

Friday Flyer

Friday 28th March 2025

Headteacher Update

For us, March is all about curiosity. At the start of the month, in assemblies, the children were invited to explore a topic that particularly interested them and share it with their friends. I've loved seeing the enthusiasm this has generated and Lena took it one step further and shared her curiosity with the whole school in an assembly by creating a poster about the blood moon eclipse. This then sparked the idea among other children of creating posters for our values and Lena was back in front of the whole school this morning, along with Betsy and Summer, to share posters about kindness, curiosity and respect. They said they hoped to inspire people to display those values.



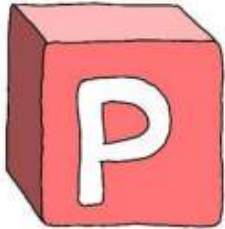
For the adults in school, curiosity is an integral part of our work and how we support children with their behaviour. We employ the PACE approach which is Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy. The curiosity element relates to the commitment to understand where a particular behaviour is coming from and why. Miss Dinning has organised for Lee Hill from the Emotional Wellbeing Team at Northumberland County Council to come into school a week on Monday (7th April) to share strategies with parents around how to de-escalate situations when a child is dysregulated and PACE will be part of this session. All parents will have received a letter inviting them along; please complete the form in the email to indicate if you plan to attend. It is a fantastic opportunity to learn from an expert and to develop consistency in strategies that can be used in school and at home. I've included in the wellbeing section below a little information about PACE which you may find useful. I can honestly say, both as a teacher and a parent, that adopting this approach is transformative in moments of dysregulation and conflict and ensures that the relationship between the adult and child is not ruptured when there are difficult challenges to navigate.

I'd like to wish all those who will be celebrating Eid a joyful and blessed festival. It has been inspirational to see the dedication and self-discipline demonstrated by our Muslim pupils who have practised fasting over the holy month of Ramadan. I hope this Eid is filled with happiness and blessings for your friends and family. Eid Mubarak!

Best wishes,
Claire Johnson

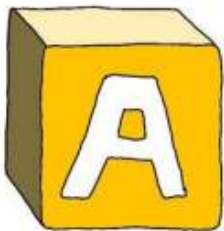


Safeguarding & wellbeing



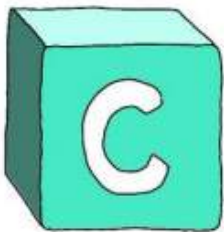
Playfulness

- Playfulness in interactions can diffuse conflict and promote connection e.g. Maintaining a relaxed 'lightness' and can involve making a joke (though this has to be done carefully)



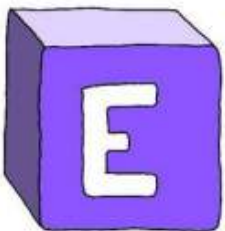
Acceptance

- Accepting needs and emotions that drive behaviour (not necessarily the behaviour) without judgement



Curiosity

- Being curious to where a behaviour has come from (in your head or out loud...)



Empathy

- Really connecting with how they are feeling and showing compassion



P.A.C.E is an approach developed by Dr Dan Hughes aimed at supporting recovery from developmental trauma. However, it can be a useful attitude to adopt with anyone who is emotionally dysregulated

Reading Top Tips

Toon Toon, Reading Army!

Newcastle United's Carabao Cup win—after a 70-year wait for a major trophy—is a huge moment for the club and the city! Tomorrow's open-top bus parade and celebration is testament to hard work, resilience and teamwork - just like reading, which can lead to big success over time.

Here's how reading makes your child a champion:



Winning mindset: Like Tonalí's quick footwork, daily reading builds sharp thinking and confidence, preparing your child for future challenges.

Never give up: Isak keeps pushing forward—your child can do the same with reading goals, whether it's finishing a chapter or a book a week. Small steps lead to big victories.

Key passes = new knowledge: Bruno Guimarães connects the team with key passes; books connect your child to new ideas, expanding their world and strengthening their understanding.

Hard work pays off: Joelinton battles tirelessly on the pitch, just as persistence in reading leads to growth, confidence, and success in school and beyond.

Game-changing effort: Dan Burn's powerful header put Newcastle in the lead and showed how extra effort makes a difference—just like pushing through a tough book. The reward of understanding a challenging story is just as satisfying as scoring a winning goal.

Guidance matters: Eddie Howe led Newcastle to victory with strategy and encouragement. Similarly, you can coach your child's reading journey, setting goals, offering support and celebrating their achievements.

Encourage reading and celebrate achievement and very soon, your child will be lifting their own reading trophy!

Let's cheer for reading like we do for Newcastle United— with pride, passion and accomplishment!

