



FRIDAY FLYER



Friday 12th June 2026

Headteacher Update

I would like to start by saying a huge thank you to the parents and carers in our community for taking time out of your busy days to join us in school this week. This level of community support certainly does not happen in every school and we truly appreciate you coming in to support the children with their learning. Many parents bravely took themselves back to school as they joined their children for our maths workshops. Together, you uncovered the modern methods of calculation for the four operations and some families even successfully journeyed back in time to relive how to solve algebraic equations!

Speaking of maths, I would like to offer a massive congratulations to Year 4 after showcasing their lightning fast times tables skills in the statutory Multiplication Tables Check this week. Similarly, children throughout the school have been brilliantly demonstrating all that they have learned as we navigated the Year 1 phonics screening checks and Key Stage 1 SATs. All of our children have shown excellent concentration and effort during these assessments and they should be very proud of themselves.



The staff in school also have a huge role to play and next Wednesday (17th June) marks National Thank a Teacher Day. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the incredible dedication of our teaching and support staff who work tirelessly to make our school such a great place to learn.

If your child would like to bring in a handwritten note or if you would like to send a free digital message of appreciation to any member of our school team, you can do so directly through the [Thank a Teacher Page](#). I know a kind gesture means the world to members of staff and really brightens up their day.



We have been pleased to share details regarding your child's transition to their next year group earlier today via a parent letter. We know that moving up a year can bring a mix of huge excitement and sometimes a few nerves. Over the coming weeks we will be dedicating a great deal of time to ensuring that detailed information sharing between teachers, transition opportunities for children and parent briefings provide you and your child with all the familiarity needed for an assured start to the year. Our goal is to make the stepping stone to September feel as smooth and welcoming as possible.

We crossed our fingers and checked the weather apps more times than we care to admit this week, but sadly the British summer time won the day and forced us to postpone our Sports Day. Whilst it is always disappointing, the conditions on the day would not allow for a safe and enjoyable event. We have already been looking at the calendar to reschedule, and our new planned date is Thursday 9th July. We recognise that cancellations can have an impact for families and thank you for your understanding and patience. We look forward to getting our children back out on the track later this term.

As we look towards next week, anticipation is building for the PTFA Summer Fair on **Friday 19th June**. This is always a highlight of the summer term and a brilliant chance to bring the whole community together to celebrate everything that has been achieved over this academic year. To ensure we have plenty of prizes on offer for our popular tombola stalls, please remember that children are invited to come into school in their dress down clothes on **Monday 15th June** in exchange for a small prize donation. We look forward to seeing you all joining us for the Summer Fair next Friday after school to provide the perfect start to the weekend!

Best wishes,

James Watson- Headteacher



ATTENDANCE



Attendance for this week is summarised below

One class stood out as leaders of the attendance table this week, as Year 2 Beech class took the top spot with a fantastic effort. We know that there can be complex reasons that sit behind low attendance and it has always been our approach to support families rather than issue penalties. If your child is finding it difficult to attend school for any reason, please reach out so we can work together to help. You can contact Mrs Fargher or Mr Watson in complete confidence to discuss your circumstances and find practical ways to overcome any barriers.

Weekly Overview			
Acorns (Nursery)	97.55	Oak (Reception)	89.67
Birch (Year 1)	92.33	Ash (Year 2)	89.20
Beech (Year 2)	99.20	Chestnut (Year 3)	91.74
Rowan (Year 3)	96.67	Alder (Year 4)	90.59
Cedar (Year 5)	96.33	Pine (Year 5)	87.86
Juniper (Year 6)	95.93	Hazel (Year 6)	94.23
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

New Government Standards for School Meals



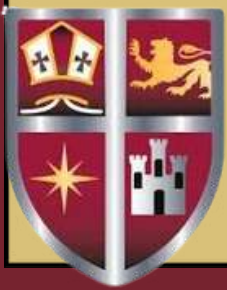
You may have seen in the news that the UK government recently announced an overhaul of school food standards to help tackle childhood obesity and dental decay. Tooth decay remains a leading cause of hospital admissions for children aged 5 to 9, which is why the updated guidelines target a massive reduction in free sugars and a complete ban on deep-fried foods across the school week. In line with these upcoming changes, we are proactively reviewing our menus for our youngest learners in Reception to replace sugary desserts with healthier alternatives like fresh fruit and wholegrains. To learn more about how these national standards are being updated to support dental health and how they affect your child, you can read the full breakdown on the [government's official parent guide here](#).

Healthy Screen Use & Online Safety for Younger Children

The Department for Education has just released its first-ever official guidance on healthy screen use for children, alongside an updated parent guide from the NSPCC focusing on younger children. With modern apps using features like autoplay traps and algorithmic feeds that can easily expose young people to unsuitable content, establishing healthy home routines is more important than ever. Experts recommend simple steps like keeping devices in shared family spaces, turning off autoplay and using technology together to keep it purposeful.

