

Friday Flyer

Friday 21st November 2025

Headteacher Update

This week we hosted the inaugural KS2 Pele Trust cross country competition. Children from across Pele Trust primary schools qualified in PE lessons and came together to compete on Monday afternoon - we were very lucky with the weather which turned nasty in the days after but luckily was on our side that day! Feedback from both children and staff has been very positive and Mr Smith intends to run the competition again next year - Darras Hall Primary was victorious this year but we came in a strong second place so next year, who knows, we could be the champions! Next week, Belsay will host our first ever Pele Trust orienteering competition. Huge thanks to Mr Smith, Mr Tailford and Mr Drane for expanding our sports offer and creating opportunities for children to participate and compete in new and varied sports.

On the theme of sport, both our boys' and girls' teams have won their regional qualifier tournaments for Premier League Primary Stars and will compete in the regional finals in January - watch this space!

While I'm on the subject of competitions, and at the risk of being accused of bragging, I'm also going to share how proud we are of Hannah (Y5) and Merryn (Y4) who compete at an extremely high level in Irish Dancing and have both qualified for the world championships in Chicago next year!

In the safeguarding and wellbeing section below I have included a vehicle safety guide. This Road Safety week, the children have been learning about the Green Cross Code and how to stay safe and I hoped the guide, which looks at road safety from a different angle, might be of use to parents.

Best wishes

Claire Johnson



Safeguarding & wellbeing

What is a safe vehicle?

Find out more about some of the amazing ways that safe vehicles can help us make safe and healthy journeys.

Why do we need safe vehicles?

- More than 1.3 million people die on roads every year.¹
- Road crashes are the leading cause of death for children and young people worldwide.²
- More than six children are killed or seriously injured on roads every day in the UK.³
- Road crashes have a devastating effect on families and communities.
- Pollution from traffic causes respiratory illnesses and other diseases.
- Safe vehicles are essential to save lives and prevent life-changing injuries.

The good news is that death and serious injury from road collisions and pollution are preventable, if people who design, build and use roads all share responsibility for road safety.⁴ This is known as the 'safe system' approach to road safety. Safe vehicles are an important part of the safe system.

What is a safe vehicle?

Safe vehicles are designed to prevent road crashes and protect people inside and outside the vehicle if a crash does happen.

Here are some of the ways they do this:

Safe vehicles prevent crashes

Modern vehicle technology helps drivers keep to speed limits and in the right lane. Automated systems brake in an emergency.



Note: You cannot tell from looking at a vehicle what safety technology it has. Brake research reveals that many drivers switch off important safety features in their vehicles, either because they find them annoying or they don't understand how they will keep them safer.⁵

SAFE VEHICLES 
SAVE LIVES.
Road Safety Week 

Safe vehicles protect people

Child-seats, seat belts and airbags help stop people hitting the inside of a vehicle during a crash. Seat belts also stop someone from being thrown out of a vehicle during a crash. Head rests help prevent head and neck injury.



Safe vehicles are roadworthy

Vehicles need to be well-maintained to keep them safe. Drivers and riders should carry out safety checks before every journey.



Safe vehicles also help **manage driver safety**, for example by noticing when a driver is tired and reminding drivers to take breaks. They also **record what happens in a crash** and can **call emergency services** immediately.

Why is it important to keep to speed limits?

Speed is a critical issue for the safety of our roads as one in four fatal crashes involve someone driving too fast.⁶

The faster a vehicle is travelling, the longer it takes to stop, the harder it crashes and the greater the risk of death and serious injury. A crash at 30mph is twice as likely to cause severe injury than a crash at 20mph.⁷ Vehicle technology that helps drivers keep within speed limits and brakes automatically in an emergency means fewer crashes, less impact if a crash happens and a lower risk of death and injury.



