



FRIDAY FLYER



Friday 6th December 2024

Headteacher Update

The Advent season is a magical time in primary schools, where we enjoy bringing the community together for celebrations. This week, the festive spirit has been in full swing, beginning with our youngest learners in Nursery and Reception. They kicked off the season beautifully with a Christingle service at St Mary's Parish Church. The church was aglow with lights as the children sang traditional songs and learned about the significance of each part of the Christingle. On their way back to school, they were warmly greeted by local residents who praised their impeccable manners - what wonderful representatives for our school!



Later in the week, the spirit of song continued with the Pele Trust Carol Service on Thursday afternoon. Our choir and instrumentalists performed beautiful musical pieces and carols alongside peers from other Pele Trust schools to a packed audience. Huge thanks go to Mrs. Wigham for her dedication behind the scenes - bringing this event to life was no small feat, and it was wonderful to see the church filled with supportive families and friends.



In addition to taking centre stage, our children have also enjoyed being the audience for some wonderful professional performances. Members of the Shakespeare cast attended a breathtaking ballet performance of *Romeo and Juliet* at Dance City, soaking in all of the drama and artistry. This experience will no doubt fuel their thinking, as they prepare for their own adaptation of *The Tempest* later this year.

A big thank you goes to our incredible PTA for gifting all of our children the joy of a pantomime today by BigFoot Arts Education North! Our younger children went behind the scenes of Santa's workshop with a performance of, *The Greediest Elf*. Meanwhile, children in Year 2 to Year 6 were swept up in the magic and chaos of Dip and Dab's Christmas Mix Up, filled with singing, dancing, and plenty of laughter!



On Wednesday, the festive cheer continued with our Christmas lunch. The children enjoyed a delicious meal together, dressed in their best sparkles and Christmas jumpers. Compliments to our brilliant kitchen team for making it so special!

Looking ahead, we have a jam-packed four days, with school being closed to the children on Friday 13th December for a teacher training day. Highlights for the upcoming week include Year 2's Kings and Queens Celebration Day on Tuesday, marking the end of their monarchy and castles topic. Year 4 visit the Great North Museum, and Key Stage 1 will lead a thoughtful reflection service at St Mary's Church. All the fun of the PTFA Christmas Fair takes place on Wednesday evening and we look forward to seeing you all.

Amidst all the hustle and bustle of the season, we hope you find moments to relax and enjoy time as a family this weekend,

James Watson – Headteacher



ATTENDANCE

Attendance for this week is summarised below

This week, Chestnut class achieve a fantastic achievement in their weekly attendance as they reach 100%. As we approach the final two weeks of the autumn term, we have a host of exciting events lined up. Let's make sure every child is present to enjoy these special moments. Thank you for your continued support in making attendance a top priority!

Weekly Overview		Acorns (Nursery)	94.29
Oak (Reception)	95.65	Birch (Year 1)	97.83
Willow (Year 1)	84.35	Ash (Year 2)	81.58
Beech (Year 2)	96.52	Rowan (Year 3)	96.47
Chestnut (Year 3)	100	Maple (Year 4)	94.23
Alder (Year 4)	91.60	Cedar (Year 5)	95.20
Pine (Year 5)	94.23	Juniper (Year 6)	93.67
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

Ensuring Children's Digital Privacy

We'd like to extend our gratitude to Danielle, a student currently pursuing her Master's in Legal Studies, for sharing a valuable resource with our school community. This resource is designed to help parents support their children in developing a strong awareness of online privacy. Danielle is assisting schools as part of her extra-credit research, and we truly appreciate her efforts in bringing this important article to our attention.



For more tips on helping your child manage their digital usage while enhancing their online safety, [please see the following article](#) and range of child-friendly videos for different age ranges.

England Football- Free Parent Safeguarding Course

Football is by far the most popular sport in the country, particularly among teenagers and children. England Football has designed a short, free safeguarding course for parents to help you to make an informed choice about the football setting you enroll your child in.



It starts by explaining the importance of safeguarding in football and the child-centred approach the game takes. It will then guide you through questions you should ask to ensure the club or venue where your children play football has the correct safeguarding policies, people and practices in place. You can [access the course here](#).





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Nursery

On Tuesday, Early Years came together for our Christingle Service at St Mary's Church. The children represented our school beautifully and we were very proud of them – their singing was fabulous!

A special thank you to Reverend Paul for providing such a beautiful service. Nursery also enjoyed wearing our Christmas jumpers on Wednesday – we had lots of fun spotting what we could see on each other's jumpers! We enjoyed sharing our Christmas dinner together, too.



Reception

Christmas has well and truly arrived in Reception. At the start of the week, we received a special visitor all the way from the North Pole. We have shared the story of the first Christmas and learned why Jesus is important to Christians.

We have also enjoyed a wonderful trip to St Mary's church for our Christingle service, decorated our Christmas classroom door, ate a delicious Christmas lunch and watched a wonderful festive panto. What a busy week of Christmas fun!





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 1

Year 1 has been in full festive cheer this week. We have been using our creative skills to design, create and display decorations for our Christmas doors. On Wednesday, we loved wearing our Christmas jumpers and enjoying the delicious Christmas dinner.



Thank you to all the staff in the kitchen for preparing such a wonderful festive meal. We are now in the Christmas swing!

