

Friday Flyer

Friday 24th January 2025

Headteacher Update

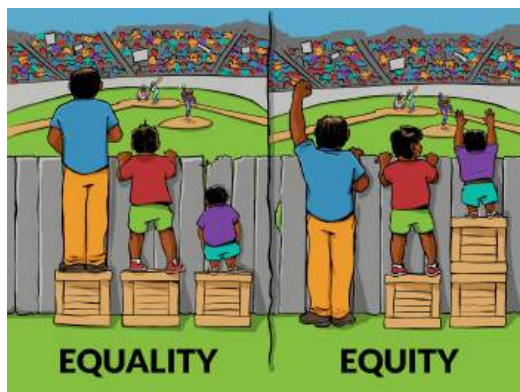
Our week started with assemblies from our new Diversity Council which is made up of children from years 1 to 6. It takes a lot of courage to stand up in front of the rest of school and the children, along with Mrs Rogers, did a superb job of explaining their role in identifying and celebrating diversity in school, in all its many forms. Neve in Y3 explained to us

'We don't need to treat everyone the same. Some people might need more things to help them than other people'.

Over many years we have developed our global curriculum which is underpinned by our core books which represent the diversity of the world. Anwen in Y3 told us

'Nobody is the same which makes us special. We should treat everyone kindly'.

Words we can all live by I think!



You may remember a month or so ago I announced the exciting news that Freddy in Y3 had won the Pele Trust Geordie Bangers competition. This week he claimed his prize which was a visit to the Geordie Bangers factory and a gift of so many sausages that the bag carrying them broke on the way back into school! At the factory, Freddy and his friend Oli added Freddy's chosen ingredients to the sausage mix, put it through the machine and saw the sausages coming out on the other side. They then packaged them in the St James Pork packaging before heading to the second factory for a taste test. Freddy professed that they were the best sausages he'd ever eaten and having had a sneaky try of one myself, I'm in absolute agreement! Huge thanks to Mr Bell, our Pele Trust area Catering Manager, and Vin and David the owners of Geordie Bangers for running the competition and giving our children the chance to create their own product. Our lucky pupils will all be able to order Freddy's sausages for their school lunch after half term and if you feel you're missing out then you'll be able to pick up a pack online or in the shops as they're now ready to be sold nationwide! Well done Freddy - there aren't not many children who can say they've designed a product which has reached market at the age of 7!



Our success in competitions isn't just limited to sausages as this week our Premier League Primary Stars 6-a-side team won the North East regional finals! This is an enormous achievement which sees them going to the national finals which will be played at a Premier League stadium. The team played in a league format, competing against each team twice and they experienced some highs and lows during the tournament! They won their first five games and lost the next two before beating the final three teams to be crowned the victors with a lead of five points. Mr Tailford told me they won with a game to spare which sounds pretty impressive to me! Well done, we are all extremely proud of you. Best wishes, Claire Johnson



Safeguarding Update

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. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

POP-UP ADS

WARN!

Pop-up advertisements have been a staple of the internet since they were first introduced in the late 1990s. This form of advertising causes a small window or banner to appear in the foreground while someone is browsing a website. Although these adverts are merely irritating for most people, pop-ups can present more severe risks to younger users.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

DECEPTIVE TACTICS

Children sometimes don't understand that adverts (including pop-ups) are designed to sell a product – and can't distinguish between a legitimate feature of a site and an advertisement. Video games, for example, can be full of pop-up ads that tempt users into spending money, yet they might take the form of a mini-game or extra level.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While some adverts are targeted based on a user's interests and activity online, that isn't always the case. This means that children may unfortunately be exposed to ads for age-inappropriate goods or services such as tobacco products, alcohol and gambling sites.

MALWARE RISK

Most pop-ups from reputable advertisers are safe. However, in some cases, pop-ups can trick you into downloading malware – whereby cybercriminals install software on your device, allowing them to access your sensitive data. It can be difficult to know if malware has been installed on your device, so your best option is to avoid engaging with these pop-ups altogether. Be wary of sites that suddenly bombard you with ads or try to prevent you from leaving.

