



FRIDAY FLYER

Thursday 22nd October 2026



Headteacher Update

In a term where our theme has been generosity, thank you to all of our families for the wonderful donations to our harvest table. We know extra items on the shopping list come at a cost at an expensive time of year, so we are especially grateful. Everything was collected by the People's Kitchen in Newcastle, who do incredible work supporting those in need over the winter. Every tin of beans, box of cereal and toiletry will be put to good use.



It was lovely to see so many of you giving up your time to celebrate harvest with us and joining in with the classic songs. Harvest is just one part of our learning about how food is grown and reaches our plates, helping the children to be thankful for the meals they enjoy while thinking of those who do not have enough to eat.

This week also brought the most incredible entries for our PTFA Pumpkin Decorating Competition. Every year the bar is raised a little higher and this year's entries went well beyond a competition; they were genuine works of art. Well done to all of the children for the thought, time and effort that went into them. With the standard so high, picking winners was virtually impossible, so I was quietly relieved to hand the job to an impartial visitor in school this week!



Winners were chosen in each key stage and received their prizes in our celebration worship. In EYFS, congratulations to Ambi (Nursery) for their amazing Halloween styled Peppa Pig. Our Key Stage 1 winner was Harry (Year 2), who created an inspiring pumpkin garden scene. The Lower Key Stage 2 prize went to Ayda (Year 3) for her creative Stitch design and in Upper Key Stage 2, Katie took the top spot with an innovative pumpkin spiced latte. Thank you to everyone who entered. Your £1 donations help our PTFA to fund resources, special experiences and extra treats throughout the year.



Our love of reading has continued to grow this week, with paired reading taking place between classes. Children from each class who have shown exemplary attitudes to reading this half term also joined me for a storytelling session in our yurt on Tuesday, complete with strawberry milkshakes from Mr Million, while I shared my own childhood favourite book. We will celebrate this dedication at the end of each half term and hope the break brings plenty of chances to enjoy a good book. Thank you to Miss Tweddle for championing reading for pleasure and developing these new incentives.



When we return, our thoughts will turn to Remembrance Day, when we come together as a school to pay our respects to those who have served and those who are serving today. If you or a member of your family has a connection to the armed forces, we would love you to join us and help make this a special and memorable occasion for the children. Please get in touch by calling the school office or emailing admin@richard-coates.uk.

Whether you are heading away for a few days or enjoying some Halloween fun closer to home, we hope you all have a wonderful break. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 3rd November for the second half of the autumn term. Wishing you all a very happy half term!

Best wishes,

James Watson- Headteacher



ATTENDANCE



Attendance for this week is summarised below

Well done to Alder class in Year 4, who ended our first half term at the top of the attendance table this week! A special mention also goes to Chestnut class in Year 3, who achieved the highest attendance across the whole half-term with an impressive 98.1%.

To keep you well informed, we have emailed you a copy of summary of your child's attendance so far this year at the end of this half term. These updates will now follow every half term. If you have any questions or would benefit from support from school, please organise a further conversation with Mrs Fargher.

Weekly Overview			
Acorns (Nursery)	96.85	Oak (Reception)	95.17
Birch (Year 1)	96.33	Beech (Year 2)	98.33
Chestnut (Year 3)	92.69	Rowan (Year 3)	96.00
Alder (Year 4)	98.75	Maple (Year 4)	98.18
Pine (Year 5)	96.76	Hazel (Year 6)	93.10
Juniper (Year 6)	91.00		
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

Our Updated Online Safety Policy

Our Online Safety and Acceptable Use Policy has been updated for this year in line with the latest Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance. The biggest change is an additional section on artificial intelligence, which is now recognised as a safeguarding issue in its own right.

The policy also sets out how we keep children safe on school devices, our phone free school day (which now covers smart watches and smart glasses too) and how we teach children to spot misinformation and understand that AI chatbots are not people. Keeping children safe online works best when home and school pull in the same direction, so we would encourage you to take a few minutes to read it.

[You can read the full policy here.](#)



Parent Workshop: Big Feelings and Behaviour

Lee Hill from the Local Authority's Emotional Wellbeing and Behaviour Support Team will be at Ponteland Primary School on **Tuesday 10th November** to lead a parent workshop on dysregulation and de-escalation. Lee will talk through the stages of the behaviour cycle and the strategies that help at each one, looking at both the child's regulation and the adult's role in co-regulation.

There will also be guidance on planning ahead for moments of dysregulation at home, plus examples of how the Zones of Regulation framework helps children manage their feelings in school. The workshop is open to all parents and carers and runs from 9.15am until 10.15am in the school hall, with time to stay afterwards for questions. If you would like to attend, please [sign up via this Google form.](#)





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Nursery

Early Years celebrated their Harvest Festival this week! It was lovely to welcome our families as we said thank you to the farmers for all their hard work. We were blown away by your donations and the children put on a wonderful show.