Year 2

Year 2 have had a delightful week filled with Christmas cheer! We've enjoyed our Christmas jumper day and a festive Christmas lunch. Beech class has been busy crafting beautiful paper snowflakes to decorate our Christmas door, and as you can see, the children have done a fantastic job.



This activity is not only fun but also excellent for developing fine motor skills. The children practiced precise cutting, which enhances hand strength and control. By maneuvering scissors in different directions and making small, controlled snips, they improved their hand-eye coordination and grip strength. Excellent work Year 2!





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 3

This week, Year 3 has been full of festive fun! We loved our Christmas lunch and our Christmas jumper day.

We have also had our final lesson on our Stone Age topic. We have been learning all about Stonehenge. We had to work in teams to make our own model of Stonehenge. Our challenge was to build the most realistic sculpture and include as many features as possible.



Year 4

What a wonderful week we have had in Year 4 this week. We have been so busy with all of our learning and enjoying the festivities that have already begun.

In science, we loved investigating gases by weighing, pouring (and shaking very hard) fizzy drinks! Mrs Wigham was delighted with the efforts in music this week and of course we all LOVED our Christmas dinner!





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 5

As part of our PSHE topic this half term, we have been exploring how to manage peer pressure. We practised being assertive and saying 'no' through drama. We were given a peer pressure scenario to act out and some stem sentences to help us with different ways to say 'no' if we are ever in a situation we feel uncomfortable with.



All of Year 5 enjoyed wearing their Christmas jumpers and eating a delicious festive meal on Wednesday. Rehearsals for our Upper Key Stage Two Christmas Carol Service are going well and we hope to see many of our families at St Mary's Church on Wednesday 18th December.



Year 6

It's been looking a lot like Christmas in Year 6 this week! We've been finishing off our work on Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol', enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch on Wednesday and had a great time creating our Christmas window 'Candycane Lane' using brown paper and white paint pens.

Amongst all of this, Year 6 have worked their socks off on a range of assessment tasks, showing off how much they've learned so far this term, and demonstrating excellent focus and positivity. A great week all round!



HAPPY Birthday

There are just two children who will be enjoying the celebrations all for themselves as they look forward to their upcoming birthdays. Special wishes from all of the staff and children at RCPS.

Happy Birthday to:

Oliver (Year 1)

Julen (Year 2)





OTHER NEWS

This week...

Thank You for Supporting Our Book Fair!

A big thank you to all the parents and children who joined us for our Scholastic Book Fair. Thanks to your support, we achieved an incredible £1,512.80 in sales, providing the school with over £800 to invest in new reading books. Your enthusiasm for reading helps us create a richer learning environment—thank you.



Cheerleading Star

A huge congratulations to George in Year 2, who took to the court as a cheerleader at the Newcastle Eagles basketball game!

His enthusiasm and energy were on full display, making us all incredibly proud. What an amazing experience. Well done, George!



Northumberland County Council- Parking Information

During the month of December, schools hold a variety of plays and events that parents and guardians attend. This can lead to an increase in traffic around the school, during these events.

This is a wonderful time of year, especially for first and primary schools. Northumberland County Council have asked us to share to guidance around responsible parking over this busy period to allow all of these events to take place safely. Please [see the attached flyer](#).



 Northumberland
County Council

Swimming Success

Congratulations to Molly for passing her Stage 1 swimming! Her hard work and dedication in the pool have paid off, and she is now moving up to Stage 2.

We are so proud to share her progress and can't wait to see her continue to develop her swimming skills. Well done, Molly! Keep making a splash!



Santa Sleigh Tour Times Updates

We have been keeping up to date with our Santa tracker to map out the timings of his sleigh visit to Ponteland and Darras Hall this weekend. His first stop takes place in Ponteland this evening, so you may wish to gather the family to see him on his travels. Please see the [updated sleigh tour sheet](#) from Ponteland Rotary Club, that provides you with the planned visit locations and timings. Have a lovely evening!





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2024/2025

Please note that newly added dates **are highlighted in yellow**.

Date	Event
Tuesday 10th December	Lower Key Stage 2 (Y3 and Y4) Christmas Church Worship at St Mary's Church- 9.15am Year 2 Kings, Queens and Castles Day
Wednesday 11th December	PTFA Christmas Fair
Thursday 12th December	Key Stage 1 (Y1 and Y2) Christmas Church Worship at St Mary's Church- 9.15am Year 4 visit to Great North Museum Year 6 visit to Ponteland High School to see a performance of We Will Rock You
Friday 13th December	Teacher Training Day- School closed to children
Monday 16th December	Key Stage 1 (Y1 and Y2) Christmas Performance -9.15am. Please book tickets via the email Google Form.
Tuesday 17th December	Lower Key Stage 2 (Y3 and Y4) Christmas Performance- 2pm. Please book tickets via the email Google Form.
Wednesday 18th December	Early Years Christmas Performance -9.15am Year 5 and 6 Christmas Performance at St Mary's Church- 1.45pm. Parents invited- ticket booking is not required.
Wednesday 18th December	KS1 Christmas Parties
Thursday 19th December	EYFS and KS2 Christmas Parties
Monday 6th January	Children return to school after Christmas holidays
Monday 12th May - Thursday 15th May	Year 6 Key Stage 2 SATs week
Wednesday 21st- Friday 23rd May	Year 5 Robinwood Residential Visit
Monday 23rd June- Friday 27th June	Year 6 France Residential Visit