

Friday Flyer

Friday 8th May 2026

Headteacher Update

As you most likely will have seen in the press and on social media, national treasure, David Attenborough turns 100 today! In assemblies this week we have looked at the impact he has made on the world and the inspiration he provides for all of us to care for the world we live in. In fact, talking about his accomplishments and his life's work has prompted some of our Y5 children to start a club focused on how to protect the environment. When we first launched our school values awards three years ago, the school council chose David Attenborough to represent our value of curiosity and so he is an important figure for us. Tonight the children will each have come home with seeds to plant to attract butterflies and bumble bees to mark this very special 100th birthday. Thank you so much to the Friends of Ponteland Primary School who came up with this special idea and have provided the seeds. Please also see below for a competition being run by Vision for Education inviting children to write a birthday wish to Sir David.

A recurring theme this week has been football as we have had multiple teams playing and showing their talent. Our Y5/6 girls played in the Northumberland Under 11 County Cup on Wednesday after successfully winning their previous games. Although the final didn't go our way, Mr Tailford was incredibly proud of our girls who encouraged and supported each other in what was an exceptionally competitive game. I'm sure our Under 11 girls' team will be proud to know that there are other strong female footballers in school following in their footsteps, with Ada and Bronte in Year 3 who have won both the girls' and boys' leagues they play in outside of school, and our Y2 team who, along with a boys' team, had their first taste of playing competitively for school this week. Finally, bringing the week to a close, Y5 also participated in a tournament this morning so all in all a lot of football has been played this week!



Best wishes,
Claire Johnson

Safeguarding & wellbeing



ASK Psychology is an organisation we work closely with to provide therapeutic support, as well as occupational therapy, for children, training for staff and workshops for parents. Over the next 12 months, ASK will be facilitating some parent workshops on different themes at schools across Pele Trust, including our school.

The first session will be after May half term and will be hosted in 3 locations (Swansfield, Ponteland Primary and Heddon) for parents from any Pele Trust school to access.

The first session will be delivered by ASK's Occupational Therapists and will cover **one** of these issues :

- toileting (suitable for parents of primary aged children)
- eating and drinking (suitable for parents of primary aged children)
- sensory differences and sensory lifestyles (suitable for parents of primary and secondary aged children)
- sleep (suitable for parents of primary and secondary aged children)
- neuro-affirming play (suitable for parents of primary and secondary aged children)
- supporting mental health in childhood (suitable for parents of primary and secondary aged children)

Please follow [this link](#) to indicate the session that would be of most interest to you **by Wednesday 13th May**. The results of this survey will determine the session to be delivered. Once the survey results are gathered, ASK will advertise the parent session which has been chosen along with the timings and location of the delivery.



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)	95.3%	Year 3 (Pine)	94.2%
Reception (Chestnut)	99.2%	Year 4 (Alder)	99.2%
Reception (Pinecone)	95.0%	Year 4 (Yew)	94.2%
Year 1 (Holly)	98.8%	Year 5 (Oak)	94.4%
Year 1 (Ash)	98.8%	Year 5 (Beech)	99.1%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	94.2%	Year 6 (Elm)	96.4%
Year 2 (Willow)	94.0%	Year 6 (Birch)	89.2%
Year 3 (Maple)	97.1%	Whole school Cumulative from Sept	95.7%

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.



A Birthday Wish for Sir David

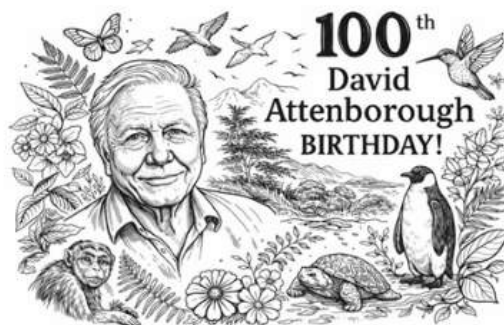
Every child is invited to write a “Letter to David” or design a birthday card, taking inspiration from the extraordinary life of Sir David Attenborough. Pupils can be as imaginative as they like, through words, drawings, or both. Entries must be submitted to school by Wednesday 20th May.

The prize:

Our favourite individual entry will win an **Ultimate explorer kit** (worth £100). Plus, the most inspiring letters will be sent to Sir David Attenborough himself!

Sir David Attenborough is 100!

Sir David aims to help people understand how the planet works, showing the beauty of nature and explaining why it's important to protect the environment.



This week in Nursery

We have continued to enjoy our ducklings this week, watching them learn how to paddle in the pond in our classroom! We thought about the life cycle we observed so far and how they would change when they go back to the farm. We will miss them dearly but we look forward to hearing about how they settle into life back at their forever home!



