

Friday Flyer

Friday 21st February 2025

Headteacher Update

What an end we have had to the week and the half term: this morning we surprised the children with our second Ponteland Primary School Values Ceremony instead of our usual celebration assembly! Unbeknownst to the pupils, the staff have been submitting nominations for children who consistently, day in and day out, embody our school values and in doing so, set an excellent example to everyone. You will not be at all surprised to hear that an enormous number of children were nominated for each value and any one of them would be a deserving winner. The values are such an important part of our school life; they are the golden thread that runs through everything we do and are a guiding force for pupils and staff alike. We impress upon the children that with careful thought and deliberate practice, we can develop our values, becoming kinder, more resilient, showing greater integrity or becoming better at collaborating every day. We are so grateful to Clarke Carlisle who did an amazing job of leading our ceremony, inspiring us all with his wise words, and to Mrs Blain, Mr Hall, the Deputy Mayor of Ponteland, and Mr Phipps who presented their respective awards for Respect, Responsibility and Being Phenomenal. I'm sure you'll be as impressed and inspired as we were when you read the comments below made by staff as they nominated our award winners. These children truly demonstrate how our values are lived in school and are superb role models.



The Mrs Blain Award for Respect	Liam G - Liam displays every value, every single day and is such a credit to our school. He always leads with kindness, never fails to say please and thank you and treats every person he encounters with respect. Liam has the most beautiful manners, there is always a please and thank you and he is very respectful towards adults, visitors, peers and the opposition when representing our school at events.
The Charlie Mackesy Award for Kindness	Heidi R - Heidi is such a kind and happy soul who is always willing to help others in school and at After School Club. She will swap seats at snack time so someone can sit next to a friend, help other children if they are unsure of something, share her skills and stories - her acts of kindness are in abundance! She always seems to see the good in everyone which is such an endearing quality.
The Mary Seacole Award for Empathy	Anna H - Anna is so caring towards others and wants to ensure that others are well. She is kind towards everyone and looks out for the younger children on the yard. She makes sure that all of her friends are happy and having a good break and lunch.
The Ant & Dec Award for Collaboration	The Shakespeare Company - This dedicated group of Year 5 and Year 6 actors have shown exceptional teamwork in preparing for Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream". Their commitment to learning lines and attending Monday night rehearsals with enthusiasm has been outstanding. Their hard work and collaboration have made them a fantastic team.
The Jill Scott Award for Effort	Joe W - Joe has shown great effort and interest, especially at lunchtimes helping staff in the dinner hall. Joe is keen to help and not afraid to get stuck in! He even shows others how they can help out too and he has inspired lots of other children to make an effort to help others.
The Mayor of Ponteland Award for Responsibility	Lucy F - Lucy has always shown responsibility and respect around school and she is always willing to help others with a smile on her face. Lucy is always available to help her peers and adults. She can be trusted to carry out a task independently. She will make a fantastic teacher one day! Lucy is always the first person to come and ask if there is anything she can help with or any jobs she can do at lunch time. She is keen to take on responsibility and to engage with whatever is happening in school. And she does everything with enthusiasm, politeness and a smile, usually encouraging her friends to contribute as well!
The David Attenborough Award for Curiosity	Jude H - Jude always asks sensible questions in class and loves to find multiple answers for investigations and challenges. He is also very knowledgeable in a variety of subjects, which shows he researches things at home too!
The Adam Bushnell Award for Creativity	Henry A - Whether Henry is building dens outside or generating ideas in class, he approaches everything with creativity. His imagination knows no bounds and his love for reading fuels his ability to come up with magical worlds and inventive solutions.

<p>The Marcus Rashford Award for Integrity</p>	<p>Theo B - Theo consistently shows his integrity at all times, both inside of the classroom and outside. Not only is he always kind and respectful but he ensures that he is always making the right choices even when there is no one around to praise them. Theo is very conscious of his actions and words towards others at all times.</p> <p>Sadie E - Sadie has grown so much this year and has developed into a kind, courteous individual who always makes sensible choices. She is always keen to help others, regardless of who is watching.</p>
<p>The Greta Thunberg Award for Resilience</p>	<p>Louisa S - Louisa is so resilient. All year we have been pushing the children in year 6 and, at times, Louisa has found things tricky. She never lets things defeat her and always accepts support and guidance while looking for ways to improve. It is this resilience and willingness to face challenges that will stand her in such good stead as she completes her SATs and moves on to high school. Louisa has faced real difficulty in her life yet she takes on challenges with bravery and resilience and always with a smile on her face.</p>
<p>The Taylor Swift Award for Gratitude</p>	<p>Alice T - Alice has such a positive attitude. She is always polite, kind and respectful and never forgets her manners. She, without fail, will always say good morning, hold doors, ask how you are and she is always grateful for help if and when she needs it. She looks after friends and always has a happy presence about her.</p>

