

Friday Flyer

Friday 10th July 2026

Headteacher Update

I must start this week's Friday Flyer by thanking all of our families for their support at our summer fair last Friday after school. Somehow, Sinead and the Friends of Ponteland Primary manage to make each event better than the last and, with an already extremely high bar, they well and truly outdid themselves with Friday's fair. There were so many stalls to entertain the children, with the highlight undoubtedly being 'Soak the Teacher'! Well done to Mr Orme, Mrs Bell and Mrs Ogden who bravely faced the sponges! Well done also to our pupils in Y4 and Y5 who created products to sell for Cancer Research UK and St Oswald's Hospice respectively. Both stalls were incredibly popular and raised £138.10 for Cancer Research and £140 for St Oswald's. I was so impressed with the girls who had used so much initiative to plan and prepare for their stalls and then their time on the day selling their wares. It was great to welcome Y7 students from Ponteland High to help run the fair and so lovely to see some familiar faces looking so grown up! All of our stalls were very popular and we raised an incredible £4716.28 in total which will go towards our long term goal of developing a dedicated arts studio. Huge thanks to the Friends of PPS who not only gave up their entire Friday to prepare for and run the fair but also returned every day this week to sell raffle tickets, teas and coffees at our parent assemblies as well as a couple of very welcome stalls after school tonight and last night with icy treats.

School has been a little quieter this week as many of our Y6 children have been on their residential trip. As well as our usual itinerary in St Omer of visiting the war memorial at Vimy Ridge and discovering underwater creatures at Nausicaa Aquarium, this year the children also had the opportunity to explore London. It sounds like they have all had a wonderful time and have made some very happy memories. Thank you so much to the staff who took them and well done to the children who I am told behaved impeccably and were fantastic ambassadors for our school.

Best wishes, Claire Johnson



Safeguarding & wellbeing

While the summer holidays bring a more relaxed routine for children, they can sometimes increase the pressure on families and so I wanted to share the Togetherness platform where you can access resources to support wellbeing. This is a free resource in Northumberland and I have been told that Newcastle families are also welcome to access the resources simply by using school's postcode which is NE20 9EG. The access code you will need to create an account is Hadrian.

TOGETHERNESS

Bringing the Solihull Approach to the world

Northumberland families: Build everyday emotional resilience!

Your free online learning. Big feelings, how the brain works, and relationship ideas for happier lives.

Northumberland County Council gives families free access to Togetherness resources to support wellbeing. For parents, carers, grandparents, and young people.

Learn from NHS clinical psychologists, practitioners, and other parents. The pathways will help you and your family understand and manage emotions in everyday life.

Browse pathways

Use the exclusive access code:

HADRIAN



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)	94.4%	Year 3 (Pine)	99.3%
Reception (Chestnut)	94.7%	Year 4 (Alder)	90.3%
Reception (Pinecone)	92.0%	Year 4 (Yew)	92.7%
Year 1 (Holly)	93.0%	Year 5 (Oak)	91.9%
Year 1 (Ash)	100%	Year 5 (Beech)	96.6%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	94.0%	Year 6 (Elm)	78.7%
Year 2 (Willow)	95.8%	Year 6 (Birch)	84.1%
Year 3 (Maple)	97.3%	Whole school Cumulative from Sept	95.3%

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.

Recent Music Events

The last few weeks have been jam packed with fabulous music events!

Last week our amazing Key Stage 1 choir performed at the summer fair and they blew our socks off! They were so confident and the audience were very impressed!



This week we had a music assembly led by Karen Wigham and we were joined by Mr Rosier, music lead at Pontland High School, and Mr Lord, our amazing peripatetic brass teacher. They demonstrated all of the different brass instruments that the children can learn to play in music lessons such as the trumpet, trombone, french horn, tub and trombone. The children loved it and were very excited to have a go! Mr Lord has also been extremely kind and is offering a free music session to anyone who would like to have a go as a brass instrument lesson before fully committing. If you would like your child to sign up for a brass instrument please sign up via this [link](#).

We also had some fabulous performances from pupils from across key stage 2. We were so proud!



We then ended our week with our Rocksteady concerts! Well done to all of our Rockstars!



This week in Nursery

We had our final Welly Wednesday this week, inviting our families to the woods for a lovely picnic. The sun came out and Tony paid us a visit too, what a gorgeous way to get ready for the last week of school!



Mrs Wilds

This week in Reception

We were so proud of our Reception superstars this morning as they performed their end-of-year assembly to a packed hall! Every child spoke so confidently and clearly, and there wasn't a dry eye in the house as they performed our very own version of *Don't Stop Believin'*. What a fantastic way to celebrate an incredible year together.



Mrs Blyth and Mrs Adamson

This week in Year 1

A very busy week in Year 1 with our end of year trip to Lilidorei, end of year assembly, rock steady concert and lots of fun in the sun!

