FRIDAY FLYER

Friday 20th November 2026

Headteacher Update

This week we launched our support of Anti-Bullying Week, uncovering this year's theme of Break the Silence. The theme encourages children to recognise injustice when they see it and to find the courage to make their voice heard, both for themselves and for others. On Monday, each class was given small paper slips to take home and decorate with kind messages and pictures. These have been finding their way back into school all week and are being linked together into class chains, a lovely symbol of our connectedness and our willingness to stick together.



We rounded off the week today with Odd Socks Day, and the corridors were full of stripes, spots and some daring colour combinations. Beyond the fun, it was a simple reminder that our differences are what make each of us who we are and that they are something to celebrate rather than hide.

On Wednesday, we welcomed a SIAMS inspector into school. SIAMS (the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) is separate from Ofsted and looks at how church schools live out their Christian vision, and how that vision shapes the lives of the children and adults who are part of the school community.

During the day, the children shared their learning in RE and told the inspector about the ways that they serve our community, from charity work and litter picking to the Archie Community Awards and our links with Age UK and local care homes. Thank you to everyone who gave their time to be part of the day. We will share the report with you once it has been published.

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who joined us for our Wobbly Mornings workshop with the Education Welfare Team. The session was full of practical tips for supporting children who benefit from a little extra care, along with tools to help ease worries and support good attendance. It was lovely to see families working together and sharing ideas.

We were delighted to welcome Gerry Miller, Director of Pele Trust, to commend two of our staff members that were recognised across Pele Trust for going above and beyond for our children: Mrs Thompson, for her warm welcome at the Reception door and the trust she builds with families and Mr Million, for cooking opportunities that he shares with our children and the kindness he shows to everyone. Thank you to you both!



If you have called into the school office this week, you may have noticed that Christmas is starting to appear on the horizon. Our first tree is now in place, filled with angels for the Christmas Angel Appeal in support of Action for Children. If you would like to get involved, please feel free to take an angel and buy a gift for the child it represents, helping a child or young person in our region who may not otherwise receive a present at this special time of year. Gifts should be unwrapped and returned to school by Thursday 10th December, and further details can be found on this flyer on our school website.

With the weather turning colder and wetter, the weekend gives our children full permission for a well-earned duvet day after a busy week. Or perhaps you have some more adventurous members of the household who will be wrapping up in a different way, braving the elements for a bracing dose of crisp, wintry air. Whichever camp you fall into, enjoy!

We hope that you all have a great weekend,

James Watson- Headteacher

ATTENDANCE

Attendance for this week is summarised below

Congratulations to Alder class in Year 4, our attendance champions this week, with an impressive 98.3%! Thank you to all of our families for the effort that goes into getting children to school every day.

With coughs and sniffles doing the rounds, it can be tricky to know whether your child is well enough for school. As a rule of thumb, a mild cold or sore throat is fine if they feel up to it.

Please keep children at home with a temperature of 38°C or above, or until 48 hours after the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. The NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guide is really handy, and our office team are always happy to help if you are unsure.

Weekly Overview			
Acorns (Nursery)	96.46	Oak (Reception)	93.45
Birch (Year 1)	96.67	Beech (Year 2)	95.67
Chestnut (Year 3)	94.62	Rowan (Year 3)	88.00
Alder (Year 4)	98.33	Maple (Year 4)	97.27
Pine (Year 5)	96.47	Hazel (Year 6)	87.93
Juniper (Year 6)	90.33		

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

Keeping Children Safe Online: Help for Families

From gaming and group chats to the latest AI apps, our children's online world moves quickly and it can be hard to keep up. The good news is that you don't need to be an expert to help keep them safe; staying curious and keeping the conversation going makes a real difference.

