



Ponteland Community Middle School

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Newsletter 8 – February 2019

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

Dear Parents and Carers

We are delighted to back together after the ski, Paris and STEAM week adventures. All children enjoyed their activity and the feedback from them and thank you messages from parents made light of the fog [ski], the puncture [Paris] and the hail [STEAM] interruptions! It was an exceptional week and full of happy faces from all over Europe.

Following the letter from Pele Trust regarding the proposal to change their admission policy from September 2021, I have been asked if the usual NCC admission policy would apply currently. I can confirm that PCMS is open for business as usual and welcome new Y5 children joining us in September 2019; and those choosing us for Y6, Y7 and Y8 for 2019/20 allowing children to continue their middle school education at PCMS. I have asked advice from NCC Admissions.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the primary proposal consultation. I am currently working on the report for trustees and when approved it shall go on to the website and be circulated.

We are looking forward to half term holiday. Please remember that we have a teacher training day on Friday 15 February, so shall close for half term 3.30 on Thursday 14 February with school resuming on Monday 25 February. I do hope you have a lovely time.

In the meantime we have had Parents' Evenings in school this week and further opportunities to meet staff on Monday 11th and Wednesday 13th February. Please get in touch if you are hoping to make an appointment and we shall do what we can.

With kind regards
Caroline Pryer



What a wonderful experience, **Jia Liew (5MB)** was invited to 10 Downing Street to help celebrate the Chinese New Year.

MFL Lessons

Some Key Stage 2 classes have been using www.languagenut.com in their MFL lessons. Any pupils who wish to practise their French, Spanish or German (or a different language such as Mandarin or Japanese) can use our log in details on the website www.languagenut.com or download the free app. Our username is Ponteland03 and our password is rhino2664.

Winter bugs

To counteract various bugs, cleaning staff are ensuring thorough cleaning of doors and toilet handles; and encouraging children to use soap when they wash their hands. We have made anti-bacterial gel available to all children in school and have advised on the use of tissues and of the need to keep hands clean to minimise the spread of germs. Our office staff have been very responsive to the needs of children in school and have been in an excellent position to support the children and contact families or administer medication as required. We would like to reassure families that all reasonable measures have been made to stop the spread of bugs.

Attendance percentages to date for each class– Target for school is 98%
Percentages taken 1 February 2019

Total	5JH	5MG	5MB	5CW	6KS	6OT	6LC	6DB	6VR
94.4	94.2	94.6	97.5	89.5	87.8	95.0	99.4	97.7	96.1
7MP	7TB	7MW	7EP	7BN	8BF	8DR	8NM	8PC	8CC
92.0	96.3	90.3	96.0	97.7	92.6	92.9	96.5	94.5	91.9

Sports News

Badminton

Congratulations to the PCMS badminton team who took part in the Castle Morpeth Badminton competition. Against tough opposition and under the guidance of expert manager Daniel Burn, both teams managed to finish second. It was particularly close in the girl's competition. Well done, to all involved.

Cross Country

Congratulations to Zara Naughton and Poppy Old who competed at the Inter Counties Cross Country this weekend, representing Northumberland. Despite snowy conditions, the girls bravely tackled the demanding course. Despite being a year young, Zara finished 7th Northumberland county, which qualifies her to run at the Nationals. Poppy performed exceptionally well, finishing 6th overall and second Northumberland runner. Poppy also qualifies for the Nationals.

RGS Tournament

The Y6 football team won the RGS Tournament last week. They did not concede a goal and remained unbeaten throughout the tournament. They were amazing and played some fantastic football throughout and received some excellent praise from other teams and teachers.



Feedback from STEAM Week

We were very fortunate to have **Protraining** come along and work with our pupils during STEAM week. Ian Murray, their UK Managing Director was full of praise and sent us the following:- On behalf of my colleague Kenny, I want to thank you and Mr Burgess for the opportunity to work with the school and in particular the amazing Y7 & Y8 pupils who we worked with on Wednesday and Thursday's STEAM week activities. Their enthusiasm, and problem solving skills were great and we were both impressed by the level of ability they had. There are some really impressive students within those classes as well. I do hope that we can continue to build our relationship and perhaps do some work with the faculty in the near future.

Year 8 Trip to Paris

31 students from Y8 had a fun filled, exhausting time in Paris. We visited the Cite des Science, Notre Dame cathedral, the Latin Quarter and the Souborn, Montmartre, The Eiffel Tower, Disneyland, Stade de France (where we even peeked into President Macron's Safe Room!), The Louvre, Tour Montparnasse for superb views over the city, and finished a packed 3 days with a river cruise on the Seine and some incredible crepes. And all in the first snow Paris had had in years!



Expensive Trainers

It has come to our attention that one or two boys are bringing extremely expensive trainers in to school for PE and others are feeling pressured perhaps to do the same thing. Please could I make a polite request that pupils should be bringing in trainers that are serviceable for PE with good cushioning and those which they do not mind getting dirty or damaged. Save your best trainers for best or if you want to wear them, wait for a non uniform day. We would really appreciate your help on this matter.



Trip to Montgenevre

All 65 children and 8 staff enjoyed a fantastic week away in Montgenevre last week. The sun shone every day and the children's smiles matched the sunny weather! Skiing progress was amazing as the children listened carefully, meaning that they were all skiing up the mountain by Day 3. We also enjoyed a movie night, pizza night, a quiz, a disco and Donald Trump night which was very entertaining!