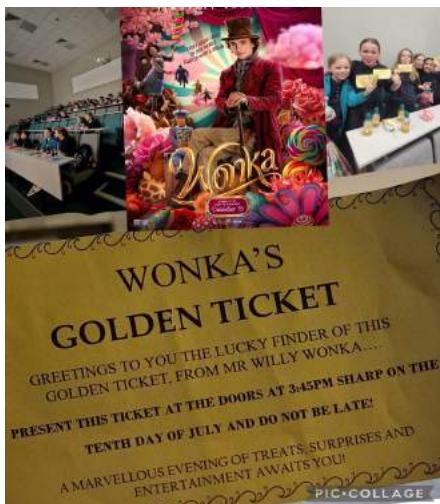


# Friday Flyer

12th July 2024

## Head Teacher Update

It's going to be a Friday Flyer mainly of pictures this week! Firstly, let's look back to last Friday and the phenomenal success of the summer fair. We raised an incredible £3720! I can't thank you all enough for your very generous donations of tombola prizes, bottles and chocolates as well as your incredibly deep pockets, paying for raffle tickets, food and entries into games. The money will be put to excellent use purchasing new outdoor equipment to boost our OPAL offer and enhance the children's lunchtime experience. A particular success at the fair were the stalls led by the children to raise money for charity. Charlie and Brian raised money for Cancer Research UK through sales of their art, Maddie, Eleanor and Orielle sold their handmade bracelets for the Dog Shelter and Izzy, Lucy, Naomi, Molly and Alana, along with their Y2 helpers, raised an incredible £243 for Tynedale Hospice on their highly professional jewellery stall. Plans are already underway for what they will sell at the Christmas fair...watch this space! Thank you to all of you who attended and to the PTA and staff who organised and ran the event so well.



The fair is not the only contribution the PTA have made to school life in the last week. Representatives have attended all of our assemblies to serve tea and coffee and offer pre-loved uniform to families and on Wednesday night they hosted a very special treat for Y5 pupils. There was a Y5 takeover of the lecture theatre in Ponteland High School where the PTA hosted a Wonka movie night, complete with (lots of!) sweets and popcorn. They really went the extra mile to give the children a fantastic experience with Wonka-themed decorations and a special Golden Ticket. Thank you so much to Sinead, Gillian, Cheryl and Debbie who gave up their evening to run the event. If you are interested in joining the PTA, please get in touch as new members are very welcome.



What a special event our Pele Trust concert was yesterday. It was both impressive and moving to listen to our Pele Trust choir and orchestra which is made up of pupils from across four of the primary schools in our trust. The talent of our pupils was something to be truly proud of and it was striking that year on year, the standard of the performance improves. As Mrs Blain said at the close of the concert, who knows how far the bar will continue to rise as the children keep exceeding our expectations! I don't think the value of this event can be overstated as for the children involved, there is the opportunity to collaborate with their peers in other schools, develop the technical skills needed to form part of an ensemble, hone their performance skills and of course have fun and enjoy the holistic benefits music brings. A huge amount of work goes into this annual event from Mrs Wigham who hosts a weekly choir club as well as an orchestra club in each of the primary schools. As well as enjoying the performance from the children at the concert, I always love to watch Mrs Wigham in action as she conducts the singers and musicians as her passion is so clearly evident and certainly inspires her young protégés. Thank you to her for giving our children this fantastic opportunity and thank you also to Miss Forbes who leads music in our school and not only supports Mrs Wigham in the organisation and running of the concert, but also has the mammoth task of organising the instrument lessons across school as well as developing our music curriculum. The effort is well worth it as the standard of music our children are producing is extremely impressive!



