

Friday Flyer

Thursday 2nd April 2026

Headteacher Update

We've reached the end of another busy term and I think we have all very much welcomed the change in the weather which has brought with it opportunities to start introducing some of our spring / summer OPAL offer at lunchtimes with children enjoying playing on the field. Let's hope the sunshine continues after the Easter break!



We held our annual Made in the North East Week over the last four days; I hope you enjoy reading below about the fantastic work our children have been doing as they've learned about our local history and celebrated our rich heritage. From studying the region's pioneers who changed the world, such as George Stephenson, to exploring our industrial roots, it has been an inspiring week of discovery.

To bring our local history to life, every year group ventured out across the region for hands-on learning with the trips heavily subsidised by the Friends of Ponteland Primary School to enable costs to stay as low as possible for families - thank you so much for the fundraising which makes this possible.

Made in the North East Week has been a wonderful opportunity for the children to connect with the people and places that have shaped our part of the world and hopefully they have come home and shared their learning with you.

I hope everyone enjoys the bank holidays and finds some time to relax over the break. Happy Easter to all who celebrate!

Best wishes,
Claire Johnson

Safeguarding & wellbeing



Easter Reading



Regular reading helps children keep up their confidence, fluency and enjoyment—even during the holidays. The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) highlights that “reading comprehension strategies are high impact for very low cost,” especially when reading is purposeful and enjoyable.

Here are a few ways to keep reading going over Easter:

- Read together daily – a bedtime story or shared reading supports vocabulary and understanding.
- Follow a recipe – reading and following instructions supports real-world literacy -try this Easter egg cheesecake recipe!

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/cheesecake-filled-easter-eggs>

- Let children choose what to read – comics, joke books, magazines and non-fiction all count.
- Encourage reading for a reason and get some fresh air – try our school Easter scavenger hunt.
- Use audiobooks – they can help children enjoy stories independently and support listening comprehension. The National Literacy Trust reports that audiobooks can reduce stress, increase motivation to read and boost access for children who find reading challenging.
- Talk about what they’ve read – conversation supports understanding and enjoyment.

Happy Easter and Happy Reading!





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)	95.7%	Year 3 (Pine)	97.1%
Reception (Chestnut)	99.3%	Year 4 (Alder)	86.3%
Reception (Pinecone)	95.8%	Year 4 (Yew)	98.3%
Year 1 (Holly)	91.7%	Year 5 (Oak)	87.5%
Year 1 (Ash)	97.5%	Year 5 (Beech)	99.6%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	95.8%	Year 6 (Elm)	92.7%
Year 2 (Willow)	98.3%	Year 6 (Birch)	92.7%
Year 3 (Maple)	92.5%	Whole school Cumulative from Sept	95.6%

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 Reception

Our focus in Reception for Made in the North East week has been on farming. We have learnt all about why farming is so important in the North East and how farming has changed over the years. - in EYFS we talk about 'past' and 'present' in our history work. The highlight of our week was undoubtedly our trip to Whitehouse Farm where we had a wonderful day. We had a tractor ride, fed lots of animals including brand new lambs, played in the soft play and we even met a corn snake called Alvin.



Mrs Blyth and Mrs Adamson

This week in Year 1

What a spectacular week our Year 1 engineers have had! This week, we traded our pencils for blueprints as we dove headfirst into the fascinating world of bridges in the North East. We focused on the iconic Quayside, exploring the incredible structures that connect our communities.

To help us grasp the history of our skyline, we created bridge timelines. The children were amazed to discover the age gap between the historic High Level Bridge and the Millennium Bridge. We are now experts at identifying the oldest and newest landmarks on the river!

We also had a sticky structural challenge! Using only spaghetti and marshmallows, the children worked in teams to build miniature bridges. This helped us understand how triangles make shapes stronger and why some bridges can hold more weight than others.

We finished our week with an exciting stroll along the Quayside. Seeing the scale of the Tyne Bridge and the Swing Bridge in person brought our classroom learning to life. The children were fantastic explorers, spotting the different materials and designs we had discussed all week.



Miss Storey, Mrs Kenyon and Mrs Tailford

This week in Year 2

Made in the North East Week has been a real celebration of our local history. This week, we have learned about how inventions from the North East have affected society. We learned about William Armstrong and his hydro-electricity and even visited his house at Cragside, which was the first house in the world to be powered by hydro-electricity. Back in the classroom, we learned about the history of Greggs bakery, and even got to make (and eat) our own pasties!



