**If needed, you will be offered treatment and
if you qualify, this will be given free of charge.**

Step 3

A suitable medicine may be offered to you.*

*You qualify for free treatment if you do not pay for your prescriptions.



**Find further information at:
www.thinkpharmacyfirst.health**





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

Calling all amazing parents! Join the Ponteland Primary School PTA and make a real difference in your child's education! 🎉

Are you passionate about supporting your child's school and creating a nurturing learning environment? The Ponteland PTA is seeking enthusiastic parents like you to join our incredible team! ✨

By becoming a member of the Parent-Teacher Association, you'll have the opportunity to contribute to your child's school experience in a meaningful way. With your help, we raise essential funds that go beyond the school's budget, allowing us to provide valuable resources and enhance educational opportunities. 📖 ✨

We understand that time is precious, and every contribution matters. Whether you can spare just one hour or offer more of your valuable time, your involvement will make a tremendous impact. From organising fundraisers and social events to collaborating on exciting projects, there's a role for everyone. 💪 🍷
Here are just a few reasons why joining the PTA is a rewarding experience:

- 1 Active involvement:** Be an active participant in your child's education journey by collaborating with dedicated teachers, staff, and other passionate parents.
- 2 Making a difference:** Together, we can support the school's growth and help provide additional resources that benefit every child's learning experience. In June 2023, the PTA were able to donate a fantastic £10,000 towards the 2 new climbing frames that have been installed in the playground. More recently, we have been able to fund new football kits. And we love to hear new ideas to keep our fundraising activities fresh and interesting for everyone.
- 3 Building connections:** Forge new friendships with like-minded parents who share your commitment to education and community.
- 4 Fun and rewarding activities:** Get involved in exciting events, from school fairs and fundraisers to special projects that bring joy to the entire school community. We have the following events coming up that you could be involved with:
Providing refreshments at various events, for example, end of year assemblies
Pre-loved uniform (an ongoing initiative to recycle usable uniform to assist with the school's sustainability ethos)
Halloween Disco
- 5 Role modelling:** Show your child the importance of giving back and making a positive impact by actively participating in their school life.

Join us today and be part of an amazing community dedicated to empowering our children's futures! Together, we can create an extraordinary learning environment that nurtures growth and inspires success.



To express your interest or learn more about the PTA, please reach out to [✉️ pontelandpta@gmail.com](mailto:pontelandpta@gmail.com) or pass your details to school. We can't wait to welcome you!! #PontelandPTA #ParentPower

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You shop, brands donate to us. It won't cost you any extra!



 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

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