Friday 6th November 2026

NEWSLETTER



Rachel Clift

Headteacher

Pondhu Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderfully busy and exciting first week back we have had! It has been fantastic to see the children return to school with such enthusiasm, ready for another term of learning, fun and new experiences. We have already enjoyed a brilliant Bonfire Disco, Year 4/5 class have been making a splash with their swimming sessions, and some of our Year 5 and Year 6 children have been showcasing their talents at a dance session at Poltair. It has certainly been a week full of opportunities, excitement and memorable experiences. We are incredibly proud of how enthusiastically the children have embraced everything on offer and look forward to all the wonderful things the rest of the term will bring!

DANCE WORKSHOP

On Monday a group of Pondhu pupils took part in a dance workshop at Poltair School. The children took part with enthusiasm and learnt a dance routine which they will be performing to parents in a couple of weeks' time (details to follow!) Well done to all of the pupils who represented the school so well!





STAR LEARNERS

Join us in celebrating children who have shone in their learning, effort and attitude this week

POTTER CLASS

ALEX

for having a successful week and for showing great listening skills and recall in History

MRS RUNDLE | R/Y1

KAHLO CLASS

ARCHIE

for having a positive, hard working attitude to his learning

MRS VINE | Y1/Y2

ARMSTRONG CLASS

KLESTI

for settling in so well at his new school

MRS SCOTLAND | SB

GOODALL CLASS

OLLIE

for working hard and always contributing in class

MRS NEWNES | Y3/Y4

EARHART CLASS

LEXI

for being determined and resilient at swimming and for producing some great writing

MRS JOLLIFF | Y4/Y5

OWENS CLASS

WIKTOR

for working hard and contributing well in lessons

MR DAWES / MR MARTIN Y6

BRITISH VALUES CHAMPIONS

Join us in celebrating children who have demonstrated the British values of Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect and Tolerance

POTTER CLASS

DAISY-MAY

for being sensible, polite and hard-working

MRS RUNDLE | R/Y1

KAHLO CLASS

LLOYD

for being a role model to others by consistently following our Golden Rules

MRS VINE | Y1/Y2

GOODALL CLASS

Xander

for showing respect to his friends

MRS NEWNES | Y3/Y4

EARHART CLASS

LARA AND ELOISE

for following the rule of law and showing honesty

MRS JOLLIFF | Y4/Y5

OWENS CLASS

LOGAN

for showing kindness and respect to others

MR DAWES / MR MARTIN Y6

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Top Class for Attendance EYFS / KS1

Potter



Top Class for Attendance KS2

Earhart



Most improved Attendance

Earhart

TARGET: 96%

Whole School Attendance Snapshot

94.3%

Leave during term time

We understand that there are occasions when families need to request exceptional leave for their child during term time.

In such cases, it is essential to submit an absence form well in advance. These are available at the school office and on our website.

We will only authorised these requests in exceptional circumstances, and we will review each application on a case-by-case basis.

Please be aware that taking unauthorised leave may mean you become liable for a fine. To help you plan ahead, term dates are available on the school website.

Coming up at Pondhu

View Full Calendar

10 Tuesday 10th November	Nasal Flu Vaccinations
10 Tuesday 10th November	Year 6 trip to Cornish Lithium
11 Wednesday 11th November	Reception / Year 1 / Year 2 trip to the Eden Project
11 Wednesday 11th November	Family Worker Drop in 9-10 am
12 Thursday 12th November	Nursery / Reception Open morning BOOK A PLACE
	Year 1 Hearing screening
13 Friday 13th November	Financial Education Day

TERM DATES 2026-2027
Autumn Term 2026

Saturday 19th December 2026 - Sunday 3rd January 2027: Christmas Holidays
Spring Term 2027
Monday 4th January 2027 - Term Begins
Saturday 13th February 2027 - Sunday 21st February 2027: Half-term
Friday 26th March 2027 (Bank Holiday) - Sunday 11th April 2027: Easter Holidays
Summer Term 2027
Monday 12th April 2027: Term Begins
Monday 3rd May 2027: Bank Holiday
Saturday 29th May 2027 - Sunday 6th June 2027: Half-term
Friday 23rd July 2027: Final Day of Term

Virtual Classroom

Links for home practice

WB: 2.11.2026

Please use the videos below to practise the sounds your children have been learning this week with them at home. Your child will know which group they are in based on the colour books they are reading, and which adult leads the group. This will indicate which films they should be watching. If you have any questions about Virtual Classroom, please ask Mrs Vine.