This week in Reception

This week we have looked at the third story from our core text, Yummy - The Musicians of Bremen. We took part in a music session with Mrs Adamson and practised how to play an instrument to the rhythm of a song. We were superstars! This has prompted lots of music making and we have explored pitch, tempo and rhythm whilst having lots of fun! We have also all made our own instruments using recycling and we had some amazing creations including whistles, trumpets and electric guitars - Rock on!



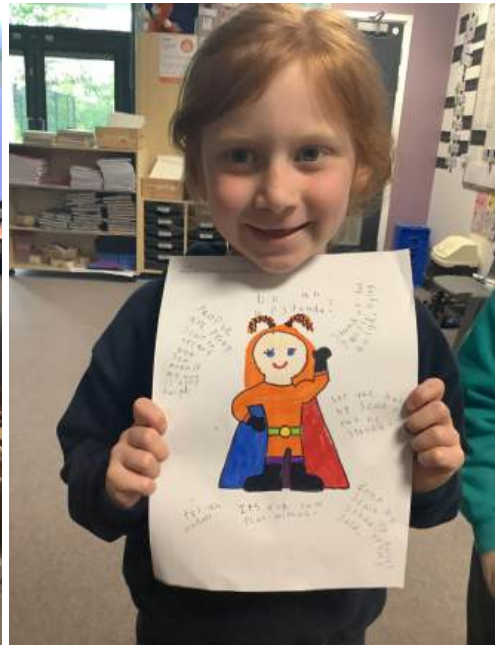
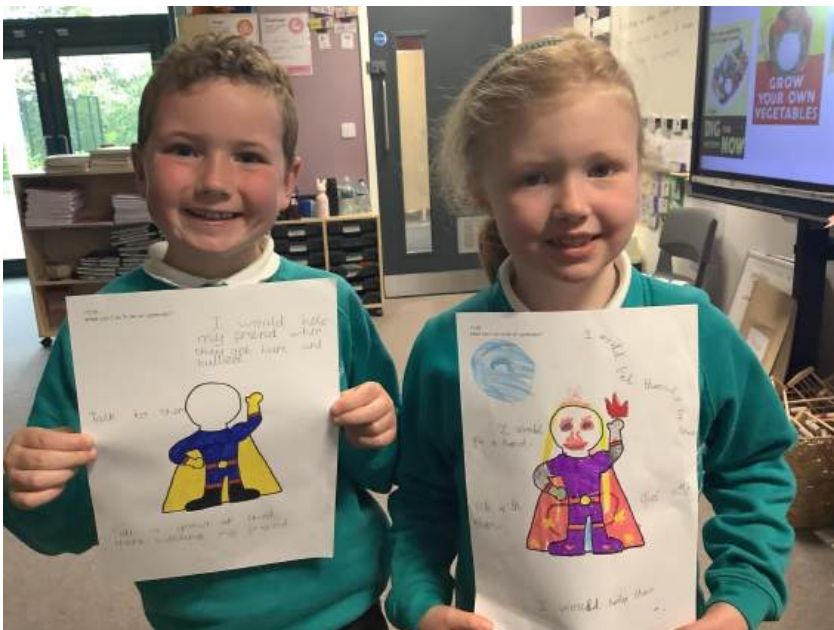
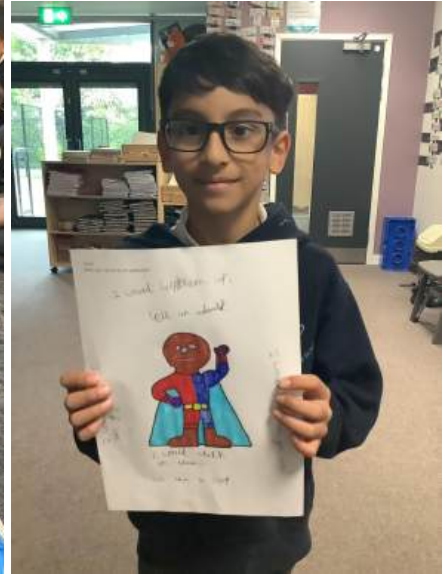
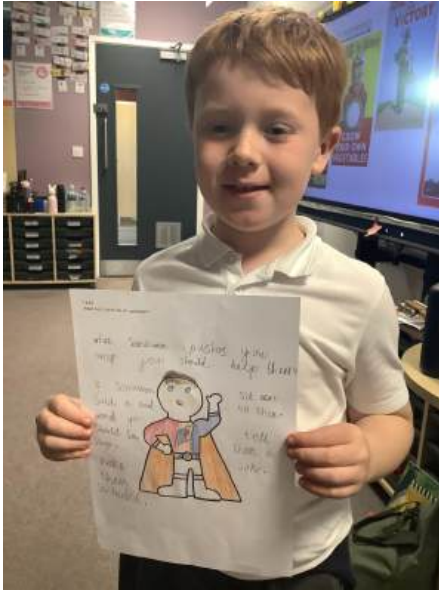
This week in Year 1