Our final award is the Sue Phipps Award for Being Phenomenal which recognises a Y6 child who has displayed all of our values throughout their time in primary school. The award is named after a much loved teacher, Mrs Phipps, who taught at PPS for many years and left a lasting legacy. She was known for telling children they were phenomenal and I am certain that she would be in absolute agreement that this year's winner is indeed phenomenal. We are so proud of George G who is this year's recipient of the Sue Phipps Award for Being Phenomenal. The staff shared their reasons for nominating him: George is exactly what our school is about! He carries all the values we encourage the children to have - he is respectful, kind, helpful and absolutely deserving of this award. George has all the right attitude and has grown so much as a person over the years at Primary School. George is consistently kind, caring, and respectful, showing a genuine concern for others. His positive mindset and thoughtful approach make him a wonderful role model for his peers. George is fantastic, he is such a gentleman! He has a lovely, kind nature and is always willing to help. He embodies all of the school values and works hard in all that he does. He is such a positive presence in the classroom and anywhere he goes around school. Whether it be working with his peers, representing our school in various sporting roles, participating in eco council or showing visitors around, he always represents everything that is great about our school! George is a boy who is always making the right choices! He has a fantastic sense of humour, is a positive role model to the younger members of school and his peers and he shines in every way possible! A boy with an amazing future ahead of him, I am sure we will continue to hear lots of positive stories about him as he moves to the high school.

It has been a wonderful end to a very successful half term and we are all now ready for the break! We look forward to seeing the children back in school on Tuesday 4th March, following our teachers' training day on Monday.

Best wishes, Claire Johnson

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Helping Your Child Embrace What Makes Them Remarkable

As parents, we want our children to feel confident and happy. But in a world where "fitting in" is often the goal, it's important to teach them to embrace what makes them *remarkable*. When children learn to love themselves for who they are, they feel stronger and more confident.

Here's how to help your child appreciate their remarkable self:

 **Encourage Their Interests**
Support your child's hobbies, even if they're not the most popular. Following their passions helps them value their uniqueness.

 **Celebrate Their Strengths**
Praise qualities like kindness and creativity, not just achievements. This helps them see their inner value, not just what they do.

 **Show Self-Acceptance**
Children learn by watching you. Be open about accepting yourself, mistakes and all, so they learn to do the same.

 **Create a Safe Space**
Let your child express themselves freely. When they feel accepted at home, they gain confidence to show their true self outside.

 **Teach Kindness Over Fitting In**
Help your child understand that kindness is more important than fitting in. True friends value them for who they are.

 **Promote Positive Thinking**
Encourage your child to focus on their strengths and challenge negative thoughts. Self-acceptance builds confidence.

 **Encourage Healthy Friendships**
Support your child in finding friends who appreciate them. Healthy relationships help them feel valued for who they are.

Your child is remarkable as they are. By helping them embrace their uniqueness and how remarkable they truly are, you give them the confidence to stand out and be their best selves.





Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	98.4%	Year 3 (Pine)	93.3%
Reception (Chestnut)	99.0%	Year 4 (Alder)	96.1%
Reception (Pinecone)	91.3%	Year 4 (Yew)	99.0%
Year 1 (Holly)	94.7%	Year 5 (Oak)	94.8%
Year 1 (Ash)	96.0%	Year 5 (Beech)	94.8%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	93.3%	Year 6 (Elm)	95.3%
Year 2 (Willow)	93.7%	Year 6 (Birch)	94.0%
Year 3 (Maple)	95.5%	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

Thank you PTA

Reception were delighted to find a brand new climbing crest and some monkey bars in their outdoor area on Monday. The children have shown great determination and resilience and we are so grateful to the fabulous PTA for funding this equipment for us. These new additions will really help to develop the children's gross motor skills which will in turn help with refining their fine motor skills and boosting their confidence. Thank you to all of our families for supporting the PTA to provide these fabulous extras for our lovely school.



This week in Nursery

Thank you to our wonderful families that have visited us in nursery this week! We hope you enjoyed the guided tour from your little person! Our wonderful Acorn family. Have a lovely half term.

