

Friday Flyer

Friday 1st May 2026

Headteacher Update

I mentioned in last week's Friday Flyer that Miss Dinning and the OPAL team had a variety of new games and activities ready to introduce at lunchtimes and we have been rolling these developments out over the week. The children have had so much fun playing tug of war, lounging in the sunshine on the beanbags, playing rounders and running relay races around the track, as you can see from all the happy faces in the photos below!



I hope everyone has a wonderful bank holiday weekend.
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)	91.2%	Year 3 (Pine)	93.7%
Reception (Chestnut)	99.0%	Year 4 (Alder)	94.2%
Reception (Pinecone)	97.0%	Year 4 (Yew)	99.3%
Year 1 (Holly)	92.7%	Year 5 (Oak)	95.2%
Year 1 (Ash)	96.3%	Year 5 (Beech)	94.1%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	99.0%	Year 6 (Elm)	95.5%
Year 2 (Willow)	98.3%	Year 6 (Birch)	97.2%
Year 3 (Maple)	98.3%	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.

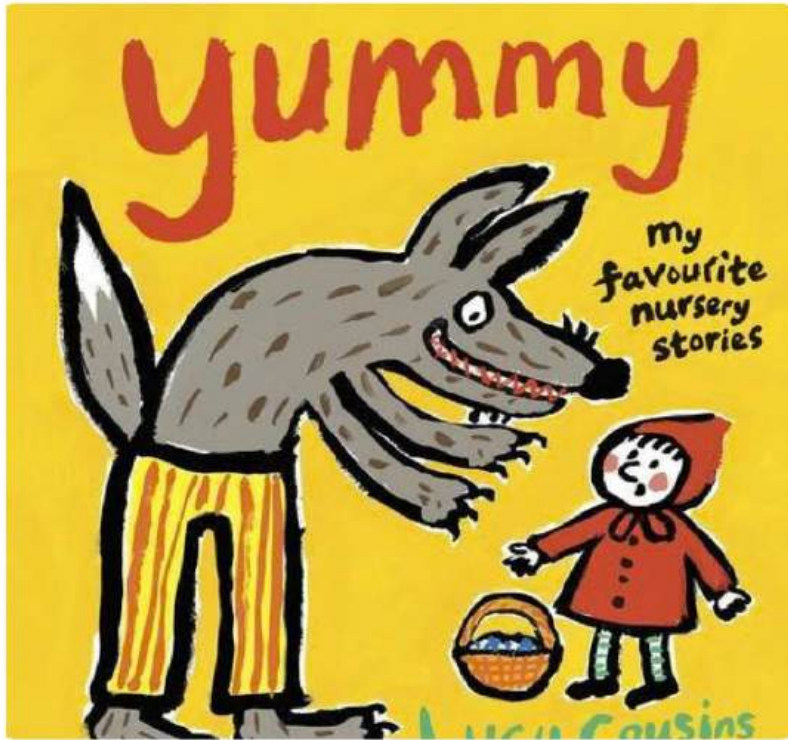
This week in Nursery

Nursery had a surprise delivery of eggs this week! After reading *Who is in the egg?* We predicted what would come out of the eggs, most of us thought it would be a chick or a dinosaur! By Wednesday we had 4 ducklings which we have named Speedy, Slidey, Sleepy and Calm. We have enjoyed caring for them and taking them on a walk around school. We can't wait to spend more time with them next week!



This week in Reception

This week we have introduced our core text, Yummy, which is a collection of traditional tales with a twist. Our first story is Little Red Riding Hood and we have enjoyed retelling the story, role playing, making get well potions for granny, making maps of the forest and creating wanted posters for the big bad wolf.



This week in Year 1

We've had another wonderful and exciting week in Year 1 !

We were lucky enough to have some very special visitors...ducklings! The children loved observing them closely and learning more about how they grow and are cared for.

During our time in the forest, we explored nature by creating beautiful bark rubbings using crayons. We noticed different textures and patterns in the deciduous and evergreen trees around us.

In Maths, we have been busy practising doubling and learning how to make equal groups by grouping and sharing. We have shown great enthusiasm this week, handling resources purposefully and are becoming more confident with these important maths skills.