It has been an action-packed week of discovery for Year 1! Our young scientists headed to the woods and school field to investigate whether plant size is relative to leaf scale, while in the classroom, we've begun mastering the basics of fractions by exploring halves. In Literacy, the children finished *The Lonely Beast*, sharing insightful opinions before stepping into the role of "teachers" to edit their own writing. Our global journey took us to India, where we compared the human and physical features of Chembakolli and New Delhi, and we rounded off the week in RE with thoughtful discussions on how the Creation story shapes Christian beliefs about God. We then created our own word cloud and gave an adjective to describe what they think that Christians believe about God.



This week in Year 2

In Year 2 this week, we have learned how to be an upstander. This can mean: you might decide to help someone who has fallen over, or if someone is getting bullied you would choose to stand up for them, or you can choose to be a good friend to someone who needs one. These are super powers for us super upstanders to use. (We also got to meet the ducklings that currently live in nursery)



Mrs Nowosielska and Mr Massey

This week in Year 3

It has been another illuminating week of learning in Year 3! In Science, we have been exploring the property of reflection. Using torches, the children investigated how light behaves when it hits different materials. We discovered that light always travels in straight lines and that smooth, shiny surfaces provide the most effective reflections.

In English, we have successfully finished our non-chronological reports on the construction of Ancient Egyptian pyramids. The children have become true experts. Meanwhile, in Maths, we have started our new topic on money. We have been busy practicing how to accurately add pounds and pence together, a very practical skill for the real world!



This week in Year 4

This week in history, we explored why gods and goddesses were so important to the people of Ancient Greece and the many ways they showed their faith. We discovered that the Ancient Greeks often left votive offerings at the altars of the god or goddess they were praying to in the hope of gaining their favour. Later in the lesson, we created our own pebble votive offerings dedicated to a god or goddess of our choice. They turned out absolutely brilliant!



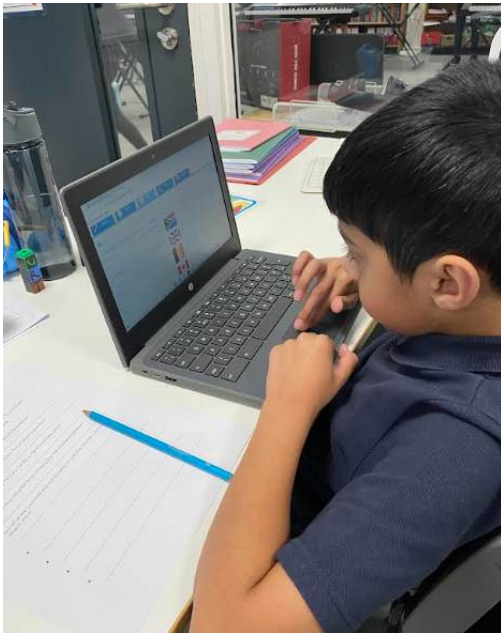
This Week in Year 5

All About That (Data)Base

In our Computing lessons this term, Year 5 has been delving into the structured world of databases. We began our journey offline, manually creating paper-based records to understand the foundations of data organisation: an exercise that quickly highlighted just how painstaking physical filing can be!

The transition to digital flat-file databases was met with a collective sigh of relief, as the children discovered the sheer speed and efficiency of modern technology. By exploring various datasets, the pupils have mastered the art of sorting information and filtering through records to find specific facts with just a few clicks.

It has been a fantastic way to see their logical thinking skills in action. The next step will be inputting data accurately to create databases of our own.



This week in Year 6

This week, year 6 have continued to look at the human body in science with a focus on our circulatory system. On Wednesday, we learned about blood; we studied its main components and the roles they have in carrying oxygen around the body, attacking viruses and bacteria, removing waste and allowing our blood to clot. To bring something physical and hands on to add to the knowledge and theory of the lesson, we made blood smoothies. As we discussed red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets and plasma, we added items to our 'smoothie' to represent them and their proportion in our blood stream. Thankfully, nobody drank their smoothie and not a drop was spilt!



Dates for your diary in 2026



Wc 11th May 2026	SATs Week for Year 6
Wc 25th May 2026	May Half Term - School Closed
Mon 1st June 2026	School Resumes
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)
Mon 22nd June 2026	Year 2 - Beamish trip - Packed lunch needed
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
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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