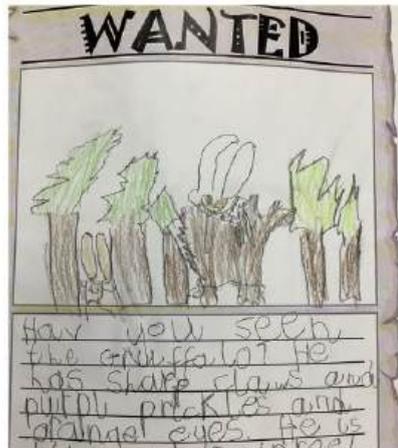
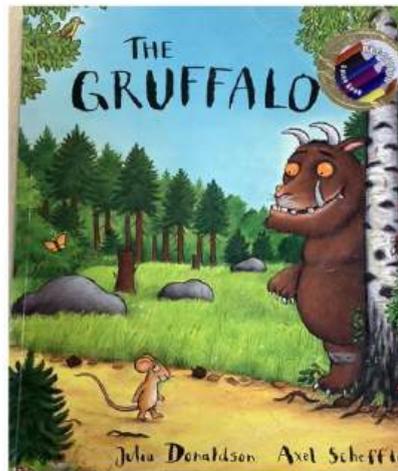
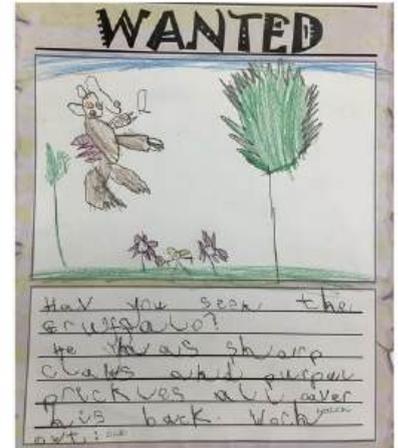


HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS.

PIC•COLLAGE

This week in Reception

This week we have had a focus on our spine book, The Gruffalo. The children have been brilliant at retelling the story using puppets, creating wanted posters and Gruffalo masks. We have also had the best time, and shown great perseverance whilst tackling our new monkey bars.



This week in Year 1

This week, we have been embedding our Science knowledge of seasons. The children recapped their understanding of different seasons and talked about what happens during Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. They learnt which animals return from migration, come out of hibernation, lay eggs and have babies. The children compared what animals do in the Winter to Spring time and sorted animals depending on their Springtime behaviours.



The children also discussed and decided on discussion rules for developing our oracy skills. The children worked in group of 3 to discuss and agree on the most important rules for our discussions.