Our school reading ambassadors also visited Nursery for some paired reading. We loved sharing our favourite stories with our older friends, who turned out to be wonderful storytellers. As we reach the end of our very first half term, thank you for all of your support. We know it is going to be a fantastic year!



Reception

Oak Class have reached the end of their very first half term in Reception and what a fantastic start they have had! The children have settled brilliantly into school life, making new friends and taking new routines in their stride with enthusiasm, determination and plenty of smiles. They have certainly kept us on our toes, but they impress us every day with their curiosity, kindness and growing independence. It has been a joy to watch them flourish.

This week, Oak Class performed their first assembly for their families and we could not be more proud of every single one of them. We hope everyone enjoys a restful half term filled with family time and autumn adventures!





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 1

We have had a wonderful week celebrating harvest and our love of stories and traditional tales. Thank you so much for your kind donations and support. We are so proud of how well the children performed in our special harvest worship.

Our Traditional Tales Enrichment Day was full of creative activities, dancing, games, a royal banquet and a very special story time, with one of our wonderful parents sharing some stories with us. Well done to Birch Class! We hope you all have a restful half term.



Year 2

Another busy week of learning in Year 2! In English, the children used their non-fiction writing skills to create reports about bugs to share with Year 1. In maths, we have been working with numbers up to 100, using Base 10 to help us count forwards and backwards to add and subtract.

Continuing our geography topic, the children became map detectives, learning all about different map symbols and what they represent. Everyone also loved taking part in our wonderful Harvest Festival performance. Well done for another week of hard work, Year 2!





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 3

We all enjoyed taking part in the Harvest Festival performance on Wednesday morning. It was lovely to sing the harvest songs we have been practising in our weekly singing assemblies and to see so many Year 3 parents there to celebrate with us.

We have been busy finishing off our units before half term. In English, we used the facts we gathered about Roald Dahl to write his biography and enjoyed sharing what we found as a class. In science, we finished our soil experiment. To test the samples, we added water and washing up liquid, then left them for a few hours to settle before observing the results. We discussed how samples from different areas contain varying amounts of sand, silt, clay and organic particles.

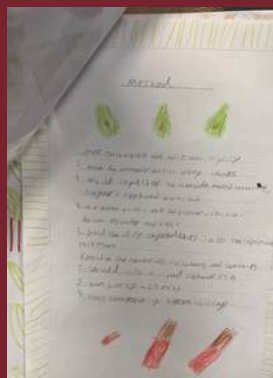
We rounded off the week visiting the fabulous pumpkin creations and were amazed by the creativity and effort. Well done everyone for letting your light shine over the last eight weeks!



Year 4

This week, Year 4 have been using their classification skills to identify different families of plants, both near and far from home. It has been a week of greenery all round, as the children also completed their final sketches and paintings inspired by Henri Rousseau, all painted from their imagination. They should be very proud of the results!

We have also been so impressed with the fantastic homework projects the children have brought in. From delicious recipes to impressive collages and wonderful stories, we have loved seeing all of your hard work. A huge well done to everyone!





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 5

What a wonderful final week of the half term in Year 5! In English, we have continued working hard on our non-chronological reports, developing informative and engaging writing. In maths, we have been exploring prime, square and cube numbers, tackling some challenging problems along the way. In French, the children loved playing Battleships, using their speaking and listening skills to name items of stationery.

To finish the week, we enjoyed some lovely paired reading with our younger friends in Reception. Well done, Year 5, on a fantastic first half term!



Year 6

Year 6 have had another busy week, showing fantastic effort and empathy across the curriculum. In English, the children wrote letters about Victorian school life, really putting themselves in the shoes of Victorian pupils. In maths, they showed real perseverance to master long division.

In science, Year 6 became investigators, exploring what happens when more bulbs are added to a circuit. Our Harvest Festival was a lovely chance to reflect on gratitude.

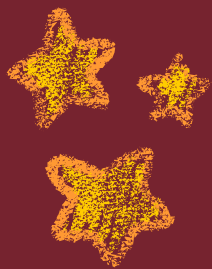
Meanwhile, at break times, Year 6 have loved improving their basketball skills and we have some real talent among us. Well done, Year 6, on a brilliant half term!



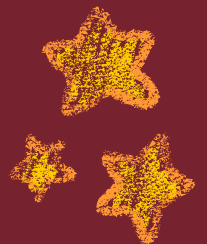


HAPPY Birthday

Happy birthday to the following children, who will be celebrating their special day over the half term break. We hope that you all have a wonderful day!



