

# Friday Flyer

Friday 17th July 2026

## Headteacher Update

There's no such thing as 'winding down' for summer here! Over the last few days we have held our music themed week which has brought a joyful finish to the year. Each year group has practised a song which means something to them, from Reception's brilliant adaptation of 'Don't Stop Believing' to Y6's France bus anthem 'Three Lions'. On Wednesday the entire school, from nursery to Y6, came together in what we affectionately (or maybe pretentiously!) call 'the amphitheatre' to perform our tunes. It was one of my favourite moments of the year as the full strength of our community spirit was on show and I felt very keenly the privilege it is to work in a primary school and particularly to be the headteacher - I am so grateful to be surrounded by such incredible children and talented staff.



Another of our musical events was the KS2 Choir's wonderful Mary Poppins concert at Ponteland High School where our pupils performed with children from Belsay, Richard Coates and Darras Hall primaries. As well as the beautiful singing, the children also showcased their dancing and acting skills and thoroughly entertained the audience. We closed our music week with a festival on the field on Friday morning where we enjoyed karaoke, dancing and lots of music-related fun! Thank you to Mrs Adamson for planning such a fantastic end to the year, impressive in itself but even more so when we consider that in a few short weeks she will be having her baby!

Thursday brought a very special assembly as we hijacked Mrs Wigham's singing assembly to perform 'Thank you for the Music' with lyrics which had been adapted to celebrate Mrs Wigham who, after 35 years, has retired. Mrs Wigham has worked at Pele Trust for 5 years and in that time she has elevated the profile of music in each of the primaries and created some wonderful opportunities for the children. She has undoubtedly left a legacy of strong practice and a passion for the subject which, along with the curriculum and events she has put in place, will continue to have a significant impact on the children's experience long after she has retired. Mrs Wigham will be greatly missed but we are incredibly fortunate as waiting in the wings is our very own Mrs Ogden who, with her past experience as Head of Music at Burnside High School, is going to teach music at our school and Richard Coates Primary School. She already has lots of exciting plans, including introducing samba and djembe drumming to the curriculum and a pop choir and percussion band as extra-curricular clubs.

We also bid farewell to Mr Shaw whose one year contract covering a maternity leave has sadly come to an end. Mr Shaw has brought an infectious enthusiasm to our school and he is loved by staff and children alike. Also leaving us in order to take up a position closer to her home is Mrs Bosomworth whose caring nature has had a significant impact on the children in Y3. We will also miss our teaching students who have worked in school across the year. I am delighted to share that after a very successful placement in Year 2, Mr Pritchard has secured a job at another school in Pele Trust!

The final goodbye goes to our wonderful Year 6 children who have made us so proud this year. The SATs results were released only yesterday and the Year 6 team and I were bursting with pride when we saw how well the children had done. Test results tell only part of the story though and there have been so many moments, not only over the past year but also the six years before, where the children have achieved so much and have shown so many of our school values. We know they are ready for high school and wish them the best of luck.

Yesterday the children all moved up to their new classes for their final transition activity before we break for summer. This time of year can feel bittersweet as the children prepare to say goodbye to the staff who have nurtured them over the last year while feeling excited about the challenges and opportunities that their new year group will bring. What I can tell you with absolute certainty is that the children are most definitely ready for their next chapter and I know they will thrive when we return in September.

Thank you to all of our families for your support over the last year. I hope everyone has a lovely summer and we look forward to seeing the children back in school on Wednesday 2nd September, following the bank holiday Monday and teacher training day on Tuesday 1st.

Best wishes,

Claire Johnson

## Sports Update

✨ What an incredible result at the Primary Swim Gala last week – bringing home 19 Gold Medals! ✨

This is such an outstanding achievement, and we were so proud to see amazing team spirit from start to finish!

🏆 Boys' Freestyle Relay Winners:  
Logan, Joseph, Max, Jacob

🏆 Girls' Freestyle Relay Winners:  
Emilia, Sadie, Charlotte, Elle

🏅 Individual Gold Winners:  
Elle – 25m Butterfly  
Charlotte – 25m Backstroke  
Sadie – 25m Breaststroke

🏆 Girls' Medley Relay Winners:  
Charlotte, Sadie, Elle, Tilly

🏆 Mixed Freestyle Relay Winners:  
Alex, Jacob, Emilia, Tilly

A huge congratulations to every single swimmer – you were absolutely brilliant! 🎉👏





## Safeguarding & wellbeing

# Domestic abuse is everyone's business

You are not alone



### Support services in Northumberland

**DASSN** for adults – 01670 820199

**NDAS** for adults and children – 01434 60 80 30

**Cygnus Support** – 01670 853977

**Acorns** – 0191 3498366

[www.northumberland.gov.uk/domesticabuse](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/domesticabuse)





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)      | 83.8% | Year 3 (Pine)                     | 91.3% |
| Reception (Chestnut) | 93.3% | Year 4 (Alder)                    | 89.7% |
| Reception (Pinecone) | 86.7% | Year 4 ( Yew)                     | 91.7% |
| Year 1 (Holly)       | 91.0% | Year 5 (Oak)                      | 97.7% |
| Year 1 (Ash)         | 97.7% | Year 5 (Beech)                    | 91.7% |
| Year 2 (Sycamore)    | 94.7% | Year 6 (Elm)                      | 92.6% |
| Year 2 (Willow)      | 97.4% | Year 6 (Birch)                    | 91.7% |
| Year 3 (Maple )      | 95.3% | Whole school Cumulative from Sept | 95.1% |

|             |                                      |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| 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 are ready for Reception! This week the big nursery children have spent time with their new teacher in their big reception class, enjoying exploring both inside and outside. They are so excited for the next part of their school journey. We hope you all have a lovely summer break.