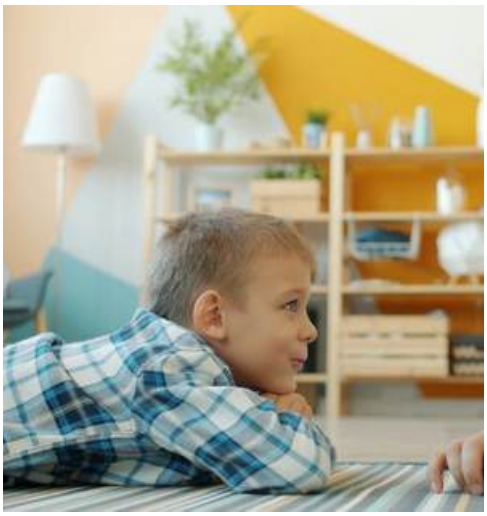
LGfL has created a free Parent Online Safety Toolkit, full of practical tips and conversation starters on social media, gaming, AI, screen time and safety settings. Grab a cuppa and **explore their parent online safety hub**.



The Good Childhood Report 2026: Someone to Turn To

The Children's Society has published its annual Good Childhood Report and this year's theme is belonging. One finding really stayed with us: over one in five young people with low wellbeing said they had no adult to turn to. Many said that worrying about being judged stopped them asking for help, and that feeling passed around or dismissed made them less likely to try again.

It is a gentle reminder of how much it matters that children know someone will always listen, whatever the worry. Here at Richard Coates, we never want a child to feel they have nowhere to go. You can **read the full report here**.



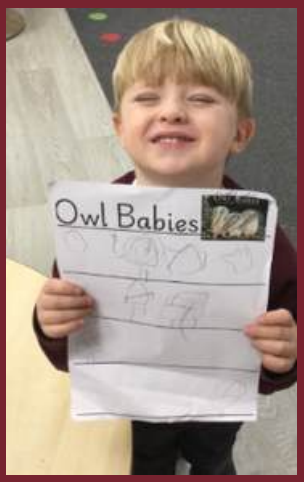
YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Nursery

Nursery have been reading superstars this week! We have been using actions to retell our core text, Owl Babies, remembering all those key words and phrases from the story. We then used our actions to help us create a class story map, and some of us even had a go at drawing our very own. Sarah, Percy and Bill would be very proud!

In our time together sessions, we have been talking about who is special to us. The children made pictures and playdough models of their families, then told their friends and teachers all about their special people. It was lovely to hear them talk so warmly about home. Well done, everyone!









Reception

In RE this week, Oak Class explored the Christian story of the birth of Jesus, known as the Nativity. We listened to the story and learned about the important people in it, including Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, the shepherds and the Wise Men. We discovered that the shepherds visited Jesus shortly after his birth, while the Wise Men followed a star and arrived a little later.

We also looked at a range of Christmas cards and talked about whether they showed the events in the Bible accurately. To finish, Oak Class designed their very own Christmas cards using pictures and ideas from the Nativity story. Well done, Reception!







YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 1





What a fantastic week for Year 1! In RE, we have been exploring the nativity story and thinking about why God sent good news to the shepherds. We thought carefully about how the shepherds might have felt, how they lived and what this teaches us about God. The children gave thoughtful reasons for their answers and showed a deep understanding of the Christmas story.

In English, we have been learning to use past tense verbs ending in ed, then put them straight to work in super diary entries written as Bob about his day on the moon. Out of this world writing, Year 1!

Year 2



Another fantastic week of hard work in Year 2! In English, the children put their creative ideas onto paper as we began writing our own innovated narratives inspired by The Knight Who Said No! In maths, everyone worked hard on their mental maths and place value skills, finding 10 more and 10 less than a given number and using base 10 resources to partition numbers into tens and ones before adding them back together.

In science, the children enjoyed getting hands on as they sorted different materials and noted their key properties. Meanwhile in RE, we began exploring the concept of Incarnation, with some thoughtful discussions about what it means and why Christmas is so important to Christians. Well done for another brilliant week, Year 2!

YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 3

Although the weather has been rather wet and dismal this week, Year 3 have continued to let their light shine. In English, the children have been independently writing their poem, Winter is Here, using a range of techniques to bring it to life, including alliteration, onomatopoeia, noun phrases and precise verbs. They have also been working incredibly hard on their presentation.

In RE, we have been exploring the deeper meaning of festivals. Last Friday we learned about Diwali and made lamps to symbolise that light is greater than dark and good will always triumph over bad. This week we moved on to the Jewish festival of Hanukkah, exploring its story and the traditions families enjoy as part of their celebrations. We looked closely at several objects that represent Hanukkah and considered the deeper meaning of each.








