

Friday Flyer

Friday 31st January 2025

Headteacher Update

We have ended this month by learning about Lunar or Chinese New Year and its associated traditions in assemblies. Wednesday marked the start of the 15 days of the lunar new year and I would like to wish all of our families who celebrate a happy new year: gong hei fat choi! Reception have been immersed in the celebrations with their role play being transformed into a Chinese restaurant and a visit from Kayden and Evie's mums who told the children the story of Nian, the sea monster and shared how their families celebrate.



Kayden and Evie's mums weren't our only visitors this week as Mrs Ramsay returned to Ponteland Primary School to talk to Y1 about the 1960s to aid the children's understanding of changes within living memory. Those of you who have children higher up in school will remember that Mrs Ramsay taught in our early years for over two decades and she has been sorely missed since she retired. It was Mrs Ramsay who very kindly gifted us the gorgeous wooden sign in our forest which was the perfect legacy as she was so passionate about developing our outdoor learning and forest school provision.

Next Friday we will be celebrating all things maths with our take on the NSPCC Number Day where we will dress up as (times tables) rockstars! Miss Briggs has shared an email with all of the details, including a link to donate to the NSPCC if you wish; this is entirely voluntary and we won't be collecting any donations in school. Please do not purchase special clothes for next Friday - your child can put together any outfit they feel expresses their inner rocker and if they'd prefer to wear their school uniform that is absolutely fine too. The children tell us that maths is one of their favourite subjects and their love for the subject is reflected in the high standards of achievement across school. Next Friday will give us the opportunity to not only get stuck into some challenges in maths but also to have some fun with the subject too.

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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEVELOP EMOTIONAL LITERACY

Emotional literacy refers to the ability to recognise, understand and express our feelings effectively. It plays a crucial role in strengthening a child's wellbeing by enhancing their relationships and resilience. However, emotional literacy is not necessarily an innate talent, and its development may present challenges. This guide gives parents and educators practical tips on supporting children to cultivate this essential skill.

1 NAME THE EMOTION

Encourage children to identify and name their emotions. This helps them understand what they're feeling and why. Use simple language and relatable examples to make it easier for them to share their emotions. This builds a foundation for emotional understanding and open communication.

2 MODEL EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION

Demonstrate healthy emotional expression by sharing your feelings visibly. When children see adults properly displaying how they're doing and what they're thinking, they learn to do the same. Discuss how you handle emotions in different circumstances, providing a real-life framework for young ones to follow.

3 MINDFULNESS ACTIVITIES

Teach children mindfulness practices to help them stay present and manage their emotions during more challenging moments. Activities like deep breathing, meditation or yoga can reduce stress and enhance emotional regulation. Regular practice can improve focus and emotional stability, which can significantly help children both as they're growing up and throughout their adult life.

4 USE STORYTELLING

Incorporate storytelling to help children understand emotions. Stories can offer relevant scenarios illustrating how the characters experience and manage their feelings. Discuss the emotions depicted in stories and ask children how they might feel in similar situations.

5 PRACTISE EMPATHY

Teach children to consider others' views and emotions – and to explore why they might think or feel this way. Role-playing and discussing various scenarios can enhance their ability to empathise. Understanding others' emotions helps children to develop compassion and improves their social interactions.

6 ENCOURAGE JOURNALING

Suggest keeping a journal to make note of thoughts and emotions, as writing can provide an outlet for self-reflection and emotional processing. Encourage children to write about their daily experiences and feelings, helping them gain insight into their emotional world. Do this alongside them, so they can see and experience how to do it effectively.

7 TEACH PROBLEM-SOLVING

Do what you can to help children develop problem-solving skills to assist in managing emotional challenges. Discuss potential solutions to emotional conflicts and encourage them to think critically about what they (and others) can do to process their feelings in a healthy way. This empowers children to handle emotions positively and build resilience.

8 CREATE A SAFE SPACE

Establish an environment where children feel safe to display their emotions without judgement. Encourage open exchanges and reassure them that all feelings are valid. This supportive atmosphere promotes trust and encourages children to express themselves with confidence.