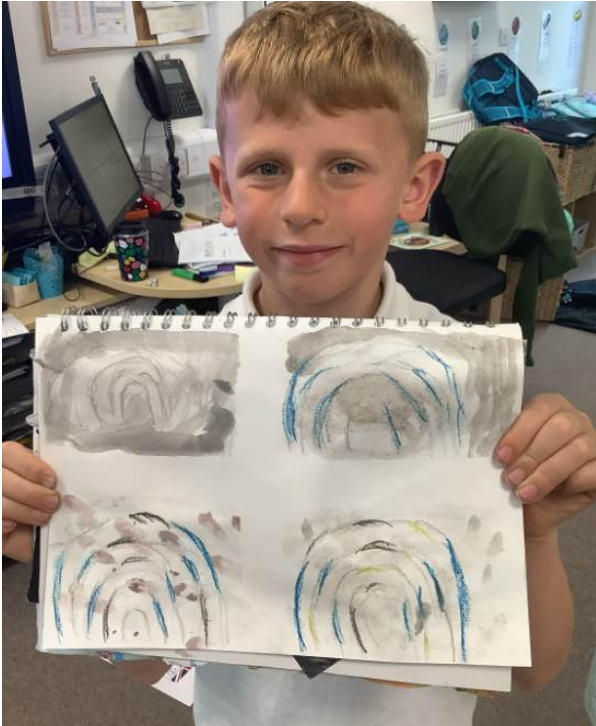
In English, we stepped into the world of 'The Lonely Beast' and came up with brilliant interview questions. We thought about what his favourite part of his journey was and how life may be different after his journey.



Miss Storey, Mrs Kenyon and Mrs Tailford

This week in Year 2

As artists this week, we have been using oil pastels and water colours to create pieces inspired by Henry Moore. Check out the exploration in our sketch books. We have also been uncovering the story of The Lion and The Unicorn by Shirley Hughes. We have begun to understand what it must've been like to be evacuated during the second world war.



Mrs Nowosielska and Mr Massey

This week in Year 3

Year 3 has had a fantastic week diving into the world of Ancient Egypt! In English, we have been exploring the features of instructional texts, with the children particularly enjoying using "bossy" imperative verbs. They have been busy planning their upcoming Big Write, where they will provide step-by-step instructions on exactly how the Ancient Egyptians constructed the magnificent pyramids. Our Maths lessons focused on measurement, specifically looking at capacity and volume using litres and millilitres. In Art, we traveled back in time to explore the intricate beauty of Ancient Egyptian patterns, creating some wonderful designs of our own. Meanwhile, in PE, the children have been sharpening their coordination and accuracy through various ball skills and throwing drills. Well done, Year 3!



Miss Mears and Mr Shaw

This week in Year 4

This week in Year 4, the children have been incredibly busy with some exciting new learning!

In Music, we were thrilled to join Mrs Wigham as we officially began learning the songs for our upcoming pop opera. The children are already showing great enthusiasm and are eager to practice their harmonies and melodies.

In Science, our topic of the term is sound. We have been investigating how sound is produced through vibrations and have started exploring the anatomy of the human ear to understand how we hear and process these vibrations.



Mrs Bell and Miss Davis

This Week in Year 5

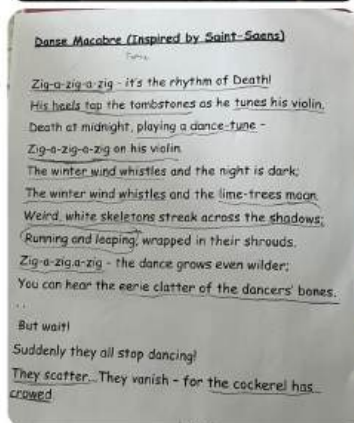
Quite Re-Macbre-able!

This week, Year 5 continued exploring the new music theme of *Danse Macabre* with Mrs Wigham, through the work of Saint-Saëns. The children have really enjoyed discovering this dramatic and imaginative piece of music.

In lessons this week, they focused on how different instruments can represent words and ideas without actually saying them aloud. They listened carefully to the music and explored how the sounds matched the poem linked to the piece, using changes in pitch, tempo and tone to tell the story.

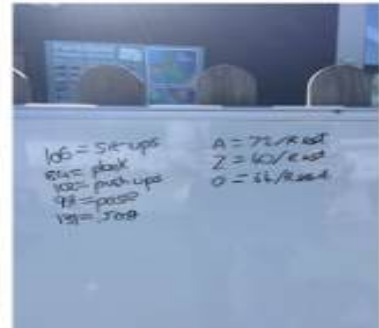
The children were brilliant at identifying how instruments can create mood, character and meaning through music alone. It was great to hear their thoughtful ideas and interpretations as they made connections between the poem and the orchestra.

Year 5 are thoroughly enjoying this topic and are becoming excellent musical detectives as they uncover the hidden meanings within the music.



This week in Year 6

As well as lots of revision in maths and English, Year 6 have found time to get out into the sunshine to continue our topic about the human body. This week, we wanted to explore how our heart rate was affected by exercise and - in-keeping with our growing responsibility and independence in Year 6 - we left the children to design their own investigation. The children measured their resting heart rates and compared those to their heart rates after some exercise. The children thought carefully about how our heart works and mixed more vigorous exercises with stationary exercises or positions that would alter the normal flow of blood around our bodies. They collected data and we will use this to present our findings in a scientific way next week.



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
Tue 1st Sept 2026	Teacher Training Day
Wed 2nd Sept 2026	School Resumes

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

Shop with 7,500+ brands including:

Booking.com

ebay

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