Colour Group RWI Teacher	Sounds or skills	Links
Group A/B Mrs Rundle	v w x y z Fred Game	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/3Na8fydo/J9ZpVkFT https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Ws0pULXo/zU1rmoxK https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/P5MK0r0X/E4zWo0fs https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/TYABSdsJ/HyGIEHHC https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/loPyEy6G/b7Eoa40A https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/WZYLjrlR/eAhONNGu
Group C Mrs Rundle	v w x y z word time	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/3Na8fydo/J9ZpVkFT https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Ws0pULXo/zU1rmoxK https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/P5MK0r0X/E4zWo0fs https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/TYABSdsJ/HyGIEHHC https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/loPyEy6G/b7Eoa40A https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Bbo9YKhf/X9lEhLFQ
Ditty Mrs Dell	sh ch th word time	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Kz8JAzpp/AIc1kaPS https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/kjCogZvL/QJfuTtcC https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/yPHc4rsv/7OrumiqL https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/uha3PH8Z/kAoorkSB
Purple Group Mrs Chappell/ Mrs Vine	oo (zoo) ow ay word challenge speeding up word reading	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/E5L3Ozvm/dNG9HGuk https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/93DCbjEp/aLJlMFQy https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/UMGuuaCt/PFU1UTao https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/qy0tLB3j/2X1pEeix https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/pdEcFnVp/DaFUblHN
Orange Group Mrs Hackworth	a-e i-e	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/nSzGNBAE/qRHSFVPN

	aw word challenge speeding up word reading	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/1g5w1pHT/SDMaOQVE https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/lHVg3zP3/F11tHrlj https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/DsvbgO77/E8kKNnff https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/IJVjD2ce/i30WqVnK
Yellow Group Miss Maskell	au ue ie word challenge speeding up word reading	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/zMjtvLbl/G4jHZI7j https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/m6TXc2mX/XYa5eqrD https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/ucyz5sNt/Paa50S2i https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/DsvbgO77/E8kKNnff https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/OQEAdJIn/Yyyk8YFj
Blue Group Mrs Bailey	ure tious tion word challenge speeding up word reading	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/socxsbb4/ssgaJlfY https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/DH68zM0c/R2cmkmts https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/socxsbb4/ssgaJlfY https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/DsvbgO77/E8kKNnff https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/0LBL0yTQ/wvtj7lqf

NURSERY AND RECEPTION TOURS



Thursday 12 November 4.00pm - 5.00pm - Book Now

Why book a tour?

There's no better way to experience life at Pondhu Primary School than to come and see it for yourself. Our team is delighted to offer small group tours for families considering Pondhu Nursery or our Reception class for their child.

During the tour you can take a look at our Nursery and Reception, including the outdoor areas, chat to our staff and ask any questions you might have.

Our inclusion team is also very happy to accommodate individual tours for families upon request. Please email: pondhusecretary@pon.celtrust.org to request an individual tour.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones have become a huge part of young people's everyday lives, but new restrictions on their use in schools and proposed restrictions on social media are changing how children and young people can use them. This guide explores mobile phones, their use by young people, what the evidence tells us, the current and future legal position, and what parents and educators should do.

What are the risks?

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The relationship between smartphone and social media use and young people's mental health is complex, and evidence does not establish a simple cause-and-effect relationship. Some researchers and commentators, however, including Jonathan Haidt, author of The Anxious Generation, argue that increased smartphone and social media use may be contributing to poorer mental health and wellbeing among young people.

LEARNING AND ATTENTION

Mobile phones can distract pupils from learning and make it harder to maintain attention and concentration. Research suggests that learning and attention have improved in schools that already prohibited mobile phone use, particularly among pupils with lower prior attainment. Now that the DfE's guidance on mobile phones is statutory, schools should ensure that the whole-school community understands and follows their policy, while monitoring how effectively it is implemented.

HARMFUL CONTENT AND BULLYING

Mobile phones can be a means of extending peer conflict from the community into schools and from schools back into the community. They also provide easy access to harmful and inappropriate content, including content that is sexually explicit, promotes self-harm or eating disorders, or is violent in nature. Exposure to this content can negatively affect children's mental health and wellbeing, potentially increasing the support they require from schools, parents, and support services.

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Ofcom research found that 13- to 14-year-olds spend an average of 4 hours 19 minutes online each day across smartphones, tablets, and computers. However, there is considerable variation between children, with some spending significantly more or less time online. Excessive screen time can contribute to disrupted sleep and fragmented attention, both of which can negatively affect children's mental health and wellbeing.

