

Friday Flyer

15th September

Headteacher Update

Another busy week has taken place in school with the children trying their best each and every day. Their enthusiasm and ability to rise to the challenge has been amazing so I sincerely hope that it continues in the weeks and months to come.

Our children now seem to be settled into their new routines and procedures and what I admire the most is seeing how relationships are already beginning to form, not only in the new classes but from our youngest children in Reception to our oldest in Year 6. Each playtime and lunchtime the little ones seek out their older friends to eat lunch together or play games.

This week in assembly we started to talk about our school values and our focus this month is Respect. We discussed mutual respect and what respect means to different people. The children were keen to explain that we must show respect to everyone, no matter what their beliefs and backgrounds. If you are able to continue talking around the themes of respect at home that would be brilliant and consolidate this value.

Our 11 Values are:



I was excited this week to walk around the classes and see our Key Stage Children working hard in lessons but also on our new reading programme Reading Plus. The feedback from staff is that the children very much enjoy the online platform and therefore I would encourage you, if you haven't already, to ask your child to show you what it's all about.

In addition to this it is great to see the Book Worm challenge is in full flow and some of our children already have some signatures in their reading records and are making their way towards the target of 200 reads! Please do support your child with this and remember it could be the reading of books, magazines or the Reading Plus programme. It is very

important that the children are exposed to a wide range of literature.

Finally, this week has seen our first Celebration Assembly of the year. This has been created to talk about all the wonderful aspects of school life that happen each week and offer the chance for reward in school. We also had our first day for our new Hot Chocolate reward. Congratulations to all the children who attended the session, I hope they enjoyed the drink and biscuits as much as I did!

Have a wonderful weekend!
Craig Shaw

Class	Attendance
Reception	98.92
Y1/2	97.27
Y3/4	91.25
Y5/6	98.00

Please refer to the graphic below which shows the significant impact of absence over time.

Attendance	Description
98 -100%	Excellent
95-97.9%	Good
92-94.9%	Caution
90- 91.9%	Cause for concern
89.9 or below	Persistent Absence Serious Concern

Every child has the right to a good education. We want our children to thrive, and to be healthy and happy. For this to happen the majority of young people need to be attending school, seeing their friends, and learning in the classroom. Most children in England agree with this assessment. The Children's Commissioner for England's 'Big Ask' survey from March 2022 gathered over 550 000 responses from children and demonstrated during the pandemic how much they had missed face-to-face teaching, spending time with their friends, and the extra-curricular activities that brought joy and excitement to their lives.

The benefits of school are many. It offers positive adult role models and gives children a strong foundation for their interactions in society. School helps young people build confidence, which is crucial to healthy self-esteem. It encourages independent critical thinking and self-expression. These skills translate to every area of life, whether it is in academia, the workplace, or relationships. School widens a child's horizons and influences their aspirations. Schools are more than just classrooms, they are communities.

The NHS has recently published a really useful document to refer to when your child has a suspected illness and you are not sure if they could come to school. It can be found [here](#).

Dates for the diary...

Autumn Term 2023

Thursday 5th October	6.00-8.00pm	Year 6 Prospective Parents' Evening at Ponteland High School
Tuesday 10th October		Individual School Photographs
Monday 23rd October		Flu Immunisations
Friday 27th October	9.15am	Harvest Festival (Parents/Carers Welcome)
Friday 27th October		School Closes for Half Term
Monday 6th November		Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 7th November		School Re-opens after Half Term
Friday 10th November		Remembrance Day Assembly
Monday 13th November		Odd Sock Day
Monday 13th & Tuesday 14th November	3.15-5.30pm	Parents' Evenings
Thursday 7th December		Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 7th December	1.45pm	Joint Christmas Performance (Parents/Carers Welcome) <i>Venue TBC</i>
Friday 15th December	AM	(TBC) Whole School Christmas Performance
Tuesday 19th December	10.00am	Christmas Pantomime at Tyne Theatre
Wednesday 20th December	Afternoon	KS2 Christmas Party
Thursday 21st December	Afternoon	Reception/KS1 Christmas Party
Friday 22nd December		School Closes for Christmas

All dates may be subject to change

Apologies about the confusion on clubs this week. We are hoping that these will get going properly next week, unless specified otherwise.

