

# Friday Flyer

Friday 23rd January 2026

## Headteacher Update

Our school value this month is effort and I'm very pleased to report that at the end of the third week of this term, the children's efforts are showing no signs of abating. Each Friday since we came back we have heard, in our celebration assemblies, about the effort the children are showing in their learning and what this is leading them to achieve, from mastering tricky maths to improving their handwriting to developing their writing. Long may this continue! This month we've explored how doing your best may look different on different days and that sometimes it can feel tempting to give up if we're not seeing results. Our book of the month, 'The Magical Yet', shows that effort and resilience go hand in hand and if we add the word 'yet' to 'I can't do it', it helps us to realise that with a little more effort we'll get there in time.



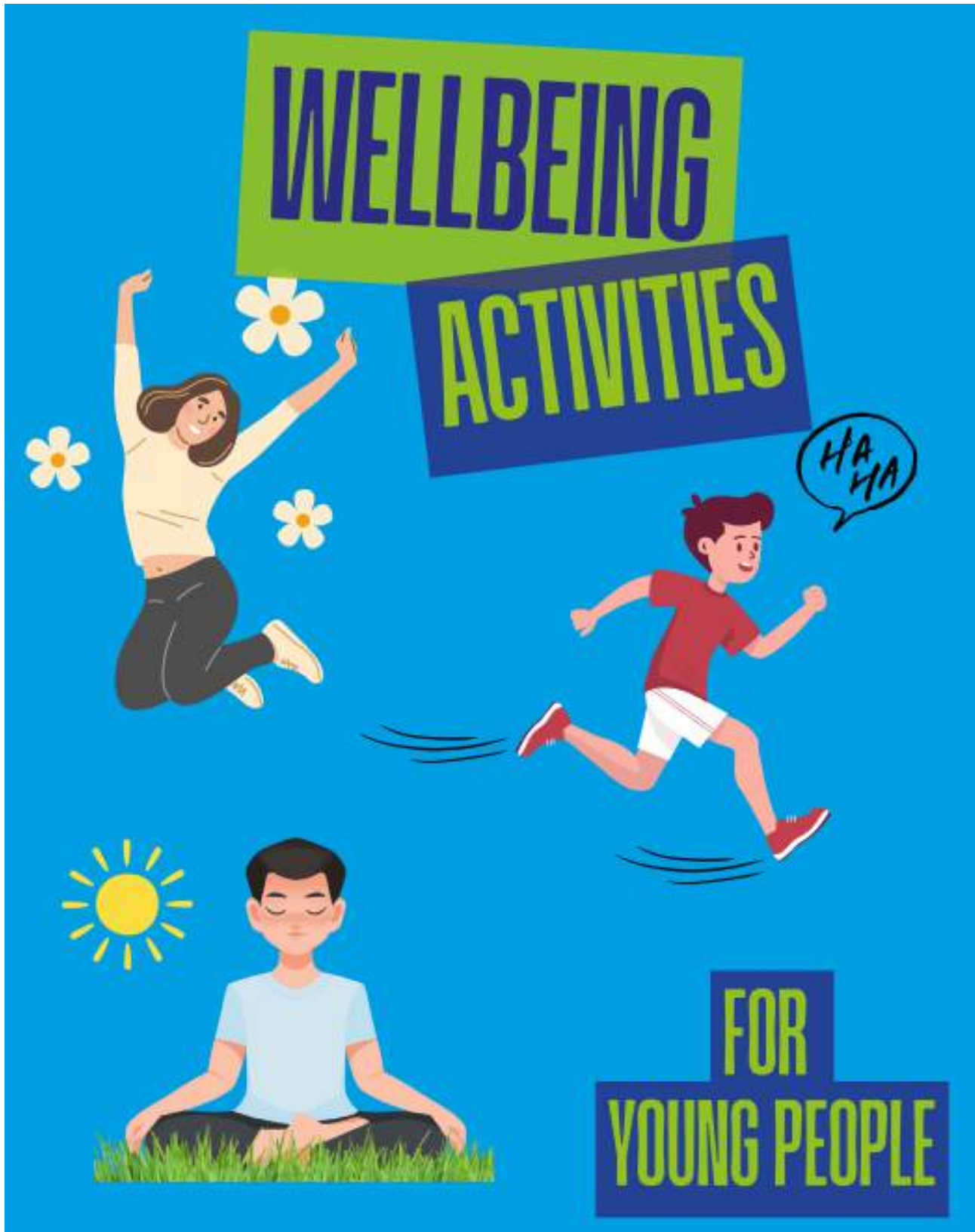
Speaking of effort, we're so proud of Immy who won her Working Hunter competition last weekend after many hours of practice. Not only did she come first in her round but was also awarded the Trinity Chambers Award which is given to a rider from the whole show whom the judge feels is a future star due to their riding skills!

And a great example of effort in school this week has been our Y6 dancers who gave up part of their lunchtime to support in Mr Smith's Y4 dance lesson; he was blown away by their creativity, excellent leadership and expertise.

Best wishes,  
Claire Johnson

## Safeguarding & wellbeing

This [link](#) will take you to a booklet with 99 ideas to promote wellbeing in children, from keeping a gratitude journal, to practising deep breathing to having a dance party. There's something there for everyone.