PRIVACY RISK

Many app and game developers will collect their users' personal data, such as their name, address, email address, geolocation information, unique numerical identifiers, photos and payment information. If a child clicks on an illegitimate pop-up laced with malware, all this information could be put at risk.

RACKING UP BILLS

If a child has access to a payment card on their device – be it a smartphone, laptop, or tablet – they could very quickly rack up a massive bill by interacting with pop-up adverts and buying products shown to them. Try to keep a close eye on their spending.

BEHAVIOURAL IMPACT

Research has found that pop-up ads can even have an impact on children's behaviour. Some of these adverts use manipulative tactics that take advantage of children's developmental vulnerabilities, intentionally or otherwise. This approach may cause a child's mood to shift: becoming more stubborn, for example, if they begin wanting their parents to buy a specific product for them.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START A CONVERSATION

It's important to have regular conversations with children about online advertising so that they understand the risks of interacting with pop-ups. For example, if a child asks for a product which has been advertised to them online, ask them why they want it and how they found it: this will present an opportunity to talk youngsters through the tactics used in online marketing.

SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child may be following pop-up ads to make online purchases or viewing content that could be harmful, it's important to be able to spot the signs. Due to the often-manipulative nature of these adverts, children who interact with them regularly may show signs of distraction, stubbornness and an increasingly materialistic worldview.

MONITOR CONTENT

It can often be difficult to spot when a pop-up advert is malicious – even more so for impressionable younger users. It's important to monitor the content they're consuming to prevent them from clicking on something dangerous. If a pop-up ad seems too good to be true – promising a free iPad, for example – it probably is.

PRIVACY SETTINGS

Most modern devices have privacy settings that let you limit the amount of advertising a child is subjected to while using apps or browsing the internet. You may also want to speak to teachers about avoiding sites and apps with advertising, as well as adjusting digital privacy settings on any education technology they use.

LIMIT SPENDING

Try to stay aware of what children are spending and ensure that payment details aren't linked to or saved on the gaming platform that they use. Most video games and internet-enabled devices have settings that can help you manage what children can or cannot purchase online.

CUT DOWN ON SCREEN TIME

Given the prevalence of pop-up ads (which can appear on everything from smartphones and tablets to internet-connected toys and games), it might be beneficial to limit the time children spend on digital devices to curb their exposure to digital advertising.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology writer with more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, she is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant who writes for Forbes, TechRadar and Wired, among others.



Source: see full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/pop-ups>



Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	96.1%	Year 3 (Pine)	96.7%
Reception (Chestnut)	99.3%	Year 4 (Alder)	91.6%
Reception (Pinecone)	93.3%	Year 4 (Yew)	99.7%
Year 1 (Holly)	97.3%	Year 5 (Oak)	95.5%
Year 1 (Ash)	93.7%	Year 5 (Beech)	96.6%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	90.7%	Year 6 (Elm)	96.3%
Year 2 (Willow)	97.3%	Year 6 (Birch)	94.3%
Year 3 (Maple)	95.2%	Whole school Cumulative from Sept	96.0%

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 does the Government say about school attendance?

"If children aren't in school, it doesn't matter how effective or well-supported teaching and learning is, we will not see better outcomes for young people. That holds back our society, widens social and economic divides and leaves us all worse off." Catherine McKinnell

This week in Nursery

Acorn class returned to the woods this week for the first Welly Wednesday of 2025! Our new children loved exploring all our fantastic forest area has to offer, navigating the different surfaces that being in a muddy woodland presented them with! We can't wait to visit again next week!



PIC•COLLAGE

This week in Reception

I wonder if you noticed lots of little polar bears blowing into school this morning? It is our polar bear day today in Reception and as well as dressing up we have all donated some money to the WWF so that we could adopt our own polar bear. Over the last few weeks we have discovered that polar bears are in danger due to climate change and we are really keen to help them. We have created posters to make our friends and families aware of how they can help too.



