

Friday Flyer

Friday 24th April 2026

Headteacher Update

In light of the glorious sunshine we've had this week I'm finding it impossible to resist the very British trait of commenting on the weather! It has been so lovely to be able to have the children out on the field at lunchtimes and in assembly this morning, Miss Dinning shared some exciting OPAL developments which we can roll out now that the weather has improved. From next week, we will be opening different zones around the field to allow the children opportunities to play with wheeled toys as well as taking part in some traditional school games like rounders. One of the things that has struck me while I've been out at lunchtimes this week is how well the children mix across school with older and younger children playing together. Whether it's with the bats and balls or relaxing on the beanbags in the sunshine, I've loved seeing our KS2 pupils supporting and encouraging the KS1 children.

At the end of last half term, in a meeting with the Y6 Junior Leadership Team where we were discussing their ideas for school, Jesse made the suggestion of a cookery club as he feels very strongly that children should understand the importance of eating well and should be able to prepare simple meals to stay healthy. I tasked him with preparing for a meeting with Mr Bell, Mr Rowe and Mrs George who lead our catering team and just before we broke up Jesse delivered a very powerful presentation to persuade them to set up a cookery club. At the start of this week Jesse, along with the rest of the Junior Leadership Team, met with Mr Bell and Laura who is going to run the club to discuss the finer details. The team will work with Mr Bell and Laura over the coming weeks to plan the club and it will be launched straight after half term. Watch this space!



I hope everyone has a lovely weekend - the gorgeous weather is forecast to continue!

Claire Johnson

Safeguarding & wellbeing


An update from Smartphone Free Childhood:





Protect our kids from harmful social media

The government's consultation on children and social media closes soon.

What we're calling for is simple:

 Under 16s protected from unsafe platforms

 Responsibility on tech companies – not parents

 No safety = no access to our kids.

Sign the petition [here!](#)





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)	95.2%	Year 3 (Pine)	97.7%
Reception (Chestnut)	98.3%	Year 4 (Alder)	98.7%
Reception (Pinecone)	95.3%	Year 4 (Yew)	88.7%
Year 1 (Holly)	97.7%	Year 5 (Oak)	93.9%
Year 1 (Ash)	95.0%	Year 5 (Beech)	98.6%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	95.7%	Year 6 (Elm)	93.2%
Year 2 (Willow)	97.6%	Year 6 (Birch)	97.9%
Year 3 (Maple)	95.7%	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 Nursery

After reading the story *The Dandelion Seed* we headed to the school field to find some dandelions. We each picked 3 or 4 dandelions before bringing them back to school and picking off their yellow petals. We then boiled them in some water, added lemon, a sprinkle of sugar and water to make dandelion juice. We all enjoyed it, yum!



This week in Reception

The children have returned to school raring to go and we have loved our focus on our spine book, Supertato. We have had so much fun designing and creating our own Super Veggies, creating a wanted poster for the Evil Pea, creating a supermarket role play, writing speech bubbles for the characters, painting them and measuring real vegetables. We have also introduced the children to Rainbow Challenges which they can complete in their discovery time and they have very much risen to the challenge.



Mrs Blyth and Mrs Adamson

This week in Year 1

It has been an action-packed week of discovery in Year 1, starting with our literacy focus on *The Lonely Beast*, where the children acted as detectives to predict the character's nature using clues found in the woods. This inspired some wonderful creative writing about innovated journeys and lively classroom debates to sharpen our oracy skills. We have acted out the story in small groups to the whole class after sequencing the main events in the story. In maths, we have been mastering efficiency by recognising and counting in groups of 2, 5, and 10, while our handwriting practice centred on the "bouncy" letter family (m, n, and r). Our scientific curiosity took us outdoors to differentiate between evergreen and deciduous trees based on their leaves, which we paired with a leaf scavenger hunt in the woods. There has been lots of targeted phonics practice for tricky sounds, and some specific packs have gone home with children this week in their book bags. In RE, we explored the Christian creation story, while our PSHE session tackled the important distinction between secrets and surprises. Finally, we filled the school with rhythm by composing and performing a class percussion piece, capping off a truly well-rounded week of learning!



