

Friday Flyer

Friday 11th September 2026

Headteacher Update

We've had an annual tradition at our school since 2011 and despite the fact that many years have passed (15 in fact!), that tradition never feels old or out of date. I'm talking of course about our visit from our favourite author Adam Bushnell and his 22 year old tortoise Jet! Adam visits us in the second week of every new school year and brings our curriculum to life with his phenomenal creativity. Creativity is one of our school values - which I hope is evident whenever you walk through school and see the beautiful artwork on display or when you attend one of our performances - and Adam Bushnell presents the award for creativity at our Values Awards Ceremony at the midpoint of every year in February. He is the perfect role model to inspire creativity in the children and it has been very exciting this week to see the children immersed in his sessions, whether it was learning about the role of fire fighters as part of Y2's history topic of The Great Fire of London, Y6's exploration of WW2 artefacts or Early Years giggling at a video of Jet the tortoise doing back flips and designing their own animal sidekicks!



Best wishes,
Claire Johnson



Safeguarding & Wellbeing

We all know the importance of good sleep but returning to school after 6 weeks of relaxed bedtimes can sometimes mean it's difficult to get back into a routine of early nights. Please follow [this link](#) to a sleep guide for parents to help if your child is struggling with their sleep.

Why is sleep important for our mental health?

Sleep is also a critical component of our mental health, not just our physical health.



In our surveys, nearly half

48%

of adults and two thirds of teenagers

66%

agreed that sleeping badly has a negative effect on their mental health.

Good sleep can help us to:

- manage feelings, emotions and behaviour,
- be alert and remember things properly, and
- be attentive and learn better.

However, lack of sleep or poor quality sleep can:

- make us feel low, anxious, irritable or confused, and
- make it harder to manage our emotions and the challenges in life.

Sleep problems can be both a symptom of, and a contributor to, mental health problems. Experiencing a sleep problem is very common, with as many as 1 in 3 people having difficulties sleeping.

Lack of sleep over a consistent period of time can also increase impulsive behaviour, negative thinking, feelings of anger, and is linked to increased risk of mental health problems such as depression and anxiety disorders.



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		98.4%	
Reception Chestnut	97.3%	3 Pine	94.5%
Reception Pinecone	97.3%	4 Alder	97.7%
1 Holly	99.0%	4 Yew	99.3%
1 Ash	94.3%	5 Oak	100%
2 Sycamore	99.3%	5 Beech	98.4%
2 Willow	99.3%	6 Elm	99.6%
3 Maple	99.3%	6 Birch	93.2%

Whole school (cumulative from Sept)	97.5%
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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.



PELE TRUST PRIMARY
CAREERS

You may have noticed last week that our Friday Flyer featured a *Careers Spotlight*. This is new and aims to introduce children to different careers each week, providing a starting point for conversations at home. Our aim is to widen aspirations, challenge stereotypes and help children see that there are many different pathways and possibilities for their future. As you talk about each career, it is particularly important to explore the skills and values that underpin the role – such as creativity, resilience, teamwork, problem-solving or curiosity – and how these are valuable in many different careers and in everyday life.

We encourage parents and carers to start these conversations at home by sharing what you wanted to be when you grew up and why. What attracted you to that career? Did your ambitions change? What skills do you use in your work now? These simple conversations can help children begin to think about their own interests, strengths and possibilities. We will continue to develop our Careers Spotlight and weave careers into our curriculum, classroom discussions and wider school life, helping children to understand that careers education is not just about choosing a job – it is about discovering who they are, what they enjoy and what they might achieve.



STEM
PERSON
OF THE
WEEK

Elise Walters
Electrician

Elise installs and fixes electrical systems in buildings to keep them safe and working properly. She is **resilient** and gets up at 4:30am every morning to travel to building sites where she works in all weather conditions. Elise is **patient** when working through challenges on building sites. She is **collaborative** and works with other electricians to complete jobs together as a team.

Resilient

Patient

Collaborative

This Week in Nursery

The children are developing confidence, independence, decision-making and social skills as they choose activities, learn routines and make new friends. We are particularly focusing on tidying up using the language 'Play. Put it Away'.

Our children have worked on their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination through sticking and manipulating materials to make Acorn Sun Catchers. They also explored colour, shape, texture and pattern while using their creativity.

We have enjoyed listening to the children share their All About Me posters and learning about what makes them unique.

The children had lots of fun joining in with actions during Adam Bushnell's storytelling, and loved meeting Jet the tortoise.

A wonderful week of playing, exploring, creating, communicating and learning together! We are so proud of how well everyone has settled.

Mrs Kenyon



This Week in Reception

What a whirlwind of an adventurous week we've had in Reception! We kicked off the excitement with a magical visit from author Adam Bushnell, who shared hilarious stories, helped us discover our secret superpowers, and brought along his very special pet tortoise, Jet! The children also smashed their very first PE session with Mr Drane and ventured into the woods for our first Forest School trip, learning all about forest safety rules while exploring nature. Discovery time has been booming both inside and out with the children conquering the obstacle course, splashing in the water tray, and whipping up mud pies in the mud kitchen - proving to be absolute self-care superstars by putting on their own wellies and waterproofs like total pros! Back in the classroom, we've been practicing our pencil skills by drawing and chatting about our wonderful families, and we finally finished all our jobs for our special *Knock Knock* book, which we can't wait to share together in school next week! Have a fantastic, restful weekend!

