



FRIDAY FLYER



Friday 5th June 2026

Headteacher Update

After a scorching half-term break, we had high hopes that the sunshine would follow us back through the school gates on Monday morning. It clearly had other ideas! Umbrellas at the ready, we pressed on regardless and with a bit of luck as the week continued, we successfully completed all our outdoor activities, including some specialist forest school sessions with Miss Henderson and a fantastic Early Years Sports Day this afternoon

Science Week has been a huge hit. The children have been challenging themselves to ask 'Why?' and 'How?' through hands-on investigations, and we have received some incredibly impressive home learning projects. If you have any final projects to hand in, please bring them by Monday morning so we can judge the Key Stage winners next week. Thank you to all of the children for all your hard work on these projects.



This week, we also welcomed the Pele Trust senior executive team and fellow headteachers for a review of our personal development programme. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase everything we offer beyond the classroom, from our extracurricular clubs and safety curriculum to community initiatives like our recent care home projects, Age UK collaborations and litter picking. At Richard Coates, we firmly believe that academic progress is only one part of a child's education. Learning how to contribute positively to the community, look after your mental health and lead others with confidence are skills that serve children for life and we are proud that they sit at the heart of our school.

As we step into June, many of our Year 6 pupils are busy preparing for their upcoming trip to France. To help get them into the spirit of things, Years 5 and 6 enjoyed a brilliant crêpe-making workshop on Tuesday, successfully combining some enthusiastic French conversation practice with a delicious treat.



We are absolutely thrilled to share some wonderful staffing news, as Mrs Wilson has welcomed baby Archie into the world, arriving at a very impressive 9 lb 14 oz! Both mum and baby are doing really well and while we are sure Mrs Wilson has her hands full with her new little bundle, we can't wait until they visit so we can properly meet the newest member of their family! We are sure that all of the school community sends their best wishes!



The children looked absolutely immaculate this week for our class photograph day, somehow managing to keep their uniforms looking clean and smart for the camera lens! These pictures are always a lovely keepsake of the school year and we look forward to sharing the proofs with you as soon as they arrive.

Next week is absolutely packed and you can find all upcoming dates in our calendar section. It is a busy week of assessments, including the Year 1 Phonics screening check, Year 2 SATs and the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check. Alongside these, we have plenty of exciting activities to look forward to. The children will take part in careers workshops, several Pele Trust sporting events, and shared maths mornings with visiting families. To top it all off, we will showcase the children's track and field skills during our Key Stage 1 and 2 Sports Day on Thursday.

We look forward to seeing many of you at these events throughout the week. Have a lovely weekend!

James Watson- Headteacher



ATTENDANCE



Attendance for this week is summarised below

Our attendance figures were much lower than usual during the final week of the last half term. Please remember that the last week of the summer term is packed with wonderful opportunities to celebrate the children's achievements including our end-of-year celebration events, the Pele Trust Summer Concert and the Year 6 Leavers' events. Please help us ensure that your child maintains their great effort right up until the end of term and a huge well done to Ash class in Year 2 for keeping their attendance in the green!

Weekly Overview			
Acorns (Nursery)	90.91	Oak (Reception)	91.33
Birch (Year 1)	91.33	Ash (Year 2)	95.93
Beech (Year 2)	80.40	Chestnut (Year 3)	86.96
Rowan (Year 3)	93.75	Alder (Year 4)	89.41
Cedar (Year 5)	94.33	Pine (Year 5)	94.29
Juniper (Year 6)	93.70	Hazel (Year 6)	93.85
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

Be You, Be Brave Resources

This month's Be You newsletter from Northumberland NHS has a lovely focus on being brave in everyday ways with some simple, practical ideas to try at home and in daily routines. It is a wonderful reminder that bravery does not always look like climbing mountains; sometimes it is trying something new, speaking up in class or simply having a go at something that feels a little daunting. It also encourages taking small steps that help build confidence over time.

You can access the parent newsletter [via this link on our school website](#). We hope that it sparks lots of ideas to support your child in supporting their creativity and confidence.

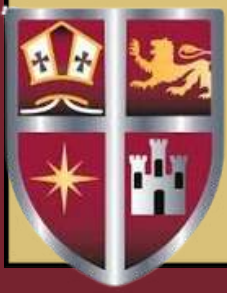


A Free Neurodiversity Course at The Mindful Hub- Haltwhistle

The Mindful Hub, a family-run space by Haltwhistle station, has shared details of a free five-week course called Cothu. This unique micro coffee shop combines wellness and education with an extensive range of Lego sets for visitors to build. The entire space is thoughtfully designed to be low-sensory, calm and quiet.

