

Friday Flyer

Friday 19th June 2026

Headteacher Update

Our school value for June is resilience and I often think this is one of the hardest values for children (and also us adults!) to work on but there is no denying that being able to face challenges and disappointments with resilience is the difference between thriving and feeling defeated and I truly believe that helping the children to develop resilience can only benefit their mental health, now and as they grow up.

In our assemblies this month, the children have reflected on times where they have shown resilience and the difference this has made in what they could achieve. They have also thought about challenges, difficulties or disappointments they are currently experiencing and considered how fostering resilience will help them to bounce back. World Refugee Day, which is this Saturday, has provided the perfect example of resilience to share with the children. Years 4-6 joined the Sanctuary Foundation's Big Live Assembly where we heard from footballer Alphonso Davies who was born in a refugee camp in Ghana and who has shown incredible grit and determination which has ultimately led to him captaining Canada's 2026 World Cup team. Years 1-3 learned about a similarly tenacious refugee and footballer, Nadia Nadim, who after fleeing Afghanistan at the age of 12, trained not only as a professional footballer who went on to play for Denmark, but also as a doctor who speaks no fewer than 11 languages fluently! Two truly inspirational figures who embody resilience.

Our resilience assemblies this week also raised the opportunity to consider another of our values: kindness. In the Big Live Assembly, the older children heard the difference that a warm welcome and an invitation to join in made to children who moved to the UK after leaving their own country due to war. The younger children listened to the story 'There's Room for Everyone' where the protagonist shared a secret with us; 'if we are kinder, and love one another then, in this beautiful world, there is room for everyone'. We all agreed that kindness costs nothing and this is something we can all show.

Now, to finish this week's headteacher update, I have some examples of resilience to share which are a little closer to home. Our Year 4 children have started their Bikeability training which has proven to be both great fun and a decent challenge to get their teeth into. Children across school have taken their end of year assessments, showing determination and conscientiousness. Finally, lower Key Stage 2 sent teams to a girls-only football tournament where games were both lost and won but with an overall win for our A team. This builds on the football tournaments the LKS2 girls' and boys' teams entered and won earlier this term. (I will concede, rather proudly, that this is perhaps not the best example of resilience to share as our football teams do seem to win most of the tournaments they enter which I guess doesn't call for much resilience!)

Best wishes, Claire Johnson

Safeguarding & wellbeing

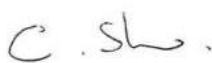
Thank you to everyone who completed the [survey](#) about smartphones. The majority of respondents expressed overwhelming support for schools encouraging a delay in smartphone ownership, citing concerns over mental health, social media addiction, and the loss of traditional play. While many parents advocated for restrictions, a minority of respondents raised understandable reservations concerning personal parental choice and the practicalities of child safety during solo travel. Suggestions for alternatives included the use of basic mobile phones or smartwatches to maintain communication without the risks of internet access. The responses overall highlighted a strong community desire to reduce peer pressure and protect children from the digital world's potential harms.

As a result of the responses from the survey we are hosting a 30 minute Parent Talk at **Ponteland Primary School on Wednesday 1st July at 5pm** for the Pele Trust primary schools, led by Becca Smith, Regional Leader for Smartphone Free Childhood. The meeting will be full of practical ideas and friendly discussion about helping kids thrive in the digital age. We'll look at what's working for families right now — from first phones to healthy habits at home. There will be no judgement, just an opportunity to talk about small steps that make a difference. All parents are warmly welcome — whether you've already made decisions about smartphones or are just starting to think about it.

Please complete the [Google Form](#) to express your interest in attending so we know how many to expect.

