

Friday Flyer

Friday 9th October 2026

Headteacher Update

What a busy week we have had with children heading out of school for a whole host of exciting events. From our cross country runners representing our school at an incredibly high standard at Temple Park, to our U11 girls' football team smashing yet another tournament to some of our budding scientists, mathematicians and engineers exploring STEMfest, there has been a lot to be excited about this week.



STEMfest gave the children the opportunity to get involved in a range of hands-on activities, interactive workshops and exciting demonstrations, exploring how STEM is shaping the world around us. They were able to discover cutting-edge technology, meet experts and have a go at activities designed to spark curiosity, creativity and critical thinking.

One of the highlights was meeting a human-sized robot, who walked alongside the children, waved and even blew kisses! The children also had the opportunity to take part in a workshop with Dallas Campbell (TV presenter and author), whose enthusiasm for space travel and exploration was absolutely infectious. They learnt about the science behind space travel and even watched a mini water-bottle rocket

whizz across the room! It was wonderful to see the children so engaged, curious and excited by the possibilities that STEM can offer. Experiences like STEMfest help children to see the real-world applications of their learning and, perhaps, inspire some of our future scientists, engineers, mathematicians and innovators.

One child summed up the experience perfectly: *"I just wanted to say, thanks so much for taking me to Stemfest, it was an amazing trip and I loved everything that I got to do and see there."*

Meanwhile in school, we started our Black History Month work with a Big Live Assembly delivered by Sanctuary Foundation to our Key Stage 2 children. In the words of presenter Dr Krish Kandiah, the assembly celebrated the contributions black and brown people make to our community and addressed the issue of racism that sadly is still prevalent in society. The children were treated to a recitation of Benjamin Zephaniah's wonderful poem, 'The British'. Dr Krish also shared an important mantra to help the children understand how to respond to any instances of racism they may witness or experience: 'see it, say it, sorted'. If your children would like to watch the assembly again, please follow this [link](#).

And on top of all of that we had a very successful 'stay in to stay safe' drill which I'm pleased to say was a non-event for the children while also being a very useful exercise for the staff. Plus of course, tarantula-gate which luckily proved to be a false alarm!

The excitement continues next week as we're very much looking forward to inviting Reception parents into school for our first performance of the school year - our Harvest Festival. The children have been busy rehearsing and I can promise you that it will be a very special event! While only Reception parents are invited to the Harvest Festival, all families are very welcome to bring in a donation for The People's Kitchen if you would like to; please see the flier below with items that are needed by the charity. Please note that we are a mobile phone-free environment and we ask that you do not use your phone while in school for the performance or take any photos or videos. Your support with this is much appreciated.

Best wishes, Claire Johnson

THE PEOPLE'S KITCHEN

est. 1985
NEWCASTLE

FOOD FRIENDSHIP FUTURES

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE PEOPLE'S KITCHEN

Our work is only made possible thanks to your kindness and generosity. The People's Kitchen is run entirely by volunteers so every penny donated goes directly to helping our vulnerable Friends who might be homeless, at risk, unemployed, lonely, or living in poverty.



Items we need	Examples
Tinned Vegetables	Chopped Tomatoes, Peas, Carrots, Sweetcorn, Potatoes, Baked Beans
Tinned Fruit	Peaches, Pineapples, Fruit Cocktail, Pears
Soup	Tinned or Instant: Vegetable, Tomato, Chicken, Broth, Lentil, Potato & Leek
Cooking/ Baking Ingredients	Sugar, Self-Raising Flour, Plain Flour, Jam, Desiccated Coconut, Cocoa, Porridge Oats, Dried Fruit, Cooking Oil, Lentils, Broth, Pulses (Chickpeas, Kidney Beans, Butter Beans)
Snacks	Pot Noodles, Crisps, Biscuits, Chocolate, Sweets
Drinks	UHT Milk, Coffee, Tea, Instant Hot Chocolate, Cartons of Juice, Fruit Squash
Desserts	Rice Pudding, Angel Delight, Evaporated Milk, Golden Syrup
Tinned Meat	Ham, Corned Beef, Chilli, Curry, Minced Beef, Stewing Steak
Cooking Sauces	Indian, Thai, Chinese, Italian, Mexican, Coconut Milk
Condiments	Tomato Ketchup, Brown Sauce, Salt, Pepper
Pasta & Rice	Lasagne, Egg Noodles, Rice
Stock and Gravy	Vegetarian, Beef, Chicken and Onion
Toiletries	Soap, Deodorant, Shampoo, Conditioner, Shower Gel, Razors, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Toilet Roll
Cleaning/Other	Washing Up Liquid, Washing Powder, Spare Carrier Bags
Pet Food	Dog and Cat Wet and Dry Food

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Safeguarding & Wellbeing

In our Celebration Assembly this morning, Alastair from Y5 who helps out weekly at the Kirkharle Parkrun, shared the following poem to inspire the children to join him for a run on Saturday mornings:

The best of the best of a Kirkharle parkrun,
It isn't a race, it is all about fun!
You can walk if you like, or run for a while,
You can move how you like and you'll probably smile!