Rather than managing crisis behaviors, the neuro-affirming Cothu programme offers parents and carers a fresh perspective on autism to deepen connection and improve family wellbeing. Sessions run for two hours once a week from the second week of June, and no diagnosis is required. Find out more [via this website link](#).





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Nursery

We are off to a flying start in our first week back to school! We have dived straight into our "Why Do Pirates Sail on Ships?" topic as we have searched for buried treasure. We were very excited to find lots of shiny coins and jewellery during our excursion – and we even found biscuits during our classroom treasure hunt!

As part of Science week, we have learned all about the importance of recycling and have done some litter picking of our own, both in our indoor sand pit and in our outside yard. We have also reused lots of recycled materials as we have made some amazing junk modelling creations – telescopes, smoothies, and snakes!



Reception

Our first week back has been absolutely wonderful as we dived straight into our new core text, Billy's Bucket. The children have already shown so much enthusiasm, and we're looking forward to exploring the magic of oceans, discovering fascinating sea creatures and learning how we can all play a part in protecting our planet through reducing waste and recycling responsibly.

We have also been developing their confidence and early number sense using rekenreks this week. These structured bead frames have allowed us to visualise our understanding of counting, subitising and number bonds to 5, and the children particularly enjoy starting each session with a big rekenrek shake!





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 1

What a busy and inquisitive first week back in Year 1! We immersed ourselves in British Science Week as 'Curious Chemists', making predictions, carrying out experiments, and discussing how to improve them next time. The children loved the Magic Milk, Magic Skittles, and slime experiments, finishing the week by mixing simple ingredients together. I was incredibly impressed by the fantastic experiments and projects completed at home. We have some wonderful scientists in our class.

In English, we continued our core text, 'Greta and the Giants', to create persuasive leaflets about the importance of forests. Before writing, we explored various real examples to identify key features and discuss what to include in our own work. It has been a lovely first week back for our final half term.



Year 2

Year 2 have made a fantastic start to our final half term, showing great enthusiasm during Science Week and for our new topic, 'Curious Coastlines'. The children have conducted research about coastlines, posed thoughtful scientific questions, explored fascinating sea creatures, and created detailed rock pool models inspired by our recent trip to St Mary's Lighthouse.

The children have also learned about the impact of plastic pollution on our oceans and why marine environments are so important to our planet. Throughout the week, the children demonstrated excellent scientific skills, curiosity, and creativity, fully embracing every aspect of Science Week. Well done, Year 2!





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 3

Time flies in Year 3! Our children have worked incredibly hard in maths this week, mastering the tricky skill of telling the time. They tackled some big concepts, including reading analogue clocks, converting them to digital time, and calculating durations. We are so proud of their focus and determination with what can be a really challenging topic.

Alongside maths, we have been celebrating Science Week by diving into the fascinating world of minibeasts. The children became brilliant scientists as they explored different critters and researched what they need to survive. Throughout the week, they showed off excellent scientific skills, posed thoughtful questions, and finished by designing and building their very own bug hotels. Watch this space to see which exciting new guests move in over the coming weeks!



Year 4

This week we have begun a new English topic based on the book "A Life Electric" all about Nikola Tesla. Pupils engaged really well with this and are enthusiastic to learn about his life!

The return to school also saw Year 4 diving straight into Science Week with our Curious Kitchen topic. We explored the food miles of our favourite snacks and investigated how science impacts baking by making our own bread. The children loved observing what happened when we changed variables like the yeast, using cold water or leaving out the salt. We have also enjoyed playing games to help secure our times tables knowledge in preparation for the upcoming multiplication check.





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 5

This week in Year 5, we celebrated Science Week by exploring the theme, Curiously Close. Using magnifying glasses, bug viewers, and other tools, the children loved examining everyday objects under magnification to see how different they look up close. They also investigated the concept of scale and perspective before putting their learning into practice by designing and making their own magnifiers.

To round off an exciting week, we were delighted to welcome the crêpe van to school! The children enthusiastically ordered their food in French, putting their language skills into a real-life context before enjoying a delicious treat together.



Year 6

As part of our Science Week, Year 6 have been exploring the 'Curious Cosmos'. We learned all about satellites, including their history, how they are launched, their functions, and their key components, before putting our creativity to the test to build our own 3D junk models. We also designed our own rockets and performed hands-on experiments to investigate the relationship between a rocket and its fuel..

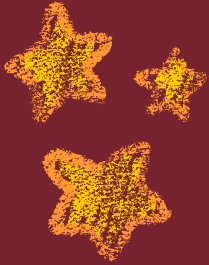
In English, we used a short cartoon film about 'Rock, Paper, and Scissors' to focus on advancing a story's action through precise dialogue, and we cannot wait to read the finished products. Another highlight was our first British Sign Language workshop with The Lisa Project, where the children learned simple greetings, feelings, and how to fingerspell their names. We hope they share what they learned with you at home!