1. World Health Organization (2022) Global Status Report on Road Safety (2022). www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/global-status-report-on-road-safety-2022

2. Ibid

3. Department for Transport (2023) Reported Road Casualties in Great Britain: 2024 Annual Report and associated data sets. www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/120291

4. Tappin and Ikin (2018) 1980 Vision Zero: An Urban Approach to Safety and Mobility. <https://www.transport.gov.uk/publications/2018-11-29-1980-Vision-Zero-An-Urban-Approach-to-Safety-and-Mobility>

5. Brake (2022) Vehicle safety technology research report. www.brake.org.uk/vehicle-safety-technology-report

6. Department for Transport (2023) Reported Road Casualties in Great Britain: 2024 Annual Report and associated data sets. www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/120291

7. AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety (2011) Impact speed and a pedestrian's risk of severe injury or death. <http://www.aaaftsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/0011-Pedestrian-Risk-of-Speed-Report.pdf>

Everyone can help make sure we have safe vehicles on our roads

We all have a responsibility to use roads safely to protect ourselves and others. We can choose safe ways to travel using safe vehicles, obey road rules, travel at safe speeds and educate people about safe road use.

Schools

Schools can help keep children safe by:

- Running cycle training programmes to help children learn how to control their bikes and use roads safely.
- Teaching children about new vehicle technology that can help stop crashes and prevent road harm.

Parents and carers

Parents and carers can help keep children safe by:

- Choosing the safest vehicles they can afford
- Keeping vehicles well-maintained
- Carrying out essential checks before every journey
- Helping children and young people learn how to check and maintain their bicycle
- Making sure children wear a helmet when cycling to protect their head if they fall off
- Making sure children sit in a well-fitted, appropriately sized child seat if travelling by car.

Parent and carers can also set a good example by driving slowly in places where people live and always looking out for cyclists, never using a phone while driving, always wearing a seat belt and never driving after drinking or taking drugs. All parents and carers can help children use roads safely and choose active ways to travel or public transport where possible.



SAFE VEHICLES  **Road Safety Week**
SAVE LIVES.

Children

Children can help stay safe by:

- Wearing a helmet when cycling to protect their head if they fall off
- Making sure tyres are pumped up correctly and brakes are working
- Wearing brightly coloured clothes to make it easier for people to see them
- Using lights when cycling in the dark.

Brake recommends that children under 10 always cycle with a grown up, on safe cycle paths away from traffic.

Find out more

Watch short films by Brake to find out more about safe vehicles and the safe system approach to road safety.

For teachers, parents and carers

- **Safe system is child's play** – Find out how the design of cities and towns, roads, public transport systems and vehicles can deliver safe and healthy mobility for all. Watch at <https://youtu.be/tUfVzRqwUU?si=m4Pjbg3gn9xFDe42>
- **Child seat animation** – Learn about the importance of using correctly-fitted child seats for children up to the height of 150cm. Watch at <https://youtu.be/tQyAbN6Xza4?si=HIUSfhR4kd6KE1VI>
- **Bicycle checks** - Find out how to carry out a simple M check to make sure your bicycle is fit for the road. Watch at <https://youtu.be/21scaFMPpA4?si=Al6hZ3xCKV73G93m>

For primary schoolchildren

- **We love to cycle** – Learn about the benefits of cycling and how to stay as safe as possible when riding a bike. Watch at <https://youtu.be/0HT18Z161D4?si=4xiLJkM4q26Shjmi>
- **Our future journeys: Safer by design** – Modern vehicles are equipped with technology to keep people inside and outside the vehicle safe. Watch at <https://youtu.be/rX4Et5TgRs?si=Mn2x0T-IX42zKB5T>

www.brake.org.uk/road-safety-week
#RoadSafetyWeek

Organised by



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Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	90.6%	Year 3 (Pine)	96.0%
Reception (Chestnut)	98.0%	Year 4 (Alder)	92.6%
Reception (Pinecone)	92.0%	Year 4 (Yew)	96.7%
Year 1 (Holly)	98.7%	Year 5 (Oak)	96.8%
Year 1 (Ash)	97.9%	Year 5 (Beech)	97.7%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	96.3%	Year 6 (Elm)	97.1%
Year 2 (Willow)	97.3%	Year 6 (Birch)	94.5%
Year 3 (Maple)	99.0%	Whole school Cumulative from Sept	96.1%

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.