There are helpers called marshalls to cheer you along,
They wear bright pink gilets and some sing a song!
And the silliest thing stands far out alone,
It's a human disguised as a tall traffic cone.

At the end there are Alpacas that usually come,
And if you stroke their soft necks they might just start to hum!
A parkrun will help you be fitter and strong!
Do you like how it sounds? Then why not come along!





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		96.1%	
Reception Chestnut	98.0%	3 Pine	94.8%
Reception Pinecone	97.7%	4 Alder	97.7%
1 Holly	97.7%	4 Yew	90.3%
1 Ash	99.0%	5 Oak	97.3%
2 Sycamore	94.7%	5 Beech	98.1%
2 Willow	96.3%	6 Elm	96.6%
3 Maple	99.3%	6 Birch	93.2%

Whole school (cumulative from Sept)	97.1%
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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

CAREER FACT

The North East is a major region for **offshore wind and renewable energy**. Engineers, scientists, technicians and many other workers are helping to develop cleaner ways of producing energy.

There are currently around **550 renewable-energy companies and 17,000 employees** in the North East, with plans for the offshore wind workforce to grow further.

If you are out and about this weekend, look out for wind turbines, on land or at sea!

Career of the week...



Offshore Engineer



Design • Build • Keep it Running

What do they do?

Offshore Engineers design, build, operate and look after offshore wind turbines and rigs. They help to keep the machines safe and working, even in tough weather and sea conditions.



Where do they work?

They work on offshore wind farms and oil and gas rigs, out at sea. They spend time on special boats and platforms, and sometimes come back to land for planning and meetings.



Skills they need


Problem solving


Good at maths and science


Working well with others


Staying calm and safe


Being resilient


Attention to detail

Training

You can become an offshore engineer by:

- Going to university (e.g. engineering, physics or maths).
- Doing an apprenticeship.
- Getting hands-on experience on the job.

Level

This job is usually for **degree level** (university or higher).



Why it's important

Offshore engineers help to provide clean energy (like wind power) and essential resources (like oil and gas), which power our homes, schools and communities.



**Big ideas.
Real impact.
A cleaner,
brighter future.**

This Week in Nursery

What a fabulous day we had in the forest this week! The children had a wonderful time exploring, learning and working together.

We enjoyed eating the breadsticks we made earlier in the week, remembering all the skills we used to make them, including kneading and shaping the dough. They certainly went down a treat!

We also got busy with our new wheelbarrows, working together to move trees and get them planted. This involved lots of heavy work, teamwork and perseverance — fantastic for developing our strength and coordination.

We finished with lots of fun using the parachute, practising our listening skills, following instructions and taking turns as we swapped places. There were plenty of smiles and giggles along the way.

A brilliant day full of teamwork, independence, physical development, listening and lots of fun.



This Week in Reception

What a wonderful, busy week we've had in Reception! In phonics, the children have done a brilliant job learning four new sounds—**g**, **o**, **c**, and **k**—while in maths, we've been practicing subitising and creating our own groups of **1**, **2**, and **3**. Storytime was extra special as we enjoyed reading *The Scarecrow's Wedding*, and our new clay table in the outdoor area has been a huge hit; squishing and shaping the clay is not only lots of fun, but it's also fantastic for strengthening those little hands and arms for writing!