Extra-Curricular Clubs:

We are looking to start these from next week. Please click [here](#) to sign up.

Day	Activity	Time	Age
Monday	SLUK Playmaker Award (10 weeks)	3.20 - 4.20pm starts 25th September	Years 4 - 6 (cost)
Monday	Dance	3.20 - 4.15pm	Reception - Y2
Tuesday	NUF Multi-Sport	3.20 - 4.20pm	Years 1 - 3
Wednesday	Pele Trust Multi-Sport	3.20 - 4.20pm	Years 4 - 6
Wednesday	Spanish Club	3.15 - 4.15pm	Years 3-6
Thursday	Badminton	3.15 - 4.00pm starts 21st September	Years 5 - 6 (cost)
Friday	Band	8.30 - 9.00am	All band members from last year and children who can play an entire scale are welcome
Friday	Choir	11.45 - 12.15pm	KS2

Would you or someone you know like to run a club? If so please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Remember...

As the weather changes and we move into colder, wetter times (not much different from our Summer), please remember to send your child to school with a waterproof coat and pair of wellies. We aim to try and get the pupils in the fresh air as much as possible during break and lunch!



The week in Reception

This week has seen lots of new experiences occur for the children. We were able to start our phonics journey and have already become brilliant with the new letters. So far we know 'm,a,s' we have also met Fred the frog who only talks in sounds. He has been very impressed with how hard we are trying with our phonics.



We have also had our first PE lesson with Mr Smith. He was so impressed at how brilliant we are at listening to and following instructions. This week we had to be pirates and see if we could complete our ship by using our throwing and catching skills. Everyone worked really hard and we have been working on having our hands shaped in a 'cup' or a 'w' ready to catch. You could try and practise this at home too!



Please see Tapestry for more photos from the week. It has been a fantastic first full week for the children.

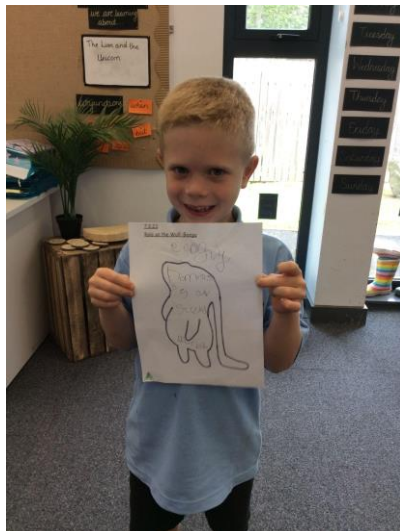
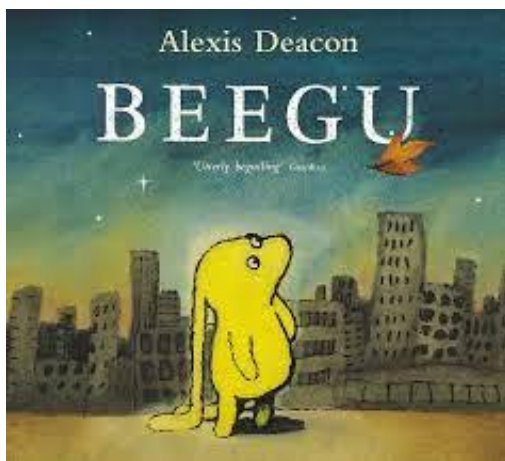
Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Houghton



The week in Key Stage 1

Year 1 and 2 have had a fantastic start to the new school year! This term, we will be focusing on the school Global Theme of Belonging and Identity. Over the coming weeks, we will be exploring diversity, individuality and what makes us special! We launched our Global Theme by reading Alex Deacon's *Beegu* and are looking forward to using this text to inspire our writing in English lessons to create postcards, stories and instructions. The most popular Rainbow challenge this week has been making Beegu's rocket to help her find her way home!