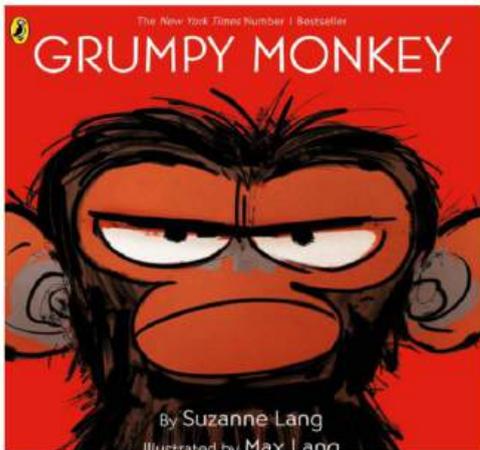
We have a continual focus on attendance and punctuality and this is of the utmost importance in your child's education. Please remember that our school gate closes at 8.55am as this is when our lessons begin. Anyone arriving after this time is classed as late and will miss valuable learning opportunities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

What does the Government say about school attendance?

At KS2, pupils who attended school nearly every day in Year 6 (with an attendance rate of 95-100%) were 1.3 times more likely to achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to pupils who only attended 90-95% of the time. **This means missing just 10 days of year 6 reduced the likelihood of reaching the expected standard by around 25%.** Pupils who attended nearly every day were 1.8 times more likely to achieve the standard than persistently absent pupils who only attend 85-90% of the time (relating to 4 -6 weeks more time in school).