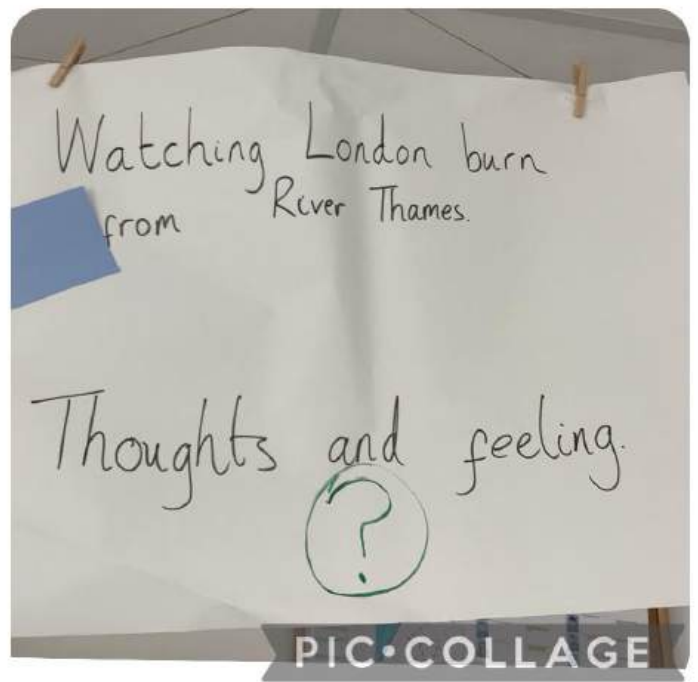
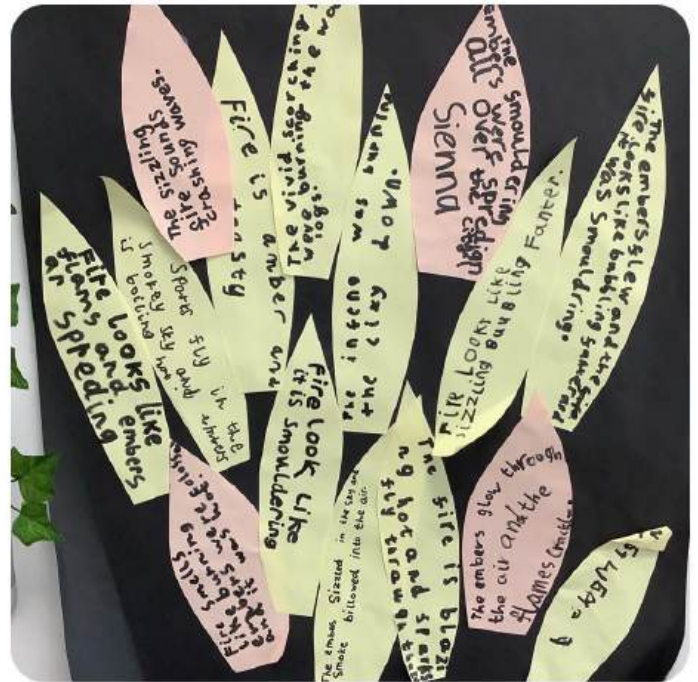
This Week in Year 1

In our maths sessions this week we have worked really hard to find and understand fact families for numbers within 10, and we have enjoyed showing what we know in lots of different ways. In English, we have been having lots of fun with our new book, *The Leaf Thief*. We have been developing our writing skills by using adjectives to make our sentences more exciting and bring our ideas to life.

We also had a fantastic time during our Forest School session! We worked together to build our very own shelters, using tarps, natural materials and lots of teamwork!



Year 2 are working towards writing diary entries. To help us get in character, we acted out the great fire of London. Our teacher told the story and we did lots of wonderful (and very dramatic) acting to help us think about what we would have seen, felt and heard if we had been a child during the Great Fire of London. We've also made some creative fire poems and reviewed our fire safety knowledge this week.



This Week in Year 3

This week, Year 3 took part in an inspiring virtual assembly to celebrate Black History Month in the UK. The children joined schools from across the country to learn about key moments in Black British history and celebrate the incredible achievements and contributions of Black figures, past and present. From pioneering historical icons to modern-day role models, the session sparked some brilliant classroom discussions in Maple and Pine about diversity, equality, and unity. The children listened with fantastic empathy and curiosity, sharing some truly thoughtful reflections on how everyone contributes to making our community so special.



Mr Tailford and Miss Mears

This Week in Year 4

Year 4 have been on full power in PE this week! We've been working on our invasion games, and rocket ball was a massive hit. Incredible speed, brilliant team spirit and fantastic effort from start to finish.

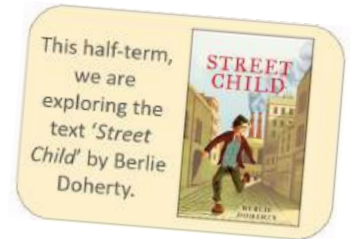


Mrs Bell and Miss Davis

This Week in Year 5

🏊 Well, That Went Swimmingly! 🏊

This week in our swimming sessions, the children tested their **water safety skills**. They explored what it might be like to find themselves unexpectedly in the water, including swimming while clothed. They found it strange at first, but it helped them understand how different it can feel to swim in clothes and what they might need to do to stay safe.



The children practised a range of important skills, including **attracting attention, using objects to help them float, floating to stay safe and swimming while wearing clothes**. These activities helped them understand that staying calm and knowing what to do can make a big difference in an emergency.