The current and upcoming rules

SCHOOL BANS

As of 1 September 2026, schools are expected to be phone-free environments by default, with any exceptions limited to specific circumstances. Schools can decide how best to implement this. For example, some may provide secure storage or collect phones at the beginning of the school day, while others may prohibit pupils from bringing them onto school premises altogether. Schools can also confiscate mobile phones in line with their behaviour policy, while searches for prohibited phones must follow the relevant legal requirements.

REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

Schools should make reasonable adjustments where necessary for disabled pupils and may allow exceptions in other circumstances, including where mobile phone use is necessary to support a medical condition or an identified need. For example, a pupil with diabetes may use a continuous glucose monitor linked to their mobile phone to monitor their blood sugar levels. Schools may also make adaptations where mobile phone use provides agreed support for pupils with SEND. Any exceptions should be clearly reflected in the school's policies and procedures.

ONLINE SAFETY ACT 2023 AND 2026 PROPOSALS

Platforms are required to protect children from harmful content and use age checks to prevent children from accessing pornography and certain other types of harmful content. In June 2026, the government announced that it intends to stop social media companies offering services to under-16s. These restrictions are expected to be introduced in spring 2027, but the precise scope and rules have not yet been confirmed.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

While there is ongoing debate about the relationship between smartphones, social media and young people's mental health, there are steps that parents and educators can take to help reduce the potential risks associated with their use:

1. Delay smartphones. Consider waiting until a child is 14 before giving them a smartphone. Where a child needs a device to contact family, a basic phone may be an alternative.
2. Delay social media. Consider delaying access to social media until the age of 16.
3. Support phone-free schools. Parents, pupils, and staff should understand and support the school's approach to mobile phones.
4. Encourage screen-free activities. Promote independent and outdoor play, alongside other activities that give children opportunities to socialise and spend time away from screens.

Meet Our Expert

Mark Emmerson OBE, CEO – City of London Academies Trust. With nearly 45 years' experience in inner-city education, including 26 years in senior leadership roles, Mark was an early advocate for tackling the risks of mobile phones in schools, introducing a ban as headteacher in 2000. He has also served as a national DfE adviser and held local authority roles, consistently driving improvements in pupil outcomes and Ofsted judgements, particularly in disadvantaged communities.



#WakeUpWednesday®

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Supporting every child to **thrive**

Meet our therapy team

At CELT, we are proud to have a dedicated Therapy Team supporting our schools throughout the 2026-27 academic year.

The team includes Educational Psychologists, an Occupational Therapist, Speech and Language Therapists, and a Speech and Language Therapy Apprentice.

Working alongside school staff, they help create inclusive learning environments where every child can thrive, learn and succeed. Throughout the year, the team may:

- Visit schools and classrooms
- Observe learning environments
- Model effective strategies for staff
- Deliver training and professional development
- Provide advice that supports pupils across classes and schools

You may see members of the Therapy Team in school, interacting with pupils as part of their work to support staff and enhance learning environments. These interactions help develop inclusive approaches that benefit all children.

At CELT, we believe every child deserves the opportunity to flourish, and our Therapy Team plays an important role in helping our schools provide the support children need to reach their full potential.

Sarah King
Educational Psychologist



I work with young people to find out what their strengths are, what they love spending their time doing and what they tend to find more challenging.

I use this information to work with them, their teachers and their families to help them make the changes they would like to see. I work hard to try and make things go as smoothly as possible for young people in school.

Louise Ryves
Speech & Language Therapist



I support young people with communication skills. This can be anything from understanding what is said to them, to being able to ask for the things they need, to being able to talk to and be with friends.

I meet with them and we may carry out some activities together so that I can find out about their strengths and the things they find harder. We work together find effective ways around things that are tricky for them.

Morwenna Boisseau
Paediatric occupational therapist



I help children and young people take part in the things they need and want to do at home, at school and in everyday life.

I spend time finding out what helps them feel safe and ready to learn. We then work together to find ways to make practical everyday activites feel more manageable.

Wendy Thomas
Educational Psychologist



I work with young people to find out what their strengths are, what they love spending their time doing and what you find more challenging.

I use this information to work with them, their teachers and their families to help them make any changes they would like to see. My goal is to help things go as smoothly as possible for children and young people in school.



On Friday 13th November (next Friday) we will be raising money for Children in Need. We would like to invite all children to either wear something Pudsey related or non-school uniform. Please may we ask for donations of £1.

Thank you