9 USE VISUAL AIDS

Take advantage of visual aids like emotion charts or mood meters to help children identify and express their feelings. Use these tools regularly in your interactions. They provide a visual representation of emotions, making it easier for children to communicate their emotional state.

10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL GROWTH

Acknowledge and celebrate progress in emotional literacy, and praise children for expressing their emotions and handling them effectively. Positive reinforcement is a useful tool that will encourage continued growth and reinforces the importance of emotional literacy – encouraging young people to maintain the good habits and healthy behaviours that you've taught them.

Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice-Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, an organisation that supports schools in improving their mental health provision.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®



Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	96.9%	Year 3 (Pine)	95.3%
Reception (Chestnut)	99.3%	Year 4 (Alder)	98.1%
Reception (Pinecone)	94.7%	Year 4 (Yew)	95.7%
Year 1 (Holly)	97.3%	Year 5 (Oak)	91.3%
Year 1 (Ash)	96.0%	Year 5 (Beech)	96.2%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	93.0%	Year 6 (Elm)	98.7%
Year 2 (Willow)	94.7%	Year 6 (Birch)	92.0%
Year 3 (Maple)	96.8%	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 has been thinking about things that are the same and things that are different this week. We found out that some people celebrate New Year at different times and eat different foods. We looked at photos when we ate special foods and then tried our very own fried rice. Yum!



This week in Reception

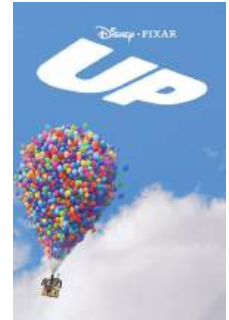
This week we celebrated the Lunar New Year. We shared the stories of The Great Race and Nian and we have done some brilliant writing. We started the week with visits from Kayden and Evie's mums who came to talk to us about how their families celebrate. We all received a lucky red envelope with a chocolate coin in too. We have tried fortune cookies and chopsticks, dressed up in traditional clothing and practised our scissor skills whilst doing lots of crafts. We have also made our own large scale Chinese Lions and have enjoyed dancing around school with them.



PIC•COLLAGE

This week in Year 1

This week in Year 1, the children have been reflecting on helping the elderly. Inspired by our stimulus 'Up', the children were excited to plan a 'Seniors Tea Party' to welcome grandparents, elderly friends or neighbours into school. The children made posters to advertise the event so keep an eye out for these around school! They have also been hard at work singing and dancing to rehearse their live performance for the tea party. We hope to see lots of Year 1 friends and relatives there!



Year 1 at Ponteland Primary School invite you to...

The Seniors Tea Party

Grandparents, neighbours, relatives and friends are invited to join us.

Thursday 6th February 1.45-2.30pm

Join us for a hot drink, sandwich or sweet treat. Play some games and watch the Year 1 children perform some songs.



Mrs Rogers and Miss Storey

This week in Year 2

Year 2 has been learning about multiplication this week. We started with repeated addition and drawing pictures to represent the groups and the number in each group. We were then introduced to the multiplication sign and learnt about how it can be used to show arrays.