To finish the session, we created our very own current by running around the small pool! The children experienced first-hand what it feels like to swim against moving water and learnt how a current can affect their ability to move and stay safe.

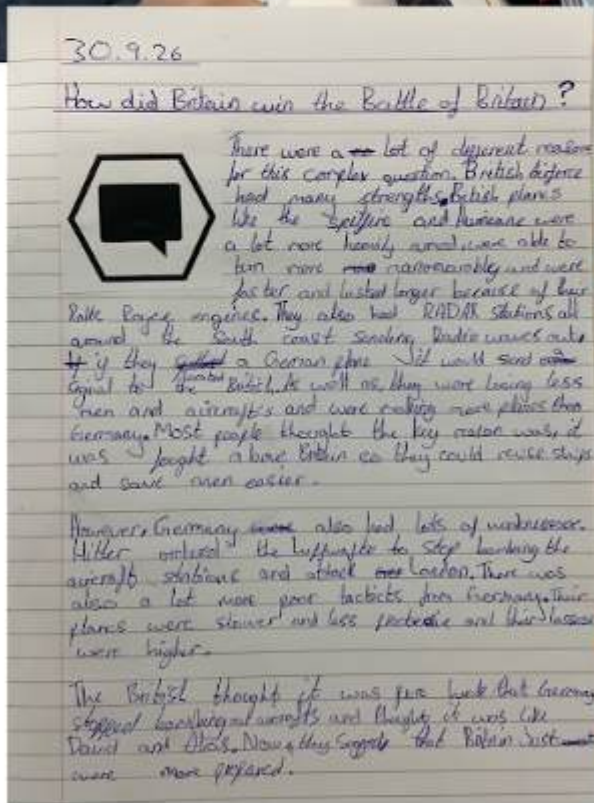
A practical, memorable and slightly soggy lesson in water safety!



This Week in Year 6

This week, Year 6 continued their deep dive into World War II by investigating one of the conflict's pivotal events: the Battle of Britain. Acting as young historians, the children examined and analysed a variety of historical sources to evaluate why Britain was ultimately victorious.

Through their research, pupils discovered that major historical events rarely come down to a single cause; instead, Britain's success was the result of several interlinking factors working together. The class also explored how historical understanding is not fixed—it can change over time as new evidence and information come to light. It has been fantastic to see Year 6 demonstrate such critical thinking and approach historical analysis with such maturity!



PICCOLAGE

Dates for Your Diary in 2026/2027



Tue 20th October 2026	Yr 6 Trip - Packed lunches NOT needed
Thur 22nd Oct 2026	Halloween Disco Rec/Year1 & Year 2 in school time Halloween Disco - Year 3 & Year 4 - after school until 4.30pm Halloween Raffle Drawn
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
Mon 23rd Nov 2026	Flu Immunisation Day
Wed 25th Nov 2026	Individual Photo Day
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:

- Footballs
- 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
- Comics
- Beads





PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM



Do you have Ponteland Primary School uniform in GOOD condition that your child no longer wears but could be worn by someone else in our school community?



Please donate your pre-loved, wearable uniform via the donation basket in reception.

Looking for uniform?

Follow this link to let us know what you're looking for. Uniform will be delivered to your child's class.

Voluntary contributions to the FPPS are welcomed.
Donate here or at the money box at reception.



Friends of
Ponteland Primary School





PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM



✓ Yes please



✗ No thank you



No frayed or
ripped items



No stained
items



No grey items
needed at
this time

HIGH SCHOOL ITEMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Please donate your pre-loved, good condition
PPS uniform via the donation basket in
reception.



Friends of
Ponteland Primary School





Got an itch? Tummy trouble? Tickly cough?

NHS



**Head to your
local pharmacy.**

Did you know?
Pharmacists across
the North East and
North Cumbria can
offer advice and FREE
treatment for a wide
range of common
conditions* – just like
having a prescription
from your GP!

**Please ask your
pharmacy team
for more details.**

UTI's non pregnant women 16–64 years

Shingles 18 years+

Impetigo 1 year+

Sore throat 5 years+

Sinusitis 12 years+

Infected insect bites 1 year+

Earache 1 to 17 years

*Additional conditions can be treated, without the need to visit a GP, under the minor ailments scheme. Please ask your pharmacist for more details.

Step 1

**Go to your local community pharmacy (chemist)
about your illness and they will offer advice.**

Step 2

**If needed, you will be offered treatment and
if you qualify, this will be given free of charge.**

Step 3

A suitable medicine may be offered to you.*

*You qualify for free treatment if you do not pay for your prescriptions.



**Find further information at:
www.thinkpharmacyfirst.health**



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