

Friday Flyer

Friday 4th September 2026

Headteacher Update

Welcome back to a new school year! I couldn't have asked for a better start to the term than seeing the children quite literally race through the gates on Wednesday morning. They looked so happy to be back and when I visited each classroom across the first morning it was very clear that they were all refreshed and ready to embrace their new year group. Our celebration assembly this morning was proof that we've got off to a cracking start with children already demonstrating our school values, with lots of certificates for children who have been showing kindness, respect, curiosity and effort this week. I've got a feeling we're going to have a great year!

I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to our brand new Early Years families who have joined the school. My favourite part of September is always the time I am lucky enough to spend every day in Nursery and Reception classes getting to know the children and trying to remember everyone's names! The children have settled so quickly into their new environment and new routines - it's like they have always been with us. It is most definitely harder for the parents than the children when you're dropping off your little ones for their very first day so I hope you are feeling reassured now after seeing how well they've settled in their first week and how much fun they have had.

We've only been back for three days but already the children are eager to take up new leadership roles and have been asking when they can apply for our pupil committees. I have shared the committees we have below so that you can talk to your children about what their passions are and the groups they might be interested in joining. We are very proud that throughout our curriculum we have woven the Oxfam Global Curriculum themes to help children understand the world they live in and the important role they play. We're passionate about developing agency in the children and helping them see that they can be the difference they want to see in the world. We have a strong focus on oracy to help the children learn how to articulate their ideas, how to build on the thoughts of others and how to disagree respectfully and I've seen lots of evidence of that in lessons already this week. The committees and councils are the perfect place for children to practise these skills and make a difference to our school community, from the opportunity to fundraise for a cause they believe in on our Fundraising Committee, to promoting sustainability on our Eco Council to encouraging movement and exercise as a Sports Leader or Girls Active Leader.

School council Years 1-6	Arts Ambassadors Years 1-6
Sports leaders Year 6	Diversity council Years 1-6
Play leaders Years 4, 5, 6	Forest Ambassadors Years 5 & 6
Eco council Years 1-6	Fundraising committee Years 1-6
Girls Active Leaders Years 5 & 6	Junior leadership team Year 6

Best wishes,
Claire Johnson



Safeguarding & Wellbeing

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Returning to school after the summer holidays can be both exciting and daunting for children of all ages. Different routines, classes, schools, and academic pressures can cause anxiety or uncertainty. Parents play a vital role in easing this transition. This guide will help you support your child emotionally, mentally, and practically as they return to school.

1 RE-ESTABLISH ROUTINES

Gradually shift back to school-time routines a week or two before term starts. Regular bedtimes, wake-up times, and mealtimes can help children feel more secure and reduce the shock of change when school begins. Having a routine creates predictability and stability, helping to reduce anxiety while improving sleep and concentration.

2 TALK ABOUT FEELINGS

Encourage open conversations with children about their feelings. Ask them how they feel about returning to school, such as what they're looking forward to and anything they might be feeling unsure or worried about. Validating their emotions can help reduce anxiety and show them it's okay to talk about their emotional wellbeing.

3 SUPPORT WITH SLEEP

Children need adequate sleep for concentration, brain function, memory, and emotional regulation. Establish a wind-down routine without screens at least an hour before bed, and encourage relaxing activities like reading or listening to calming music.

4 LOOK OUT FOR SIGNS

Some children hide their anxiety. Watch for changes in their behaviour, such as withdrawal, stomach aches, and irritability. If worries persist, speak with their teacher or the pastoral team early to ensure your child receives support.

5 REFRESH SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Help children reconnect with school friends by arranging playdates or video chats in the week before school starts. Familiar faces and social interactions help the transition and provide emotional comfort on that first day back.

6 CREATE A CALM MORNING

Mornings set the tone for the day. Plan ahead with a consistent morning routine that allows time for breakfast, getting dressed, and talking calmly about the day. Avoid last-minute rushing to reduce stress for everyone.

7 FOCUS ON POSITIVES

Talk about the fun and interesting parts of school – seeing friends, favourite subjects, or exciting activities. One simple but powerful change parents can make is swapping "How's your day been?" for "What's been good about your day?" This invites more of a positive, open response. Focusing on positives can help shift children's anxious thoughts and reframe school as a safe and engaging place.

