

Friday Flyer

Friday 5th June 2026

Headteacher Update

We have hit the ground running following the half term break and we're making every minute of this final half term of the year count. Our summer trips have already started with a very successful Y6 excursion to Northumberland Zoo which doubled up as a well deserved reward following their SATs last half term.

Speaking of tests, our Year 4 children have started their Multiplication Tables Checks this week and they will continue into next week too. As with the Y6s, I have been impressed by the Y4 children's effort in preparing for the check and the pride they are taking in mastering their times tables. While the check is a statutory requirement that all schools must fulfill, the real value is in the fluency the children develop as this automaticity in recalling multiplication facts serves them well as they move through the maths curriculum.

Prior to the half term break, I, along with my headteacher colleagues in the other Pele Trust primary schools, wrote to you to share our concerns around the impact of smartphones on children and we asked you to share your views via [this survey](#). Thank you to everyone who has already taken the time to share your thoughts. There is still time to contribute to the survey if you haven't already - we are keen to hear as many voices as possible.

This is a busy half term, not only for us in school but also for families as we have our Sports Day on Wednesday 24th June (Y1-3 at 9.15am and Y4-6 at 1.45pm) and our end of year assemblies which are followed by our transition meetings where parents have the opportunity to meet their child's next teacher and learn about the curriculum.

Reception assembly / New to Y1 meeting	Friday 10th July (9.10am)
Y1 assembly / New to Y2 meeting	Monday 6th July (9.10am)
Y2 assembly / New to Y3 meeting	Wednesday 8th July (9.10am)
Y3 assembly / New to Y4 meeting	Tuesday 7th July (9.10am)
Y4 assembly / New to Y5 meeting	Thursday 2nd July (9.10am)
Y5 assembly / New to Y6 meeting	Friday 3rd July (9.10am)
Y6 Leavers' assembly	Wednesday 15th July (2pm)

Best wishes, Claire Johnson

Safeguarding & wellbeing

In school we are teaching children digital critical thinking skills to help protect them from online dangers. Find tips on how to help your child think carefully about online content [here](#). Asking your child about what they see online can help them build important life skills and support their wellbeing. Every conversation is helpful. Making chats about content part of your family's weekly routine can make a real difference.



Understanding critical thinking

Critical thinking means pausing before you believe something online. The internet is fun and useful, but it also has false information, as anyone can post online, not just experts or journalists.

It's about:

- asking questions and knowing that not everything is true
- helping your child think carefully to build their confidence, keep them safer, and guide them to make good choices online

Why critical thinking matters

Children can find it hard to know what is true online.

To help them you can encourage them:

- to pause and think before they believe, share or act on something they've read online
- to learn to question and check facts before trusting information



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)	96.9%	Year 3 (Pine)	92.0%
Reception (Chestnut)	89.3%	Year 4 (Alder)	98.7%
Reception (Pinecone)	89.3%	Year 4 (Yew)	96.0%
Year 1 (Holly)	96.0%	Year 5 (Oak)	93.5%
Year 1 (Ash)	96.3%	Year 5 (Beech)	93.8%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	96.0%	Year 6 (Elm)	93.9%
Year 2 (Willow)	96.8%	Year 6 (Birch)	96.9%
Year 3 (Maple)	96.3%	Whole school Cumulative from Sept	95.5%

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 come back to school with lots of excitement to start the last part of the year. We read a lovely book called The Book of Names before sequencing our name and using our nippy fingers to practise writing our name. We all had such super attempts, lots of us are reception ready!



This week in Reception

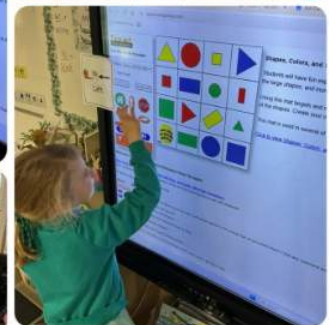
There have been some very strange happenings in our forest area this week. Mr Bray got an alert that there were trespassers and when we checked the CCTV we were shocked to see a T-rex, a velociraptor and a stegosaurus! We have loved looking at non-fiction books to find out dino facts, playing in our dino swamp and engaging in dinosaur challenges and activities. We also found lots of dino debris in the woods including footprints and real bones!



Mrs Blyth and Mrs Adamson

This week in Year 1

It has been another busy and productive week in Year 1. In phonics, the children have been focusing on split digraphs, such as the 'a-e' in *make* and the 'i-e' in *kite*. I wonder if they could spot any split digraphs in their reading book at home this weekend? We also introduced our new core text, 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers and the children made some excellent predictions about the story. In maths, we have been learning how to partition numbers up to 100 into tens and ones using equipment and part-whole models. In computing, we started our new topic of programming using the Beebots and worked hard to give them commands. In geography, we introduced the concept of Fairtrade and discussed how it supports farmers globally, which we followed up by sampling some Fairtrade bananas, chocolate and orange juice.



This week in Year 3

We have had an incredibly creative and dramatic week of learning in Year 3! In Design and Technology, we officially entered the making phase for our stunning Egyptian collars. It was fantastic to see the children's initial designs finally come to life as they carefully cut out their unique patterns. They are already looking brilliant. In Maths we explored the world of angles. We have been learning all about right, acute, and obtuse angles. Armed with their trusty "right-angle finders," the children had a wonderful time hunting for different types of angles all around our classroom. In English, we travelled to a different part of the ancient world to explore the dramatic story of Pompeii and the catastrophic eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The children have been busy planning a gripping newspaper report on the disaster, putting a major focus on crafting realistic, impactful eyewitness quotes to capture the moment. The planning looks superb, and I cannot wait to see how their final reports turn out next week!



Miss Mears and Mr Shaw

This week in Year 4

We began our final geography unit of the year by exploring some old photographs of Ponteland. We were fascinated by the ways in which the village has changed and stayed the same. Later in the week, we enjoyed a fantastic golf taster session led by Close House Golf Club.



Mrs Bell and Miss Davis

This Week in Year 5

Oh Maya Goodness

Year 5 traveled back in time to explore the ancient Maya civilisation, our new history topic. The pupils discovered that this fascinating society thrived in Mesoamerica from around 2000 BC to 1500 AD, developing a booming culture centered around the farming of maize. After reviewing prior knowledge about the Victorians and Greek Gods, Year 5 compared the Maya to other historical societies. They identified key similarities, noting that just like the Egyptians, Romans, and Vikings, the Maya built great cities and temples, were ruled by kings and queens, and recorded their history using hieroglyphs. Interestingly, the Maya were a stone age civilisation and even invented the concept of zero! We look forward to delving deeper into the world of the Maya as this term continues.



This week in Year 6

It has been lovely to welcome the children back after half term. This half term we have begun a science topic on living things and their classifications. This week we went on a trip to Northumberland Zoo; thankfully the weather held out and it was a fascinating and motivating day for all of the children. We took part in a workshop on evolution and adaptation and went to see an amazing bird of prey show. Some highlights were the snow leopards, the lynx, the lemurs, and the cute little otters. The children were everything we have come to expect from year 6 this year, responsible, mature and kind. We will now use what we learned to feed into both our writing in English and our work on classification in science.



Miss Allan and Mr Orme

Dates for your diary in 2026



Wed 10th June 2026	Class Photo Day
Thur 11th June 2026	Reception trip (AM only)
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
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
Wed 2nd Sept 2026	School Resumes
Fri 23rd October 2026	Teacher Training Day
Wc 26th Oct 2026	Half Term

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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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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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