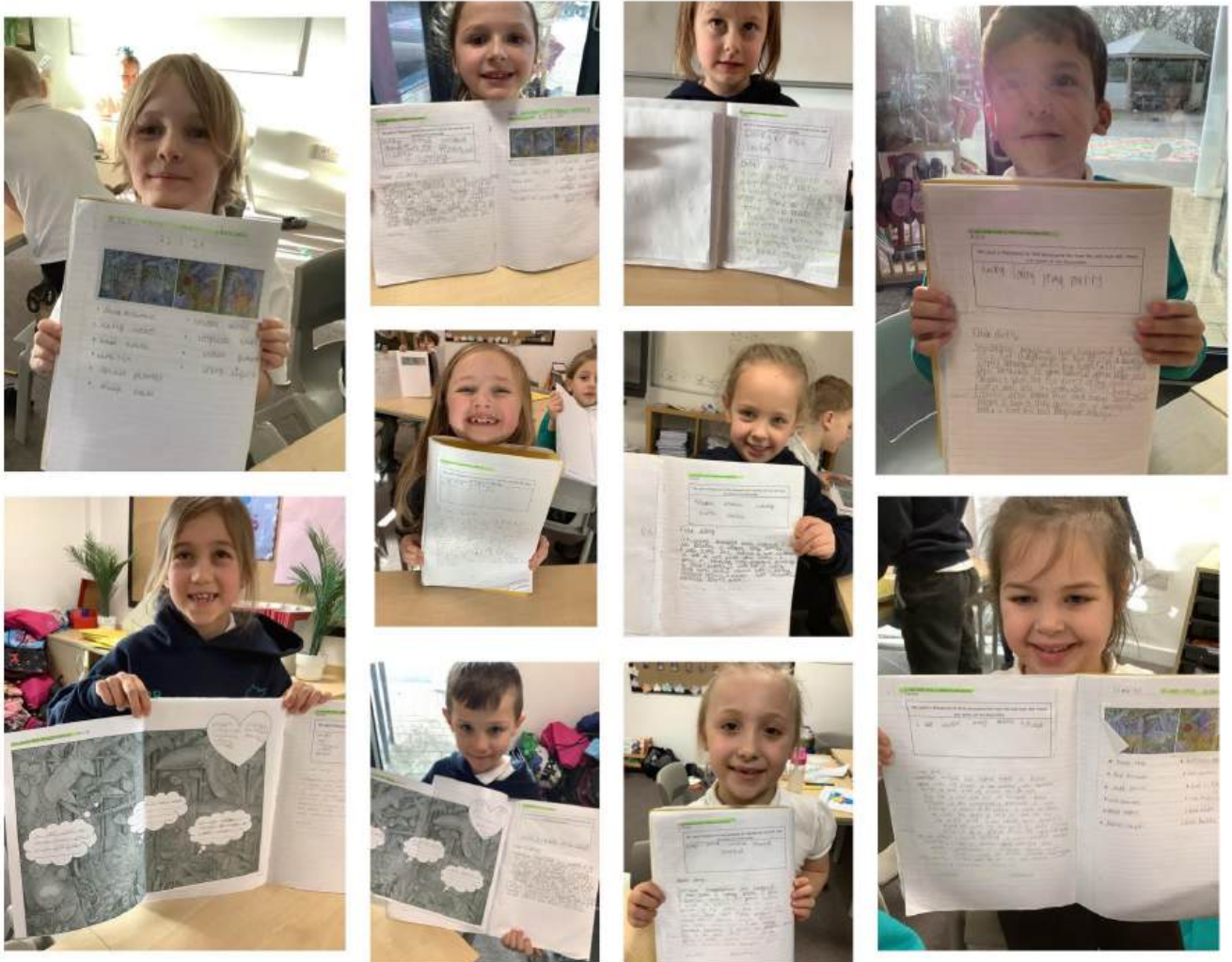
This week in Year 1

This week in Year 1 we have been further exploring our History topic of the 1960s, discussing the differences and similarities between life then and now. The children all agreed that the games that children played in the 1960s were typically more imagination and outdoor games. We had a class vote whereby we rated a variety of games out of 10 for how fun we thought they would have been, and then we were able to actually play them and see if our scores changed! The children were amazed that some of the 1960s games they still played today!



