



FRIDAY FLYER



Friday 22nd May 2026

Headteacher Update

Our news of the week begins with a look back to last weekend when an exceptional number of our children took part in the Children's Cancer Run at Gosforth Park. The children showed incredible determination on the track and they ended up raising a phenomenal £3,672 for their efforts.



This wonderful amount will go a long way toward helping others and I want to extend a huge congratulations to everyone who took part to do a good deed for a fantastic cause. I suspect there were a few sore legs on Monday morning but the community spirit on display was well worth the effort.

In school this week, Key Stage 2 attended a special STEM presentation by Katie from Inventors and Makers. The children learned all about careers in engineering and we were all particularly inspired to find out that several famous inventions were actually made by complete accident. It was a reassuring reminder for the children that making a mistake can often lead to something spectacular and I am quite certain we have a few budding engineers amongst us now.



This workshop has timed itself perfectly to get us ready for our upcoming Science Week right after half term. To support our "I wonder why?" theme, we are launching a competition inviting pupils to explore a topic that fascinates them through a poster, a short presentation or a 3D model. More details can be found in the parent letter. Entries should be brought into school by **Friday 5th June** and we would love you to share any photos of your young scientists investigating at home so we can feature them in class.

Looking further ahead, the early weeks of our return will see us turning our attention to summer sports. Our EYFS sports day will take place on **Friday 5th June** and Key Stage 1 and 2 will be taking to the field on **Thursday 11th June**. We are looking forward to welcoming families along to cheer on the children and you can [sign up to join us by completing this booking form](#). We will be keeping our fingers crossed that the British weather decides to cooperate for us!

We have also been asked to support a national initiative by the Children's Commissioner called The Big Future survey. This project invites children to share their thoughts on what they enjoy and the changes they want to see in their communities. As our Year 6 pupils have now finished their SATs, this is a good opportunity for them to reflect on their time at primary school and voice their ideas for the future via [The Big Future Survey](#).

Finally, you may have noticed an exciting installation taking place in our school forest this week as we officially opened our brand-new school yurt. Thanks to the incredibly generous support of the Richard Coates Foundation, we now have a wonderful learning space, complete with a cosy log burner to enjoy stories, class sessions and forest school activities all year round.

Over the coming weeks, we will be adding some new furnishings to make it truly our own but our Reception children couldn't wait to test it out and they have already enjoyed some brilliant class time inside. Keep your eyes peeled for more exciting developments with this special addition to our school grounds.



Wishing all of our children and families a wonderful Bank Holiday weekend and half term break,
James Watson- Headteacher



ATTENDANCE

Attendance for this week is summarised below

A massive well done to Year 6 Hazel for a phenomenal week, hitting the 100% attendance mark! Well done to everyone for your fantastic effort!

Please note that your local pharmacy is a fantastic resource that can often save you a trip to the GP. For common childhood bugs and problems like headlice, verrucas, chickenpox or nappy rash, pharmacists are qualified experts who can give you quick advice and treatments right over the counter.

Avoiding a lengthy doctor's appointment means less disruption to your day and helps to support your child's attendance.

You can find out more about how the NHS Think Pharmacy First website can support you and your family [via this link](#).

Weekly Overview			
Acorns (Nursery)	92.21	Oak (Reception)	97.67
Birch (Year 1)	91.67	Ash (Year 2)	98.15
Beech (Year 2)	86.40	Chestnut (Year 3)	83.04
Rowan (Year 3)	98.33	Alder (Year 4)	94.41
Cedar (Year 5)	88.00	Pine (Year 5)	95.36
Juniper (Year 6)	98.52	Hazel (Year 6)	100
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

Navigating Screen Time Together

You might have noticed the product recall posters appearing nationally for apps like TikTok. Building on the resources we've previously shared from Smartphone Free Childhood, this campaign offers a gentle reminder about how these platforms work: if a physical toy had features that disrupted sleep or made it hard to stop playing, it would likely be paused or redesigned by regulators. The campaign simply suggests that digital spaces should be just as safe, especially since algorithms can make it quite tricky for young minds to step away.

We know that managing screen time can sometimes feel like an uphill battle, but please remember that these apps are designed to be highly engaging and this does not reflect parenting. With lots of helpful national conversations currently happening around digital safety, we've included the [campaign's latest poster](#) as a friendly talking point for families. If you would like to read more or view the petition, you can visit smartphonefreechildhood.org/petition.



Ofcom Online Safety Update for Parents

This week, following recent demands from Ofcom, tech firms have committed to stronger safety measures to better protect children online. You can read more about these platform updates in the [full Ofcom Article](#). To help break this information down into practical steps for families, our safeguarding partner Clennell has put together a handy guide. Please [see the linked poster](#) for 5 top tips on keeping your child safe online.





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Nursery

We've had a great week to round off an amazing half term! We have had new friends join our class, have looked after our own butterflies and have given everything our best effort.

We ended our minibeasts topic by thinking carefully about the life cycle of a caterpillar, from egg to butterfly. We took our time to draw each stage of the process, remembering what we saw from our own caterpillars.

