



Ponteland Community Middle School

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Newsletter 2 – October 2018

'We take our vision from John 10:10 'that they have life and have it abundantly'

Dear Parents and Carers

What excitement this week as we welcomed the Ponteland Mayor, Alan Varley and Cllr Mrs Overbury to our whole school assembly to present prizes to children who had submitted designs to commemorate the WW1 centenary. Everything was top secret. The winner for our school is Edward Kay with runner up submissions from Caitlin Dewar and Tori Bowden. Tori made a lovely book full of WW1 memorabilia and drawings. All three submissions were sensitive, bold and beautifully creative. We were very proud of them. Imagine our joy as we heard that Edward was the overall winner for the WW1 Poster Competition and his artwork will be on the front cover of the Remembrance Day order of service. When Edward's name was announced we realised he was in another part of the school so Mr Baggett ran hotfoot across the school and brought him back to the Sports Hall to rapturous applause from 600 people. He had the biggest smile on his face which was lovely to see! The other pupils involved were Alice Kay, Georgia Beckwith, Evie reed, Kaitlyn Dolby, Jay banks Wilson, Tom Jurowski, Eleanor Waugh and Mehar Gulati.



Then we asked our guests to present another surprise prize to Emna Mekki and Emily Johnson who had designed a winning Christmas Card design for the Ponteland Churches Together which will be delivered to Ponteland homes in December. They received a prize from Miss Percival, our Art teacher, as did the other children who took part in this competition. Miss Percival was also delighted as the Art department will receive a voucher to buy something special.

Also on Wednesday we had a Dolce Live Kitchen sausage taste off to compare six different sausages and see which the most popular. I put some photographs on Facebook as children were accompanied by a few staff too. There was a strong favourite but in the face of democracy we shall take the top three and have a different sausage for the next three weeks so we can decide which one we like best for our school lunch. Huge thanks to Louvain Turner from Dolce who organised that all the samples were cooked under control conditions and presented in colour coded plates. Thank you to Melissa Dobson and Jessica Robson from Y5; Aaron Hayes and Ben Owen from Y6; Lily Urwin and Grace Farhart Nicholson from Y7; and Ben Patrick and Charles Mason from Y8.



Headgirl Charlotte Robinson and Headboy Charles Mason welcomed Kelland Watts, a former pupil to school last week as he presented PCMS with an England shirt he wore playing against France. It is always inspirational for PCMS to invite successful past pupils into school to speak to current pupils about their achievements. Kelland Watts provided that inspiration. Whilst in the school, as a pupil, he worked extremely hard in all subjects and was polite, modest and a positive role model for his peers. He was successful at GCSE



level, despite having to combine this with Newcastle United academy commitments, understanding fully the value of a good education. Last season, as captain of the Newcastle's Under 18 team, he had a call from the England Squad for the U19 European Championships. A year young and one of only three players from the North East, he was invited down to St George's to train. Four days later he was given the news that he would start the first game against Turkey in Finland. At a whole school assembly, he presented the school with the shirt that he wore against France and spoke to pupils. His message was clear. Work hard and be kind and great things can happen. One class has already adopted this simple message as their tutor group motto. After assembly, Kelland met and spoke to the U11 girls football team who are national champions and will go on to represent England at the Danone world cup in Barcelona later on in the year. Meeting two of our latest positive role models he posed for this photograph at the front of school. We all wish Kelland every success in his footballing future.

With kind regards
Dr Caroline Pryer

Dear Parents of Ponteland Academy,

I am the Education Welfare Officer for the Ponteland Partnership of Schools. I have been an Education Welfare Officer for a year, but have worked in schools prior to this since 2005 in many supportive roles.

As the Education Officer for Ponteland Academy, my role is to work with schools and yourselves, as parents, to enable your children to have the maximum opportunity to benefit from their education entitlement.

The Government class a pupil with 90% attendance as a persistent absentee. Any absence from school can affect the pattern of your child's schooling and regular absence will seriously affect your child's learning. A pupil's absence also disrupts teaching routines, impacting on others in the same class.

As a mother to 4 children, I understand that, sometimes, children are genuinely ill and absence from school cannot be avoided. However, communication with school is vital so that you and your child can be supported in the best way possible.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding your child's attendance at school, please do not hesitate to contact me on 07973785138.

Kind regards

Gina Davidson

Sports News

Y6 Football

Ponteland Year 6 team were given a fantastic opportunity to play against the NUFC Performance Centre team at the new Alan Shearer facility in Lemington. The lads played superbly well and did themselves, the school and Mr Bodley very proud. The football was to a very high standard with NUFC Scouts watching the game as PCMS narrowly lost the game 4-1. It was a great advert for grass roots football and not at all about the result with our very own James Blakey and Sam Allison playing a half each for both teams. A special mention has to go to Jack Storey for his superb performance. Many thanks to Andrew Dobby and the rest of Newcastle Foundation team and we look forward to a re match in the near future.

Y7/8 Rugby

Congratulations to the Year 7 and 8 Rugby teams who competed at the emerging schools festival on 4th October, winning 8 games and losing 2. The Year 7 team won 5 games out of 5 and the Year 8 team won three games out of 5.

Y7 Football

Good luck to the Year 7 football team, who play St Cuthberts in the National Cup tonight.

After school clubs

Numbers at clubs are extremely good at the moment, but there is always room for more. Please encourage your child to do as many clubs as possible throughout the course of the school week. They are a great way to start or finish the day, meet friends, continue their learning, but most important of all, have fun and enjoy themselves.

NORTHUMBERLAND STEM DAY

Organised by Northumberland County Council, this event is aimed at young people aged 8 - 13 and is intended to give them an insight into the world of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

This full day event will consist of 5 workshops run by a mix of industry experts and adults, you are welcome to stay for the event!

Lunch will be provided (for adults too if you stay) and there will be lots of goodies for the children to take away.

For any queries please contact the event organiser, Nathan Fuller via nathan.fuller@northumberland.gov.uk.

To book places visit www.northumberland.gov.uk/stem



Thursday 1st November 2018 | Linden Hall, Longhorsley, NE65 8XF

Northumberland STEM DAY

Northumberland
County Council

www.northumberland.gov.uk/stem

Swimathon

A note ahead of time for your diary. On Saturday 17th November, the school will be sending class teams to support the Annual Ponteland Lions Swimathon. Timings will be 11-1145 Year 5, 11:50-12:35 Year 6, 12:40-1:25 Year 7 and Year 8. The event will take place at Ponteland Leisure Centre.

Car Park and Road Safety

For safety reasons at the beginning and at the end of the day can you please not drop off or pick up children from the staff car park.

Can you also please remind your children to use the appropriate crossings near school. We have had calls from parents to say they have witnessed some PCMS pupils crossing in-between parked cars.

Reading

Reading is very important to us at PCMS and we like to offer the children a wide variety of books, so that they can read texts that capture their imagination. However reading books do eventually wear out, especially the children's favourites! If you have any children's reading books you no longer need, we would be very grateful to receive any donations.



Friends of PCMS

Friends Meeting at 6pm in Wednesday 17th October in Room 5a.