**At primary school, children who attend nearly every day in Year 6 (95–100% attendance) have 30% higher odds of reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to similar pupils who attend 90–95% of the time. Please work with us to help your child’s attendance stay above 95% throughout their time in primary school.**

### Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	90.2%	Year 3 (Pine)	96.0%
Reception (Chestnut)	95.3%	Year 4 (Alder)	99.7%
Reception (Pinecone)	99.0%	Year 4 ( Yew)	92.7%
Year 1 (Holly)	95.3%	Year 5 (Oak)	89.7%
Year 1 (Ash)	95.7%	Year 5 (Beech)	97.0%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	96.7%	Year 6 (Elm)	89.7%
Year 2 (Willow)	95.3%	Year 6 (Birch)	94.1%
Year 3 (Maple )	97.3%	Whole school Cumulative from Sept	95.5%

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.

# FREE RUGBY DEVELOPMENT

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
PONTELAND RFC**



**20th FEB 2026**

**PRIMARY AGES (TAG)  
9.30 - 11.30am**

**SECONDARY AGES  
12.00 - 2.00pm**



Ponteland RFC, Callerton Lane, NE20 9EG

<https://all-stars-sport.classforkids.io/cms/camps>

## This week in Nursery

Our classroom has been full of rhymes and recipes lately as we've been studying Jon Burgerman! After mastering rhyming words with the book *Rhyme Crime*, we moved on to a much tastier challenge: *How to Eat Pizza*. The children were mesmerized by our "magic powder" yeast—they couldn't believe their eyes when they saw how the dough changed overnight! We used our "super-strong" hands to shape the dough before adding sauce and cheese. The best part? Getting to eat our creations for an afternoon snack. It was a 10/10 from our budding chefs!



PIC•COLLAGE

## This week in Reception

Yesterday was our polar bear day in Reception and as well as dressing up we all donated some money to the WWF so that we could adopt our own polar bear. Over the last few weeks we have discovered that polar bears are in danger due to climate change and we are really keen to help them. We have created posters to make our friends and families aware of how they can help too.



## This week in Year 1

Year 1 has had another exciting week! In maths this week we have been tackling addition with numbers up to 20. We have been using tens frames and counters to help us and we are starting to recognise that we don't need to count from 1, if we see a tens frame that is full, then we know there is 10!

In PE we have been developing more of our dance routines with Mr Smith to the song 'can't stop the feeling'. We have worked really hard to remember the choreography and try to stay in time with the music.

We've also started learning a song for an exciting event coming up in a few weeks...stay tuned for more information soon!





## This week in Year 3

Gorillas have taken over in year 3. We've been really enjoying our learning about them and the kind of environment they live in. We've really worked hard to produce some incredible non chronological reports with all of our findings, including information about diet, habitat and the dangers they face. In art we've been exploring how gorillas look - taking into consideration their shapes and features.

We began by tracing some gorilla shapes thinking about particular angles of their body and trying to capture features like their jaw, eyes and nose. This week we were able to use ink to draw the gorilla shapes and add some details to it. We can't wait to see the end product and all the hard work you'll all be doing with Mrs Frame.



## This week in Year 4

In Computing, Year 4 have been exploring the world of image editing. The children have been learning about both ethical and unethical ways of editing photos, including the use of AI tools and Photoshop. Using the Chromebooks, they have had the opportunity to edit images for a variety of purposes, from creative projects to entertainment, while considering the impact of their changes. This has helped them develop both technical skills and an understanding of responsible digital practices.



## This Week in Year 5

### Precept-ive Pupils

This week, Year 5 has been inspired by the character Mr. Browne, diving deep into the world of R.J. Palacio's *Wonder*. Inspired by the legendary teacher's monthly mantras, we have been busy crafting our own personal precepts: guiding principles for living a life of "extraordinary" character. From the thoughtful to the hilariously practical, the classroom walls are now adorned with pearls of wisdom that prove our students are "choosing kind" even when nobody is looking. We've discovered that while Auggie Pullman had to find his courage, Year 5 has it in spades if their creations are anything to go by. It's been a week of reflection, empathy, and realising that we all have the power to be a little more than "kind" to one another.

**'When given the choice of being right or being kind, choose kind'.**

This half term, Year 5 are reading R.J. Palacio's inspirational book 'Wonder'.



Mr McCourt and Mr Tailford.

## This week in Year 6

Year 6 have continued their health and fitness PE unit on Thursday afternoons and on Mondays we have also been working on keeping fit and raising our heart rates. There is so much research that supports the theory that being physically active contributes to healthy brain function and better mental health. We did a carousel of activities that focused on cardiovascular exercise, agility and precision. It was great to get some motivational music on and push ourselves and it was lovely to see the teamwork, effort and resilience from the children on a slightly cold and blustery afternoon.



## Dates for your diary in 2026



Wc 2nd February 2026	Nursery Open Week
Mon 9th & Tue 10th Feb	Parents Evening for Reception to Year 6
Wc Mon 16th February 2026	Half Term Break
Mon 23rd February 2026	Teacher Training Day
Tue 24th February 2026	School Resumes
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day and PPS Colour your Future Day
Wed 11th March 2026	Shakespeare Performance at Northern Stage. Performance begins at 7pm and ends at 10pm
Wc 16th March 2026	Year 6 Mock SATS Week
Mon 30th March 2026	Year 6 Trip - Discovery Museum (Packed Lunches needed)
Thurs 2nd April 2026	Year 4 Trip - Locomotion Museum
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](mailto: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](mailto: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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- 1 Visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://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

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GROUPON

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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](mailto: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**