Best wishes

Claire Johnson



### Attendance for this week is summarised below

|                      |       |                                   |        |
|----------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Nursery (Acorn)      | 88.0% | Year 3 (Pine)                     | 88.0%  |
| Reception (Chestnut) | 99.7% | Year 4 (Alder)                    | 97.0%  |
| Reception (Pinecone) | 93.0% | Year 4 ( Yew)                     | 91.7%  |
| Year 1 (Holly)       | 95.3% | Year 5 (Oak)                      | 93.7%  |
| Year 1 (Ash)         | 93.3% | Year 5 (Beech)                    | 96.5%  |
| Year 2 (Sycamore)    | 94.3% | Year 6 (Elm)                      | 90.0%  |
| Year 2 (Willow)      | 91.3% | Year 6 (Birch)                    | 84.3%  |
| Year 3 (Maple )      | 95.0% | Whole school Cumulative from Sept | 94.80% |

|             |                                      |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| 98% - 100%  | Excellent Attendance                 |
| 95% - 97.9% | Good Attendance                      |
| 92% - 94.9  | Caution (below national)             |
| 90% - 91.9% | Cause for concern                    |
| Below 89.9% | Persistent Absence - Serious Concern |

#### Absence Procedures

If your child is ill, please keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school. **Please notify us by phone call or email before 9.15am** if your child is to be absent, and continue to inform us on a daily basis if they continue to be ill.

We have a continual focus on attendance and punctuality and this is of the utmost importance in your child's education. Please remember that our school gate closes at 8.55am as this is when our lessons begin. Anyone arriving after this time is classed as late and will miss valuable learning opportunities which take place immediately after registration, such as phonics.

#### What are the risks of missing a day of school?

'Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing and wider development. Pupils with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE results. The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments.' *The Education Hub - Department for Education.*





# Safeguarding Update

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## SMARTPHONE SAFETY TIPS for young people

7

You may have been lucky enough to have unwrapped a smartphone at Christmas, or you might be eagerly anticipating getting a new one at some point during this year. Whether it'll be your first ever phone or an upgrade on your old model, it's always useful to have a refresher about how to set it up and adjust the settings to keep yourself – and your valuable personal info – safe and secure. We've collected some expert tips to help you enjoy your smartphone in the healthiest way possible.

### NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSCODE

Alongside face or fingerprint recognition, your passcode is crucial to unlocking your phone and accessing your apps and personal information. You shouldn't give it out, even to close friends – after all, you wouldn't hand them a key to your house and let them go in for a nosy around! If a friend wants to use your phone, ask them why and make sure you can see what they're doing with it.

### RESPECT PARENTAL CONTROLS

If you're allowed to have a smartphone, it's because your parents or carers feel that you're mature and responsible enough to use it safely. They might set controls and boundaries on your device – not to spoil your fun but to help you avoid hazards like too much screen time or costly in-app purchases. Following these rules means you can enjoy using your phone while respecting their wishes.

### TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT

Whether it's to listen to music, play games, create content or chat with friends, using a smartphone should be fun. If you're ever feeling anxious, worried or scared about going on your phone, then something isn't right. It's important not to ignore these feelings; instead, talk to a trusted adult about what's happening and how it's making you feel.

### STAY ALERT

Two words: look up. It might sound obvious, but it's so easy to get immersed in what we're looking at or listening to on our phones that we can become unaware of our surroundings – or who might be around us. People often walk with their head down, focusing on their phone, and forget to check for obstacles in their path, cars or other pedestrians coming towards them, which is clearly dangerous.

### DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS

Phones offer a vast amount of content and the chance to chat with friends whenever we feel like it, which can make it difficult to take time away from the screen. If that's something you struggle with, you could try setting time limits on certain apps. Putting our phones down for a while gives us more time to interact with others or do something physical that helps keep us fit and healthy.

### IGNORE UNKNOWN NUMBERS

There are some scammers who might call or text asking you to share personal data or to click on a link and provide your details. Some may claim to be from a genuine company, but trustworthy businesses don't spontaneously call or message to ask for your information. It's safest to ignore calls or texts from unknown numbers, and never give your personal details out over the phone.