DfE report: [Link between attendance and attainment, March 2025](#)

This week in Nursery

Nursery have explored their core text, Grumpy Monkey, making their best grumpy faces by using their facial expressions and body language. It was hard to be grumpy when you thought your face looked funny!



This week in Reception

This week in Reception we enjoyed lots of wintery activities! We made delicious hot chocolates in our water area and we had lots of fun in the snow building snow castles, snowmen and brushing all the snow away. We also visited the book fair and enjoyed looking at lots of different stories! This week was also our first singing assembly and we loved it!



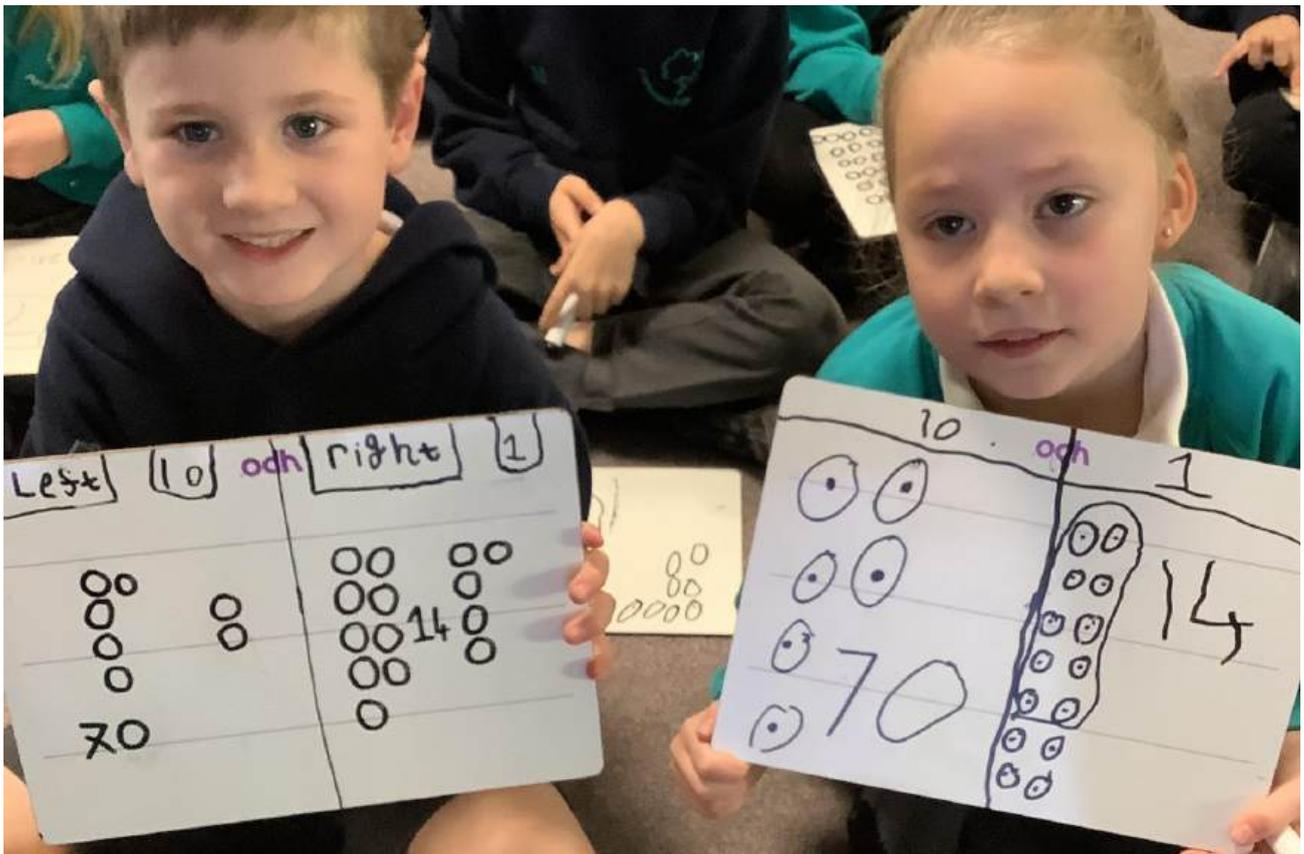
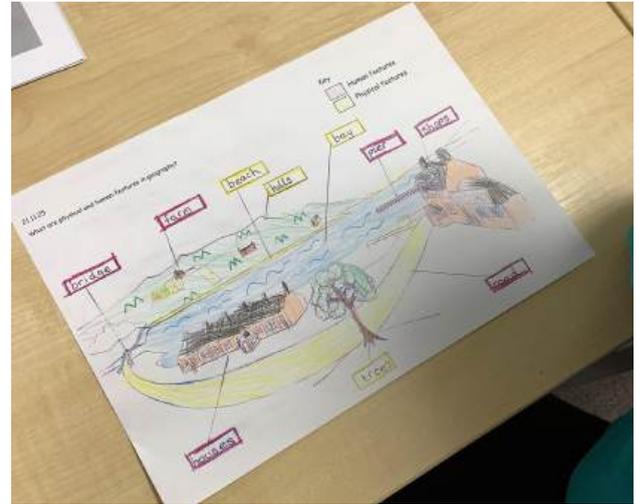
This week in Year 1