We have also worked hard on our team work and turn taking skills, as we played lots of games like pop up pirate and monkey business!



Reception

This half term has been truly fantastic. The children have thrown themselves into every learning opportunity, from exploring our core text Superworm and producing some wonderful pieces of writing, to discovering the magic of lifecycles and proudly releasing our butterflies into the world.

We've embraced the outdoors too with curious adventures in the woods and plenty of muddy exploration. Despite the wild weather, the children have shown brilliant perseverance as they nurtured and grew their own plants, which is a real achievement.

We are so proud of everything they've accomplished. One more half term to go and we can't wait to see what they do next! We hope you all have a lovely half term.





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 1

We have been budding Pop Art artists this week! Inspired by Andy Warhol's famous artwork, the children used the design plans they created a few weeks ago to make their very own styrofoam prints. They used those prints to produce bold, beautiful and colourful final pieces. I must say, we definitely have some incredibly talented artists in Year 1!

In English, we started a new text 'Greta and the Giants' by Zoe Tucker and Zoe Persico. This has taken us on a journey, thinking about the world surrounding us and how important our roles are in protecting the environment and creatures that live in it. When we return after the half term, we will create a leaflet to inform others how they too can help look after our wonderful planet.

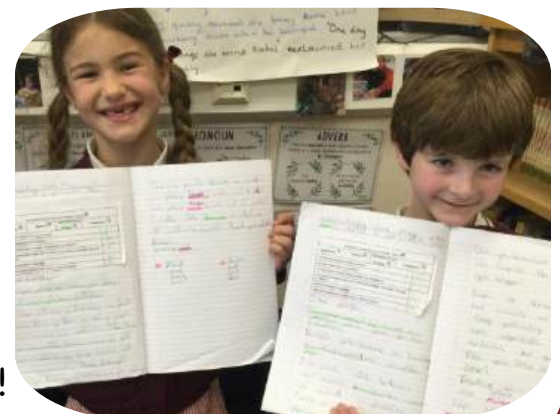
We hope you all have a lovely half term and enjoy the warm, sunny weather that has been forecast!



Year 2

This week Year 2 have been creating eye-catching posters to help raise awareness about plastic pollution. In English the children wrote their own persuasive letters encouraging people to recycle and stop littering in our oceans and woodlands. They worked incredibly hard to include commands, persuasive language and factual information in their writing.

To finish our unit of work in Food Technology we have enjoyed making and evaluating our own pizzas. We designed delicious pizzas with a selection of healthy toppings and we enjoyed tasting them too! Thank you to Mr Million in the kitchen for supporting us with our learning!





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 3

This week in Year 3, we have been busy historians investigating Roman pottery! The children explored its importance in everyday life for storing food, eating, and collecting water, discovering that the Romans preferred engraving and embossing over painting. They really enjoyed examining these artefacts to see what they teach us about the past.



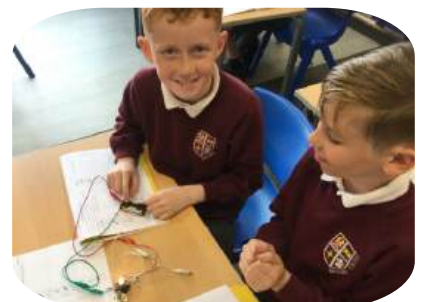
In English, we have been drawing together all of the skills we have developed over the last four weeks as we wrote our own explanation texts. The children have worked hard to organise their ideas clearly and apply the features of this text type in their writing. They have written explanation texts about animal behaviour, including one of the following: Why do animals migrate?, Why do squirrels hide their nuts? and Why do birds build nests? We have been very impressed with the effort and enthusiasm shown in both lessons this week.



Year 4

We have loved continuing our science topic this week! We had the opportunity to explore different components and create circuits, and the children really enjoyed problem-solving to make sure they had complete, working circuits. This week we have also enjoyed taking our skills outside for some rounders and cricket games, where the children demonstrated superb sportsmanship and teamwork.

This has been such a successful half term! I can't believe how much we have fitted into such a short space of time. Thank you for your support and have a wonderful break!





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 5

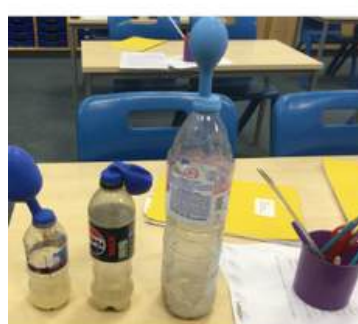
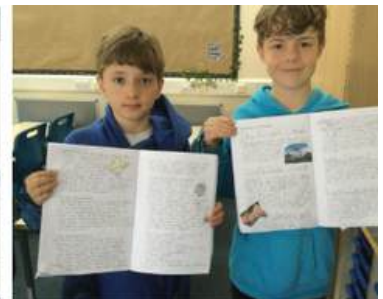
Year 5 have had a great final week of a busy half term! In French this week, the children enjoyed playing charades, acting out different emotions and feelings, and then practicing saying them in French. They showed fantastic confidence with their speaking skills and had a lot of fun guessing each other's expressions.

