

Friday Flyer

Friday 13th March 2026

Headteacher Update

What an end to the week we have had! I think one of the most special experiences we can provide our children with is the feeling of being part of a community and one of the most important lessons we can teach them is the importance of contributing to something that benefits others. Today we have been able to fulfil both of those aims as the entire school came out in force to support one of our parents as he ran through Ponteland as part of a 4 week challenge to raise money for Pancreatic Cancer Research. Running from John O'Groats to Lands End, Stephen is now roughly halfway through his incredible endeavour and we hope that the cheers from the Ponteland Primary School community has given him an enormous morale boost to fuel him on the rest of his journey. Thank you to all the parents who also came out to show their support. If anyone is interested in following Stephen's route as he continues on down the country, then you can do so via [this link](#) and if you would like to make a donation to the charity, Stephen's JustGiving page can be found [here](#).



This week also brought the opportunity to engage with another community: The Coram Schools Shakespeare Festival along with peers from other Pele Trust primary schools. Directed by Miss Davis, Miss Mears and Mr Armstrong, our Year 5 and 6 cast has been rehearsing for four months to perform Romeo and Juliet at the Northern Stage in Newcastle. And what a performance it was! I was blown away by the acting talent of the children, not to mention their ability to remember lengthy and challenging Shakespearean lines! In the course of rehearsing and performing, the children have demonstrated so many of our school values and I could not be prouder of the commitment and the dedication they have shown. I know I was not the only proud adult in the audience last night as lots of parents shared how impressed they were by the performance and there were beams of pride everywhere I looked. As with all of the extra-curricular activities on offer, this experience wouldn't have been possible with the commitment and dedication from the staff too - I don't underestimate the pressure it must be to direct a stage-worthy performance and I'm so grateful to Mr Armstrong, Miss Mears and Miss Davis for giving their time so generously. As you can see from the photos below, this is an experience none of the children will ever forget.



Best wishes,

Claire Johnson

Safeguarding & wellbeing

A reminder that the consultation I shared last week on raising the age of social media will run for the next 3 months. While MPs, this week, rejected a ban on social media for under 16s, this does not mean the final decision has been made. Once the consultation concludes, the government will:

- Review evidence and submissions
- Decide what policy to introduce
- Bring legislation to parliament

Hearing from parents via the [consultation](#) will help inform the decision the government will make.

For inspiration, read Smartphone Free Childhood's manifesto [here](#).



I love what Smartphone Free Childhood are doing, because I believe this is the most urgent public health issue of our time. It's not just a parent issue, it's a human issue.

Dr Rangan Chatterjee
SFC Ambassador



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)	94.1%	Year 3 (Pine)	97.0%
Reception (Chestnut)	93.7%	Year 4 (Alder)	97.4%
Reception (Pinecone)	98.7%	Year 4 (Yew)	98.7%
Year 1 (Holly)	98.0%	Year 5 (Oak)	91.3%
Year 1 (Ash)	96.3%	Year 5 (Beech)	98.7%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	98.3%	Year 6 (Elm)	98.7%
Year 2 (Willow)	97.0%	Year 6 (Birch)	94.5%
Year 3 (Maple)	96.0%	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.

This week in Nursery

Spring has arrived in nursery! We found signs of spring in the woods and planted our own sunflower seeds. We look forward to seeing them grow.



This week in Reception

Earlier this week, Alex from Northumberland Wildlife Trust visited to launch our minibeast topic. She shared lots of fascinating facts and brought along a honey bee nest, some honey and bumble bees to observe, as well as an empty chrysalis and some dragonfly wings. We then headed into the forest to hunt for minibeasts and discovered spiders, slugs, worms, woodlice, centipedes and millipedes. We have also been enjoying our core text, Christopher's Caterpillars, learning about the caterpillar life cycle and growing our very own butterflies in class! 🐛🦋



This week in Year 1

What a fantastic week of discovery we've had in Year 1! In Maths, the children have been busy exploring the concepts of length and height. We have been putting our measurement skills to the test by comparing everything from our own heights to the length of our shoes! Using hands-on tools like cubes, we've practiced ordering objects from tallest to smallest and learning how to measure accurately. In English, the children have been focusing on verbs, identifying these "doing words" and finding creative ways to weave them into their sentences.

A special highlight this week was both Ash and Holly Class, where students enjoyed a chilly surprise! Thanks to our recent Golden Ticket winner, the whole class celebrated with an ice pop treat. It was the perfect mid week treat!



Miss Storey, Mrs Kenyon and Mrs Tailford

This week in Year 2

We visited the book fair this week and had a look at what was on offer.

We always love stories in Year 2, so it was a real treat to get our hands on some new titles.