This week in Year 2

As scientists, we explored the woods to find living things. We did the same observations in January and expected to find much more examples of living things this time - and we were right! We found a wide range of insects, flying insects, birds (including ducks from the pond), and even amphibians with the discovery of some newts! We discussed why the warmer, brighter weather led to us finding more examples of living things.



Mrs Nowosielska and Mr Massey

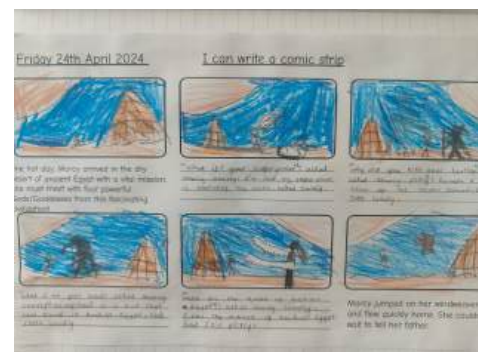
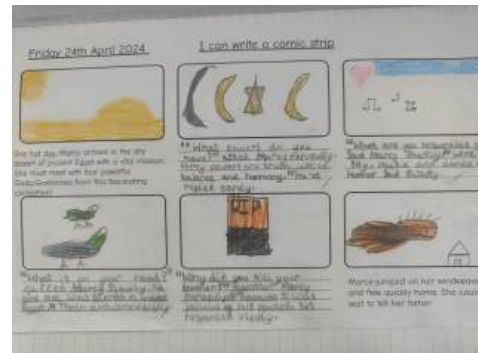
This week in Year 3

Welcome back to school and to summer term! The sun has been shining, the field has been opened and things feel good in year 3.

We've been really excited this week to start learning about the Ancient Egyptians.

We have taken a visit to the outside timeline where we could see just how long that period of time was and identified some key people and events which we are looking forward to learning a little bit more about.

In English we have also been reading *Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx*. We started off by making predictions before reading, organising and retelling the story. We loved the journey Marcy took to face her fears as well as meeting some of the Egyptian Gods. We learned about how Egyptians believed each God was responsible for something different and enjoyed making some comic strips about Marcy's journey and included some different gods for her to meet and communicate with!



This week in Year 4

Year 4 have begun their summer term with a quack! In Science, to launch our new topic on sound, the children explored what sound is and how it moves. They found out that sound is a type of energy that can be heard. It is produced by vibrations that are transmitted from a source in all directions in the form of sound waves. The children created their own duck cups with a piece of string and a paper cup. When they dragged a wet paper towel down the string, the cup amplified the vibration of the string and created a quack sound.



Mrs Bell and Miss Davis

This Week in Year 5

Launching a new half term

To launch this half term, Year 5 have been channelling their inner marketing gurus as they blast off into the world of persuasive copywriting. Inspired by the intergalactic exploits of Liam Digby in Frank Cottrell-Boyce's *Cosmic*, our new focus text for this term, the children have been meticulously designing and writing promotional advertisements for their very own space-themed thrill rides. Whether pitching the 'Alien Attack' or 'Moon Mission', they have filled their pages with astronomical adjectives, punchy slogans, and compelling layout features to entice the boldest of space tourists. Hopefully some of their manifestations come true and their rides turn up at the Hoppings this year, they are quite literally out of this world!

ECLIPSE

Do you think you're worthy enough to be an astronaut? Well, you're in luck because the Eclipse will test and grow your skills to become the best astronaut in the galaxy!

As you enter your space ship called the Galactic Galaxy you will get the 1st helmet and get teleported to a different world. As you pilot the galaxy through the alien capsule planet earth. Once you save the planet get back to the head of the you must not get your new certificate.

As you proudly exit your space ship you happily accept your hard earned certificate. You want to raise the excitement of the Eclipse again and see earth.

TESTIMONIAL
Liam, age 13
"After this ride I felt like a real Operational astronaut flying through the galaxy!"

Ride stats
Minimum height: 115cm
Top speed: 90mph
Price: 4.6
Duration: 12 minutes
Suitable for children under the age of 7

Fun Fact
A real NASA astronaut helped make and design the ride.

Special offer!
If you go on the eclipse 5 times you can get a free keychain!

The Alien Attack

Have you ever wanted to see an alien? Then this is the ride for you! The Alien Attack is more than just a ride; it is a mission. You need to stop the alien's ring from invading earth.

