FRIDAY FLYER

Friday 13th November 2026

Headteacher Update

It has been a week of action at school, with moments ranging from the exciting to the deeply reflective. On Wednesday, the children paid their respects to all those who lost their lives through war in our Remembrance Day service. Our Head Students and Team Captains read poignant poems as we reflected on the Grave of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey, a sacred space for the many families who were never able to lay their loved ones to rest. Following the Last Post, the children observed a two minute silence and I would like to commend every one of them for the maturity and quiet dignity they showed. Thank you to all of the families who supported this year's Poppy Appeal through the items on sale in school, which the children have worn with real pride all week.

Today, the hall was a sea of Pudseys for our celebration worship as we supported Children in Need. Thank you for your generosity, not only today but across the many causes we support as a school. We know that every donation asks something of families and we never take that for granted. What your children gain in return is truly special: the understanding that everyone can make a difference, however young, and that they can be agents of change in their own communities. We will share our final total once every last coin has been counted.



There was more excitement this week when Bobby's Bus arrived in the school grounds. Manoeuvring a double decker bus through our gates was a challenge to say the least, but it was worth every inch as Key Stage 2 climbed aboard and even enjoyed a game of bingo on the top deck! Richard Coates was selected to lead the launch of the Play for Sir Bobby campaign, which will see schools across the North East raising funds for the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation, the charity created in memory of a true local legend. The money raised will help build the Sir Bobby Robson Institute, a clinical trials and research centre at the Freeman Hospital. We already have a few ideas up our sleeves for getting active in support of this worthy cause in the spring term, so watch this space.



In sporting news, some of our Year 6 children took part in a boccia tournament this week, a precision sport not unlike bowls or pétanque. Closer to home, children have been browsing the Scholastic Book Fair all week and we hope many have found a good book to curl up with this weekend.



It has also been a week of new faces as we welcomed families to our Stay and Play sessions ahead of their children starting school next September. Choosing a school is a big decision and we were delighted to see our visitors settle straight in and meet some potential classmates and friends of the future.

Looking ahead, we were notified this week that our school will have its SIAMS inspection next Wednesday. This statutory inspection takes place in Church of England and Methodist schools, usually every five years. The inspector will speak with children, staff and parents, as well as representatives from Pele Trust and our connected churches. It is a wonderful opportunity to share our school vision and the many ways our children let their light shine, and we look forward to showing how our Christian values are lived out in school each day.

Anti-Bullying Week begins on Monday and you may notice that your child has brought home a small coloured paper slip. This is an open invitation to add a link to their class paper chain, which will be displayed as a symbol of standing together against bullying. Children are invited to add some decorations and words of kindness. Alongside this, children will be learning how to recognise the signs of bullying and why it matters never to be a bystander.

To round off the week, children are invited to wear odd socks next Friday 20th November to celebrate what makes each of us different and unique. Spots, stripes and spectacular clashes are all encouraged, so now is the time to raid the sock drawer!

Thank you, as always, for your wonderful support as a school community. Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,
James Watson- Headteacher

ATTENDANCE

Attendance for this week is summarised below

A huge congratulations to Alder class, who have stormed into the elite 100% club this week, with Year 3 Rowan class hot on their heels! Thank you to all of our families for the effort that goes into getting children to school every day. It really does make a difference.

Weekly Overview			
Acorns (Nursery)	96.61	Oak (Reception)	87.93
Birch (Year 1)	97.08	Beech (Year 2)	93.33
Chestnut (Year 3)	95.67	Rowan (Year 3)	99.00
Alder (Year 4)	100	Maple (Year 4)	96.59
Pine (Year 5)	92.65	Hazel (Year 6)	81.47
Juniper (Year 6)	97.08		

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

Wobbly Mornings Workshop: Tuesday 17th November

Do mornings sometimes feel like a bit of a challenge in your house? If your child finds it hard to come into school, feels anxious about the day ahead or struggles to say goodbye at the gate, you are not alone. Next **Tuesday 17th November from 9.00am**, the Northumberland County Council Education Welfare Team will be leading Wobbly Mornings, a free and informal drop in workshop for parents and carers at our school.

Families can pick up practical strategies for easing worries and separation, building calmer bedtime and morning routines and growing children's confidence and independence. Everyone is welcome and there is no need to book, but if you know you would like to come along, please fill in the Google form so that we can make sure there is enough tea and coffee to go round!

Road Safety Week: 15th to 21st November

With the evenings drawing in, many of our journeys to and from school, clubs and activities are now taking place in the dark. Next week is Road Safety Week, run by the charity Brake, and this year's theme is Safe People on the Move. It is a timely reminder that whether we walk, wheel, ride or drive, we all have a part to play in keeping each other safe, especially our youngest road users.