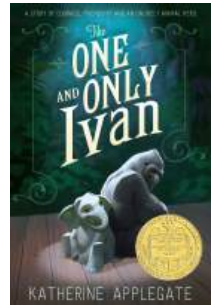


PIC • COLLAGE

Miss Briggs and Mr Massey

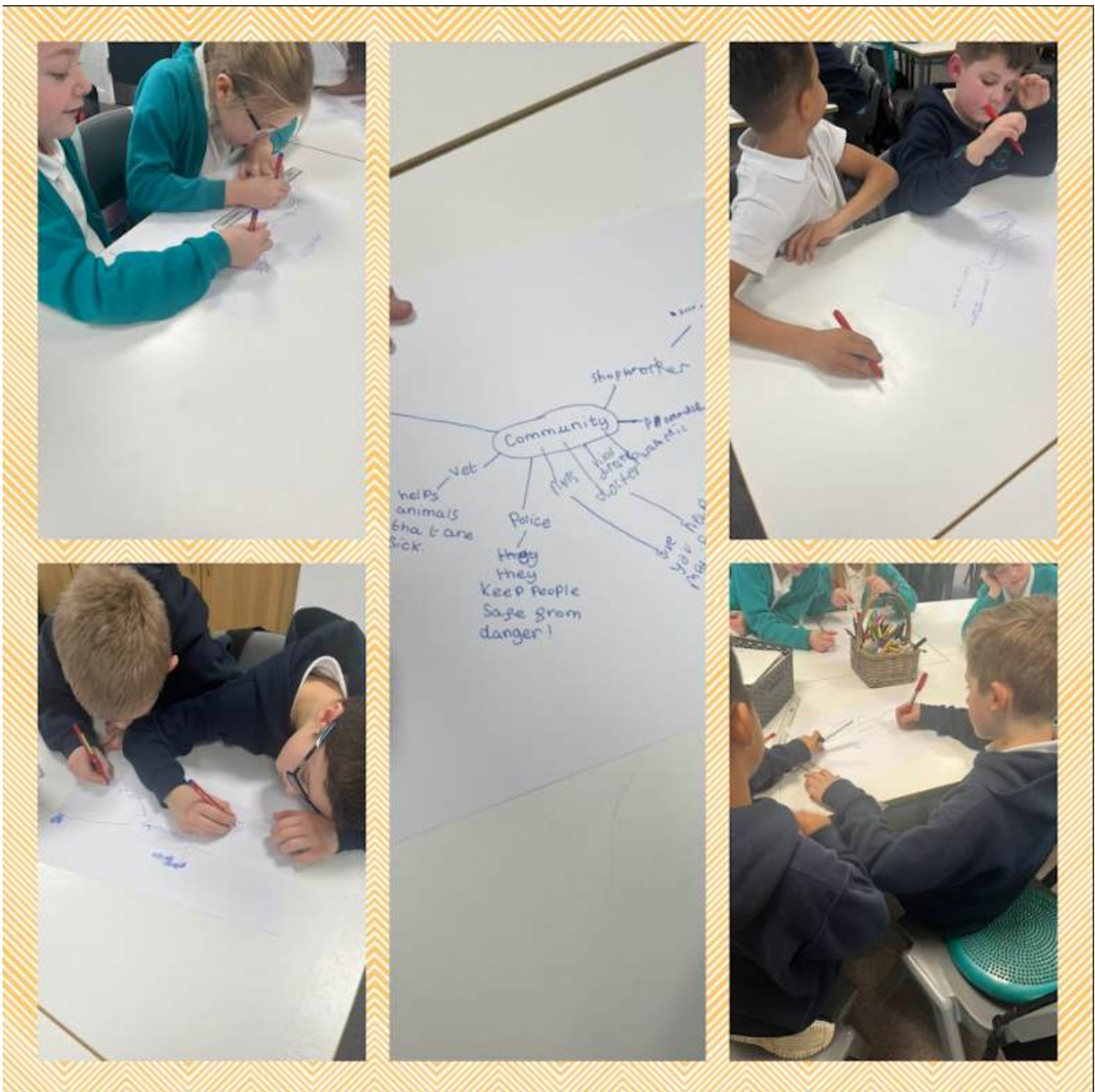
This week in Year 3

This week, we have been learning to multiply 2 digit numbers by a 1 digit number. We have practiced with a variety of strategies including multiplying by 10, using dienes and partitioning. We have worked so well in pairs and small groups to solve these calculations and solidify our understanding when needing to exchange ones for tens and tens for hundreds.



This week in Year 4

In PSHE this week, we have been learning about what a community is and why community is important. We discussed different types of communities and what community means to us. We had some great debate and understanding around the importance of unique roles people in a community take on. We discussed that every job contributes to the smooth running of a community, whether it's a doctor treating patients, a teacher educating students, or a shopkeeper providing essential goods. We also understood that without people doing a variety of jobs, daily life would become difficult. Through debate, some of us changed our perspective on status and salary and looked at aspects like fairness and teamwork.



This week in Year 5

News Splash!

Year 5 has made a great start to their weekly swimming lessons, this term.

The lessons involve improving their skills and confidence in the water. The children aim to swim 25m unaided using a range of strokes. They are also taught water safety skills, such as self-rescue and safe floating.