Mrs Wilds & Miss Storey



This Week in Year 1

It's been another thrilling week in Year 1 packed with exciting firsts! We launched our first PE sessions with Mr. Drane and the NUFC Foundation, got creative in art with Mrs. Frame, and enjoyed our very first forest session of the year.

The highlight of our week was a visit from the wonderful Adam Bushnell, who guided the children in discovering their own superpowers to support our global theme of Identity and Diversity.

Mrs Tailford, Mrs Rogers and Mrs Blyth

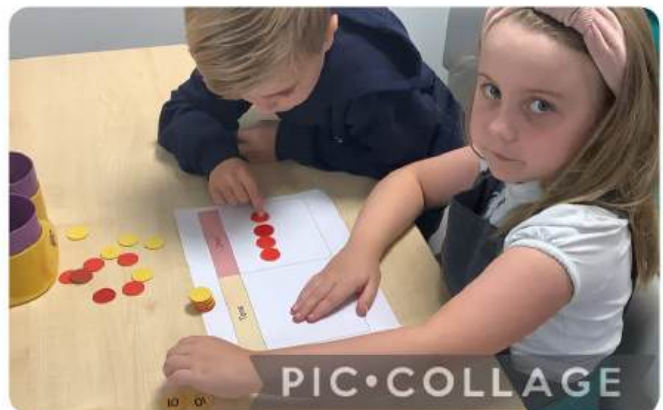
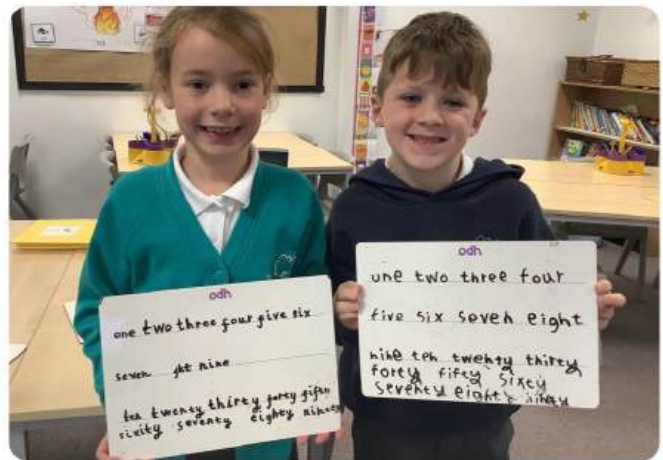


PIC•COLLAGE

This Week in Year 2

It has been a fantastic second week in Year 2. We've been practicing our place value skills using place value charts and part-whole models. In English, we have been learning the story of the Great Fire of London ready to retell it in our own words next week. We also had a visit from Adam Bushnell who brought in some equipment that would have been used in the great fire of London time.

Mr Massey and Mrs Nowosielska



PIC•COLLAGE

This Week in Year 3

Year 3 had a fantastic time this week as author Adam Bushnell visited Maple and Pine classes to bring our new Stone Age topic to life! The children were completely captivated getting hands-on with incredible historical artefacts, including real animal skins and sharp flint tools, which sparked some wonderful creative ideas for our future writing. To top off an unforgettable workshop, Adam also introduced us to a very special guest: his pet tortoise, Jet! A huge thank you to Adam for inspiring our young historians; Maple and Pine are officially thrilled to dive deeper into the prehistoric era!

Mr Tailford and Miss Mears



PIC•COLLAGE

Year 4 had a great time with author Adam Bushnell this week. He helped us imagine what life was like inside an Anglo-Saxon settlement, from the clothes they wore to the everyday tools they relied on. The real highlight was getting to pass around some replica armour. We couldn't believe how heavy the nasal helm and chainmail gloves were! A huge thank you to Adam (and Jet the tortoise!) for such a fun, memorable session.



This Week in Year 5

The Village People

It was fantastic to welcome Adam Bushnell back to school this week. He brings such a lot of fun, energy and always gives the children lots to ponder during his assembly and classroom sessions.

After a fun and interactive story about brave knights and dinosaur headed monsters, Adam came to year 5 to talk about the world. He shared a book with us called, *If The World Was A Village*; it was fascinating to learn about some of the demographics that make up the population of Earth. What really shocked us was the number of people on Earth who are hungry or even starving. 70 out of every 100 people; a shocking number.

The children were then tasked with designing a robot that cure world hunger - whether it was a delivery system, a crop grower or some other kind of technology that could share food evenly across the world, the children dived in with their usual enthusiasm and creativity.

Mr Orme and Mr McCourt



This Week in Year 6

What a fantastic session we had with author Adam Bushnell this week. To help us launch our World War 2 topic, he helped us to think what it would have been like to live in London during the Blitz. He showed us real video footage of a London street in the wake of an attack and brought along some amazing WW2 artefacts like an evacuees suitcase, a ration book, gas mask and a (safe) Tommy Gun. The children used the brilliant ideas they generated in this session to inform their first piece of extended writing today.

Miss Allan and Mrs Main



Dates for Your Diary in 2026/2027



Mon 14th Sept 2026	Friends of Ponteland (PTA) Planning Meeting - 5.30pm, ground floor meeting room beside library in Leisure Centre
Weds 14th Oct 2026	Friends of Ponteland (PTA) AGM - 5.30pm inside school building Yr1 Class
Tue 20th October 2026	Yr 6 Trip - Packed lunches NOT needed
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