It is the perfect week for a quick road safety chat at home. Holding hands near the road, stopping, looking and listening before crossing and never stepping out between parked cars are always worth repeating! Reflective strips on coats and bags really stand out in car headlights, as bright colours alone do not show up well after dark.

Find more tips and family activities on the Brake Road Safety Week website.

YEAR GROUP NEWS

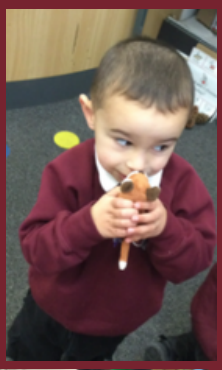
Take a look at this week's learning

Nursery

This week, we have learned all about Diwali, the Festival of Lights, in our time together. We learned that people take part in special celebrations to spread light and kindness and that the lights are a symbol of good luck, hope and kindness. We made our own Diwali decorations, designing Diya lamps and Rangoli patterns!

On Thursday, we had a special visitor from Seven Stories, who brought along some winter tales to share with us. We enjoyed getting to know the characters and helping to act out parts of the story. Super reading, Nursery!







Reception

We had a wonderful visit from David at Seven Stories, who shared a selection of beautiful winter themed stories with Oak Class.

One of our favourites was The Red Sledge, a charming wordless story about a bear who discovers a bright red sledge and sets off on an exciting adventure through the snowy woods. Although the story had no written words, it was full of rich storytelling opportunities and Oak Class used their imaginations to describe what was happening and predict what might happen next. What a wonderful way to spend some time together this week!



YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning



Year 1

It has been a busy and exciting week in Year 1! Birch Class have worked incredibly hard in English, creating fantastic story maps based on 'Man on the Moon' and writing impressive sentences to retell the story in their own words. In science, the children have begun exploring the seasons by crafting their own season wheels, as well as measuring and recording the local weather and temperatures.

The highlight of the week was our outdoor learning in the woods, where Year 1 searched for and recorded signs of autumn, observing closely how the trees have changed since summer. Well done for all your brilliant effort, Year 1!



Year 2

It has been a thoughtful and busy week of learning in Year 2, with a special theme of Remembrance running throughout. In our class worship, we took time to remember the fallen soldiers by creating beautiful poppy wreaths together. In English, the children continued exploring our core text, 'The Knight Who Said No!', and used their imaginations to innovate their very own character. In maths, we tackled a tricky new skill, exchanging a ten to subtract a one digit number from a two digit number, and everyone showed wonderful resilience!

In PE, the children worked hard on their balance, standing on one leg and carefully balancing beanbags on different parts of their bodies. To top off a great week, the children thoroughly enjoyed visiting the book fair. Well done for another brilliant week, Year 2!







YEAR GROUP NEWS

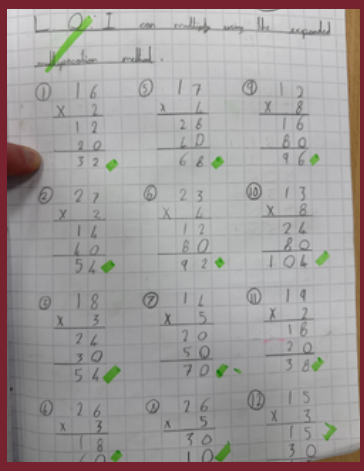
Take a look at this week's learning

Year 3

It has been an incredibly busy week of learning in every subject! In English, we have started writing our poems about autumn, using onomatopoeia, personification, adjectives and verbs. We have really embraced the season and everyone has included some lovely descriptions. In maths, we have started the expanded multiplication method. Although it was tricky at the start of the week, we are now feeling more confident with the layout and steps. Knowing our times tables is essential, so we must keep practising them every day!

We have really enjoyed reading 'The Incredible Book Eating Boy' by Oliver Jeffers, orally retelling the story, sequencing the main events and using the dictionary to find the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary. In PE, an energetic game of Capture the Flag kept everyone moving and warm in the chilly weather, with brilliant teamwork, speed and tactical thinking on show!





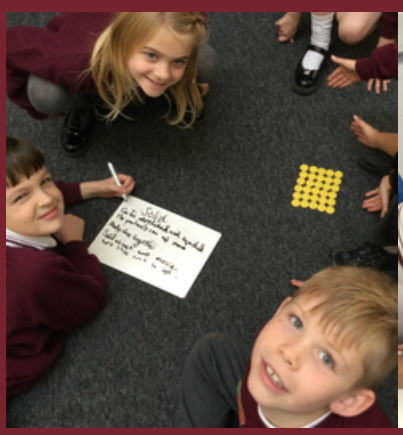


Year 4

Year 4 have loved launching into their new science topic this week, States of Matter. We thought carefully about the properties of the different states and worked together to deepen our understanding. The children really enjoyed having a hands on experience in their lessons and their enthusiasm was wonderful to see!