### ONLY USE AGE-APPROPRIATE APPS

Before downloading a new app or game, check what age rating it has. Don't feel pressured into getting a particular game or app just because your friends are using it. If it's intended for older people, there's a definite risk that it could include content (which is violent or frightening, for instance) or language which isn't suitable and may leave you feeling upset or disturbed.

### REMOVE TEMPTATION

A good night's sleep is so important for concentration, mood and overall health. Unwinding properly before going to bed – which means not staring at a screen late at night – can often improve sleep quality. Put your phone on charge overnight, but not in your room. This means you'll have a lot less temptation to check any notifications, reply to messages or get caught up scrolling on social media.

### THINK ABOUT OTHERS

Watching videos, listening to music or calling someone can all help to pass the time while we're on the bus, waiting in a queue or walking down the street. It's important to remain mindful of other people, though; they might not want to hear your tunes or your conversation. Likewise, if you're calling from a public place then don't forget that anyone could overhear something personal about you.

### SWITCH OFF GEOLOCATION

In your phone's settings, you'll be able to disable geolocation for individual apps and photos; this means that people online (including strangers) can't see information about where you are when you share or post a pic. On the subject of images, it's also important to ask permission before taking or sharing a photo of someone – and don't share embarrassing images of your friends with others.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sending behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College

NOS National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday



## The week in Nursery

Unfortunately due to the rainy weather nursery had to cancel our annual end of year picnic with parents and carers. We didn't let that stop us from having a visit to Tony for some lovely ice creams, even if it was raining!





## The week in Reception

Our friends from year 1 visited us this week and shared letters that they had written for us all about what we can expect next year. We found out that they go on brilliant school trips, do lots of cool lessons and even do Rainbow Challenges. We loved watching their fabulous assembly yesterday too and we definitely feel ready for our transition morning on Tuesday.



## The week in Year 1

Year 1 were fantastic in their assembly this week! They worked so hard to put on a wonderful show in the style of Saturday Night Takeaway! We even had our very own Ant and Dec hosting the show for us! The children are so proud of their performance and they loved showcasing their learning from the year. We even had an undercover operation with Mrs Johnson to create ideas for OPAL.



Miss Madderson and Miss Storey



## The week in Year 2

Year 2 conducted some Geography fieldwork this week as part of their investigation 'Is Ponteland a rural or urban area?'. After looking at maps of Ponteland and the features of urban and rural areas, the children explored the local area around our school and sketched some of the local landmarks. Then, the children went to Callerton lane to collect some data as to how many vehicles passed in a 5 minute time period. They created a tally chart with this information



This week, Year 2 visited Beamish for an evacuee workshop and to explore war time life at the 1940s farm. We had a great time learning about what life was like for evacuees. We had to practise putting black paper up on windows as if we were in the Blitz. We also learnt about air raid shelters and what the houses looked like.

Mrs Rogers and Miss Briggs



## This week in Year 3

This week in Art, Year 3 took inspiration from one of their topics this year to make a creative composition for their sketchbooks. This design was unique and personal to them. The activity also showcased the amazing skills and techniques which they have learned this year!





## This week in Year 4

Today year 4 went on a very exciting trip to Gosforth Nature Reserve. We had such a great time as an end of year treat and we had so much knowledge based on a lot of the science work we have done this year... We really enjoyed pond dipping, bird spotting, nature art and a nature walk looking at different clues around us. We are all so thankful to the Volunteer Nature Rangers at the reserve who lead our activities today.