We hope you enjoyed our end of year assembly and the children all made you as proud as they made us. They worked so hard to prepare and rehearse to put on the best show for their grown ups! Our trip to Lilidorei was a resounding success and the children represented our school beautifully. It was truly magical to see the real life Lilidorei in action as we explored what we'd read in Amanita!

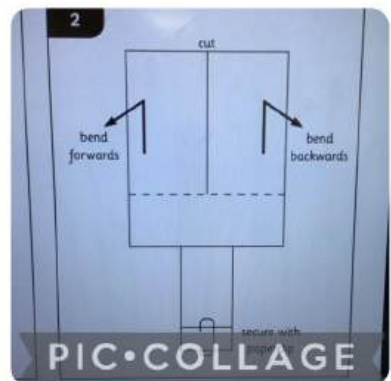
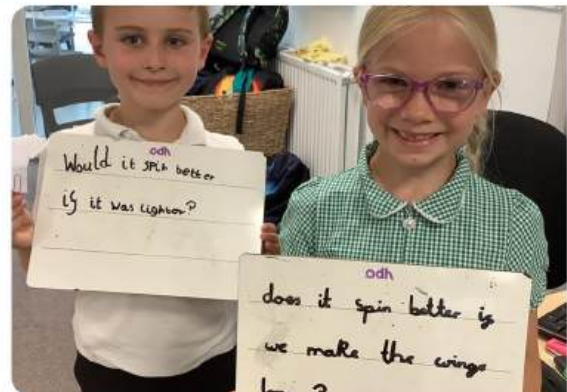
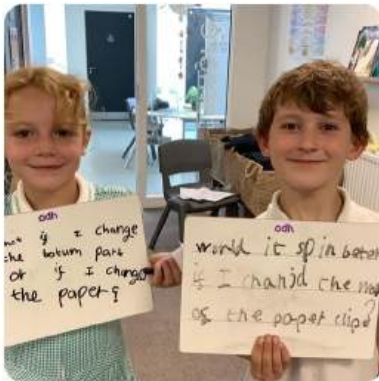
It has been very hot this week so we made the most of the woods and escaped to the shade for a final year 1 adventure. To round off the week the children finalised their Music topic, Carnival of the Animals, by listening to the final section which depicted fish using glockenspiels and xylophones. We then made our own craft hand fish and took them out on to the yard to blow bubbles and listen to our classical song!



Miss Storey, Mrs Kenyon and Mrs Tailford

This week in Year 2

Year 2 have been practising their enquiry skills in science. We made helicopter spinners using a design plan and then tested them. We could see that they didn't all spin as effectively so we created our own questions that we wanted to test. For example, would it spin better if it was lighter, had longer wings, was wider, was made from different paper etc. We then created a second design with our changes, thinking about making it a fair test, and then tested them again. We had lots of great scientific discussion around what made a spinner effective.



This week in Year 3

We have had an incredibly passionate and hands-on week of learning in Year 3!

In English, history truly came to life as we held a fantastic hot seating session centered around Queen Boudicca. The children stepped into the shoes of the fierce Celtic queen as she prepared for her monumental battle against the Romans at Watling Street. It was wonderful to see them channel such raw emotion and dramatic passion into their roles! They then used that inspiration to plan and write a powerful diary entry from Boudicca's perspective, capturing the tension and bravery of the historic eve of battle.

Over in Science, our young researchers put their scientific inquiry skills to a very important (and tasty!) test. We investigated the ultimate question: Which biscuit is the best for dunking? The children carefully observed and timed how long different biscuits could withstand being submerged before collapsing. After plenty of rigorous testing, the majority of the groups concluded that the oatly biscuit reigned supreme as the ultimate, sturdiest dunker!

It has been a truly fantastic week, and we are gearing up for a very special final week of the school year. Next week will be packed with exciting transition activities to help the children prepare for their move to Year 4.

Don't forget, our highly anticipated Roman Day is this Monday! We cannot wait to see everyone in their costumes for a brilliant day of historical fun. Bring on the final week!