PS: Thanks to 4 Alder for their help and for their fantastic football comparisons -sorry if you're not a Newcastle supporter but you get the idea!

Mrs Maccoy



Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	94.5%	Year 3 (Pine)	94.7%
Reception (Chestnut)	96.3%	Year 4 (Alder)	95.5%
Reception (Pinecone)	96.0%	Year 4 (Yew)	96.7%
Year 1 (Holly)	99.0%	Year 5 (Oak)	97.4%
Year 1 (Ash)	98.0%	Year 5 (Beech)	98.3%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	93.3%	Year 6 (Elm)	93.7%
Year 2 (Willow)	96.7%	Year 6 (Birch)	96.0%
Year 3 (Maple)	97.4%	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?

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](#)

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 POWERGEN
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

This week in Nursery

Nursery have tried the orienteering course in our school, going on a hunt for the different animals on the orange course. When we found an animal we matched it to the one on our sheet. We all enjoyed exploring the school, even seeing friends and family along the way!



This week in Reception

We were so excited to go on our very first school trip to Scotswood Community Gardens this week! As part of our minibeasts topic, we explored the vast gardens, took part in a thrilling minibeast hunt, and discovered fascinating facts about these tiny creatures including how they are like superheroes. The children also had great fun creating their own minibeasts out of clay. They were an absolute credit to our school, and we couldn't be prouder of them!



This week in Year 1



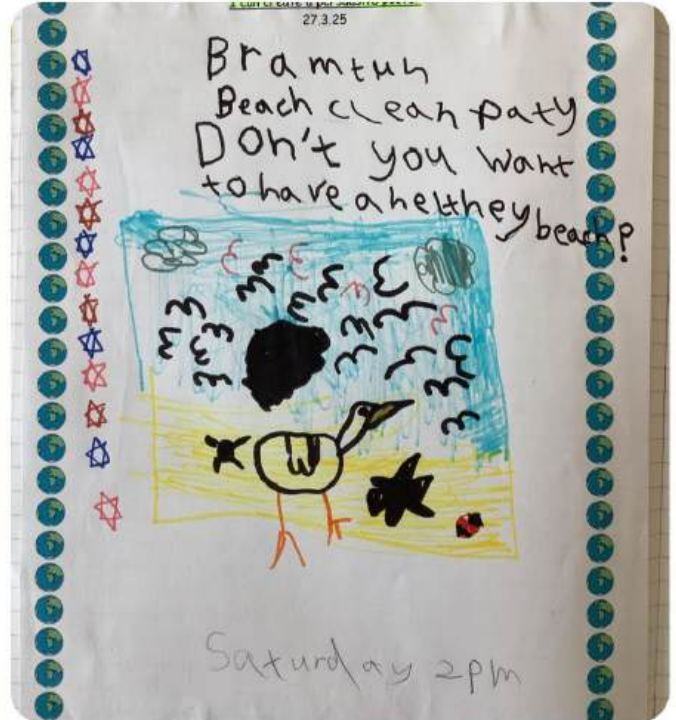
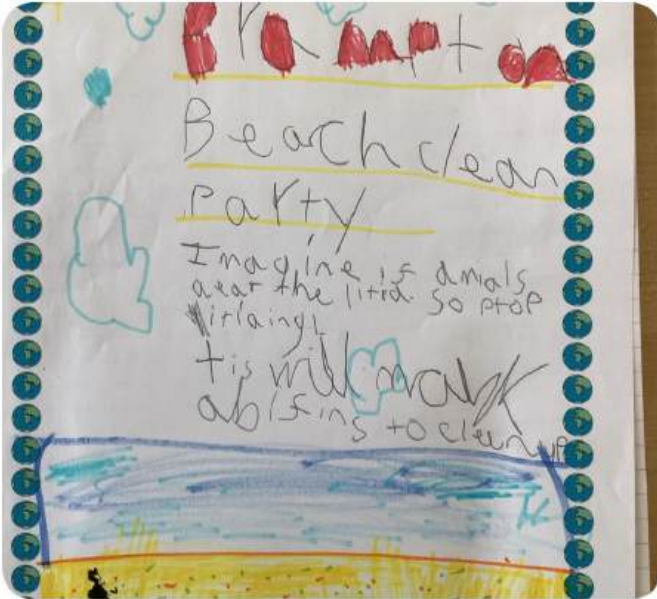
In maths lessons, the children in Year 1 have been practising their measuring skills. They used cubes, shoes and then centimetres to measure the length of different objects... and of people! The children practised using a ruler and identified the centimetre units and were able to measure lines of different lengths and draw lines of different lengths too.

