



FRIDAY FLYER



Friday 22nd November 2024

Headteacher Update

At the beginning of this week, we proudly introduced our new Art Ambassadors: Bella, Arlen, Harry, Lilah, Ella, Beth, Jacob, Effie, Milly, Olivia, and Elliott. Congratulations to this talented group, who will inspire creativity and self-expression across the school with their enthusiasm for art. We're confident their leadership will have a wonderful impact throughout the year, and we look forward to seeing the inspiring work that they encourage in others.

In curriculum news, we were delighted to host the Primary Science Network meeting this week, bringing together teachers from across the Pele Trust schools. This valuable opportunity for collaboration and sharing expertise has sparked some exciting plans for enriching science education in the year ahead.

Our learning adventures took us on various journeys this week. Year 3 travelled back in time to the Stone Age during their visit to The Rising Sun Country Park, where they discovered the skills our ancestors used for survival, such as cooking and building shelters. Back at school, Thursday's Japanese-themed lunch menu brought another cultural exploration, with the katsu curry proving to be a firm favourite among students and staff alike!

As December approaches, the festive spirit is beginning to grow. We're busy preparing for a host of events that promise to make this season memorable. A full list of key dates can be found at the end of this flyer, and parents will soon receive booking forms via email to secure tickets for our much-anticipated Key Stage performances.

During this morning's worship, we took time to reflect on the power of giving and how it can be just as meaningful as receiving. We discussed one of the most precious gifts we can offer others-our time.

As part of this, we are challenging all our children to dedicate a small portion of their time to brighten someone else's day. This could include reading to a younger family member, baking a treat for someone in need of cheering up, helping with household tasks or even writing a thoughtful letter to bring a smile to someone's face.

We'd love to hear about the children's acts of kindness, so please share their good deeds and any photos with us by emailing admin@richard-coates.uk.

We wish you all a restful weekend,

James Watson – Headteacher

The greatest gift you
can give someone is your time.
Because when you give your
time, you are giving a portion
of your life that you will never
get back.





ATTENDANCE

Attendance for this week is summarised below

Well done to Chestnut class in Year 3, who took top of our attendance charts this week as the only class to record 100% attendance for last week. [The Children's Commissioner Guide](#) provides ten top tips for parents whose children are struggling to attend school. If you would benefit from any support in helping your child to increase their attendance, please contact Mr Watson or Mrs Roys via the school office.

Weekly Overview		Acorns (Nursery)	87.4%
Oak (Reception)	99.1%	Birch (Year 1)	94.6%
Willow (Year 1)	93.9%	Ash (Year 2)	94.2%
Beech (Year 2)	98.3%	Rowan (Year 3)	95.3%
Chestnut (Year 3)	100%	Maple (Year 4)	92.6%
Alder (Year 4)	99.2%	Cedar (Year 5)	96.8%
Pine (Year 5)	92%	Juniper (Year 6)	89%
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 Parent Controls for Snapchat and TikTok



Both Snapchat and TikTok have advisory age restrictions of 13 years+, however we are aware that many young people use these platforms before this age. It is therefore important that parents are provided with safety information updates that can help them to protect their child online.

Snapchat have made updates to their Family Centre Content Controls, which allow parents to limit the types of content that children can watch on Snapchat. Further information about these functions for parents [can be accessed here](#).

TikTok have also announced improvements to their screen time tool. Users under the age of 18 will automatically have a 60 minute limit put in place. This can be bypassed with a code, but the intention is to help young people become more aware of how long they've spent in the app and make a conscious decision as to whether to continue. You can read full details about this and more [advice for parents about protecting your child with TikTok settings here](#).

Smart Watches Reminder

Please remember that smartwatches may not be worn for school if they allow children to have online access. This is to protect children while they are in school as we cannot supervise what content they may be accessing using their smartwatch. If a child brings a smartwatch to school, we will keep it in a secure place until the end of the day.





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Nursery

Nursery have been busy using our senses to explore different activities this week. We started by doing some spice painting, where we mixed different spices with water to create paint. We described the smell, colour and texture of each mixture – our room smelled amazing by the end!

We also took part in some food tasting, in which we used our smell, taste and touch to describe different food items. We thought carrots were crunchy, while yoghurts were smooth and bananas were soft and sweet!



Reception

This week we have continued to work on our core text, Lost and Found and we have produced some fantastic writing. We have been trying so hard to 'pinch and spell' our words and form our letters correctly.

We also enjoyed making 'stampoline' pictures with numbers to 5. We found lots of different arrangements and could discuss parts and wholes with confidence. Well done, Oak Class!





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 1

Year 1 have been lucky to have a weekly expert to help us in art. Izzy is an art student at Newcastle University and offers her time to provide specialist support to the children in Willow class during their lessons.