This week Year 1 have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes in Maths. We have learned that 2-dimensional means that the shape is flat and has only 2 dimensions (length and width), and that 3-dimensional means that they have 3 dimensions (length, width and height) and can be held. They have discussed the properties of these shapes including their vertices, edges and faces, and we have been categorising a variety of shapes by their property clues.



This week in Year 2

A selection of work from this week in Year 2. From reading to enjoyment to identifying human and physical features in geography to adding two 2-digit numbers across a ten in maths, we've had a busy week!



This week in Year 3

This week, Year 3 had a wonderfully magnetic time in Science! We became expert experimenters, investigating the fascinating world of magnets. We discovered the fundamental rule of magnetism, opposite poles attract and same poles repel. In Geography, we focused on settlements and how they develop and expand over time. We had a great discussion about what influences where people choose to live, exploring how local attractions play a key role in the growth and location of settlement. Finally, our English work was brilliant as we wrote diary entries based on our moving class text, Lubna and Pebble. The children's writing was truly fantastic and a real pleasure to read!



This week in Year 4

In our topic on the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons, Year 4 used their **Chromebooks** this week to explore the pivotal event that marked the beginning of the Viking Age: the **raid on Lindisfarne in 793 AD**.

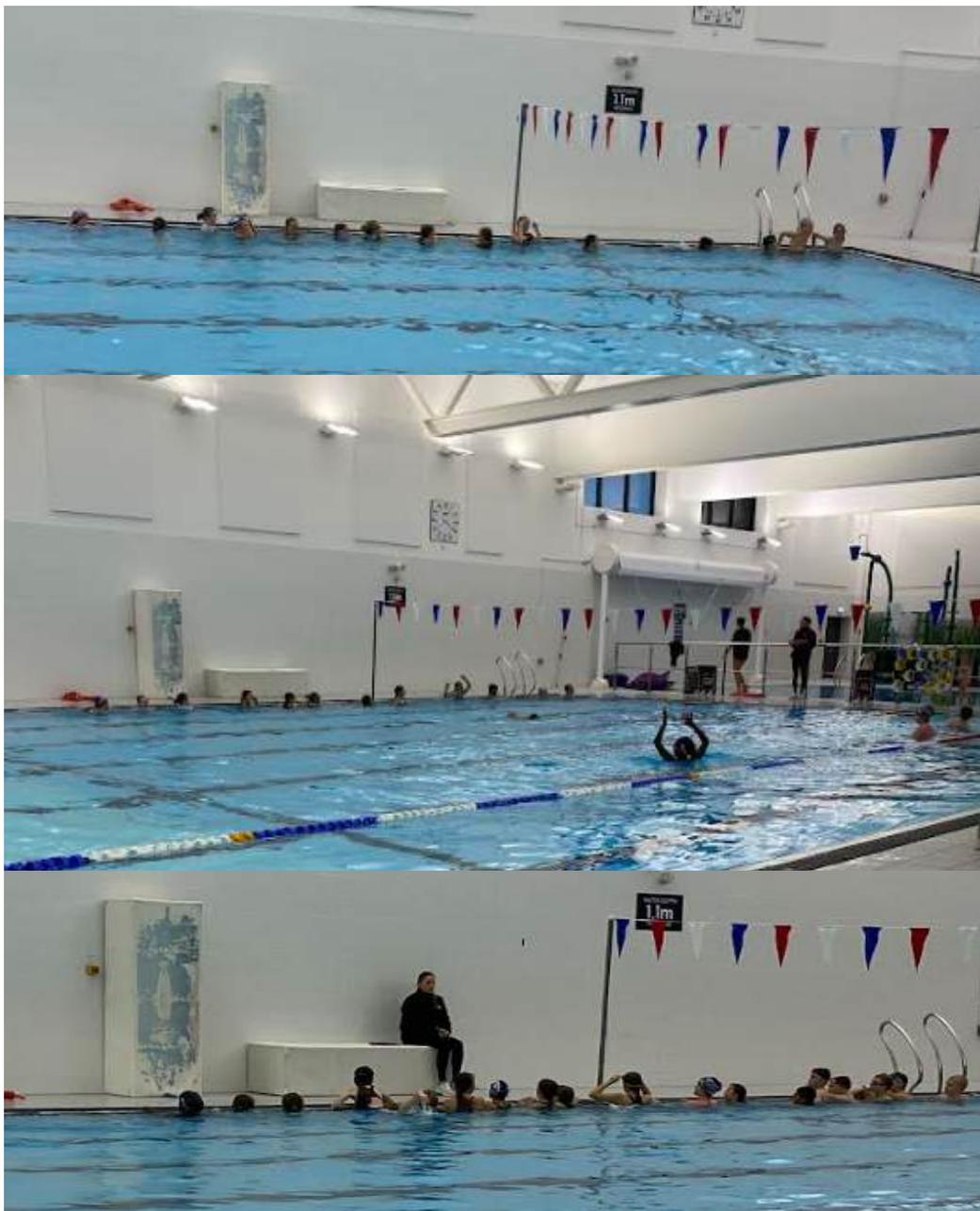
Students acted as **digital historians**, researching the event to understand why the wealthy monastery on Holy Island was such an appealing target for the seaborne Norse raiders. They learned that this terrifying attack, where Vikings stole treasures and scattered the monks, sent a wave of shock across the whole of Anglo-Saxon Britain. Using their devices, the children practiced **online research skills** and evaluated **historical source materials**. Ask us what we can remember?



This week in Year 5

How are our PE lessons going? Swimmingly.