Board the Alien Attack and get your heart beat faster than ever. Enter the space ship and get to work on Saturn's ring. 5, 4, 3, 2, 1... **AUSTR OFF!**

After you hear 5.4, 5.2, 5.1 you will blast off at top speed. You can see the other planets - but something is wrong! You hear alien and must get out. Get the alien ring and destroy this ship.

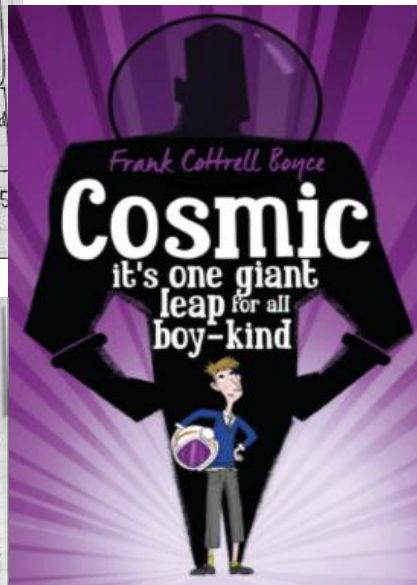
Exhausted, you will get like a lion and raise your door model. You will see that the the the for another go. Can you do it again? Well it will be the same if only you can get out!

Minimum height: 115cm
Top speed: 90mph
Price: 4.6
Duration: 12 minutes

Alex (aged 13) said:
"This is the best action-packed ride I have ever been on! I felt like a true hero!"

Nasa helped design this action-packed ride. Michael Powell wrote an astronaut's note. This ride is for authenticity.

Quick! Get to your place for family of 4 if you ride. I don't want to miss out!



FLYING SAUCER

Stop the Aliens from invading the space. With lightning try and capture the Aliens. Don't let the Alien ship out. This is more than an adventure; it's a mission.

You are an alien flying saucer. Once you enter you'll be a ship. There will be a sound of 5, 4, 3, 2, 1. Lucky you are. You can understand alien language and are you ready to stop the alien?

Hear the real laugh of your alien space. Stopping the alien from coming into space. Use your turbo laser to get into the ship. Rotate and fly. Hit the motor rocket. You get 12 points and if you get 100 points you win a flying saucer.

Fun Fact
Astronaut, Tom Peake, helped design this ride. Over 2 million people have used this ride to ride on the flying saucer.

WELL DONE so many humans. Almost our world universe. But there's something you need to know not all alien are the same.

Ride stats
Minimum height: 110cm
Top speed: 90mph (light speed)
Duration: 12 minutes
Suitable for people under 5

METEOR

Can you escape the Aliens?

There is a bunch of Aliens trying to run the meteor attack. Can you speed away from the Aliens to save Earth? How close have you wanted to get to a meteor?