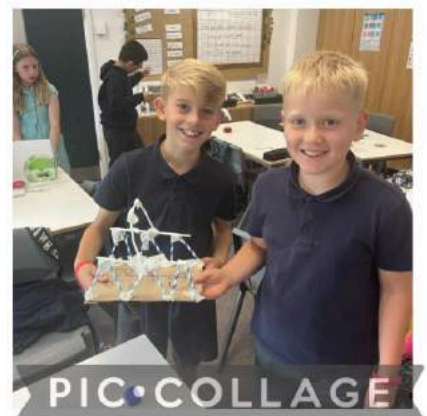
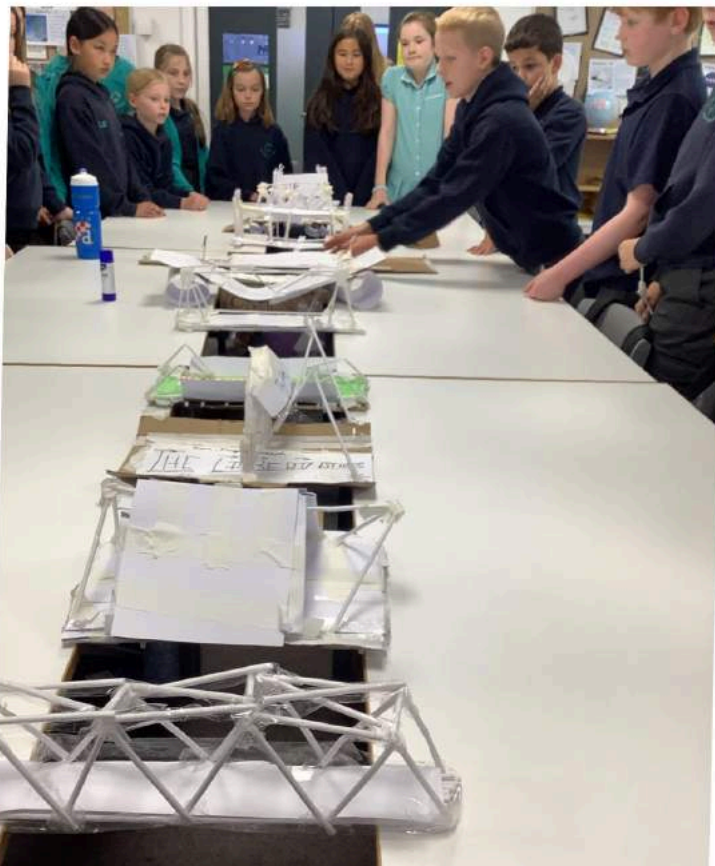
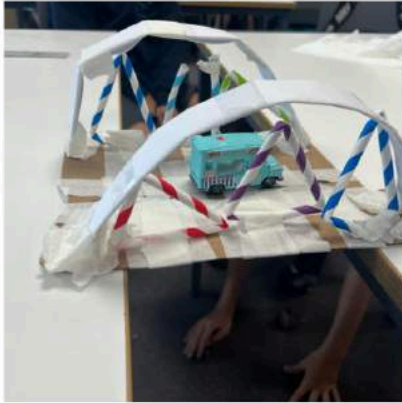


Miss Mears and Mr Orme



## The week in Year 5

This week we designed, built and tested bridges as part of our design and technology project. Through each stage, we thought like engineers to ensure the project would be successful. Some bridges looked like the plans others weren't as successful.





## The week in Year 6

Earlier this week, Year 6 were lucky enough to have a visit for Julien from La Petite Crêperie Street Food. To complement our ongoing study of French cuisine in DT, he talked to us about some of the cooking traditions in France and why the country is so renowned for its food. We then practised some of the phrases we have learned during French lessons to help us order our crêpes politely at the counter. Another opportunity for our children to demonstrate their excellent language skills and a deliciously sweet way to start our week.