In our current project, we are looking at cityscapes. This week, we used sketching pencils and oil pastels to create a multi-coloured cityscape. The children focused on sketching, shading and adding detail to make their images stand out.



Year 2

In RE this half term, the children have been focused on exploring The Bible. The children have been learning about its significance and diving into the eight key sections of both the Old and New Testaments. Through engaging discussions and interactive activities, they've gained a deeper understanding of the stories, messages and teachings in this special text.

The children have shown great enthusiasm and curiosity, asking excellent questions! Ask your child what they've enjoyed learning about most – it might spark a thoughtful family conversation at home!





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 3

This week, we stepped back in time on our amazing Stone Age trip! The day was filled with hands-on activities that brought history to life.

We made flour using ancient techniques like threshing, winnowing, and grinding, then baked delicious bread over an open fire. We explored fascinating Stone Age artefacts, learned how they were used, and worked together to build sturdy shelters—just like early humans!

Our hosts were impressed by our respect, kindness, and impressive Stone Age knowledge.



Year 4

Year 4 have enjoyed making a start on their new science topic of "Changing State" they worked hard on discussing solids, liquids and gases. They then used drama skills to help understand the structure of the particles in these states of matter.

We also had lots of fun hot seating Neil Armstrong this week. The children have really immersed themselves in their English topic. They enjoyed asking and answering questions in a role to help them with their writing.





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 5

There was great excitement to find out who won our Anti-Bullying competition in Year 5. The standard was very high, which made the decision making very difficult! Well done to the winners, who each chose a new book from the book fair.



In art, Year 5 continue to study the artwork of remembrance artist, Jacqueline Hurley, and have practised some very effective sketching and drawing techniques before they begin their own piece of artwork. In science, the children enjoyed making different sized parachutes and testing them to find out if the size of a parachute affects the time taken to fall. We learnt all about the force of air resistance while doing this. Another busy week. Well done Year 5!