For practical, step-by-step advice on setting up parental controls and starting positive conversations about digital habits with your children, please take a look at the latest [NSPCC Online Safety Guide for Parents](#).





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Nursery

Nursery loved welcoming our families into our classroom on Monday as we showed off our amazing maths skills! We sang counting songs and we showcased our great 1:1 counting and subitising skills, then we showed our grown ups some of our favourite maths activities from throughout the year.

We have also learned lots of interesting facts about the ocean and its creatures this week! We had a go at drawing some things that we might see under the sea, adding detail like eyes, tentacles or fins to our creatures! Well done, everyone!



Reception

Last Friday was a wonderful celebration of teamwork and determination in Oak Class as the children took part in their Sports Day. They truly "Let Their Light Shine", showing resilience, enthusiasm and brilliant support for one another throughout every event.

Our grown-ups also joined in the fun, demonstrating fantastic team spirit during our Early Years family game at the end! We were equally delighted to welcome our families back into the classroom on Monday for our maths session, where the children proudly demonstrated their fantastic number skills. We even challenged the adults with some of our favourite maths activities. It was a joy to share these moments with you and celebrate how confident and capable the children have become.





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 1

It's been a busy week in Year 1! After finishing our persuasive forest leaflets, we started a new book, 'Beegu' by Alexis Deacon, which links beautifully to our PSHE focus on kindness and inclusivity. The children have loved creating a story map with actions to help them sequence and recall the story, encouraging them to think about how we show respect to one another.

In maths, we began exploring place value to 100, using Dienes blocks and part-whole models to master numbers above 50. It was also wonderful to see so many parents at Wednesday's Maths Workshop! The children did a fantastic job demonstrating how vital these hands-on resources are to their learning. Remember: "Fluency isn't just speed; fluency is flexibility." Well done everyone!



Year 2

What a fantastic, hard-working week in Year 2! The children showed incredible resilience and positive attitudes during their SATs assessments and we are so proud of every single one of them. Alongside their hard work, they also began creating beautiful African sunset paintings in art, demonstrating excellent listening skills to carefully blend warm colours for their backgrounds. In science, we launched our new plants topic with an exciting cress seed investigation. The children became budding scientists by making predictions, writing equipment lists and drawing diagrams to test how different conditions like darkness, no water or different bases affect growth. We have planted the seeds and can't wait to observe the results over the coming weeks. Well done, Year 2!





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 3

Following up on last week's teaser flyer, the big Science Week project has officially come to life with the completion of six five-star bug hotels. Chestnut and Rowan classes teamed up beautifully to construct these impressive minibeast resorts down in the forest school area. Working in collaborative teams, the creative children packed wooden boxes with a variety of natural materials, including twigs, twine, bamboo sticks and leaves—much of which was generously donated by families from home.

To make an already brilliant week even more memorable, the children also celebrated the grand opening of the school's brand-new yurt. Gathering inside for the very first time sparked a massive buzz of excitement among the children. The new addition proved to be an instant hit with everyone, adding an extra layer of magic and engagement to the school's outdoor learning adventures.



Year 4

It has been a very busy and exciting week in Year 4! We began with lots of hard work on our Multiplication Tables Check and the children should be incredibly proud of the fantastic effort they put in. We also welcomed Olena from Lifepath, who taught us all about St Aidan and shared some wonderful songs to help us prepare for our upcoming visit to Brinkburn Priory.

The excitement continued as we welcomed parents and carers into our classroom for a special maths session. It was brilliant to have so many people join us, and the children had a wonderful time demonstrating exactly how they use hands-on manipulatives to support their learning. Thank you to everyone who came along. We had lots of fun!





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 5

It has been another busy and enjoyable week in Year 5! On Tuesday, we were delighted to welcome parents and grandparents into school to explore how we teach maths. We were incredibly impressed with everyone's enthusiasm and fantastic maths skills. Thank you for joining us! We also took part in an inspiring careers workshop, where the children began thinking about the many opportunities and pathways they may choose in the future.

In English, we have started an exciting new unit based on the film narrative *The Piano*. The children have already begun creating thoughtful plot points and are impressing us with their use of rich and ambitious vocabulary. In Maths, we are making great progress in our Shape unit. The children have been working hard to accurately measure and draw angles using a protractor, developing both confidence and precision in their skills.



Year 6

Another busy week in Year 6! It was lovely to see so many of you at our Maths Parent Event this week. The children really enjoyed being able to work on maths tasks together with you. We also participated in a careers workshop where we discussed a number of potential routes to careers as well as having another fascinating British Sign Language session run by The Lisa Project. We can now see children starting to use their sign language skills in the classroom and the school playground which is lovely to see!