8 VISIT OR VISUALISE SCHOOL

If possible, encourage visits to the school grounds before the first day, especially if it's a new school. Walking the route or even looking at photos of classrooms and teachers can make the environment feel familiar. The school website is always a great go-to place for this. This is particularly helpful for younger children or those with additional needs.

9 PLAN AHEAD TOGETHER

Involve children in preparing for school – buying supplies, packing their bag, or choosing lunch options. This gives them a sense of control and builds excitement. Use checklists or calendars to prepare together, helping reduce last-minute stress.

10 STAY POSITIVE AND PRESENT

Children pick up on your outlook. Stay calm, positive, and present, especially during drop-offs. Avoid lingering goodbyes, and let them know you'll be there at pick-up. A consistent, reassuring presence builds their confidence and resilience.

Meet Our Expert

This guide was created by Jo Morton-Brown, an Emotional Health Practitioner with nearly 15 years' experience supporting children and young people's mental health. She produces uplifting YouTube content for pupils and trains adults to better support young people's wellbeing, with a mission to help every child feel valued and understand their emotions.



#WakeUp
Wednesday®

The
National
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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		Not applicable this week	
Reception Chestnut	100%	3 Pine	88.2%
Reception Pinecone	100%	4 Alder	100%
1 Holly	98.9%	4 Yew	100%
1 Ash	96.7%	5 Oak	99.4%
2 Sycamore	95.6%	5 Beech	97.8%
2 Willow	97.8%	6 Elm	98.8%
3 Maple	97.8%	6 Birch	93.5%

Whole school (cumulative from Sept)	97.4%
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98% - 100%	Excellent Attendance
95% - 97.9%	Good Attendance
92% - 94.9%	Caution - Below National Average
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 9.15 am** 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 8.55 am 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.

Careers Spotlight



STEM PERSON
OF THE
WEEK

Alana Godfrey
Airspace Coordinator

Alana records aircraft noise data at Heathrow Airport. This helps protect people living nearby. She is **logical** and follows clear steps to make sure all her checks are done correctly. Alana is **organised** and keeps track of data from over 1,000 flights a day. She is also **observant** and spots gaps or unusual patterns that might need investigating.

Logical

Organised

Observant

nustem



Northumbria
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NEWCASTLE

This Week in Nursery

Welcome to Our New Nursery Stars!

This week, we were thrilled to welcome our newest children and their families to the school nursery. After initial visits alongside their parents, the children took a huge step forward by enjoying their very first morning all on their own! They settled in brilliantly and spent a wonderful week exploring both our indoor classroom and outdoor play areas. We are so proud of their confidence and can't wait for all the adventures ahead.

Mrs Kenyon



PIC•COLLAGE

This Week in Reception

Our new Reception children from external nurseries have had a fantastic start during their very first few days in school!

It has been wonderful watching them settle in so brilliantly as they explored their new classrooms, learned all about their new school routines, and started making wonderful new friends. They have shown so much bravery and enthusiasm as they took these exciting first steps into big school.

We are so proud of how well they have adapted, and they are so excited to meet the rest of their friends next week as everyone comes together!

Mrs Wilds & Miss Storey



This Week in Year 1

What a fantastic start to the term! The children have had a wonderful week exploring their new classroom and discovering all the exciting areas to learn in. They have been super friends, practising how to be brilliant talk partners and taking turns during play and discussion. Outside, break and lunchtimes were filled with energy as everyone loved climbing and exploring the climbing frame, playing tag and writing on the outdoor whiteboard. To top it all off, the children have worked amazingly hard on their very first Year 1 writing and maths jobs. We are all incredibly proud of how quickly they have picked up the new routines and settled into Year 1 life!