**Move calmly
& quietly**

Work hard

Discussion Guidelines

Everyone has the right to be heard

We listen carefully and show that we are listening

We listen to our partner. Maddie

We talk one at a time. Geoff

Mrs Rogers Abba Sophie Lily Emilia Isabella

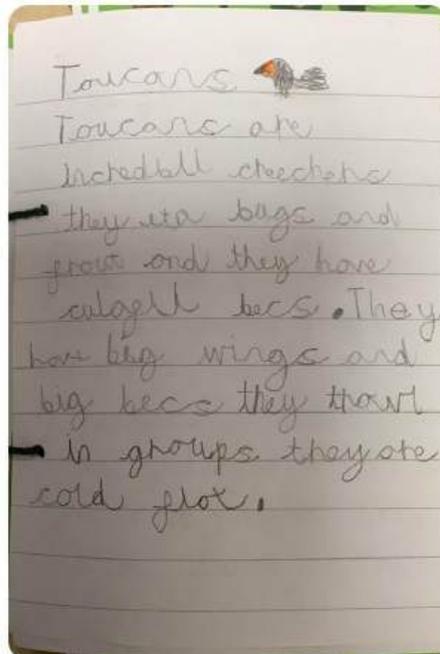
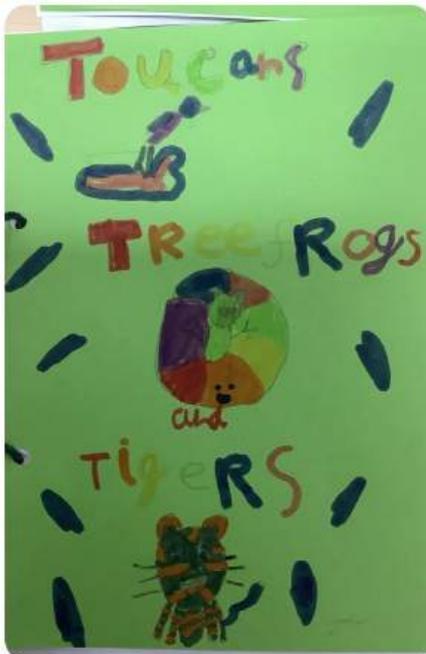
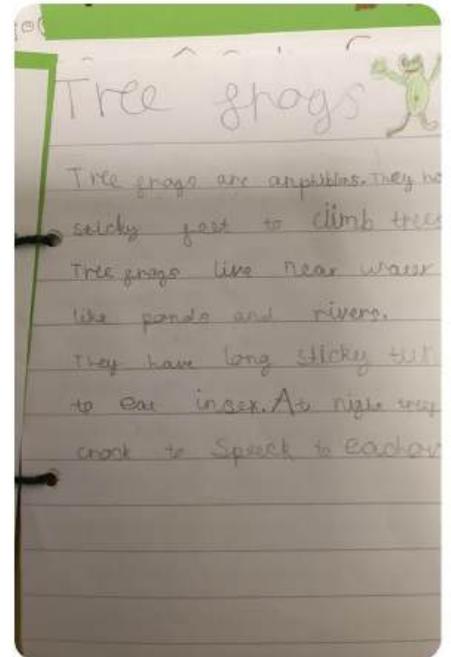
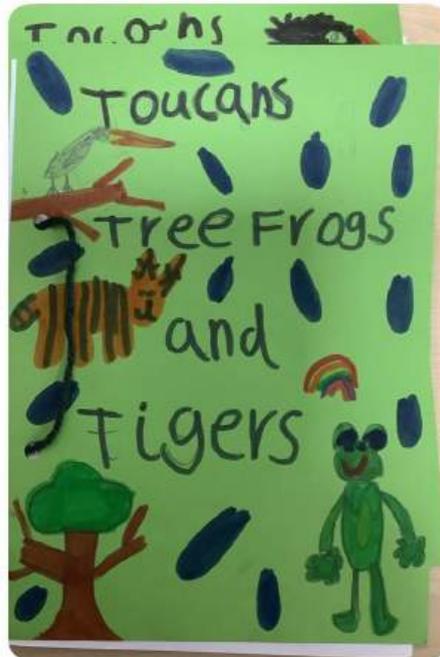
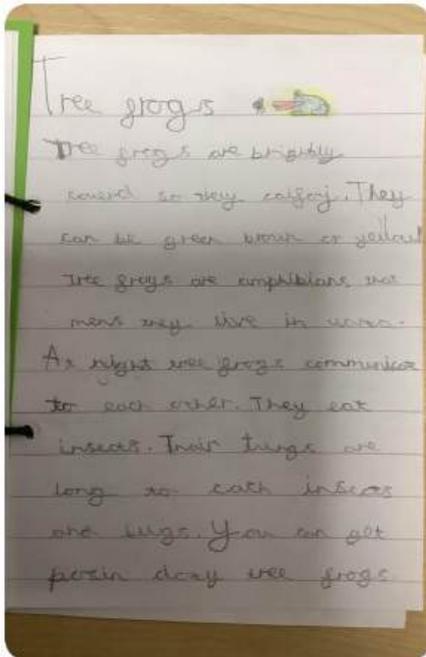
Felix Keron Jamie Ruth Sadie Jack Gabriel

Adrian Dylan Aaron Ieghe Emma

Mrs Rogers and Miss Storey

This week in Year 2

Year 2 have finished their work around The Tin Forest this week. We've had an amazing time reading this incredible book and to finish this topic, we created our own information reports called 'Toucans, Treefrogs and Tigers'. We researched information and then made our own information booklets using what we had learnt. We loved creating these and designing our own covers.



This week in Year 3

This week in English, Year 3 have had a fantastic time writing a discussion text to debate whether animals should be kept in zoos. We carefully considered reasons both for and against keeping animals in captivity, offering clear examples to support our views. Throughout the writing process, we focused on using time words and conjunctions to link our ideas, particularly using conjunctions to show consequences. After weighing up all the reasons for and against, we wrote our own well-reasoned conclusions. Alongside our writing, we focused on neat, cursive handwriting to present our arguments clearly. As part of our learning, we also enjoyed watching *The One and Only Ivan*, which helped deepen our understanding of the topic.

14.2.23
Should Animals Be Kept in Zoos?

There are many arguments for and against keeping animals in zoos.