Yours faithfully,

C. Shaw
Headteacher
Belsay Primary School



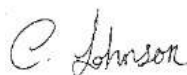
J. Watson
Headteacher
Richard Coates CE Primary School



R. McVittie
Headteacher
Darras Hall Primary School



C. Johnson
Headteacher
Ponteland Primary School



A. Wheatley
Headteacher
Heddon On The Wall St Andrew's C of E Primary School



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)	88.6%	Year 3 (Pine)	92.0%
Reception (Chestnut)	96.0%	Year 4 (Alder)	98.4%
Reception (Pinecone)	86.7%	Year 4 (Yew)	91.7%
Year 1 (Holly)	93.3%	Year 5 (Oak)	87.4%
Year 1 (Ash)	97.0%	Year 5 (Beech)	98.3%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	95.3%	Year 6 (Elm)	91.3%
Year 2 (Willow)	93.9%	Year 6 (Birch)	85.5%
Year 3 (Maple)	95.3%	Whole school Cumulative from Sept	95.4%

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 have continued the environmental theme this week, reading the book *Somebody Swallowed Stanley*. We then used our fine motor skills to practise cutting lines to make our very own jellyfish 🐙



This week in Reception

We are so proud of how hard our children work each week to complete their rainbow challenges, developing their skills, consolidating their knowledge and showing determination and resilience. This week one of our challenges has been to design their own obstacle course and then play on it. As always the children have amazed us with their creativity whilst having lots of fun!



Mrs Blyth and Mrs Adamson

This week in Year 1

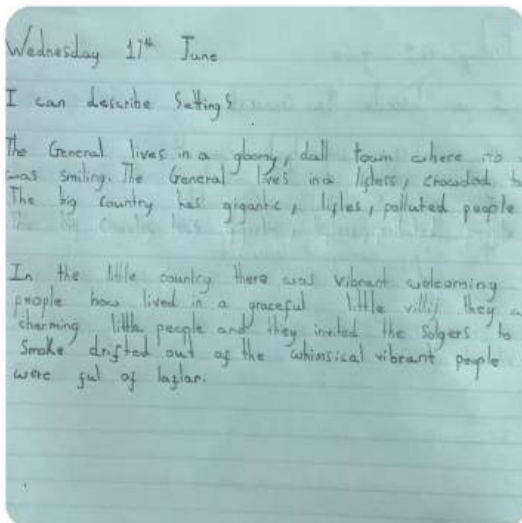
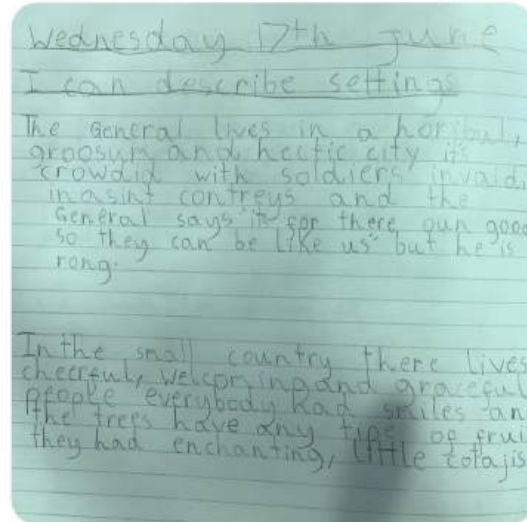
We have had another incredibly busy and exciting week in school. We were thrilled to welcome some expert beekeepers into Year 1 this week! The children were absolutely fascinated to learn all about the secret life of bees. They discovered how beekeepers look after these amazing insects and explored the wonderful things bees produce (the honey talk and tasting was a huge hit!). In Maths, we have been diving into the world of finance by learning all about money. The children thoroughly enjoyed hands-on exploration with different coins and notes. We practiced identifying them and comparing their values. Our classroom also turned into a hub of wildlife journalism this week! In English, the children worked hard on writing non-chronological reports about penguins. They did a brilliant job organising their facts and writing beautifully about our favorite flightless birds. We have officially launched our brand-new History topic, 'Explorers'! To kick things off, we travelled to some of the coldest places on Earth to learn about the famous real-life adventurer, Sir Ranulph Fiennes. The children loved hearing about his brave expeditions and are already eager to learn more.



Miss Storey, Mrs Kenyon and Mrs Tailford

This week in Year 2

Year 2 have been reading a new book called 'The Conquerors'. We wrote some descriptive scene settings and performed some freeze frames of parts of the story. Next week, we will be retelling the story.



Mrs Nowosielska and Mr Massey

This week in Year 3

It has been an incredibly focused and exciting week in Year 3!

First and foremost, a huge congratulations to the children, who have been super busy working through their Maths and English assessments. They approached every single paper with fantastic grit and resilience, which clearly paid off as they achieved some truly outstanding marks. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and wonderful determination!

