



FRIDAY FLYER



Friday 15th May 2026

Headteacher Update

Our Year 6 pupils deserve a truly special mention this week as they completed their SATs. It is often easy to focus on the results at the end of a journey but watching the children this week, it was their character that truly shone through. We are immensely proud of how calm, resilient and focused they have been from the first test to the final page. Every single child gave 100% and they should be incredibly proud of their efforts. They have handled the pressure with a maturity that is well beyond their years and it has been a privilege to support them through it.



A special thank you must go to Mr Million for laying out a fantastic Year 6 breakfast each morning to ensure the children started their days in the most positive way. I would also like to thank all of the staff across the school who helped the children prepare and led the booster groups to ensure every child could reach their potential.

Over the course of the week, our Year 5 and 6 Play Leaders have also been working incredibly hard to prepare for the reintroduction of our popular lunchtime play zones. They are ready to bring plenty of energy and organisation to our outdoor spaces, allowing us to make the absolute most of our extensive school field. The children are currently keeping their fingers firmly crossed for a dry weekend so that we can officially get started on Monday morning.

In other news, our PTFA has officially signed up for Easyfundraising, which is a brilliant way to support our school while you go about your everyday shopping. By using their website or app for your regular shops at places like Tesco, Argos or Boots, you can raise vital funds for us at no extra cost to yourself. This month is a particularly good time to start, as shopping at Tesco via the app gives us a chance to win one of five £1,000 funding pots. Please [see the attached letter for further details](#) or sign up via the QR code.



As we look toward the final summer half term, we have a packed calendar at the back of this flyer with plenty of dates for your diary. These include Sports Days, End of Year Celebration presentations and some wonderful opportunities to join your child in class for a shared maths learning event. We very much look forward to seeing you in school to celebrate your child's success from across this year.

Looking a little closer into the future, I would like to share a final reminder that the Children's Cancer Run takes place this Sunday. The Richard Coates start time will be 10am and families can meet together at the school banner at 9.45am to set off as a team. We wish all of the children and their adults who are taking part the very best of luck. We would love to celebrate their achievements next week so we invite all participants to bring their medals into school on Monday to wear them with pride.



Have a wonderful weekend,

James Watson- Headteacher



ATTENDANCE



Attendance for this week is summarised below

Well done to Alder class for reaching excellent levels of attendance this week, with Beech class closely behind them! National data shows that primary school absences spike by 20% on Fridays. This 'Friday Slump', combined with a rise in unauthorised family holidays during the summer term, leaves major gaps in learning just as children are preparing to transition to their next year groups. Please help us to support your child to maintain their progress, confidence and vital social routines by ensuring they attend school every day and avoid booking holidays during term time. Thank you for your support!

Weekly Overview			
Acorns (Nursery)	87.94	Oak (Reception)	95.42
Birch (Year 1)	96.25	Ash (Year 2)	97.69
Beech (Year 2)	98.00	Chestnut (Year 3)	86.96
Rowan (Year 3)	93.75	Alder (Year 4)	98.90
Cedar (Year 5)	91.25	Pine (Year 5)	97.32
Juniper (Year 6)	95.83	Hazel (Year 6)	96.15
Attendance Guide			
98% - 100%		Excellent level of attendance	
95% - 97.9%		Good level of attendance	
92%-94.9%		Caution (below national)	
90%-91.9%		Cause for concern	
89.9% or below		Persistent Absence- Serious concern	

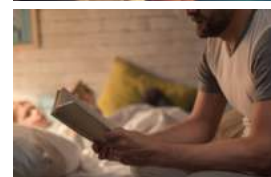
SAFEGUARDING AND WELLBEING

Updates of the Week

Helping Our Children Sleep Well

Sleep underpins so much of how our children feel, learn and behave during the day, yet many families find bedtime one of the trickiest parts of the week. The Sleep Charity, a UK organisation dedicated to supporting families, has a wonderfully practical area of its website just for parents of primary-aged children.

It covers everything from settling and bedtime routines to bedwetting, anxiety and sensory issues, alongside tips for creating a restful bedroom environment. They also run a free National Sleep Helpline staffed by trained advisors. You can explore their advice here at [The Sleep Charity website](#).