First I think animals should be kept in zoos because if animals are ill or going to be extinct zoos could give them medicines. Some people come to zoos for entertainment. Next, they have lots of food and water to keep the animals alive. Zoo keepers bring animals in so they can live longer. People are sometimes excited to go to zoos to see animals in person. Zoo keepers want to keep the animals very safe. People can learn about animals when they go to zoos. Finally, some zoos want people to come to zoos because they want to get money.

First I think they should not be kept in zoos because they get locked in cages. If it is winter there might have the wrong temperature at night and say, if there was a fire they wouldn't be able to escape alone. Animals would be taken away from them they wouldn't have protection and it would be upsetting. When animals get locked in there is not enough room to run around. It is very noisy in the zoo compared to the wild, the wild is very quiet. Zoos don't have enough money to keep them.

In my conclusion I believe that animals should only be brought to zoos only if they have the right treatments.

Should Animals Be Kept In Zoos?

There are many reasons for and against people keeping animals in zoos. The first argument for keeping animals in zoos is that they can't get poached or illegally sold or killed for bushmeat or flesh in zoos. The zoo keepers are highly trained for the animals and always do a check to see if they are OK. You can also see rare animals or animals that you almost never see. The zoos also have good or nice enclosures and they have a mini habitat. The zoo keepers can also bravely protect and shield animals from extinction such as the mountain gorilla, the rhinoceros, the elephant, the glorious bald eagle, the blue whale, the cute panda and the crocodile.

The second argument is against keeping animals in zoos. As a result, some people think that animals shouldn't keep animals in zoos because they think that the animals might get lonely or sad or tearful. However, some elephants die quicker than in the wild because of lack of space aren't in a tribe, and too much stress. Moreover, if the fire alarm went off and there was a fire the animals couldn't escape their enclosures.

This half term, we are exploring the text 'The One and Only Ivan' by Katherine Applegate