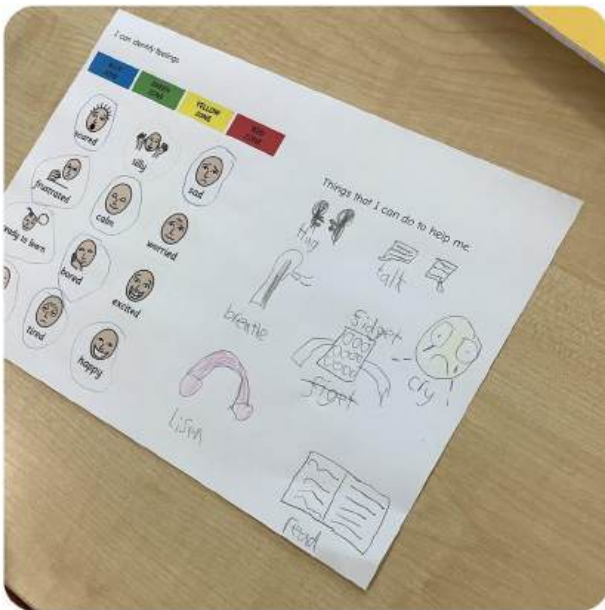
Mrs Tailford, Mrs Rogers and Mrs Blyth



This Week in Year 2

Year 2 have had a fantastic first week back. We've started looking at a new book called The Koala who Could and have been acting out the story, playing the part of the characters. We've also learned lots about our new routines. In PSHE, we have been revisiting the zones of regulation to help us identify our emotions as we start a new school year and also considering how we can support each other.

Mr Massey and Mrs Nowosielska



PIC•COLLAGE

This Week in Year 3

Year 3 have had a wonderful week settling into their new surroundings: it really is different upstairs with new surroundings and routines and we're glad to report that the children have taken it in their stride. This week has given us an opportunity to ease the children back into school but they have brought smiles, enthusiasm and plenty of effort with them to ensure that the transition to KS2 is smooth. They have particularly impressed us with their times table knowledge and understanding of zones of regulation, which has made for a positive start.

We look forward to completing a full week of Year 3, starting Monday!

Mr Tailford and Miss Mears



This Week in Year 4

We have had a truly wonderful first week together in Year 4! The classroom has been buzzing with enthusiasm as we dived straight into our learning across the curriculum. In maths, we have been busy exploring our times tables and using hands-on manipulatives to build a deeper, clearer understanding of key concepts. In English, the children reflected on their goals and aspirations by writing thoughtful letters to their future selves, creating a lovely keepsake to look back on later in the year. We also took important steps in PSHE by exploring the Zones of Regulation toolbox, equipping everyone with practical strategies to understand, name, and manage their feelings as we build a supportive classroom environment. Amongst many other exciting activities, it has been a fantastic, inspiring start to the year, and we are so proud of how brilliantly everyone has settled in!

Mrs Bell & Miss Davis



This Week in Year 5

5 High Five for Year 5 5

We have been really impressed with the attitude and maturity of our new Year 5 cohort this week, which has made for a fantastic start to the year. The children have settled brilliantly into their new routines and have already shown us that they are ready for the challenges ahead.

It's always good to get those routines established early, so we have been working hard to hit the ground running! Alongside our usual lessons, we have spent time taking part in a range of team-building games and activities.

These have given us the chance to get to know one another, work together and think about the choices we make in our classroom. We have explored how we can support each other, make positive decisions and help to create a happy and successful Year 5.

It has been a brilliant first week, and we are excited to see what the rest of the year has in store!

Mr Orme and Mr McCourt



This Week in Year 6

We have been so excited to welcome the children back into Year 6, hitting the ground running and throwing ourselves straight into exciting new challenges! The class has already dived into problem-solving in maths, started exploring our new core text *Letters from the Lighthouse*, and spent time thinking about what it means to be a global citizen who makes a positive impact starting right here in our classroom. It has been a fantastic start, and we are looking forward to a wonderful year ahead filled with all the amazing opportunities Year 6 has to offer.

Miss Allan and Mrs Main



Dates for Your Diary in 2026/2027



Fri 23rd October 2026	Teacher Training Day (school closed to pupils)
W.C. 26th Oct 2026	Half Term
Mon 2nd Nov 2026	Teacher Training Day (school closed to pupils)
Tue 3rd Nov 2026	School Resumes
Fri 18th Dec 2026	Last day of school - 1.30pm finish
Mon 4th Jan 2027	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
- Waterproofs
- Barbies/dolls
- Toy trucks/cars
- Dressing up items
- Metal pots and pans
- Children's Gardening Tools
- Shop items: till, fruit and veg baskets etc

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!



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



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