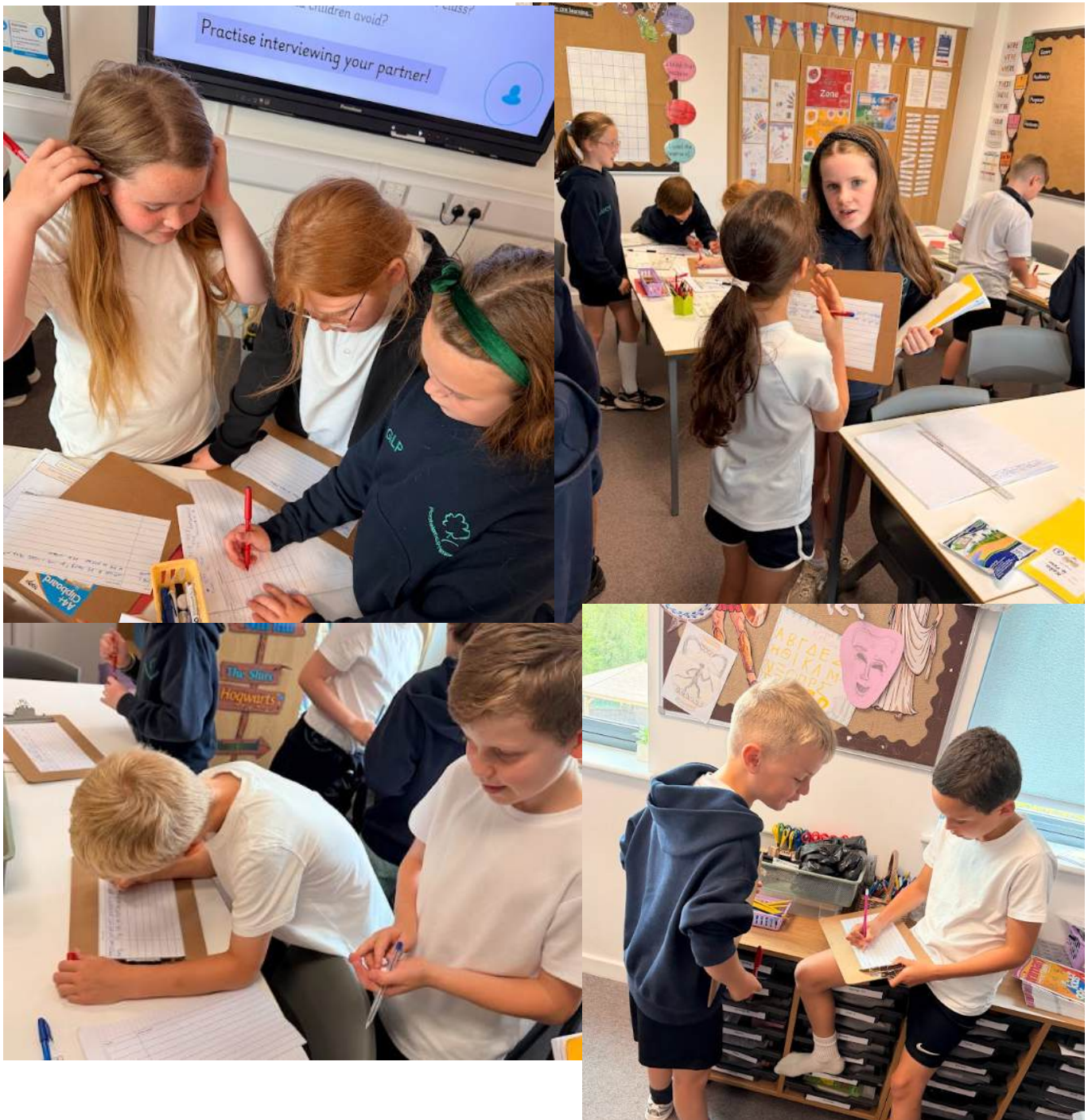
Thank you for another wonderful week of hard work and creativity, Year 3!



Miss Mears and Mr Shaw

This week in Year 4

As part of their final writing unit in Year 4, the children interviewed their classmates, Year 4 staff and several Year 5 pupils to gather their top tips for making Year 4 a success. They then used this fantastic advice to create an informative explanation text, which will be displayed in the classroom to help welcome and support the new Year 4 children in September.



Mrs Bell and Miss Davis

This Week in Year 5

Fans of Year 5

Although we can see the light at the end of the tunnel, Year 5 have still been powering through and working hard in their maths and English lessons. After singing Big River, we said Auf Wiedersehen to Mr McCourt for a week as he joined Year 6 on their France trip. He decided to lend us the weather for a week though and we would just like to share our appreciation to the children who have worked so hard in difficult conditions, they could have mistaken the classrooms for windfarms this week! They can be very proud of what they have produced this week: in maths we have been comparing and converting units of measurement including metric to imperialism whilst in English the children have researched and crafted a biography on a chosen well-known person. Mr Tailford felt young again because he had heard of most of them.

One week to go!



Mr Tailford, Mrs Main and Mrs Rogers

Dates for your diary in 2026



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)
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 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



Turn your daily shopping into everyday magic for us with easyfundraising

You shop, brands donate to us. It won't cost you any extra!



easyfundraising

Help us make a difference when you shop.
Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk



Download on the
App Store



GET IT ON
Google Play

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



Ponteland Primary School
Excellence For All