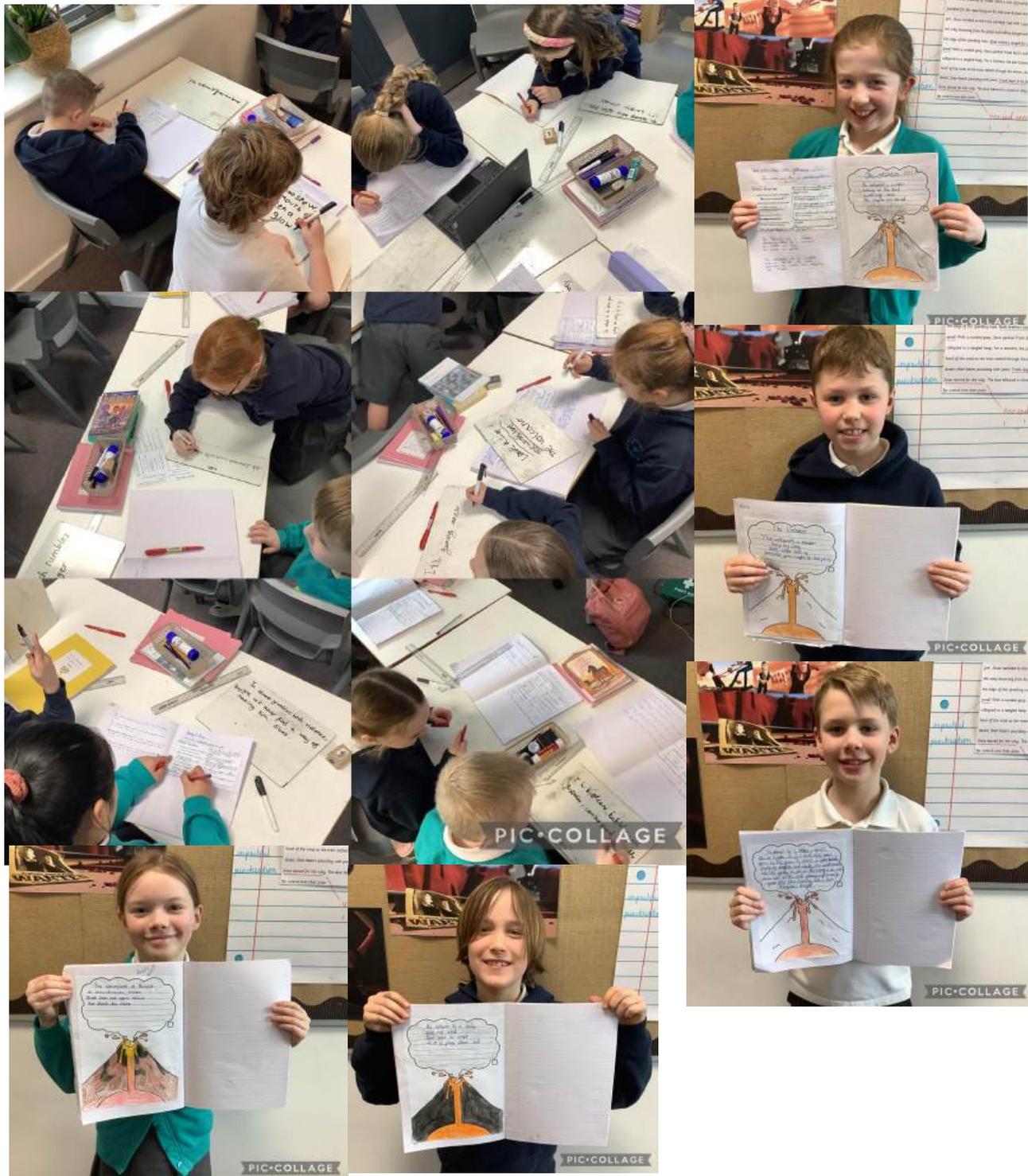


and might get burnt and die. Next, why would you want to see sad animals locked up in cages? The zoos are expensive to run. Normally, an animal may get bored and not move much and people won't come to zoos anymore because it's not exciting.

My opinion is that you should keep animals in zoos because they keep animals from extinction and give them toys + things they need to survive.

This week in Year 4

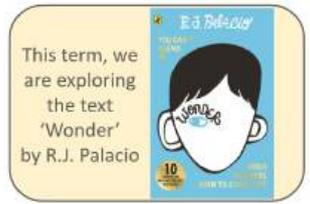
To bring our half term to an explosive end, Year 4 have been writing personification poetry about a volcano, using Valerie Bloom's poem 'The River' as inspiration. The children brainstormed stanzas on a whiteboard to play around with exciting vocabulary and rhyme, and then chose their favourite stanza to write up in their book. The staff in Year 4 have been blown away by the effort shown by the children throughout this half term, and it was lovely to share some highlights at parents' evening this week. We wish you all a restful half term break!



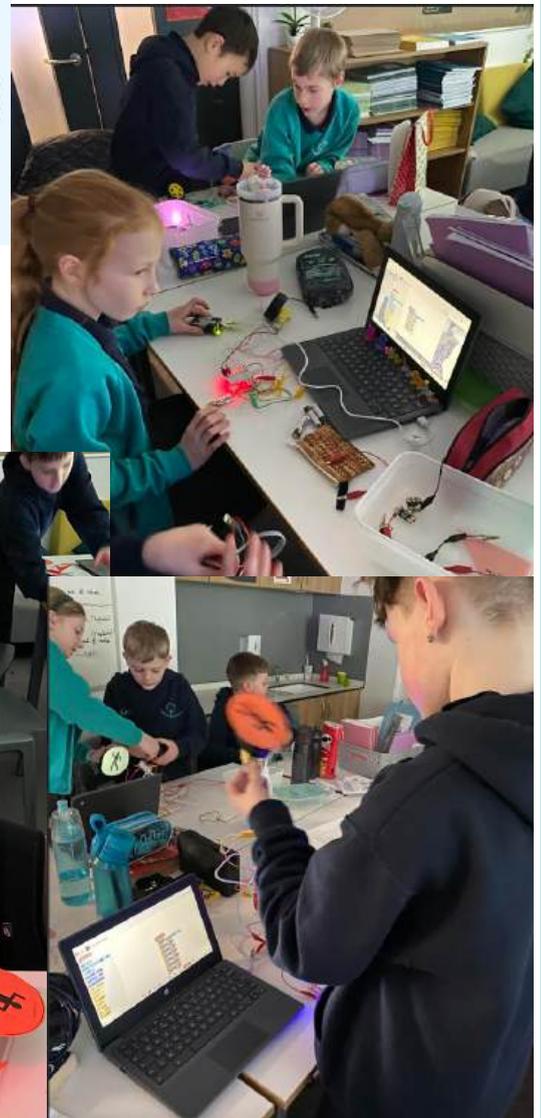
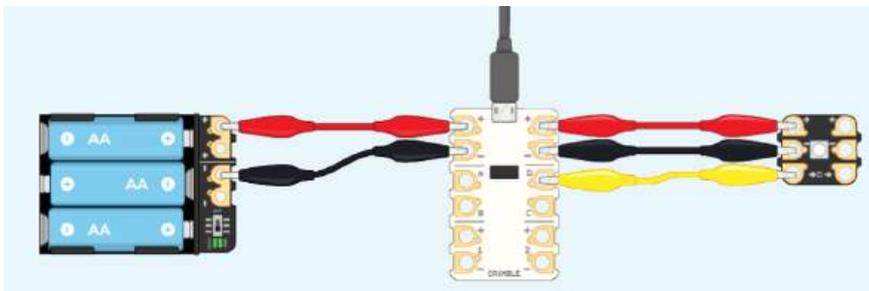
Miss Davis, Mrs Maccoy and Mrs Bell