Mrs Main and Miss Allan



## Dates for your diary in 2024



|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 16th July 2024       | Transition morning   |
| 17th July 2024       | Year 6 Leavers Assembly 2pm  |
| 17th July 2024       | Big Sing concert for parents after school                          |
| 19th July 2024       | Last Day of School - School finishes at 1.30pm                     |
| 2nd September 2024   | Teacher Training Day   |
| 3rd September 2024   | School Resumes   |
| Wc 28th October 2024 | October Half Term  |
| 4th November 2024    | Teacher Training Day   |
| 5th November 2024    | School Resumes   |
| 13th December        | Teacher Training Day   |
| 20th December 2024   | Last Day of School for Christmas break - School finishes at 1.30pm |





Ponteland Primary School is committed to keeping all children safe. Our staff regularly participate in safeguarding training and are fully aware of how to keep our pupils safe and what signs to look out for. Our pupils know they can share any concerns and we have robust policies and procedures in place which underpin safeguarding. It is our paramount priority to keep all children healthy and safe.

### **Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are:**



Mrs Johnson (Head Teacher)  
Lead DSL



Mrs Wright (Family & Behaviour  
Support Adviser) Deputy DSL



Miss Dinning (Deputy Head Teacher)  
Deputy DSL



Mrs Main (KS2 Lead & Y6 Teacher)  
Deputy DSL



## Calling all amazing parents! Join the Ponteland Primary School PTA and make a real difference in your child's education! 🎉

Are you passionate about supporting your child's school and creating a nurturing learning environment? The Ponteland PTA is seeking enthusiastic parents like you to join our incredible team! ✨

By becoming a member of the Parent-Teacher Association, you'll have the opportunity to contribute to your child's school experience in a meaningful way. With your help, we raise essential funds that go beyond the school's budget, allowing us to provide valuable resources and enhance educational opportunities. 📖 ✨

We understand that time is precious, and every contribution matters. Whether you can spare just one hour or offer more of your valuable time, your involvement will make a tremendous impact. From organising fundraisers and social events to collaborating on exciting projects, there's a role for everyone. 💪 🤝  
Here are just a few reasons why joining the PTA is a rewarding experience:

- 1 Active involvement:** Be an active participant in your child's education journey by collaborating with dedicated teachers, staff, and other passionate parents.
- 2 Making a difference:** Together, we can support the school's growth and help provide additional resources that benefit every child's learning experience. In June 2023, the PTA were able to donate a fantastic £10,000 towards the 2 new climbing frames that have been installed in the playground. More recently, we have been able to fund new football kits. And we love to hear new ideas to keep our fundraising activities fresh and interesting for everyone.
- 3 Building connections:** Forge new friendships with like-minded parents who share your commitment to education and community.
- 4 Fun and rewarding activities:** Get involved in exciting events, from school fairs and fundraisers to special projects that bring joy to the entire school community. We have the followings events coming up that you could be involved with:  
Summer Fair  
Providing refreshments at various events, for example, end of year assemblies  
Pre-loved uniform (an ongoing initiative to recycle usable uniform to assist with the school's sustainability ethos)
- 5 Role modelling:** Show your child the importance of giving back and making a positive impact by actively participating in their school life.

Join us today and be part of an amazing community dedicated to empowering our children's futures! Together, we can create an extraordinary learning environment that nurtures growth and inspires success.



To express your interest or learn more about the PTA, please reach out to [✉️ pontelandpta@gmail.com](mailto:pontelandpta@gmail.com) or pass your details to school. We can't wait to welcome you!! #PontelandPTA #ParentPower



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- 3 Your favourite brands donate between 0.5-15% to us whenever you shop with them, with no charge to you

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Uber Eats



# PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM



**Do you have school uniform in good condition that your child no longer wears but could be worn by someone else in the school community?**

Please donate your pre-loved, wearable uniform via the donation basket in reception.

## Looking for uniform?

All items washed and ready to wear. Please contact [pontprimaryuniform@gmail.com](mailto:pontprimaryuniform@gmail.com) to let us know what you're looking for, including sizes!

Voluntary contributions to the PTA welcomed.

Money box at reception or bank transfer:

**Ponteland Primary School Parent Teacher Association**

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