In Forest School we went for a mindful, nature walk and collected natural materials to make feeling faces. We enjoyed discussing and representing different emotions and expressions with what we collected.

Miss Dixon

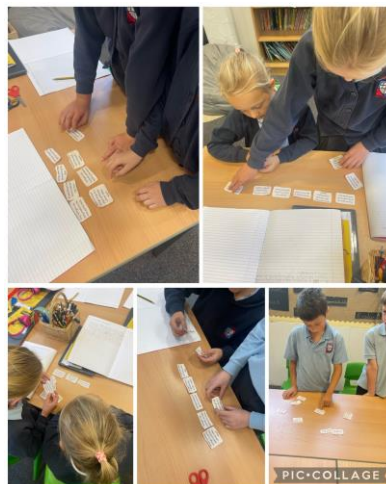
The week in Year 3 and 4

What an amazing start to the year in Year 3 and 4! I have been so impressed with everyone's effort to show our school value, to always show our best presentation and also to take responsibility for being the best version of ourselves. We have also shown great resilience and positivity this week as we have completed a couple of tricky assessments and tried to become confident with reading plus by ourselves and I have been so impressed with everyone's attitude to learning.

In Art we have been sketching and designing ceramic tiles inspired by Anglo-Saxon and it was great to see the children apply their research skills for inspiration as well as see their creativity shine!



In English we started to look at who King Vortigern was and we used sorting cards to organise and retell his story. We have also spent this week familiarising ourselves again with different word classes and basic punctuation to ensure all our work is to the highest quality. We then applied our learning to creating brilliant expanded noun phrases to go into our setting description.



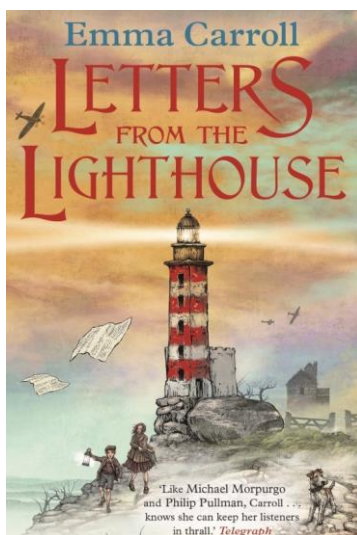
I have been so impressed with everyone in Maths so far. They have all retained their place value knowledge to an amazing level and have enjoyed using different manipulatives to visualise their learning before exploring reasoning and problem solving questions.



An amazing start to the year and I am excited to see the children continue to progress and thrive throughout the year. Well done Year 3 and 4!

Miss Cruse

The week in Year 5 and 6



English

We have launched our new English book this week, *Letters from the Lighthouse* by Emma Carroll and the children are so excited about it.

We weren't supposed to be going to the pictures that night...not when German bombs had been falling like pennies from a jar. February, 1941. A bomb blast... A chance encounter... Her mother's coat...

This is all Olive can remember of the night her sister Sukie went missing. With London unsafe, Olive and her brother are evacuated to the Devonshire coast to stay with a mysterious lighthouse keeper. There, Olive must solve a mystery of her own: a strange coded note which seems to link Sukie to Devon, and to something dark and impossibly dangerous.

Art



Linked to our English book, we are studying the amazing work of two contemporary artists, Ayza Obra and Ida O'Keefe. Their lighthouse work is amazing and the children have been discussing the different styles of both artists and looking at the techniques that they use. Over the next few weeks, we will be adapting their styles and creating our own versions.



Computing

We started our computing lessons discussing e-safety and types of information that is out there on the internet. This week we have considered what information we should and shouldn't share with others online and that we need to keep lots of information private.

**What other kinds
of information
should we be
careful to protect?**

Your home
address and
phone number

News articles

Your email
password and
other online
passwords

Your photos,
videos, music,
and other
content

Dictionary
definitions

Your
usernames

Blog posts

The location of
a restaurant

Your
schoolwork and
other
documents
you create