Happy Birthday to:



Anna (Nursery)

Willow (Year 4)

Max (Nursery)

Ella (Year 5)

Chloe (Year 4)

Imogen (Year 5)

Meerab (Year 6)



OTHER NEWS

Birthday Book Additions

A big thank you to CeCe and Seth in Reception, who have both celebrated birthdays recently and marked the occasion by supporting our school Birthday Book initiative. Thanks to them, the Reception bookshelf has welcomed two fantastic new additions: 'Smiley Shark' and 'Christopher Pumpkin'. One grinning sea creature and one rather remarkable pumpkin are sure to become firm favourites, enjoyed by every child in the class throughout the year. Happy birthday to you both!



Girls Football with Ponteland United

Ponteland United are welcoming girls in Years 1 to 4 to their Girls Football Development sessions on Saturday mornings from 9am until 10am. All abilities are welcome, with professional coaching in a fun, friendly environment. Six sessions cost £18 and only 10 spaces remain, so be quick! To register your interest, email pontelandunited.girls@gmail.com or [see the flyer here](#).



Brownie Camp

Well done to Emily, Sophie and Nancy in Year 3, who have recently returned from their very first Brownie Camp. They spent two nights with the 2nd Ponteland Brownies at the Girlguiding centre in Whittonstall and had a wonderful time. They might not have had a full night of sleep with all the excitement but a first residential is a big adventure and something to be proud of!



Brownie Graduation

Congratulations to Elle in Year 5, who has graduated from Brownies with her gold badge after completing so many badges since joining aged 7. Along the way she became a Sixer, leading her own group of six. Elle added her named lilypad to the pond alongside other Brownie graduates and leapt over the toadstool to her next adventure. She starts Guides after half term!



Peter Rabbit Comes Home

After touring the North East, our Peter Rabbit design for St Oswald's Hospice has returned home to Richard Coates! He now stands pride of place in our office reception, looking rather pleased to be back after all his travels.

If you didn't manage to spot him while he was out and about, make sure you pop in to say hello!





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2026/2027

Date	Event
Friday 23rd October	School closed- Teacher training day
Week beginning Monday 26th October	Half Term Holiday
Monday 2nd November	School closed- Teacher training day
Tuesday 3rd November	Children return to school following half term holiday
Friday 6th November	Recommended Reads Day- Children invited to bring a book into school to promote and share with their class. English Heritage joins collective worship to launch Pele Trust Unravelling Arts Project
Week beginning 9th November	Scholastic Book Fair in school
Monday 9th November	Year 5 British Sign Language group visit Grange Lea Care Home.
Tuesday 10th November	EYFS Open Mornings- Sessions for prospective parents with children beginning Nursery and Reception in September 2027- 9.30am Lee Hill Parent Workshop at Ponteland Primary School- 9.15am
Wednesday 11th November	Remembrance Day Service- We invite any parents or family members currently or previously serving parents to take part in our service. Please contact the school office. Pele Trust Smartphone Free Childhood Parent Talk- Ponteland Primary School- 5pm
Thursday 12th November	Seven Stories join EYFS for an outreach story workshop
Friday 13th November	Children in Need fundraising day- Details to follow
Week beginning Monday 16th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 16th November	Year 5 British Sign Language group visit Grange Lea Care Home



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2026/2027

Wednesday 18th November	Ask Psychology parent sessions to support children's wellbeing at Ponteland Primary School- 4pm
Thursday 19th November	EYFS Open Mornings- Sessions for prospective parents with children beginning Nursery and Reception in September 2027- 9.30am
Friday 20th November	Odd socks day to conclude Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 23rd November	Year 5 British Sign Language group visit Grange Lea Care Home
Friday 27th November	Reception and Year 6 Height and Measure Checks
Monday 30th November	Year 1 visit to Discovery Museum- Details to be shared in parent letter Year 5 British Sign Language group visit Grange Lea Care Home
Wednesday 2nd December	Christmas Lunch Day
Friday 4th December	PTFA Dress Down Day- Children invited to wear non-uniform in exchange for a small donation for the Christmas Fair tombola Children bring in their recommended reads to school to share with the class
Week beginning Monday 7th December	Christmas Performance Week- Details to follow via parent letter
Tuesday 8th December	Year 6 Virtual Workshop- Emotional regulation
Wednesday 9th December	PTFA Christmas Fair
Thursday 10th December	Year 4 Virtual Workshop- Emotional regulation
Monday 14th December	Pele Trust Christmas Concert
Tuesday 15th December	Year 6 theatre visit to watch 'A Christmas Carol'- details to follow