Mrs Rogers and Miss Storey

This week in Year 2

Inspired by our class story, we have been learning how to be persuasive in Year 2 this week. We have practiced using emotional phrases to change people's hearts as well as their minds. To help Stella, we used some of our persuasion to create these persuasive posters. Hopefully, this will help to put an end to pollution!

Our focus text this week has been Stella and the Seagull.



This week in Year 3

This week, Year 3 had an interesting science lesson all about flowers and their importance. We learned about pollination and how it helps flowers reproduce, and the key role that pollinators like bees and butterflies play in the process. To demonstrate how pollination works, we had an idea to use Post-it notes to transfer pollen from one plant to another, which made the lesson super fun! The activity helped us understand how pollinators move pollen between flowers, making them a vital part of nature. We then worked in groups to order the different stages of the pollination process to show the life cycle of a plant (looking at the cycle anti clockwise).



This week in Year 4

Over this half term, the children have been working with Mrs Wigham, our music specialist to develop their skills using the xylophones. The children have been inspired by their previous lessons in learning recorder and composing music and have put these skills into practice. Within minutes of the lesson beginning the children were able to adapt their skills to create some beautiful music. In Geography, we investigated the relationship between the climate and the occurrence of extreme weather events. The children enjoyed looking at trends in extreme weather events on a bar graph and discussing their observations in an 'onion' oracy formation.



Miss Davis, Mrs Maccoy and Mrs Bell

This week in Year 5

A 'wheely' good time...

This week, we started a new topic in our DT lessons; over the next few lessons we will create a slingshot car. The first lessons involved building the chassis and adding the axles. It involved glueing, sticking and creating joints. By the end of the lesson, the children were able to test the chassis and see it slingshot along the classroom floor.

In the following lessons, we will add a frame to the chassis and design the car look.



Mr McCourt and Mr Tailford

This week in Year 6

This week we have been putting our new musical understanding into practise. Mrs Wigham taught us about how black slaves arrived in North America and the ways in which they adopted some of the chords that were commonly used in churches in the south to develop their own sound. That sound evolved into gospel and the blues. We used chord progressions based on F and g chords along with some extra notes which give the rhythm some bounce. We worked in pairs to develop our pieces and wowed Mrs Wigham with our skill and creativity.



Miss Allan and Mr Orme

Dates for your diary in 2025



Friday 4th April 2025	PTA Quiz Night 6.30pm
Monday 7th April	De-escalation and dysregulation training for parents
Monday 7th April 2025	Year 5 - Woodhorn Trip (Packed lunch needed)
Tuesday 8th April 2025	Year 6 Trip - Discovery Museum (Packed lunches needed)
Tuesday 8th April 2025	Year 3 Trip - Alnwick Castle (Packed lunches needed)
Tuesday 8th April 2025	Year 2 Trip - Craggside (Packed lunches needed)
Wednesday 9th April 2025	Reception Trip - Whitehouse Farm (Packed lunches needed)
Thursday 10th April 2025	Year 1 Trip - Discovery Museum (Packed lunches needed)
Friday 11th April 2025	Year 4 Trip - Locomotion Museum (Packed lunches needed)
14th April 2025	Easter Break
28th April 2025	School resumes
Monday 5th May 2025	Early May Bank Holiday
12th May - 15th May 2025	KS2 SATS Week
Wc 26th May 2025	Half Term
2nd June 2025	School resumes
23rd - 27th June 2025	Year 6 France Trip
18th July 2025	Last School Day. Close at 1.30pm

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
- Dressing up item

Shop items: till, fruit and veg baskets etc
Metal pots and pans Children's Gardening Tools



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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- 2 Sign up and search for Ponteland Primary School PTA
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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**





Do you have a child aged 0-19 years? Come along for a cuppa and chat and to meet other parents. No diagnosis needed!

JOIN US ON:

Tuesday 18th March 2025 1-3pm at Alnwick Family Hub

On St Michaels School Site, Howling Lane, NE66 1DJ

Thursday 3rd April 2025 10am-12 at Berwick Family Hub

Ladywell Place, Tweedmouth, Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 2AE

Thursday 20th March 2025 10am-12 at Hexham Family Hub

On Hexham First School Site, Beaufront Avenue, NE46 1JD

Tuesday 11th March 10am-12 at Morpeth Library

Morpeth Sports and Leisure Centre, Gas House Lane, NE61 1SR

Wednesday 2nd April 2025 1-3pm at Ashington Family Hub

Alexandra Road, NE63 9EF

Thursday 10th April 2025 10am-12 at The Community Hub at Cramlington

Forum Way, Manor Walks Shopping Centre, NE23 6YB (Next to Concordia)