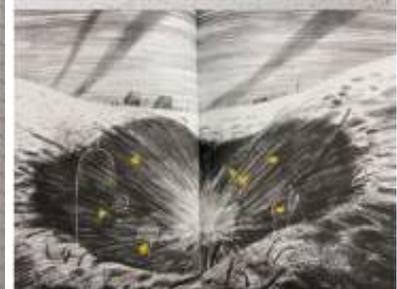
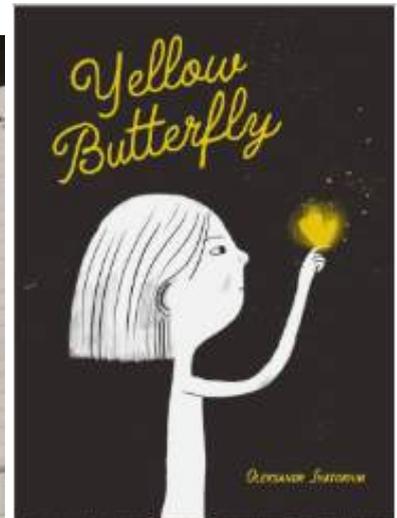
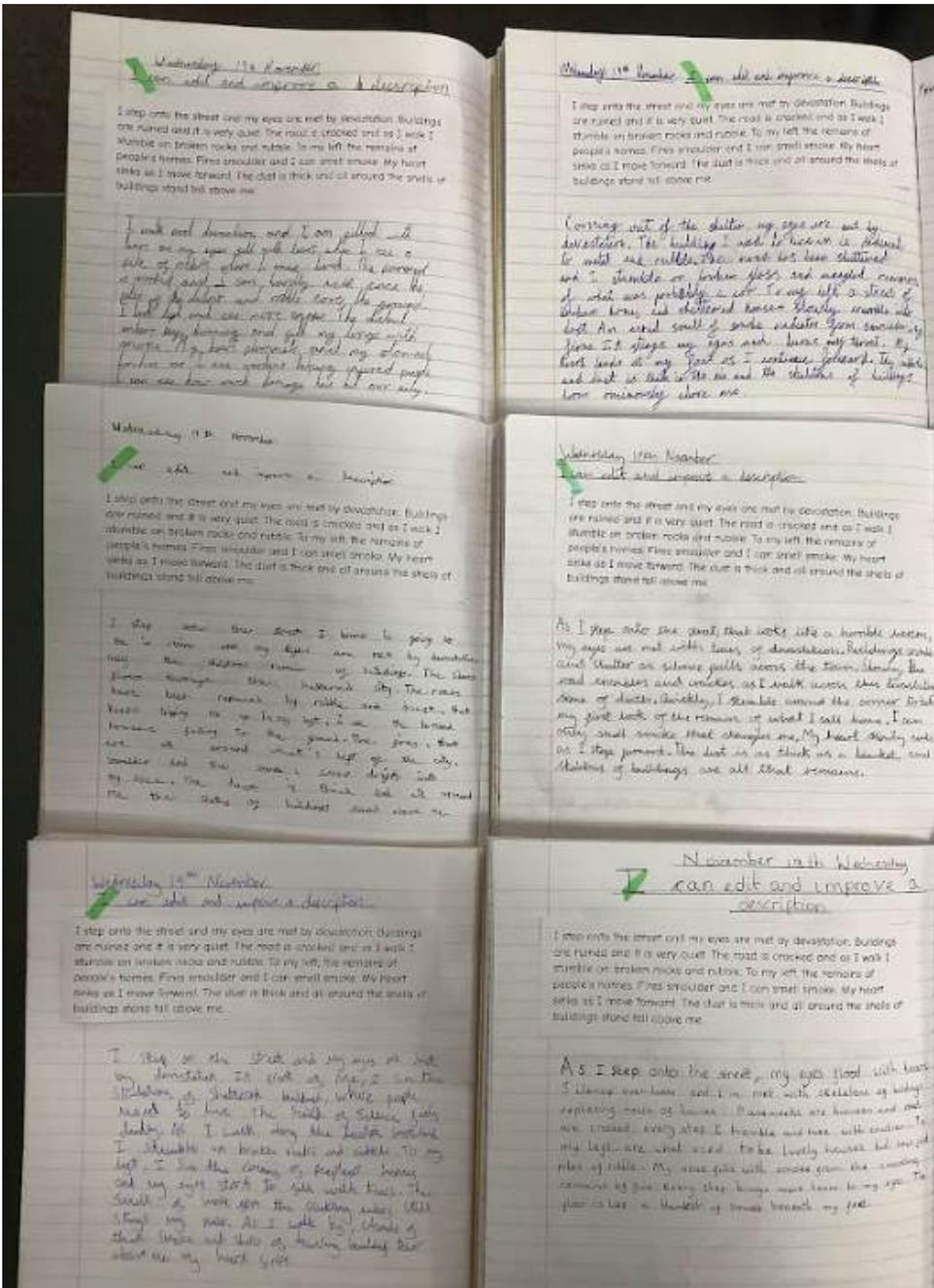
Year 5 has been having a brilliant time at our weekly swimming lessons, embracing the water with enthusiasm and great sportsmanship! Following the comprehensive Swim England guidance, the lessons are designed to build water confidence, develop essential safety skills, and improve stroke technique. The pupils are working hard on achieving their personal bests, from floating and treading water to mastering the four main strokes. It's fantastic to see the progress they're making, and they're always full of smiles and laughter as they learn vital skills in a fun and supportive environment. Keep up the great work, Year 5!