This week in Year 2

Year 2 have continued their reading of 'Tin Forest' book. This week, we wrote diary entries as the old man. We thought about his feelings and what he had been doing. We did a great job of remembering to write in first person. We also collected adjectives to describe the forest and wrote descriptive sentences using these.

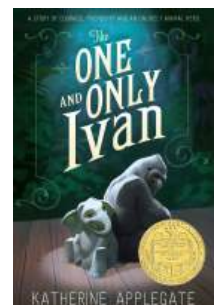


PIC•COLLAGE

Miss Briggs and Mr Massey

This week in Year 3

Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed PE again this week, keeping fit and active through a range of activities. Our main focus was practising how to move with our heads up while maintaining a steady pace. We also worked on travelling around the PE hall, ensuring we used control and kept a consistent pace. During the lesson, we had an interesting discussion about why our temperature changes during exercise. The children asked some fantastic questions and really engaged with the learning objectives!



This week in Year 4

This week in Year 4, we have been exploring vertebrates and their different characteristics in Science. There was lots of discussion and they were all experts by the end of the lesson. The most exciting news of the week is that Year 4 received their pen licences so they'll be working hard to keep them!



Miss Davis, Mrs Maccoy and Mrs Bell

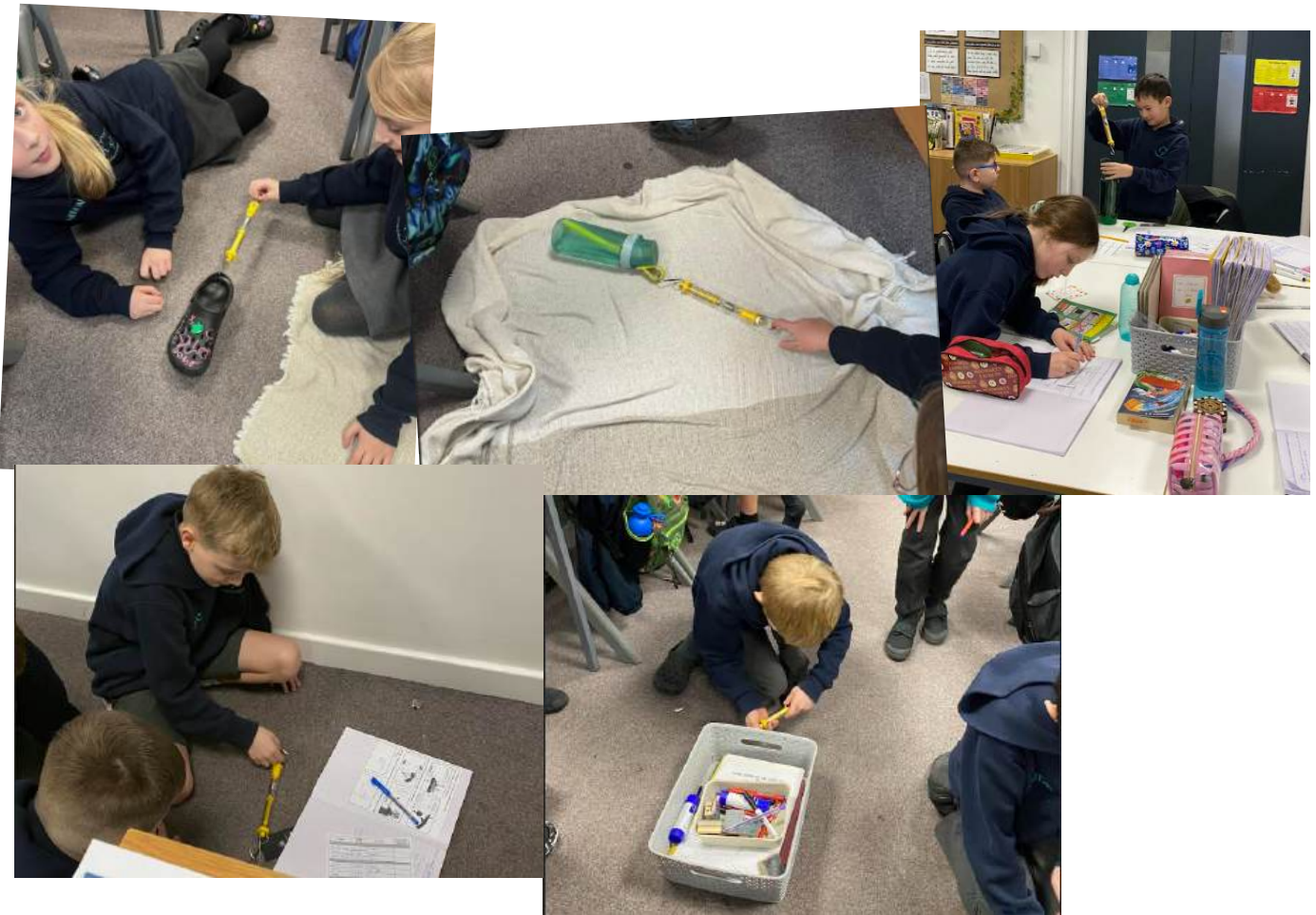
This week in Year 5

Use the force

This half term, Year 5 are reading R.J Palacio's inspirational book 'Wonder'.



There was some friction this week in Year 5, but thankfully it was all planned. Our new science topic for this half term is 'forces' and we designed a practical investigation to see them in action. We used Newton meters to measure the mass and determine the weight of different items found around the classroom (ask your child about the difference between them). Then, we tested how much force was needed to pull our chosen objects across three surfaces (e.g. carpet, tables, cloth) before writing up our results and conclusions. As most of us predicted, the heavier items required more force to move but it did vary depending on which surface they were tested on.