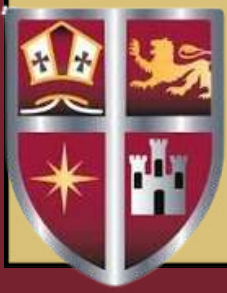
The Power of Outdoor Play

In a world where screens can easily fill our children's free time, this lovely UK article from The Parenting Daily is a great reminder of just how much our children gain from simply being outside, where they benefit from fresh air, natural light and a chance to switch off from busyness!

It offers gentle, achievable ideas from short nature walks to noticing the changing seasons together, and is a nudge that supporting wellbeing needn't be grand or expensive; sometimes a muddy puddle and twenty minutes outside is exactly what's needed.

You can read the full [Nature Walks and Outdoor Play article via this link](#).





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Nursery

EYFS had a special story teller visit from Seven Stories on Monday! David told us 2 fairytales – Little Red Gingerbread and Hansel and Gretel – although we noticed that some of the characters were a little different to the traditional fairytales we already know! We enjoyed joining in with familiar phrases and singing some of our favourite nursery rhymes, too.

We are really getting on board with our minibeasts topic and this week we had a go at drawing a bug jar! We looked carefully at the features of each minibeast, such as how many legs they have, before adding those details to our own drawings. We even thought about where the minibeasts might like to live, like on flowers or in the mud. Well done, everyone!



Reception

Oak Class have been closely observing the butterfly lifecycle over the past few weeks, watching our tiny caterpillars grow, form their chrysalis, and finally emerge as beautiful butterflies. The children loved noticing the changes each day and learning how living things grow and transform.

On Thursday, we released our butterflies, giving them a gentle send off into the world. It was a magical moment for the children to see them take their first flight, and a lovely way to end our lifecycle learning.





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 1

This week, Year 1 introduced fractions by learning to identify and find half of various shapes and quantities. In R.E., we explored the significance of Shabbat, where the children used their prior knowledge to identify ritual objects before drawing their own favorite ways to rest and spend time with family.

In P.E., our Striking and Fielding unit focused on developing batting techniques. The children practiced standing sideways and keeping their eyes on the ball to ensure a successful strike. I was incredibly impressed by the brilliant teamwork on display and the number of talented strikers we have in the class. Well done for a fantastic, busy week, Year 1!



Year 2

Year 2 have worked extremely hard this week! In maths, they successfully wrapped up their fractions unit and have already moved onto their next challenge of measurement, as they have got practical by measuring everything in sight! They also demonstrated wonderful scientific curiosity as they thoroughly enjoyed exploring the wonders of different life cycles.

In English, the children have been captivated by their new text, 'Clean Up!', which has sparked some fantastic, eco-conscious discussions about keeping beaches clean and tidy. To round off a brilliant week, they have also been showing great respect and interest in RE while learning all about the features of a Mosque. Keep up the wonderful work, Year 2!





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 3

Year 3 has been busy diving into our new topic, Mass and Capacity, transforming the classroom into a hands-on lab. The children practiced estimating and measuring in grams and kilograms, using balance scales to investigate the mass of various objects—including the discovery that 1,000 paperclips equal a 1kg bag of sugar!

Our historians have also begun their conquest of the Roman Empire, exploring how Rome grew from a single city into a global superpower. By mapping vast territories and linking ancient lands to modern countries, the students used their chronological skills to sequence the dramatic rise of the Empire. Well done on a high-energy start to the term!



Year 4

This week, Year 4 have shown some wonderful work and attitudes in their lessons. They have enjoyed getting stuck in to our new science topic on Electricity and they have also had really thoughtful discussions around Sikhism in RE. We learned about Guru Nanak and how his teachings of fairness and equality help to guide Sikhs in Britain today in how to live their lives.

As well as all of this – it is official – Year 4 are incredible authors! Over the last two weeks I have been truly blown away with the standard of writing from our class. They have shown that they have a secure grasp of vocabulary and are really pushing and challenging themselves. Each and every child should be so proud of the stories that they have produced. Well done!





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 5

Year 5 has had a thought-provoking week in English exploring Anthony Browne's picture book, 'Zoo'. The children engaged in deep discussions regarding the book's themes, specifically debating whether zoos are designed for the benefit of animals or people. This culminated in a lively debate where the class utilised their oracy skills to argue both for and against the existence of zoos.