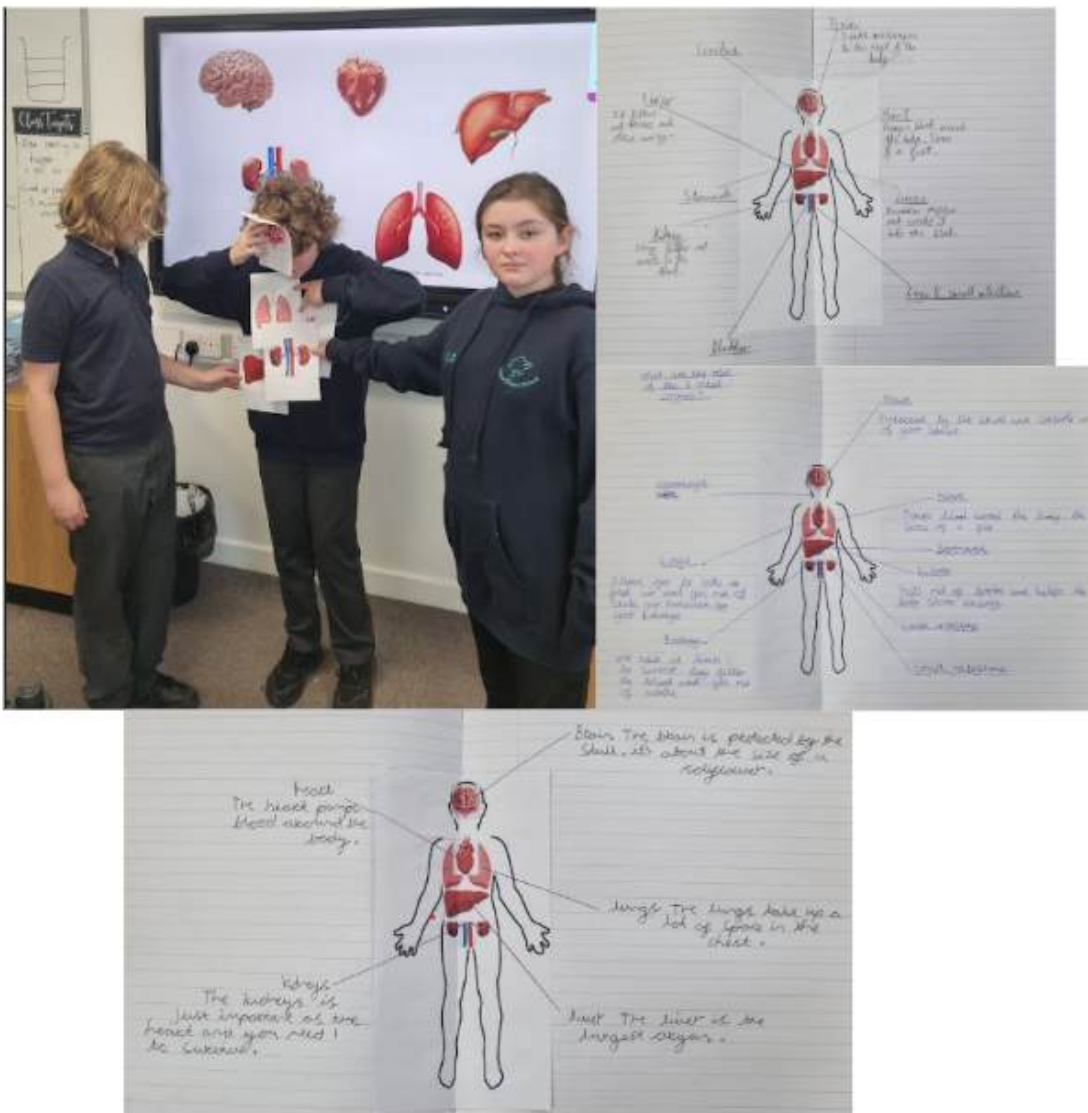
When you walk through the door to our new galaxy we live in a space themed room. Then you will catch a meteor. A meteor will be waiting for you. 5, 4, 3, 2, 1. Blast off!!! You zoom off into a dark roller coaster where you see angry aliens behind you. So if it's you you to save earth. After the ride you will get your photo and a free key to see save earth again!

Fun Fact
Tom Peake and this was his dream space ride.

Ride Stats
Minimum height: 135cm
Top speed: 90mph
Price: 4.6
Duration: 2min. 30sec

This week in Year 6

It has been great having the children back in school; they have returned with a real enthusiasm and positive attitude - ready to keep pushing forward and make progress. As well as plenty of revision in English and maths we have begun a new science topic this week focusing on the human body and, in particular, our vital organs. The children talked about the vital organs they knew and also tried to place them on our live 'dummy' Samuel. We then spent time looking at the key functions of these organs and the roles they play in keeping us alive: from helping remove waste and toxins (the liver and kidneys), to harvesting oxygen to power our muscles (the lungs), to pumping blood around the body (the heart) and also acting as the control centre for our entire body (the brain). We will continue to study the organs in more detail before an extremely exciting and educational workshop later on this half term!



Miss Allan and Mr Orme

Dates for your diary in 2026



Mon 4th May 2026	Bank Holiday Monday - School Closed
Wc 11th May 2026	SATs Week for Year 6
Tue 2nd June 2026	Year 6 - Northumberland Zoo trip - Packed lunches needed.
Fri 5th June 2026	PTA Quiz Night. £10 per ticket, includes food and quiz entry. Games, raffle and drinks are also on sale!
Weds 10th June 2026	Class Photo Day
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

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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Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk



- 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

Shop with 7,500+ brands including:

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M&S

GROUPON



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