This week in Year 5

Let's Get Ready to Crumble



In computing this half term we have been using software called Crumble, inspired by MIT's Scratch coding program. Firstly, we have to connect our Crumbles, which is a microcontroller, to a power output, a Sparkle (LED light) and plug it into a Chromebook (it sounds very complicated but the children are highly accomplished at connecting them!), then we can use block coding to make our Crumbles perform different tasks. This week we had a disco by programming a series of different flashing lights and connecting stick-figures to motors, allowing them to dance!



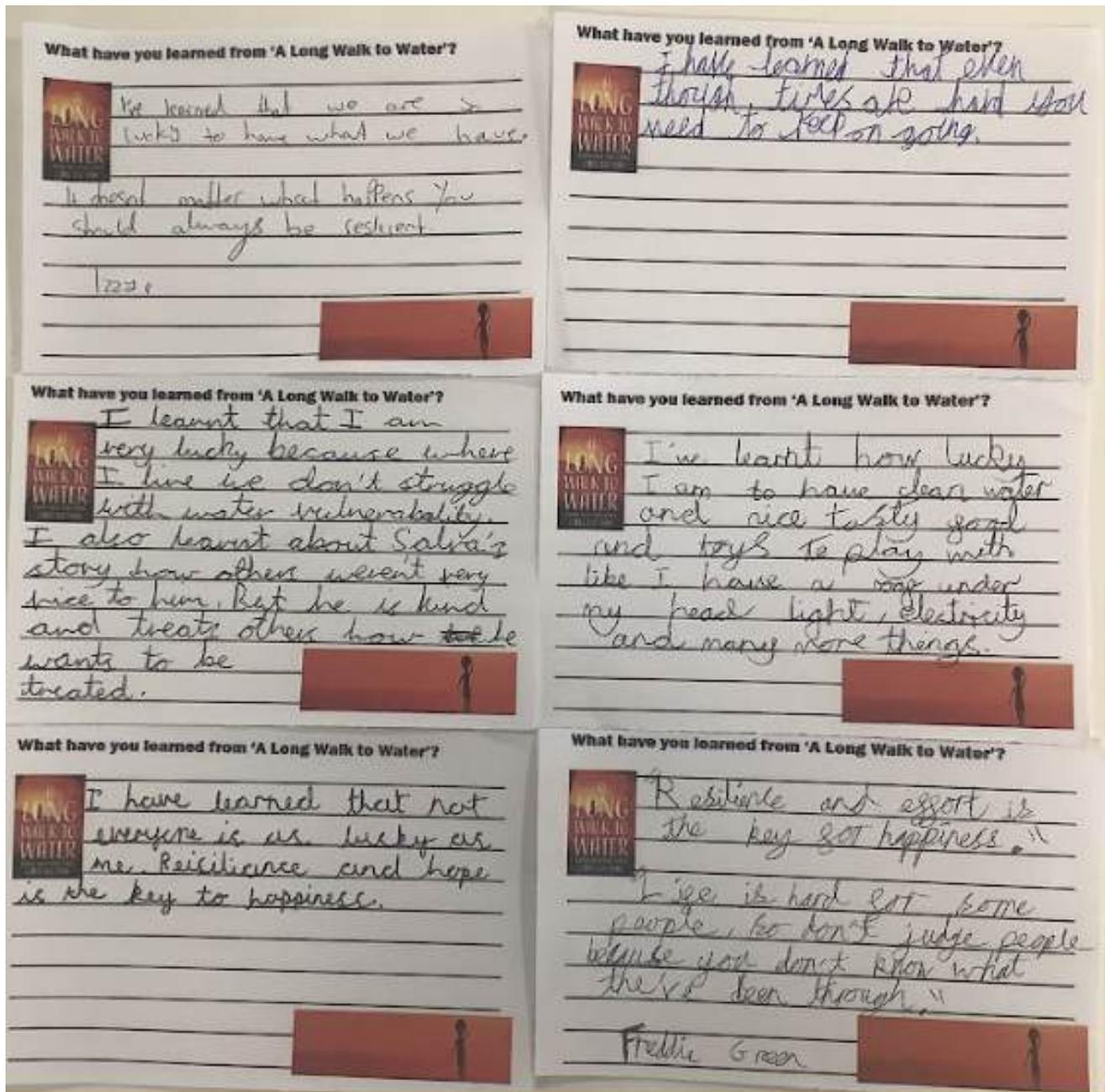
Enjoy your half term break!