Additionally, we continued our Archie Young Leaders Award by tackling the "cup challenge." Working in groups, the children had to build towers using only elastic band contraptions, ensuring no hands touched the cups. This was a brilliant exercise in communication and teamwork. We also enjoyed our third BSL session, where the students progressed to signing their nicknames alongside their personal interests. Well done, Year 5!



Year 6

What a week it has been for Year 6! We are so proud to say that all of the children completed SATs week with a mature, positive and sensible attitude throughout. It was wonderful to come together each morning before the tests to enjoy an amazing breakfast kindly provided by Mr Million. The children approached every challenge with resilience and determination and we could not be prouder of them all.

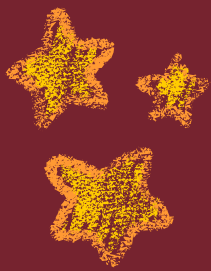
Once Thursday arrived, we had the opportunity to enjoy some well-earned fun, including a trip to Forest School thanks to 'Go Wild in the Woods' and some fantastic PE activities. To round off the week, the children enjoyed playing board games together and celebrated with a special party lunch. Well done, Year 6, for reaching the end of such a busy and important week!



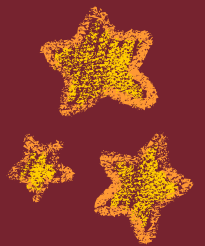


HAPPY Birthday

All of the Richard Coates communities wishes a very Happy Birthday to the following children who will be celebrating in the upcoming week. We hope you have a wonderful day!



Happy Birthday to:



Ava (Year 2)

Ella (Year 3)

Katie (Year 3)

Isaac (Year 3)

Mo (Year 3)

Eliana (Year 5)

Emma (Year 6)



OTHER NEWS

A Standout Season on the Pitch

A huge well done to Dougie, Year 3, who travelled to Keswick this past weekend for an action-packed end-of-season tour with his rugby teammates, including George and Freddy. The boys showed incredible bravery at an outdoor activity centre, tackling ghyll scrambling in bracingly cold mountain waters before playing their final match of the year.



The weekend held a special surprise for Dougie, who was presented with the prestigious 'Parents' Player of the Season' award. Throughout the year, Dougie has consistently impressed with his resilience, speed and teamwork. Congratulations, Dougie!



Sold-Out Success for Our Stage Stars

A massive round of applause for our dancers in Years 3, 4, and 5, who shone brightly in their dance school show this past weekend. The girls showcased their talent and dedication across three sold-out performances at the People's Theatre, delivering flawless routines to delighted audiences.



Taking part in a professional production requires immense hard work and stage presence, and all eight girls rose to the occasion brilliantly. It is clear to see that you are all destined for the spotlight!

Karate Masters Earn Their Stripes

Congratulations to the ten talented students from our extra-curricular karate club who successfully completed their grading at the Wylam dojo this past weekend. Under the guidance of coach, Jamie Carroll, every child demonstrated the focus and discipline required to earn their next belt.

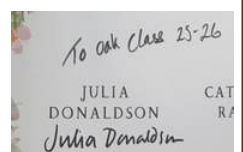


Jamie praised the group for their exceptional hard work and dedication throughout the term. Well done to all of you for reaching this impressive new milestone!

A Very Special Birthday Book from a Legendary Author

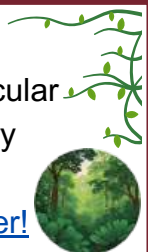
A huge thank you to one of our Reception stars for sharing a very special birthday treat with his classmates! To celebrate his big day, he chose to donate a Birthday Book to the class library, but this wasn't just any book!

Monty went above and beyond to have this particular copy personally signed by the legendary author Julia Donaldson. It is a truly wonderful way to mark a birthday, and this treasured book will be enjoyed by children in our school for many years to come. What a generous and memorable addition to our library!