Mr McCourt and Mr Tailford

This week in Year 6

This week, year 6 have continued their computing lessons with some coding. We used micro:bits which we connected to a Chromebook. We used the coding blocks to build a sequence of code to instruct the micro:bit. We experimented with basic programming blocks, how to trace code (work through and understand the instructions it is giving the hardware) and how to download our finished code for the micro:bit to run. The children loved experimenting and getting to know how subtle changes can impact a line of computer code.

This half term we are reading, A Long Walk to Water.



Dates for your diary in 2025



29th January 2025	Reception - Vision Screening
18th & 19th Feb 2025	Parents Evening - Reception to Year 6
Wc 24th February 2025	Half Term
Monday 3rd March 2025	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 4th March 2025	School resumes
Tuesday 8th April 2025	Yr6 Trip - Discovery Museum (Packed lunches needed)
14th April 2025	Easter Break
28th April 2025	School resumes
Monday 5th May 2025	Early May Bank Holiday
12th May - 15th May 2025	KS2 SATS Week
Wc 26th May 2025	Half Term
2nd June 2025	School resumes
23rd - 27th June 2025	Year 6 France Trip
18th July 2025	Last School Day. Close at 1.30pm

Opal Needs You!

The children thoroughly enjoy exploring the different zones of OPAL and it has really enhanced our playtime experience. If you are having a Christmas clear out, we would love to take some of your old equipment off your hands. If you have any of the following items, please bring them to the school office after the Christmas break:

- Wellies
- Waterproofs
- Barbies/dolls
- Toy trucks/cars
- Dressing up items
- Shop items: till, fruit and veg baskets etc
- Metal pots and pans
- Children's gardening tools

Thank You!