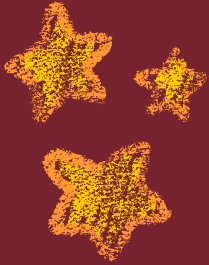
In science, we have been learning about light – how it moves in straight lines, how our eye sees things and about how light bends, in a process called refraction, when it enters water.



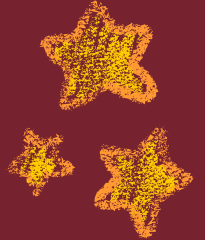


HAPPY *Birthday*

There are only two birthdays to celebrate this week so both children can enjoy an extra large slice of the birthday cake! Have a wonderful day!



Happy Birthday to:



Grayson (Reception)
and
James (Year 1)



OTHER NEWS



Healthy School Snacks and Packed Lunches

We have noticed an increase in children bringing large packs of sweets and sharing size crisps for breaktime and in their packed lunches. While a small chocolate biscuit or cake is perfectly fine as part of a balanced packed lunch, bags of sweets and full-sized chocolate bars should not be included. If brought to school, children will be asked to keep them with their class teacher until the end of the day. For healthy breaktime and lunchbox snacks, great options include fresh fruit, dried fruit (like raisins), nut-free cereal bars, crackers or rice cakes. Thank you for your continued support in helping us encourage healthy habits and ensuring every child is well-fuelled for the school day!



A Gentle Reminder for Our School Community



We want to send a reminder to all of our families regarding the journey to and from school. A few of our neighbours on Thornhill Road have noticed some children running along the fronts of their properties, including across gardens and driveways, during the morning and afternoon drop-off times. We have had a gentle chat with the children at school to remind them that these areas are private property. Please reinforce this at home, reminding the children to please stay safely on the main pavement. Thank you for your support in helping us to be good neighbours to surrounding residents.

All Stars Cricket at Newton Cricket Club

Newton Cricket Club is now booking for its ECB All Stars Cricket programme, a fantastic introduction to the sport for children aged 5 to 8. Sessions run every Friday evening at 6pm during the summer holidays from 10th July to 28th August 2026, in the grounds of Mowden Hall School. Because these take place during the school break, they won't clash with spring clubs, but last year was a complete sell-out so early booking is highly recommended. Parents and carers can find out more and [sign up directly on the ECB ClubSpark page](#).



Musical Theatre Summer Courses with NYTA



NYTA Theatre Arts is running exciting musical theatre summer courses for young people this year, held at St James's Parish Hall, Alnwick. There are brilliant opportunities across July and August for all ages, including The Little Mermaid and The Magic Faraway Tree for 5–7 year olds, as well as Wicked, The Wizard of Oz and Annie for ages 8–14.



Older teenagers aged 12–18 can also join a fun course for Legally Blonde at the start of August. For more information or to book a place, [please see the attached flyer](#) or contact Claire Barber at clairebarbermusic@gmail.com

Science Week- Class Projects and Home Competition Winners

Following a wonderful Science Week in school, we are delighted to share that all of the incredible work completed by each class around the theme of "Curiosity" has now been collated. The children absolutely loved getting active with hands-on experiments both at school and at home, showcasing amazing creativity and scientific inquiry. Our year group summary slides, which highlight all of these fantastic classroom activities, are now available to view [here on our school website](#).

A huge well done to our special competition winners who picked up an exciting science kit prize in today's assemblies! You can see photos of their winning submissions on the link above and a massive congratulations goes to:

EYFS: Harry for an amazing sculpture showing the impact of ocean pollution

Key Stage 1: Harris for an inspiring recreation of the human heart

Lower Key Stage 2: Chloe for a wonderful ladybird fact file

Upper Key Stage 2: Isaac for a phenomenal stop-motion video about earthquakes





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2025/2026

Date	Event
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
Wednesday 17th June	Year 6 British Sign Language Sessions Year 3 Pupil Group- Visit Ponteland Manor Care Home for 'Come on England' Event Year 4 Golf Team Event- Close House
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



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2025/2026

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
Monday 6th July	'Moving up to Year 1' Parent Meeting- 3.30pm 'Moving up to Year 2' Parent Meeting- 3.30pm
Tuesday 7th July	New to Year 7 Parents' Evening- Ponteland High School- 5pm
Wednesday 8th July	'Moving up to Year 3' Parent Meeting- 3.30pm 'Moving up to Year 4' Parent Meeting- 3.30pm 'Moving up to Year 5' Parent Meeting- 3.30pm 'Moving up to Year 6' Parent Meeting- 3.30pm
Thursday 9th July	Rescheduled Sports Day: Key Stage 2 Sports Day- 9.30am-11.30am Key Stage 1 Sports Day- 1.15pm-3pm
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