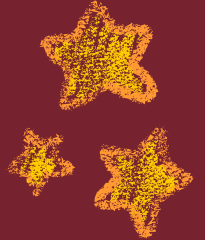


HAPPY *Birthday*

Happy Birthday to all of the following children with upcoming celebrations this week. We hope that you all enjoy your special day!



Happy Birthday to:



Aara (Year 1)

Erin (Year 5)

Ronnie (Year 3)

Harry (Year 5)

Lovisa (Year 6)



OTHER NEWS

Quad Kids Success

A huge well done to our fantastic Year 4 children who represented the school at the Quad Kids event at Darras Hall Primary School just before the half-term break.

It was a terrific day of competition and our young athletes truly stood out, demonstrating excellent skill, determination and brilliant technique across all their events. Well done to all of the children involved!



Year 5 Pupils Caring for Our Community.

We are very proud to share the news of the children who took part in a litter pick around Bolam Lake just before the break. They teamed up to complete a community challenge for their Archbishop's Young Leaders Award (Archie), showing fantastic care and respect for our local environment. It is wonderful to see our children making such a thoughtful, independent contribution to the community. A big thank you and congratulations to Dylan, Jax, Alfred, Daniel and Ted for all of their hard work. A special mention must also go to Rowan, who showed an extra bit of determination and managed to collect the most rubbish on the day!



Sibiling Sporting Success

A huge congratulations to Rohaan for a brilliant performance in his Super Series badminton tournament. Rohaan secured an impressive second place in the singles category. Proving his adaptability and sportsmanship, he also took second place in the doubles tournament, stepping up to play with a brand-new partner when his usual teammate was unable to attend.



We also want to say a massive well done to Meher, who has successfully passed her Stage 2 swimming! This is a fantastic milestone and we are all incredibly proud of her hard work and progress in the pool.

Richard Coates Sweep Up at Football Awards

Our young footballers have had a spectacular week, and it is a real pleasure to celebrate three fantastic individual achievements from across the community as their football seasons wrap up.

First, congratulations to Sophia in Year 6, who was named Parents Player of the Season for her team, the Ponteland Girls Jaguars U11s. This fantastic award is a true reflection of how highly she is valued by everyone around her and it recognises just how much her skills and confidence have developed over the year.

Meanwhile, Hugo, Year 2, and his teammates on the Ponteland United U7 Predators had a brilliant Sunday, winning the Grassroots Football Mentality tournament at Bullocksteads. To top off an already amazing weekend, Hugo was also awarded the prestigious 'Manager's Player of the Season' at the club's end-of-year presentation!

Rounding off our football successes, Archie in Year 1 was chosen as Trainer of the Week at his football practice. Archie is rightly proud of this great achievement and we look forward to hearing about his future success! Well done to Sophia, Hugo and Archie!





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2025/2026

Date	Event
Week beginning Monday 8th June	Year 1 Phonics Check Year 2 SATs Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
Monday 8th June	Year 6 Quad Kids Team Event- Ponteland High School EYFS Parent shared learning event - Maths 2pm
Tuesday 9th June	Exploring Careers Workshops - North East Aspirations Year 5 Parent shared learning event - Maths 9.15am Year 6 Parent shared learning event - Maths 9.15am Year 3 Parent shared learning event - Maths 2.15pm Year 4 Orienteering Team Event- Belsay Primary School
Wednesday 10th June	Year 1 Parent shared learning event - Maths 2.15pm Year 4 Parent shared learning event - Maths 2.15pm Year 6 British Sign Language Sessions
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 Year 6 Pupil Group -British Sign Language Care Home Visit
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



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2025/2026

Wednesday 17th June	Year 6 British Sign Language Sessions Year 3 Pupil Group- Visit Ponteland Manor Care Home for 'Come on England' Event
Thursday 18th June	New to Nursery 2026/27 Stay and Play session- 1.30pm Year 3 and 4 Mixed Girls' Football Team Event- Ponteland Community Primary School
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
Thursday 25th June	Year 5 and 6 Mixed Girls' Football Team Event- Ponteland Community Primary School
Wednesday 24th June- Sunday 28th June	Year 6 Residential Visit to France
Thursday 25th June	New to Reception 2026/27 Stay and Play session- 1.30pm
Week beginning Monday 29th June	Made in the North East Week
Monday 29th June	Year 6 Pupil Group- British Sign Language Care Home Visit
Tuesday 30th June	Launch of Summer Reading Challenge 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



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2025/2026

Friday 10th July	Year 2 Visit to Alnwick Castle
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