Mrs Wilds



## This week in Reception

We've had a fantastic week filled with forest adventures, music, and lots of fun! The highlight of the week was our Family Forest Picnic. It was wonderful to spend time with our lovely families, catch up together, and celebrate the end of a fabulous year in Reception. Thank you for all of your support throughout the year. We hope you all have a wonderful, relaxing summer holiday!



Mrs Blyth and Mrs Adamson



## This week in Year 1

What an incredible final week we have had in Year 1! As we look back on this fantastic year, we spent time celebrating all of our wonderful learning and marveling at how much everyone has grown, especially when we compared our brand-new self-portraits to the ones we drew all the way back in September! We also enjoyed making colourful friendship bracelets, tapping along to lots of songs during our music celebration morning and cooling down with a delicious ice cream treat to mark the end of term.

### A Huge Thank You from the Year 1 Team

We want to send a heartfelt thank you to all of our amazing parents and carers for your unwavering support, encouragement and partnership throughout the year. We are so incredibly proud of the children; we will miss them all dearly as they move onward and upward and we wish you all a wonderful, safe and relaxing summer holiday!

Miss Storey, Mrs Kenyon and Mrs Tailford





## This week in Year 2

What a year it has been in Year 2. The biggest of thanks to everyone who has supported us along the way. We are so grateful! From learning about the Great Fire of London to World War 2 and everything in between. We have made some amazing memories but are ready for our adventures of Year 3.



Mrs Nowosielska and Mr Massey

## This week in Year 3

What a spectacular final week we have had to round off an absolutely incredible year! We kicked off our end-of-term celebrations on Monday with our highly anticipated Roman Day. History truly came alive as the children stepped back in time: we baked traditional Roman bread, sampled a delicious Roman breakfast, sculpted clay pinch pots, and designed wonderfully intricate mosaics. It was a thoroughly immersive and memorable day of hands-on learning!

The excitement didn't stop there. On Thursday, we were treated to a very special visit from Tony the ice cream man, which was an absolute hit and put the biggest smiles on everyone's faces! This week also marked an important milestone as the children spent some valuable transition time with their new Year 4 teachers and settled into their upcoming classrooms. They are more than ready for the exciting adventure ahead.

It is now my bittersweet job to say a massive well done and a fond goodbye to this wonderful class. You have worked so hard, grown so much, and brought so much joy to Year 3 this year.

Have a fantastic, safe, and well-deserved summer break. We can't wait to see you all shining brightly when you return in September as Year 4s!



Miss Mears and Mr Shaw



## This week in Year 4

As we come to the end of Year 4, Mrs Bell and I just wanted to say a heartfelt thank you for all your support this year. It has been such a pleasure to spend the year with your children. They have made us laugh, impressed us with their determination, surprised us with their ideas and made every day different. Watching them grow in confidence, maturity and independence has been a real privilege, and we couldn't be prouder of all they have achieved.

Thank you for the countless ways you have supported them along the way, whether helping with homework, listening to reading, encouraging them through challenges or simply sharing in their excitement about school. Your support means so much and helps make all the difference.

For now, Mrs Bell and I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved summer filled with rest, fun, adventure and special family moments. Thank you for allowing us to be part of your children's journey this year. It has truly been a joy!



*The fabulous Yew Class minus a few lovely faces!*



*The wonderful Alder Class minus a few lovely faces!*

Mrs Bell and Miss Davis

## This Week in Year 5

### Water Way To Have a Good Time

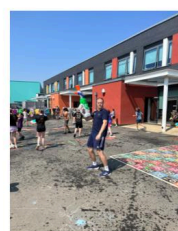
Well... that's a wrap! What a fantastic year it has been in Year 5, and what better way to finish than with a week full of fun.

As well as squeezing in plenty of learning, we enjoyed a few end-of-year activities, including the ever-popular Pirate Game, some fiercely competitive games of rounders and football, and our Geography World Cup project. Sadly, despite our best efforts, football still isn't coming home...

The highlight of the week, however, had to be our Year 5 water fight. The children arrived armed with water pistols of all varieties and plenty of determination. We were, of course, extremely disappointed that they completely ignored the very sensible rule stating that teachers were allowed to squirt the children, but the children definitely weren't allowed to squirt the teachers! Needless to say, the children had other ideas, and everyone ended up absolutely soaked!

It was the perfect way to celebrate an incredible year together. We are so proud of everything the children have achieved, and although we will miss them, we know they are more than ready for the exciting adventures that await them in Year 6.

Have a wonderful, well-earned summer break. We'll see you again in September!



Mr Tailford and Mr McCourt



## Dates for your diary in 2026



|                       |                                                |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 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) |
| W.C. 26th Oct 2026    | Half Term                                      |
| Mon 2nd Nov           | Teacher Training Day (school closed to pupils) |
| Tue 3rd Nov           | School Resumes                                 |
| Fri 18th Dec 2026     | Last day of school - 1.30pm finish             |
| Mon 4th Jan 2026      | School Resumes                                 |

## 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         | Shop items: till, fruit and veg baskets etc    |
| • Waterproofs     | Metal pots and pans Children's Gardening Tools |
| • Barbies/dolls   | Dressing up items                              |
| • Toy trucks/cars |                                                |

## After School Club Needs You!

We would love to take any of these off you:

- |                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| • Loom Bands            | Beads        |
| • Complete Jigsaws      | Lego & Duplo |
| • Chess Sets            | Knex         |
| • Dolls House Furniture |              |







## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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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Sign up and search for Ponteland Primary School PTA

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GROUPON



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JOHN  
LEWIS



Viking

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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](mailto: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**