Forest School Club- May Half Term

Are you ready to get outdoors in half-term? Mrs Crammond, who leads our popular extra-curricular Forest School club, is hosting a holiday session on Tuesday 26th May at the Ponteland Primary Forest. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to develop their forestry skills and explore nature during the break. Full details and booking instructions can be found [on this attached flyer!](#)





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2025/2026

Date	Event
Sunday 17th May	Children's Cancer Run
Monday 18th May	Key Stage 2 Science Assembly
Wednesday 20th May	Year 4 Quad Kids Team Event at Darras Hall Primary School Age UK Social Project at Ponteland Church Hall with School Council Representatives Year 5 British Sign Language sessions
Thursday 21st May	Year 6 Quad Kids Team Event at Ponteland Primary School
Friday 22nd May	Year 5 and 6 Newcastle Eagles STEM Workshops Year 5 and 6 Tag Rugby Team Festival- Ponteland High School School Closes for Summer Half Term Holiday
Week beginning Monday 1st June	Children return to school following half term Science Week
Tuesday 2nd June	Year 5 and 6 Crepe Tasting Sessions
Wednesday 3rd June	Year 6 British Sign Language Sessions
Thursday 4th June	Class Photographs Day
Friday 5th June	EYFS Sports Day- Nursery and Reception- 2.15pm
Week beginning Monday 8th June	Year 1 Phonics Check Year 2 SATs
Monday 8th June	EYFS Parent shared learning event - Maths 2pm
Tuesday 9th June	Exploring Careers Workshops - Key Stage 2 Year 3 Parent shared learning event - Maths 2.15pm Year 5 Parent shared learning event - Maths 9.15am Year 6 Parent shared learning event - Maths 9.15am



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2025/2026

Wednesday 10th June	Year 1 Parent shared learning event - Maths 2.15pm Year 4 Parent shared learning event - Maths 2.15pm
Thursday 11th June	Key Stage 2 Sports Day- 9.30am-11.30am Key Stage 1 Sports Day- 1.15pm-3pm Please complete the Google form shared on our Sports Day Letter via email for attendance.
Friday 12th June	Year 2 Parent shared learning event - Maths 2.15pm Re-scheduled Northumbria Police Workshop- Consent - Cedar and Juniper class
Monday 15th June	Year 6 Bee Project Week PTFA Dress Down Day- Children invited to wear their home clothes to school in exchange for a tombola prize donation for the PTFA summer fair
Tuesday 16th June	New to Reception 2026/27 Parents' Presentation- 4.30pm
Wednesday 17th June	Year 6 British Sign Language Sessions
Thursday 18th June	New to Nursery 2026/27 Stay and Play session- 1.30pm
Friday 19th June	Reception Visit to Tynemouth Aquarium PTFA Summer Fair- 3.30pm-5pm
Monday 22nd June	Year 4 Visit to Brinkburn Priory- Lifepath Project Pele Trust Year 6 Cricket Event
Tuesday 23rd June	Year 6 End of Year Leavers Event - Hexham Abbey Year 6 British Sign Language Sessions
Wednesday 24th June	New to Nursery 2026/27 Stay and Play session- 1.30pm
Wednesday 24th June- Sunday 28th June	Year 6 Residential Visit to France
Week beginning Monday 29th June	Made in the North East Week



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2025/2026

Thursday 25th June	New to Reception 2026/27 Stay and Play session- 1.30pm
Tuesday 30th June	New to Reception 2026/27 Stay and Play session- 1.30pm
Thursday 2nd July	'Moving Up' Transition Day- More details to follow Year 6 Transition Day at Ponteland High School
Friday 3rd July	Year 6 Transition Day at Ponteland High School
Week beginning Monday 6th July	Charity Projects Week
Tuesday 7th July	New to Year 7 Parents' Evening- Ponteland High School- 5pm
Monday 13th July	Year 6 End of Year Celebration Visit to Whickham Thorns Activity Centre Year 5 End of Year Archie Celebration Parent Event- St Mary's Church- 2.30pm
Tuesday 14th July	Year 1 End of Year Celebration Parent Event- 9.15am- Further details to follow Year 2 End of Year Celebration Parent Event- 2.30pm- Further details to follow Pele Trust Summer Music Concert- Ponteland High School
Wednesday 15th July	Year 4 End of Year Celebration Parent Event- 9.15am- Further details to follow Nursery End of Year Celebration Parent Event- 10.45am- Further details to follow Year 6 End of Year Celebration Parent Event- 2.15pm- Further details to follow
Thursday 16th July	Year 3 End of Year Celebration Parent Event- 9.15am- Further details to follow Reception End of Year Celebration Parent Event- 2.15pm- Further details to follow