Mr McCourt and Mr Tailford

This week in Year 6

To bring our half term to a close, we have been thinking about our class text, *A Long Walk to Water*. It tells the story of Salva Dut, who endured terrible hardship during the civil war in Sudan before starting a new life in America. He later returned to his native Sudan and launched a charity designed to provide clean water and sanitation for the remote communities from which he came.

We have been thinking about what we have learned about ourselves as a result of Salva's incredible story. It has really made a huge impact on us.



The image shows six student worksheets arranged in a 3x2 grid. Each worksheet has a small illustration of a person carrying water on their head and another on their back, with the title 'A LONG WALK TO WATER' written vertically next to it. The worksheets contain the following handwritten text:

- Top Left:** "What have you learned from 'A Long Walk to Water'?"
We learned that we are so lucky to have what we have. It doesn't matter what happens you should always be resilient.
12220
- Top Right:** "What have you learned from 'A Long Walk to Water'?"
I have learned that even though times are hard you need to keep on going.
- Middle Left:** "What have you learned from 'A Long Walk to Water'?"
I learnt that I am very lucky because where I live we don't struggle with water vulnerability. I also learnt about Salva's story how other weren't very nice to him, but he is kind and treats others how ~~to~~ he wants to be treated.
- Middle Right:** "What have you learned from 'A Long Walk to Water'?"
I've learnt how lucky I am to have clean water and nice tasty food and toys to play with like I have a ~~map~~ under my head light, electricity and many more things.
- Bottom Left:** "What have you learned from 'A Long Walk to Water'?"
I have learned that not everyone is as lucky as me. Resilience and hope is the key to happiness.
- Bottom Right:** "What have you learned from 'A Long Walk to Water'?"
"Resilience and effort is the key to happiness."
Life is hard for some people, so don't judge people because you don't know what they've been through."
Freddie Green

Dates for your diary in 2025



Wc 24th February 2025	Half Term
Monday 3rd March 2025	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 4th March 2025	School resumes
Wed 13th March 2025	France Trip - Parents Meeting at Darras Hall Primary School 4.30pm
Tuesday 25th March 2025	Year Reception Trip - Scotswood Gardens (Packed Lunch Needed)
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 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
Tue	25/03/25	17.30	Library	Spring Events Planning details





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 following 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:

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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!

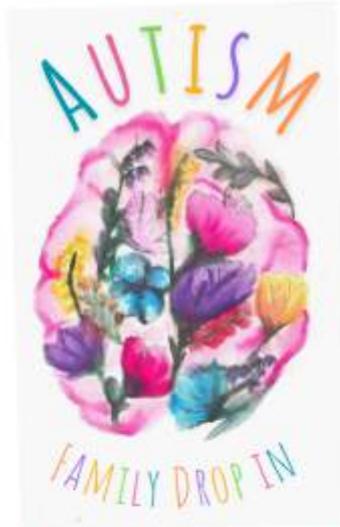
Voluntary contributions to the PTA welcomed.

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:

Tuesday 18th March 2025 1-3pm at Alnwick Family Hub

On St Michaels School Site, Howling Lane, NE66 1DJ

Thursday 3rd April 2025 10am-12 at Berwick Family Hub

Ladywell Place, Tweedmouth, Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 2AE

Thursday 20th March 2025 10am-12 at Hexham Family Hub

On Hexham First School Site, Beaufront Avenue, NE46 1JD

Tuesday 11th March 10am-12 at Morpeth Library

Morpeth Sports and Leisure Centre, Gas House Lane, NE61 1SR

Wednesday 2nd April 2025 1-3pm at Ashington Family Hub

Alexandra Road, NE63 9EF

Thursday 10th April 2025 10am-12 at The Community Hub at Cramlington

Forum Way, Manor Walks Shopping Centre, NE23 6YB (Next to Concordia)