Still enjoying the rewards of the PTA's Wonker Bars, we were also treated to some ice pops in the sun, thanks to some lucky Golden Ticket winners.

In the classroom this week, we have been inspired by our class story, *Stella and the Seagull* by Georgina Stevens. We wrote our own beachside stories with this lovely description created by our very own Lilly.

"I love living by the sea. When I look, I can see emerald fish swimming smoothly in the sea. Golden sand tickles my toes while I see the horizon. Crunchy, green seaweed makes me smile. Glistening, beautiful stars shimmer at night. A breezy clear sky warms my face. I jump into the ocean and every day a new-born smile appears on my face. But the real sparkle of my day, the moment when my heart beats faster, is when my little friend is here with me."

Mrs Nowosielska and Mr Massey

This week in Year 3

We have had a busy week this week. We are so proud of some of the boys and girls in year three who were selected to go to a school games event for dodgeball - they all participated well, collaborated and showed respect to all of the staff who facilitated and supported the event. Other highlights have included visiting the book fair and cheering on Stephen Little on his running route from John O'Groats to Lands End and we wish him luck as he continues his journey.

On Monday the children of year 3 put to test some of their den building ideas they have developed in previous DT lessons. We had considered resources available, planned a den and then showed our collaborative skills to build. Some elements that were tricky were navigating space and trying to tie tarp and rope tightly. On the whole the dens were spacious, had a cover that was waterproof and had an entrance. Next, we are going to reflect and consider what we might have done differently or may have needed.



Miss Mears and Mr Shaw

This week in Year 4

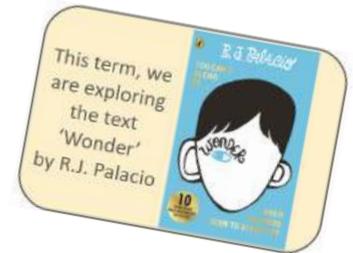
This week in Design and Technology, Year 4 began a new project: designing their own torches! The children revisited their prior learning about electricity from the autumn term, recalling how simple circuits work and the role of components such as batteries, wires and bulbs. They then started to think like designers, planning torches that would be practical, easy to use and appealing. The class showed great creativity as they sketched their ideas and considered how their designs could be put together. We're looking forward to developing these ideas further in the coming weeks!



This Week in Year 5

Having a Ball

Year 5 have had a great start to PE this term and testing their Invasion Games skills in rugby and basketball. We were lucky enough to have Ponteland RFC give us some taster sessions in week 1 and 2 for rugby. We've made the most of some rare sunshine and been channelling our inner LeBron James in basketball too.



The children have been practicing how to keep their heads up while dribbling - a tricky skill that ensures they can spot a teammate ready for a pass. From crisp chest passes to tactical bounce passes, it's been fantastic to see their hand-eye coordination improve with every session.



This week in Year 6

Mr Drane has been putting year 6 through their paces as they begin their new PE topic: basketball. The children have practiced passing, dribbling and shooting as well as in-game tactics, how to create space and the best ways to attack the opposing teams basket or defend their own. As ever, the children have shown resilience, effort and great sportsmanship. The skills they learn about this invasion game will help them as they develop their skills in hockey on Monday afternoons with Mr Orme. Alley oop!



Miss Allan and Mr Orme

Dates for your diary in 2026



Wc 16th March 2026	Year 6 Mock SATS Week
Mon 23rd March 2026	Year 6 - France Parents Information Meeting. 5pm in school
Wed 25th March 2026	All Day Danceathon - Come to school in standard PE kit
Fri 27th March 2026	Rocksteady Concert - 1.15pm & 2.15pm
Mon 30th March 2026	Year 6 Trip - Discovery Museum (Packed lunches needed)
Mon 30th March 2026	Year 5 Trip - Woodhorn Museum (Packed lunch needed)
Tue 31st March 2026	Year 3 Trip - Alnwick Castle (Packed lunch needed)
Tue 31st March 2026	Year 2 Trip - Cragside (Packed lunch needed)
Thurs 2nd April 2026	Year 4 Trip - Locomotion Museum
Thurs 2nd April 2026	Reception Trip - Whitehouse Farm (Packed lunch needed)
Thurs 2nd April 2026	Year 1 Trip - Baltic (Packed lunch needed)
Easter Break 2026	School closed on Good Friday 3rd April 2026
Mon 20th April 2026	School Resumes
Mon 4th May 2026	Bank Holiday Monday - School Closed
Thur 11th June 2026	Reception - Great North Museum Visit (AM only)
Wc 25th May 2026	May Half Term - School Closed
Mon 1st June 2026	School Resumes
Fri 17th July 2026	Last day of school - 1.30pm finish

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