Mr McCourt and Mr Tailford

This week in Year 6

Year 6 have continued using our class text, *Yellow Butterfly*, to develop our descriptive writing. We have looked at the imagery in the text and thought about how a warzone would look and, more importantly, how it would make the main character feel. We have explored vocabulary, thought about sentence structures and looked at some slightly uninspiring pieces of writing for ways to improve them by selecting vocabulary precisely, using a range of sentence structures and using 'show not tell' to convey both the feelings of the character and the general mood of sadness, anger and worry that people in the most terrifying circumstances would likely feel.



Dates for your diary in 2025



Tue 25th November 2025	Yr3 Woodhorn Trip (Packed Lunches Needed)
Wed 26th November 2025	Individual Photo Day
Thur 27th November 2025	Year 4 Alnwick Garden Visit (Packed lunches needed) PTA Wreath Making Evening. Save the Date! More info to follow.
Fri 28th November 2025	Non Uniform Day for donation of chocolate for Tombola. Winner of Charlotte Tilbury Raffle revealed
Friday 5th December 2025	Christmas Jumper Day (with uniform) for donation of a bottle for our famous bottle pull! PTA Christmas Fair. Games, food, drinks, Santa, raffle, tombola and so much more!
Mon 8th December 2025	Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Performance - 2pm
Tue 9th December 2025	Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Performance - 9.15am
Tue 9th December 2025	Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day with uniform Year 1 & Year 2 - Christmas Performance - 2pm
Wed 10th December 2025	Year 3 & Year 4 - Christmas Performance - 9.15am
Thur 11th December 2025	Reception Christmas Performance - 9.15am Year 3 & Year 4 - Christmas Performance - 2pm
Fri 12th December 2025	Year 1 & Year 2 Christmas Performance - 9.15am
Thur 18th December 25	Pele Trust Christmas Choir Concert at St Mary's Church in Ponteland - Performance starts 1.45pm.
Fri 19th December 2025	School breaks up for Christmas break - School finishes at 1.30pm
Mon 5th January 2026	School Resumes

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 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
- Shop items: till, fruit and veg baskets etc
Metal pots and pans Children's Gardening Tools
Dressing up items

After School Club Needs You!

We would love to take any of these off you:

- Loom Bands
 - Complete Jigsaws
 - Chess Sets
 - Dolls House Furniture
- Beads
Lego & Duplo
Knex



Can you help our PTA?

PONTELAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA



Ways you can help...

EMPLOYER

Are you employed by one of the biggest employers in the North East who offer Grant Match Fundraising? Could they help you help your School? Or will they allow you paid time away from work to help with fundraising events? Chat to your HR department today to see if there's a way to help!



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PROCTOR & GAMBLE
NISSAN
SAGE
GREGGS
BARBOUR
DELOITTE
VIRGIN MONEY
BELLWAY
NORTHERN POWERGRID
VERTU
...AND MANY MORE



TIME

Do you have time available to help plan, organise, set up, clean up and be a volunteer at our many fundraising events throughout the year? We appreciate any available time, even if just for one event. Please contact us on pontelandpta@gmail.com

MONEY

We understand that time is not something everyone has to offer and we are often asked about the ability to make regular or one off cash donations to the PTA as an alternative. Should you wish to do so please reference 'Donation' along with your name to the Ponteland Primary PTA account:
Acc no: 20669059
S.C: 20-59-61



SKILLS

Do you have a skillset that could help the School PTA? Marketing, PR, Graphic design, finance, events planning, social media and so many more skills are valuable to us. This may be offered as your time or as feedback to what you see and experience from the PTA.

"WHEN PARENTS ARE ENGAGED AND TAKE PART IN SCHOOL AFFAIRS, IT CREATES A POSITIVE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDENTS"

Pontelandpta@gmail.com



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

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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