Upcoming PTA Meetings

Day	Date	Time	Location	Rough Agenda
Thur	06/02/25	17.30	The Hive	Planning upcoming events
Wed	05/03/25	17.30	The Hive	Planning Easter events
Thur	03/04/25	17.30	The Hive	Confirming details of easter events
Wed	07/05/25	17.30	The Hive	Planning summer events



Got an itch? Tummy trouble? Tickly cough?

 NHS



**Head to your
local pharmacy.**

Did you know?
Pharmacists across
the North East and
North Cumbria can
offer advice and FREE
treatment for a wide
range of common
conditions* – just like
having a prescription
from your GP!

**Please ask your
pharmacy team
for more details
and eligibility.**

UTI's non pregnant women 16–64 years

Shingles 18 years+

Impetigo 1 year+

Sore throat 5 years+

Sinusitis 12 years+

Infected insect bites 1 year+

Earache 1 to 17 years

Additional conditions can be treated, without the need to visit a GP.
Ask a member of your pharmacy team about the minor ailments scheme.

Step 1

**Go to your local community pharmacy (chemist)
about your illness and they will offer advice.**

Step 2

**If needed, you will be offered treatment and
if you qualify, this will be given free of charge.**

Step 3

A suitable medicine may be offered to you.*

*You qualify for free treatment if you do not pay for your prescriptions.



**Find further information at:
www.thinkpharmacyfirst.health**





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

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:
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)
Halloween Disco
- 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

Turn your daily shopping into everyday magic for us with easyfundraising

You shop, brands donate to us. It won't cost you any extra!



 easyfundraising

Help us make a difference when you shop.
Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk



- 1 Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk
- 2 Sign up and search for Ponteland Primary School PTA
- 3 Your favourite brands donate between 0.5-15% to us whenever you shop with them, with no charge to you

Shop with 7,500+ brands including:

Booking.com

ebay

M&S

GROUPON

Argos

TUI

JOHN
LEWIS



Viking

ASOS



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 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

20-59-61

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Do you have a child aged 0-19 years? Come along for a cuppa and chat and to meet other parents. No diagnosis needed!

JOIN US ON:

Wednesday 15th January 2025 10am-12 at Alnwick Family Hub
On St Michaels School Site, Howling Lane, NE66 1DJ

Thursday 13th February 2025 1-3pm at Berwick Family Hub
Ladywell Place, Tweedmouth, Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 2AE

Tuesday 14th January 2025 10am-12 at Hexham Family Hub
On Hexham First School Site, Beaufront Avenue, NE46 1UD

Wednesday 29th January 2025 1-3pm at Haltwhistle Family Hub
On Haltwhistle Primary Academy Site, Park Avenue, NE49 9BA

Tuesday 21st January 2025 10am-12 at Ashington Family Hub
Alexandra Road, NE63 9EF

Monday 3rd February 2025 1-3pm at The Community Hub at Cramlington
Forum Way, Manor Walks Shopping Centre, NE23 6YB (Next to Concordia)

Tuesday 18th February 2025 10am-12 at Morpeth Library
Morpeth Sports and Leisure Centre, Gas House Lane, NE61 1SR

If you have any questions, please contact your local Family Hub or email us at:
robyn.robinson@northumberland.gov.uk or adelle.hicks@northumberland.gov.uk

Understanding children's behaviour



Free online workshops



Find out
what's driving
your child's
behaviour

Come along and:

- Understand feelings and needs behind children's behaviour
- Discover the importance of listening to children, and how it can support meeting their needs
- Explore responding with empathy, and how it can positively influence children's behaviour

Contact Hexham Family Hub to book a space:
01434 601698

More information

Join our virtual
Workshop on:

Tuesday 11th Feb
5 to 6pm

For ages 1 to 12 years

Facilitated by Family
Hub Practitioners