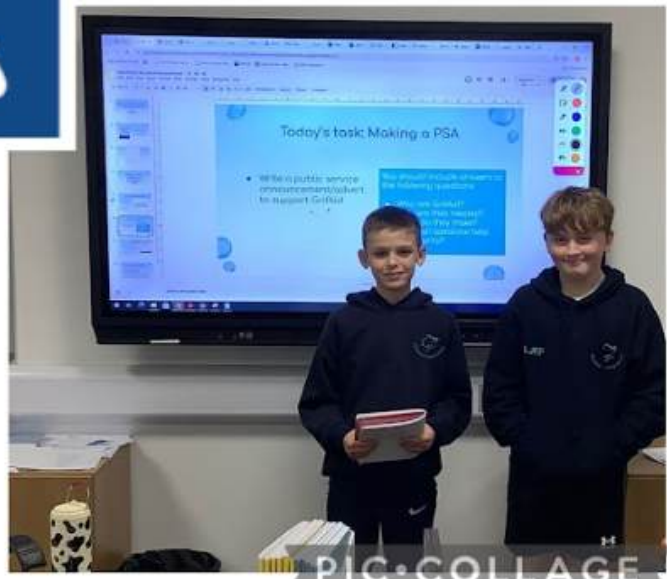
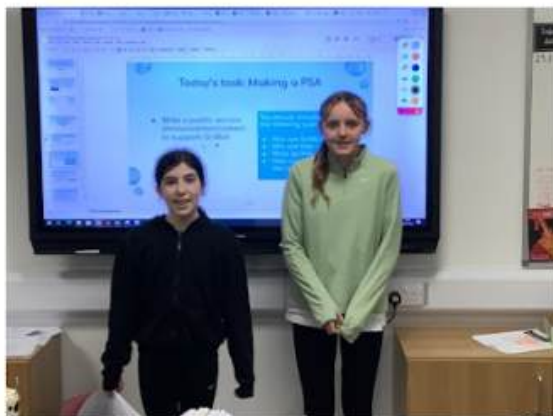
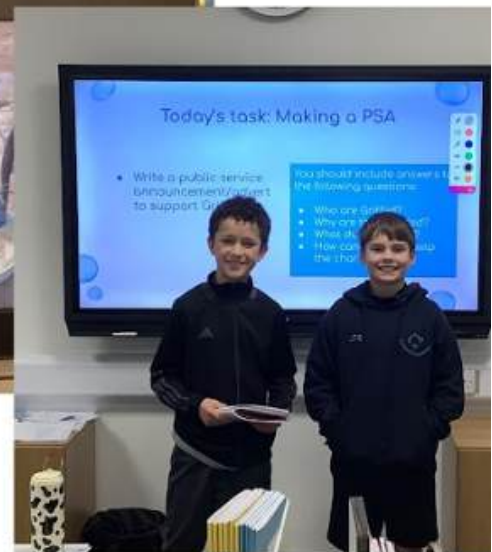
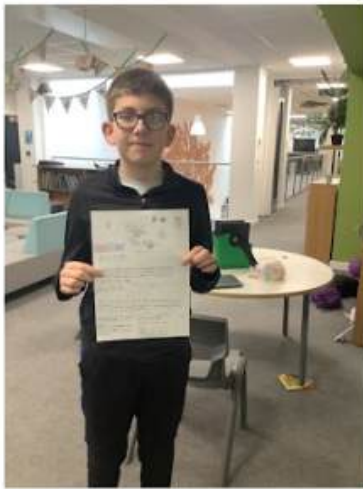
This term, we are exploring the text 'Wonder' by R.J. Palacio



This week in Year 6

This week, as part of our global curriculum topic on the importance of water, we have been researching which countries are currently classified as water vulnerable and why. We have also been learning about a local charity named Grifaid, which develops and supplies water filters for families and communities in developing countries. Using the information we found on their website, we worked in pairs to write persuasive scripts for our own public service announcements.

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



Dates for your diary in 2025



Thurs 6th February 2025	Yr1 Seniors Tea Party 1.45pm to 2.30pm
Friday 7th February 2025	Rock Star Day - Non Uniform
18th & 19th Feb 2025	Parents Evening - Reception to Year 6
18th/19th/20th Feb 2025	Nursery Open Week
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

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

20669059





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