We are also continuing to work hard on our writing inspired by Anthony Browne's Zoo, using the story to develop some wonderful descriptive language. Alongside this, we thoroughly enjoyed our final BSL session, where the children proudly showed off everything they have learned over the past few weeks. We hope you all have a wonderful half term and a well-earned rest!



Year 6

This week, Year 6 has learned how to investigate if yeast is a micro-organism or not. We put yeast, sugar and warm water in a bottle with a balloon stretched on top. We waited to see what happened. After around 15 minutes we began to see the balloon inflate and concluded that it was because of carbon dioxide being produced by the yeast. We therefore concluded that yeast was a living organism. We also investigated to see what happened with different sized bottles.



In English we continued our research and wrote a report all about Mount Everest. We are now Everest experts! Everyone has worked fantastically hard with their research and writing this week.



HAPPY Birthday

Congratulations to all of the following children who will be celebrating their birthday during half term and in the first week back to school!

Happy Birthday to:

Harry (Reception)

Chloe (Year 1)

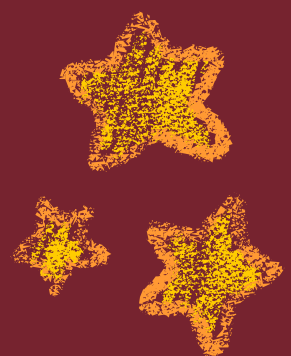
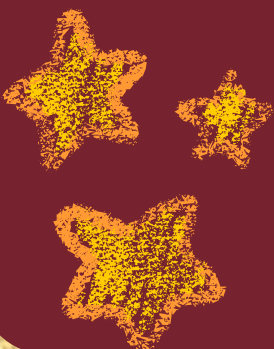
Lottie (Year 2)

Teddy (Year 2)

Ella (Year 5)

Harriet (Year 5)

Thomas (Year 5)





OTHER NEWS

Shining Bright at the People's Theatre!

A huge well done to Anna, Year 3, for her fantastic performance recently in the Jill Errington dance show at the People's Theatre! Taking to such a big stage requires an immense amount of dedication and courage. Anna absolutely looked the part and blew the audience away with her incredible performance on stage.

We look forward to hearing about your next production, Anna!



Local Activities for the May Half Term- Northumberland Family Hub

Looking for some local, family-friendly ideas for the upcoming break? The West Northumberland Family Hub has put together a fantastic May Half Term Guide packed with fun, free and low-cost activities to keep children of all ages entertained. From outdoor adventures and creative crafts to interactive play sessions, there is plenty on offer to help keep boredom at bay.

To explore the full timetable of local events, locations and booking details, [you can see the complete guide here.](#)



Rising Sports Stars Emerge in Year 4!

We were absolutely delighted to recognise two rising stars in sport from our Year 4 children this week. On the football pitch, Joshua has shown incredible skill and determination, earning the fantastic title of top goal scorer for his football club after a sensational season of finding the back of the net.

Meanwhile, on the rugby field, Harrison has been rightly celebrated by his rugby club for his exceptional team spirit. He has been highly praised for being a brilliant team player and for his wonderful kindness in helping new members settle into the club so warmly. Well done to both of you!



High-Flying Year 5 Cheerleaders

Olivia, Emilola and Charlotte from Year 5 took the Vertu Arena by storm last Saturday, showcasing their incredible cheerleading talents on a national stage. Going head-to-head with top squads from right across the country, the girls delivered an energetic performance, which kept the crowd on their feet.

Their dedication paid off brilliantly, with the girls capturing spectacular third and fourth place finishes with their teams in their division. Competing at this level takes immense focus, trust and teamwork. Congratulations to you all!



Tournament Trophy Win!

A huge well done to Frazer in Year 2 and his football team! They competed in the tough Nextgen tournament on Sunday and despite facing some really strong competition, they played brilliantly as a team to bag another fantastic tournament win. Congratulations on adding one more trophy to the cabinet, Frazer!





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2025/2026

Please note that newly added dates **are highlighted in yellow**.

Date	Event
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 Year 6 Parents' France Residential Meeting- 3.30pm
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
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-Friday 19th June	Northern Gas Careers Workshops taking place in school
Wednesday 17th June	Year 6 British Sign Language Sessions



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2025/2026

Please note that newly added dates **are highlighted in yellow**.

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
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 Year 2 End of Year Celebration Parent Event Pele Trust Summer Music Concert- Ponteland High School
Wednesday 15th July	Year 4 End of Year Celebration Parent Event- 9.15am Nursery End of Year Celebration Parent Event- 10.45am Year 6 End of Year Celebration Parent Event- 2.15pm
Thursday 16th July	Year 3 End of Year Celebration Parent Event- 9.15am Reception End of Year Celebration Parent Event- 2.15pm