Mrs Nowosielska and Mr Massey

This week in Year 3

What a spectacular "Made in the North East" week we've had in Year 3! We kicked things off by exploring the world of castle defences, uncovering exactly why these fortresses needed such heavy protection. The clear highlight of our week was Tuesday's trip to Alnwick Castle, where history truly came to life; the children had an unforgettable day experiencing medieval life, re-enacting the great historic battles between Scotland and England, and even meeting a real life knight! We rounded off our learning by categorising different types of castles and discovering the unique history of local pele towers. It has been a truly royal end to the term, and the children's enthusiasm has been wonderful to see. I wish you all a very well deserved Easter break and look forward to welcoming everyone back for a sun-filled summer term!



Miss Mears and Mr Shaw

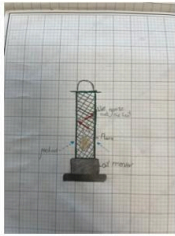
This week in Year 4

Year 4 had a wonderful day at the Locomotion Museum, where they enjoyed exploring the fascinating world of steam trains and engineering. They learned all about George Stephenson and his incredible contributions to railway history, discovering how his ideas helped shape the way we travel today. The children loved seeing the impressive locomotives up close and took part in exciting activities that brought engineering to life. It was a fun and inspiring day, full of learning, curiosity, and plenty of smiles.

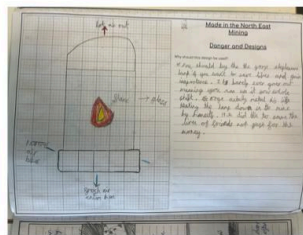


This Week in Year 5

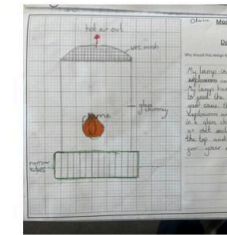
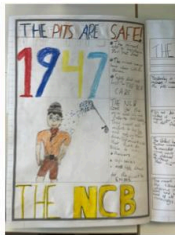
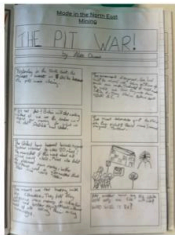
Mine-d Blowing Learning!



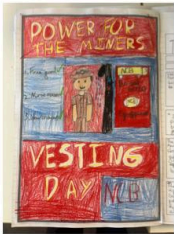
This week, Year 5 took part in **Made in the North East Week**, with a focus on the region's rich mining history. It was a busy and fascinating week, full of learning about life in the mines and the communities that grew around them.



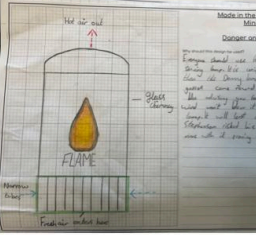
We began with a visit to **Woodhorn Museum**, where the children explored mining disasters, discovered what life was like underground, and learned about the events of the miners' strikes. The visit gave us a powerful insight into the lives of miners and their families, and the children asked some thoughtful and reflective questions throughout the day.



Back at school, we continued our learning by exploring the topic in more depth. We found out about the different jobs in the mines, how children once worked underground, and the strong sense of community that existed in mining villages.



Inspired by what we had learned, the children produced a range of creative work, including writing, artwork, and even poetry based on mining life. It was wonderful to see their understanding and empathy reflected in their work.



What a fantastic week celebrating North Eastern heritage and learning more about the people and history that helped shape our region.



Dates for your diary in 2026



Easter Break 2026	School closed on Good Friday 3rd April 2026
Mon 20th April 2026	School Resumes
Fri 24th April 2026	PTA Family Bingo and fun games. £3/ticket. Starts at 4pm. On sale soon!
Mon 4th May 2026	Bank Holiday Monday - School Closed
Fri 5th June 2026	PTA Quiz Night. £10 per ticket, includes food and quiz entry. Games, raffle and drinks are also on sale!
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
Wed 1st July 2026	PTA Joke Competition. £1 entry. Write out your funniest joke and submit to win a prize!
Fri 3rd July 2026	PTA Summer Fair. Starts 3.10pm until 5pm.
Fri 17th July 2026	Last day of school - 1.30pm finish

FREE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES THIS EASTER AT PONTELAND LEISURE CENTRE

Ponteland Town Council are funding several sessions at Ponteland Leisure Centre including the 3G pitch, MUGA, indoor sports hall and soft play. Children can come along with their friends and have some fun.

