

# Friday Flyer

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## Headteacher Update

I'm not sure I have the right words to do justice to how brilliant our Colour your Future project has been this week! We combined World Book Day with National Careers Week to give the children an opportunity to explore their ideas and aspirations for their future. Nursery and Reception made an early start with their careers afternoon on Tuesday when they rotated around a carousel of doctors, police officers and an army sergeant! Yesterday the rest of school joined the fun with an incredible 30 workshops to choose from across the morning. The children explored (fake) blood with a biomedical scientist, engaged in a heated debate about whether Jaffa Cakes are cakes or biscuits with expert training from a lawyer, filled prescriptions (of Smarties) with a pharmacist and set off the sirens on both a police van and fire engine! They are just a few of the wonderful opportunities the children had to learn about the world of work thanks to our amazing parents (and friends) who donated their time so generously to create this experience. I can't thank you enough for the effort you all put into the morning (and the preparation beforehand); I hope you could see how much the children enjoyed and learned from it and I hope you left feeling as uplifted by the event as we did. While the event wouldn't have been possible without all of the professionals who led workshops, it wouldn't have been the incredible success it was without Mrs Frame's extraordinary powers of organisation! Massive thanks to her for her passion and drive to create such a fantastic opportunity for the children.

My next thanks go to Mr Massey for finding the perfect book to weave our careers project into World Book Day. 'What do you do with an Idea?' was the ideal stimulus to encourage the children to think creatively about their futures, building on their inspiring careers morning, while celebrating reading and storytelling. Mr Massey shared the powerful message that we can all be authors - not only of books, but of our own lives and the children explored how our skills, personalities and gifts help us to 'colour our future' and how the choices we make shape what we do next. Yesterday the children all created their own mini book, showcasing their ideas for their future and I look forward to sharing a photo of the display of books capturing the colours of everyone's futures soon!

In a week of great excitement, perhaps the most special part for our Early Years children was their siblings coming to read with them as part of our World Book Day celebrations. You just can't beat snuggling up with a book and reading with someone you love!

On that note, our Scholastic Book Fair is perfectly timed as it arrives next week so please pop along before or after school to pick up a book and in doing so earn free books for school!





Not only are the Friends of Ponteland Primary (FPPS) masters of fundraising but they also create magical experiences for the children and last week's Wonker Bars initiative was exactly that. There was such a buzz among the children as they talked about their golden ticket prizes and there is now so much excitement for forest school sessions, class discos and being the teacher for 30 minutes! I'm looking forward to hot chocolates with golden ticket winners over the next couple of weeks! I'd like to thank our fabulous FPPS for both the idea and the masses of work that went into organising and selling the Wonker Bars and to Mrs

Blyth and Miss Smith for all of their help - what a team!

Best wishes,

Claire Johnson

## Sporting Achievements

It has been a week of sport for Key Stage 2 as lots of children participated in football tournaments. Thank you so much to Mr Tailford, Mr Drane and Mr Orme for their coaching and the huge amounts of planning to make these events possible.

We celebrated all of the teams in assembly this morning and had a special trophy lifting from our Y4 Boys' Team who brought home the champion's trophy from their Newcastle School for Boys tournament at Goals!



## Safeguarding & wellbeing

An update from the Smartphone Free Childhood Campaign:

This week the government launched its three-month consultation on raising the age of social media to 16. This moment didn't happen by accident. It happened because of parents across the country, (including those in our school).

Six weeks ago, a quarter of a million people wrote to their MPs in just five days.

The government listened.

**Now we have the opportunity to make sure this consultation leads to real change.**

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

Share your views [here](#).



## Opportunity for community action



**NEWBIGGIN MARITIME Centre**

**BRITISH DIVERS MARINE LIFE RESCUE**

# COMMUNITY BEACH CLEAN UP

Join us for a community beach clean-up and make a difference for our environment, marine life, and future generations.

 **Friday, April 10, 2026**  
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

 **MEET UNDER THE SAIL @ NEWBIGGIN MARITIME CENTRE**

**What to Expect**

- Gloves, bags, and supplies provided
- Refreshments
- Certificate of participation for the children

**REGISTER VIA EMAIL! >>>**



Email Us  
[enquiry@nmcentre.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@nmcentre.org.uk)



Contact Us  
01670811951



**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)	92.3%	Year 3 (Pine)	95.7%
Reception (Chestnut)	96.3%	Year 4 (Alder)	96.8%
Reception (Pinecone)	100%	Year 4 ( Yew)	95.0%
Year 1 (Holly)	96.7%	Year 5 (Oak)	96.1%
Year 1 (Ash)	95.7%	Year 5 (Beech)	97.3%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	98.7%	Year 6 (Elm)	96.8%
Year 2 (Willow)	96.0%	Year 6 (Birch)	96.2%
Year 3 (Maple )	98.7%	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

Miss Azam has shared with us how she celebrates Ramadan. After listening to a story about Ramadan, we tried dates and practised saying a prayer. We then practised thinking at being kind and using our manners.