In Science, we continued our illuminating work on light, shifting our focus to how shadows are formed. The children had a wonderful time getting hands on, using light sources to project and experiment with fun animal shadow shapes on the walls while exploring how light can be blocked by opaque objects.

In History, we marched further into our topic on the Roman Empire. The class was absolutely captivated as we introduced the legendary Celtic queen, Boudicca. We explored her powerful legacy and learned all about how she bravely raised a massive tribal army to fight back against Roman rule.

What a phenomenal week of academic success and historical adventure. Well done for giving it your absolute all, Year 3!



Miss Mears and Mr Shaw

This week in Year 4

It has been a busy but rewarding week in Year 4. The children showed fantastic focus and determination while working through their final assessments. As a great reward for their hard work, the classes visited Ponteland High School to bring their DT unit on healthy Greek salads to life. Working in the high school kitchens, the children put their prepping skills to the test to make traditional Greek salads.

A huge thank you to Richard Bell, Mrs Whickham and Mrs Lovekin who were fantastic with the children. It was great for the classes to see a proper kitchen in action, and a few of our pupils are already talking about becoming chefs in the future!

Well done to Year 4 for an excellent week.



This Week in Year 5

Follow the Leaders

Our Year 5 pupils had an action-packed day of teamwork, determination, and high-energy competition as they took part in an exciting sports festival! Run in partnership with the Youth Sport Trust's 'Set for Success' programme, the event focused on using sport to build essential life skills like focus, resilience, and communication. We were incredibly proud to see our students collaborating with the brilliant Year 9 sports leaders, who did a fantastic job coaching, refereeing, and encouraging the younger children throughout the day. It was a wonderful showcase of community spirit and peer mentoring.

The festival challenged Year 5 to try their hand at a diverse mix of sports including American football and 'Endball' - a play on netball. The children threw themselves into every challenge, showcasing incredible adaptability.



Mr McCourt, Mr Tailford and Miss Bradley

This week in Year 6

As the end of the year gets closer, year 6 has begun an exciting transition activity. This week has been Bee Week! To build towards an exhibition that will take place at the high school in the Autumn term, we have been learning all about bees - honey bees to be precise. We have looked at performance poetry by Emily Dickinson, science related to life cycles, geography around species and where they thrive as well as various creative tasks and anatomical drawings. We also had a visit from the lovely Jonathan and Barbara who brought a small hive and a range of equipment for us to explore. The children have been full of enthusiasm as always and can't wait for you to be invited to see their display during the exhibition. It's going to be un-bee-lievable!



Dates for your diary in 2026



Mon 22nd June 2026	Year 2 Trip - Packed lunch needed
Wed 24th June 2026	Sports Day - Yr1-Yr3 9.15am Yr4-Yr6 1.45pm
Wed 1st July 2026	PTA Joke Competition. £1 entry. Write out your funniest joke and submit to win a prize!
Thur 2nd July 2026	Yr4 Assembly - Introduction to Yr5 9.10am
Fri 3rd July 2026	Yr5 Assembly - Introduction to Yr6 9.10am
Fri 3rd July 2026	PTA Summer Fair. Starts 3.10pm until 5pm.
Mon 6th July 2026	Yr1 Assembly - Introduction to Yr2 9.10am
Tue 7th July 2026	Yr3 Assembly - Introduction to Yr4 9.10am
Tue 7th July 2026	Yr1 Trip - Packed lunch needed
Weds 8th July 2026	Yr2 Assembly - Introduction to Yr3 9.10am
Fri 10th July 2026	Reception Assembly - Introduction to Yr1 9.10am
Weds 15th July 2026	Year 6 Leavers Assembly 2pm
Fri 17th July 2026	Last day of school - 1.30pm finish
Tue 1st Sept 2026	Teacher Training Day (school closed to pupils)
Wed 2nd Sept 2026	School Resumes
Fri 23rd October 2026	Teacher Training Day (school closed to pupils)
Wc 26th Oct 2026	Half Term
Mon 2nd Nov	Teacher Training Day (school closed to pupils)

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!



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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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- 2 Sign up and search for Ponteland Primary School PTA
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LEWIS



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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