Year 4

Year 4 have really shown how well they can work together this week. In science, they made careful observations about materials and even proved through experimentation that gases have mass and air takes up space. In RE, they used their oracy skills brilliantly to learn about Hindu ceremonies and commitment, sharing their new knowledge in a traverse and a vocabulary bullseye task. We were so impressed by how confidently they used their new vocabulary, all while showing superb respect and turn taking.

In maths, the children have loved getting stuck into our new topic, solving creative problems by making different shapes with the same area.






YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 5

Year 5 have enjoyed another fantastic week, full of enthusiasm and perseverance. In maths, we have continued our work on fractions, comparing and ordering fractions with different denominators and using our knowledge of equivalent fractions to solve problems.

In English, the children have stepped into the boots of Captain Scott, writing diary entries packed with ambitious vocabulary to capture the challenges and emotions of his remarkable Antarctic expedition. Some were wonderfully atmospheric!

Science was a real highlight, with parachutes floating gently (and not so gently) to the ground. The children designed and tested their own, carefully timing each drop to discover how surface area affects air resistance. In geography, we have been sharpening our mapping skills using grid references to locate places and features.



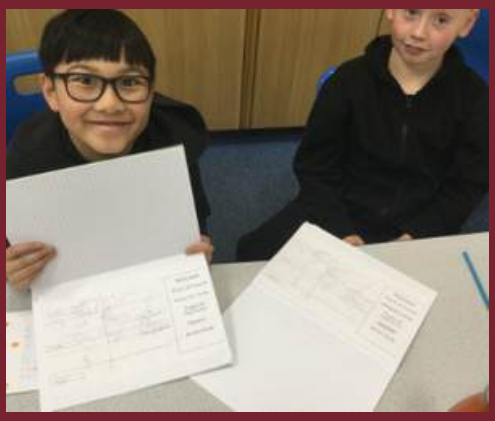


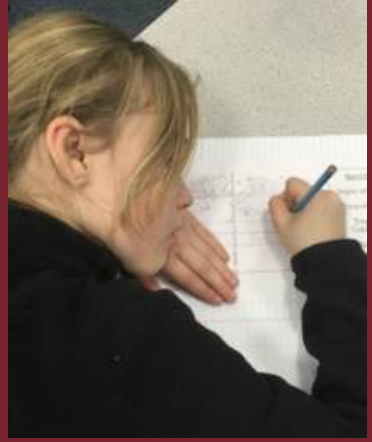



Year 6

Year 6 have had another busy and exciting week! In English, the children have continued developing their persuasive writing with A Christmas Carol as their inspiration, while our reading lessons have focused on synonyms, word meanings and unpicking some of Dickens's trickier Victorian language.

In maths, we have been positioning fractions on a number line, using equivalent fractions to work out where each one belongs. In geography, we labelled a map with the important lines of latitude and longitude and talked about the continents, and Mr Smith led some great team building games in PE. Well done, Year 6, for another fantastic week!



HAPPY Birthday



Just two birthdays this week, so our birthday stars get the spotlight (and the cake) all to themselves! We hope you both have a truly wonderful day.

Happy Birthday to:

Darcie (Year 4)

Harry (Year 5)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2026/2027

Date	Event
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 Measures 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
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	Paired Reading Week- Children will pair up with reading buddies from another year group to share their favourite stories.
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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2026/2027

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
Monday 14th December	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Crafternoon Parent Event- Parents are invited to join their child in school to take part in some festive crafts together- 2pm. Parent letter with sign up form to follow. Pele Trust Christmas Concert at St Mary's Parish Church
Tuesday 15th December	Year 6 theatre visit to watch 'A Christmas Carol' Year 5 Christmas Craft Parent Event- 9.30am Year 3 Christmas Craft Parent Event- 9.30am Year 4 Christmas Craft Parent Event- 1.15pm Year 6 Christmas Craft Parent Event- 2.15pm EYFS- Christmas Craft Parent Event- 2.15pm
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