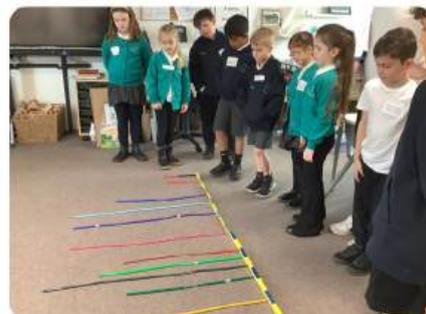
## This week in Reception

Phew, what a busy week we've had in EYFS! To celebrate National Careers Week, we were delighted to welcome some of our wonderful parents into school to share their jobs with the children. We heard from doctors, police officers and an army sergeant. The children loved learning about the different roles and really enjoyed taking part in the activities.



## This week in Year 1

It has been an action-packed week of exploration for our Year 1 stars! We kicked things off with an inspiring Careers Week, meeting lots of different adults and learning all about their exciting jobs. In Literacy, our imaginations ran wild as we used brilliant adjectives to describe a giant's house, inspired by our core text, Grandad's Secret Giant. Our young geographers turned into detectives by identifying our school grounds on aerial maps, while in Music, we put our ears to the test by identifying percussion instruments by their sounds alone! Finally, in Maths, we've been busy mastering our numbers up to 50 and confidently finding one more and one less. We are so proud of all the hard work and curiosity shown this week!



## This week in Year 2

What do you do with an idea? You change the world! Inspired by our World Book Day story, we considered what our futures could look like. We then collaborated to create a tiny town - the tiny town that we could build with all of our future careers.



We even managed to enjoy a book in the sun.



Mrs Nowosielska and Mr Massey

## This week in Year 3

It has been an incredibly busy and inspiring week in Year 3! In English, we began our new story, *The Great Kapok Tree*, which instantly captured the children's imaginations. They used their new knowledge of the rainforest to lead insightful and empathetic discussions about animal habitats and conservation. This love for reading continued as we celebrated World Book Day with the story *What Do You Do With an Idea?*, encouraging everyone to cherish their unique thoughts. In Maths, the children showed fantastic resilience and determination while mastering the tricky skill of flexible partitioning to find multiples. A real highlight was our Careers Day on Thursday, the classroom was filled with a wonderful buzz as the children took part in workshops led by visiting professionals to learn about various exciting jobs. To wrap up this super week, our young scientists set up a practical investigation to observe the specific conditions plants need to grow. Well done on a brilliant week, Year 3!



## This week in Year 4

We had a truly inspiring day at school this week as our students took part in Colour Your Future Day, a special event dedicated to exploring the world of work and the endless possibilities that lie ahead.

The morning was filled with curiosity and discovery as students "visited" a variety of professional roles right here on site. From the technical precision of Maths and Engineering to the creative reach of music and writing, the children engaged with the skills needed to succeed in diverse careers. It was wonderful to see them asking insightful questions and imagining themselves as the vets, pilots, and innovators of tomorrow.

In the afternoon, the energy shifted from exploration to creativity and leadership. Each student was tasked with identifying their "Dream Job" and building a professional presentation using Google Slides.

We were blown away by their ability to:

- **Research & Curate:** Finding the key tools and skills needed for their chosen paths.
- **Design with Impact:** Using digital tools to create visually engaging slides.
- **Speak with Confidence:** Presenting their future visions to their peers with passion and clarity.

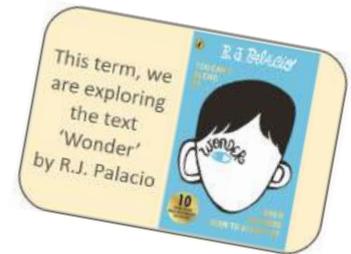


## This Week in Year 5

### Careering into our futures...

This week, Year 5 took part in Thursday's "Colour Your Future" day — and what an inspiring experience it was!

In the lead-up to the event, the children each selected two careers they were particularly interested in exploring. To make things even more exciting, they were also given two surprise *wild card* careers to investigate, encouraging them to think beyond their usual choices.



On the day itself, Year 5 visited a range of activities and were buzzing with curiosity as they learned about different jobs and career pathways. It was wonderful to see them asking thoughtful questions and imagining what their own futures might look like.

We hope the children came away feeling inspired and full of new ideas about the many possibilities open to them in the years ahead.



## This week in Year 6

This week, as part of our World Book Day celebrations, Year 6 explored our whole-school text *What Do You Do With an Idea?* The children reflected on how ideas have shaped and changed the world, linking their thinking to our previous learning about scientific pioneers such as Benjamin Franklin and Charles Darwin.

Inspired by the book, the children then developed their own imaginative inventions designed to solve real-world problems. Working with a partner, they created persuasive 'Dragon's Den' style sales pitches to present their ideas. We were treated to some truly ingenious creations, but Miss Allan's favourite was a hair-styling tool that could wash, dry, and style your hair in just two minutes. For obvious reasons, this one didn't quite win over Mr Orme.

The session was a fantastic opportunity for children to develop their creativity, oracy and persuasive language skills.



## Dates for your diary in 2026



Monday 9th March 2026	North East Education Trust visit for Reception - Minibeasts
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 23rd March 2026	Year 6 - France Parents Information Meeting. 5pm in school
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
Thur 11th June 2026	Reception - Great North Museum Visit (Packed lunches needed)

## 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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# 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**