FRIDAY 10 th APRIL	9 am until 12 noon	1 pm until 4 pm
	3G PITCH	INDOOR SPORTS HALL
	INDOOR SPORTS HALL	
	SOFT PLAY	

TUESDAY 14 th APRIL	9 am until 12 noon	1 pm until 4 pm
	MUGA	MUGA
	INDOOR SPORTS HALL	INDOOR SPORTS HALL

A sports coach will be available in some sessions, but places are limited and on a first come first served basis during the session times.

Other spaces will be available on an unsupervised basis up to the maximum number of places available.

Please can anyone attending these sessions 'check in' at reception so we can allocate you a band for your session. These must be returned to reception when you leave.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT;

PONTELAND TOWN COUNCIL
Telephone 01661 825092
or email enquiries@ponteland-tc.gov.uk

OR ASK AT THE RECEPTION DESK AT
PONTELAND LEISURE CENTRE.



Ponteland Town Council



We are creating active places and healthy
People for Communities to thrive
Because Community Matters

Ponteland Town Council and Places Leisure accept no responsibility for any injury, accidents or losses during these activities. Participating in these activities is entirely at the users own risk.

Autism Family Drop in

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 21st April 2026, 10am - 12pm:

Hexham Family Hub, Hexham First School, Beaufront Avenue, NE46 1JD

Tuesday 28th April 2026, 10am - 12pm:

Blyth Central Family Hub, 103 Wright Street, Blyth, NE24 1HG

Wednesday 29th April 2026, 1pm-3pm:

Ashington Family Hub, Alexandra Road, Ashington, NE63 9EF

Tuesday 5th May 2026, 1pm-3pm

Cramlington Community Hub, Forum Way, Manor Walks, NE23 6YB (next to Concordia)

Wednesday 6th May 2026, 1pm-3pm:

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

Thursday 14th May 2026, 10am-12pm:

The Lindisfarne Centre, 30 Lindisfarne Road, Alnwick, NE66 1AU

Monday 18th May 2026, 1pm - 3pm:

Morpeth Golf Club, Loansdean, NE61 2BT

Evening session:

Tuesday 19th May 2026, 5pm - 6:30pm:

Morpeth Golf Club, Loansdean, NE61 2BT



West Northumberland Family Hubs

What's On in the **EASTER** Holidays 2026



Prudhoe Family Hub

Tuesday 7th April

Baby Stay and Play
(ages 0-18 months)
10-11am

Thursday 9th April

Family Stay and Play
(All ages) 10-11am

Tuesday 14th April

Baby Stay and Play
(ages 0-18 months)
10-11am

SEND Safe Space
(All ages, additional needs and disabilities)
1-3pm

Thursday 16th April

Family Stay and Play
(All ages) 10-11am

Hexham Family Hub

Wed 8th April

Family Stay and Play
(All ages) 10-11am

Tuesday 14th April

Calm Family Stay and Play
(All ages, additional needs and disabilities)
1.15-2.15pm

Wed 15th April

Family Stay and Play
(All ages) 10-11am

Thursday 16th April

SEND Safe Space
(All ages, additional needs and disabilities)
10am-12pm

Haltwhistle Family Hub

Friday 10th April

Family Stay and Play
(All ages) 10-11.30am

Monday 13th April

Sensory Stay & Play
(ages 0-18 months)
10-11am

Tuesday 14th April

Family Stay and Play
(All ages) 1-2pm

Friday 17th April

Go Outside & Play at Walltown Country Park
Greenhead, CA8 7HZ
(All ages) 10.30am-2pm

Bellingham Family Hub

Over the Easter break our team are focusing on moving to the new Family Hub in Bellingham! We'll be working hard to get this ready to welcome families soon!



Become a Family Hub Member!
Scan the QR code or visit

nland.cc/fhreg



Find us online!
Scan the QR code or visit

nland.cc/familyhubs



Find us on Facebook & Instagram

@WestFamilyHubs



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 the Friends of Ponteland Primary School?

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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- 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

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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

20-59-61

20669059