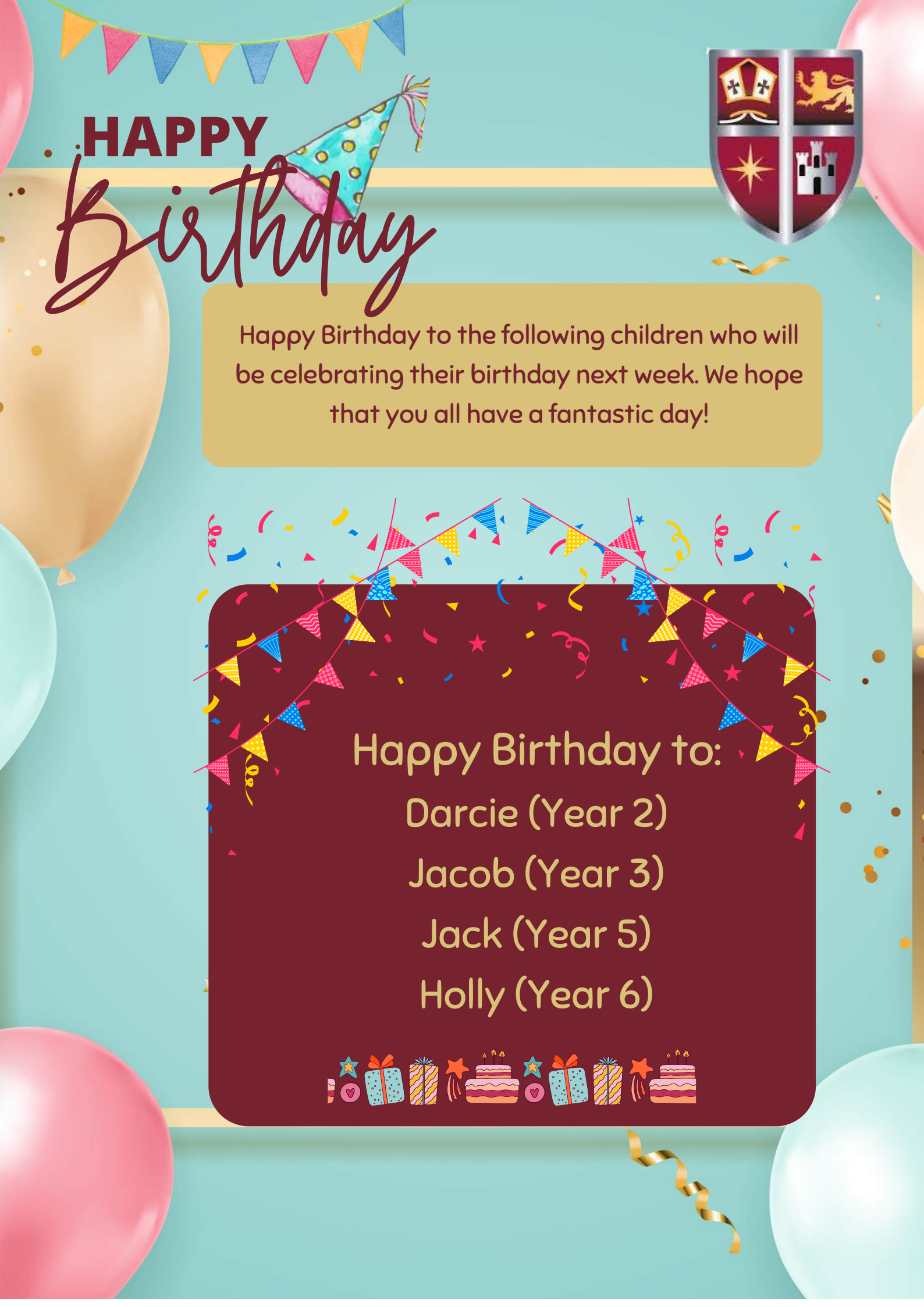


Year 6

A recent addition to our school site is a set of orienteering posts, that have been providing endless entertainment and exercise to our children in all year groups!

Year 6 had a wonderful time in PE this week playing orienteering bingo, which required them to find certain letters and numbers on posts to add to a target total. Excellent cardio work running between the posts, and fabulous team efforts!





HAPPY Birthday



Happy Birthday to the following children who will be celebrating their birthday next week. We hope that you all have a fantastic day!

Happy Birthday to:

Darcie (Year 2)

Jacob (Year 3)

Jack (Year 5)

Holly (Year 6)





OTHER NEWS

This week...

Blue Peter Badge Winner

We're thrilled to share some exciting news for Cora, Year 2, who has earned the prestigious Blue Peter badge! She received this special award for her fantastic work writing about and drawing her favourite animals.

Cora's creativity shone through in her beautifully detailed illustrations and her engaging writing that showcased her passion for all living creatures. Well done, Cora!



Girls' Football Team Put in a Classy Performance

Despite the freezing weather and frosty pitches, the girls' football team put in a fantastic effort on the pitch at the Pele Trust competition this week! They showcased great determination, achieving 4 wins and a draw out of 7 games and were recognised by supporting staff for their respectful attitudes and team spirit. Well done to all players involved!



RCPS Pupils Make a Big Splash at the Pool

Big congratulations to Ozzy in Year 1 for completing Stage 1 at Ponteland Leisure Centre. This is a fantastic achievement, reflecting his hard work and progress. He's now all set to dive into Level 2 next week, and we can't wait to see him continue to shine.

Another swimming star of the week was Isabella, Reception, who has stunned her coaches with her rapid achievements in recent weeks. Isabella is now working towards her Stage 3 badge and we are all very proud of her progress. Well done, Isabella- keep up the great work!



Ponteland Rotary Club Announce Santa Tours

Ponteland Rotary Club have received news from the North Pole, that Santa is planning to visit the local area for his annual tour in the coming weeks.

On the evening of Friday 6th December, we are expecting Father Christmas to take his sleigh through the streets of Ponteland before touring the Darras Hall area between 5pm-7pm on Saturday 7th December.



£5 TEXT SANTA to 70560
£10 TEXT SNOWMAN to 70560
£20 TEXT ROBIN to 70560

For more information and details on how to donate to Santa's chosen charity, please see the [Rotary Club Flyer](#) on our school website.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2024/2025

Please note that newly added dates are highlighted in yellow.

Date	Event
Monday 25th November	Year 1 visit to Discovery Museum
Tuesday 3rd December	Early Years Christingle Service at St Mary's Church Shakespeare Club- Romeo and Juliet Ballet at Dance City.
Wednesday 4th December	Christmas Lunch Day- Children are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers to school!
Thursday 5th December	Pele Trust Christmas Concert at St Mary's Church- 1.45pm. Parents of the school choir are invited to book tickets via the email Google Form.
Friday 6th December	Bigfoot Arts Education Productions deliver Christmas shows in school: The Greediest Elf Dip n Dab's Dazzling Christmas Play
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 Upper Key Stage 2 (Y5 and Y6) Christmas Performance- 2pm. Please book tickets via the email Google Form. Year 5 and 6 Christmas Performance at St Mary's Church- 1.45pm. Parents invited- ticket booking is not required.
Thursday 19th December	Children's Christmas Parties
Wednesday 21st- Friday 23rd May	Year 5 Robinwood Residential Visit
Monday 23rd June- Friday 27th June	Year 6 France Residential Visit