In DT, the children have been learning how to research biscuits in anticipation of designing and testing their very own products. They have been thinking about what makes a truly great biscuit and we can't wait to see (and hopefully taste) what they create. Well done, Year 4!







YEAR GROUP NEWS

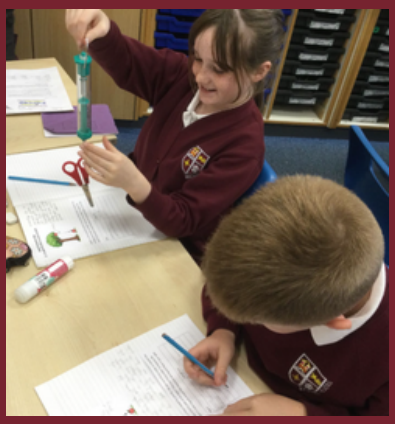
Take a look at this week's learning

Year 5

What a brilliant week for Year 5! We began with our first visit to the care home for our signing and singing sessions. The children were fantastic ambassadors for our school, demonstrating our values of kindness and respect while bringing smiles to the faces of the residents. We look forward to the other three groups sharing this experience over the next few weeks.

In maths, we have started our fractions unit, using multiplication to find equivalent fractions. In English, the children have enjoyed learning about Captain Scott of the Antarctic through his final diary entries, which will inspire our own diaries imagining life on his expedition. In science, we launched our forces topic by investigating gravity with force meters.







Year 6

This week, Year 6 have continued reading 'A Christmas Carol', exploring Scrooge's character and his attitude towards the poor. We have also begun writing persuasive letters, aiming to convince the miserly Scrooge to show some Christmas generosity. In science, we started our exciting new topic, Evolution and Inheritance, exploring what makes living things unique. We even used Haribo sweets to model the structure of DNA!

We have also been reflecting on Remembrance and Juniper Class had the privilege of leading KS2 worship, sharing their thoughts and reflections with the school community. Well done, Year 6, for another thoughtful and productive week!











HAPPY Birthday



Happy birthday to the following children, who are celebrating their special day in this upcoming week. We hope that you all have a wonderful day!

Happy Birthday to:

Cai (Nursery)

Franklin (Nursery)

Ella (Year 1)

Maisie (Year 1)

Idris (Year 2)

Grace (Year 3)

Anna (Year 4)

Joshua (Year 5)

Malek (Year 6)

Joshua (Year 5)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2026/2027

Date	Event
Week beginning Monday 16th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 16th November	Year 5 British Sign Language group visit Grange Lea Care Home
Tuesday 17th November	Wobbly Mornings Parent Workshop with Education Welfare Officer- 9am
Wednesday 18th November	Ask Psychology parent sessions to support children's wellbeing at Ponteland Primary School- 4pm Nursery Stay and Play for families joining school in January-9.30am
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
Tuesday 24th November	Year 4 Orienteering Team Event- Belsay Hall
Friday 27th November	Reception and Year 6 Height and Measure Checks
Monday 30th November	Year 1 visit to Discovery Museum Year 3 and 4 Swimming Team Gala at RGS Newcastle Year 5 British Sign Language group visit Grange Lea Care Home
Wednesday 2nd December	Christmas Lunch Day Year 5 and 6 Badminton Team Event- Ponteland High School
Thursday 3rd December	EYFS and Key Stage 1 Christingle at St Mary's Parish Church

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2026/2027

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
Monday 7th December	Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance- 9.15am. Booking letter to follow.
Tuesday 8th December	Lower Key Stage 2 Christmas Performance- 9.15am. Booking letter to follow. Upper Key Stage 2 Church Service- 2pm. Booking letter to follow. Year 6 Virtual Workshop- Emotional regulation
Wednesday 9th December	EYFS Christmas Performance- 9.15am. Booking letter to follow. PTFA Christmas Fair- 3.30pm- 5pm.
Thursday 10th December	Year 4 Virtual Workshop- Emotional regulation Christmas Story Telling Event for EYFS and Key Stage 1- Funded by the PTFA
Week beginning 14th December	Parents and carers are invited into school for a Christmas Crafternoon to complete an arts and crafts project alongside their child. Details to follow.
Monday 14th December	Pele Trust Christmas Concert
Tuesday 15th December	Year 6 theatre visit to watch 'A Christmas Carol'
Wednesday 16th December	Key Stage 2 Circus Skills Event for Key Stage 2- Funded by the PTFA
Thursday 17th December	Class Christmas Party Afternoons
Friday 18th December	School closes for the Christmas holiday- Children to be collected at 1.30pm