

Friday Flyer

Friday 4th April 2025

Headteacher Update

Firstly, a huge thank you to everyone for supporting our recent Scholastic Book Fair! Thanks to your generosity, we raised an incredible £2,352.31, earning us an amazing £1,411.51 in rewards—all of which will go towards new books for our children. Reading is our highest academic priority in school but it is so much more than that - it is about giving children the chance to broaden their understanding of the world, escape into new adventures, explore their interests and hopefully develop a lifelong love of books. We are immensely grateful to our fantastic PTA and Mrs Larter for their hard work, dedication, and organisation in running the book fair. Your support makes a real difference!



The PTA not only host fantastic events for the children, but they also provide opportunities for parents and carers to socialise. One such event is happening tonight - the annual Ponteland Primary PTA Quiz night. The evening promises to be a lot of fun and no doubt the highlight will be the delicious food prepared by our Pele Trust chef - Richard Bell. Thank you to everyone who has bought a ticket - good luck!

Today Mrs Frame and our Arts Ambassadors have attended Newcastle University as part of our Kaleidoscope project. Our links with the university are strong as every year, Mrs Frame hosts fine art students across the Pele Trust primary schools and while they gain experience of teaching in school, our pupils benefit hugely from their talent and expertise. Long may this partnership continue.

I have included a guide below on tech-related vocabulary as this is likely an area in which the children are far more knowledgeable than we are as adults. You will also have received an attachment with a more in-depth overview of emojis which I didn't feel was appropriate for the children to see and therefore have not included in the Friday Flyer. Please take some time to read the information as it may prove useful when monitoring your child's interactions on their phone.

I am delighted to share these gorgeous pictures of Baby Tailford with you! Mr and Mrs Tailford, along with big sister Violet, welcomed Toby into the world three weeks ago and I am sure you will all agree that he is absolutely adorable.

Best wishes,

Claire Johnson



Safeguarding & wellbeing

All National Online Safety websites believe in empowering parents, carers and educators with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. Please visit nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Part of our Online Relationships Series



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www.nationalonlinesafety.com

What you need to know about... TECH RELATED COMMUNICATION



What is it?

'Tech related communication'

Language is constantly evolving. The words, phrases and even emojis used on social media have transformed how young people communicate. Many children now use memes and gifs to express how they feel and sometimes it can feel like young people are speaking a completely different language to adults. Not only are acronyms present, but words have literally changed meaning, and the use of emojis, memes and gifs have almost made technology related communication a viable alternative language.

Emojis, Memes & GIFs

Emojis

Emojis are graphic symbols that represent ideas or words. They range from smileys to quite random objects from everyday life. Whilst the meaning of most emojis are quite literal, some have been adopted to mean something else, including inappropriate themes.



Memes

A meme (pronounced "meem") is an image or an image with words used to communicate something on the internet. Due to their visual nature they stand out and are usually designed to be humorous, using well-known images that users are familiar with to help provide context around their meaning.



GIFs

Used in a similar way, GIFs are short video files that help communicate an opinion, emotion or highlight the funny side of something on the internet. These too often use well-known scenes, animations or people and can be understood without the need for sound.



Safety Tips

False sense of security

Text based communication can sometimes provide young people with a false sense of security and give them greater confidence to share something personal with someone. If sent to the wrong person, this could be shared further or lead to embarrassment or humiliation.



Impact mood

Sending written messages accompanied by emojis, memes or GIFs isn't the same as speaking to someone face to face where you can hear tone of voice and read facial expressions. It can be easy to misinterpret messages which can lead to upset, hurt or feelings of anger.



Hidden messages

Sometimes the use of emojis and GIFs can be used to hide a more serious meaning behind messages. This could be to mask an inappropriate conversation, discuss things in secret or even develop from what might be perceived as banter into a form of bullying.



REACTING TO POSTS WITH EMOJIS

REACTING TO POSTS WITH GIFS

Know the Risks

Open dialogue

Always aim to have open and honest conversations with children about the appropriateness of what they are sending through text-based communication. Messages can be screenshot, shared or misconstrued which could lead to hurt or embarrassment, so it's important to increase their awareness and understanding.

Look up text speak

If you think your child is speaking in code, using language you're unfamiliar with or might be messaging inappropriately, speak to them about it and encourage them to be open with you. If you want to check yourself, Google the terms. You should be able to find lists of emojis to do this with too.



Try to understand

Communicating via text can sometimes be a lonelier and more isolated way to communicate rather than speaking face to face. Keep an eye on your child's mood and happiness levels and if they become visibly upset or angry after a text communication, try to understand what's happened.

Our Expert Jodie Cook



Jodie Cook is one of the UK's leading authorities on social media. She is the founder of JC Social Media, an award-winning team of social media managers and trainers, and was included in Forbes' 30 under 30 social entrepreneurs in Europe 2017. Jodie has appeared on ITV News and CNBC and has worked as a social media expert for The Telegraph, New York Post and Forbes Online.





Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	98.0%	Year 3 (Pine)	98.0%
Reception (Chestnut)	97.0%	Year 4 (Alder)	94.8%
Reception (Pinecone)	97.3%	Year 4 (Yew)	98.0%
Year 1 (Holly)	97.7%	Year 5 (Oak)	94.5%
Year 1 (Ash)	97.0%	Year 5 (Beech)	96.8%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	94.3%	Year 6 (Elm)	95.0%
Year 2 (Willow)	97.7%	Year 6 (Birch)	95.0%
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?

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](#)

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!



ACCENTURE
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

This week in Nursery

This week nursery have embraced the spring weather, planting a variety of seeds in the nursery garden, the woods and even inside nursery! We look forward to watching them grow 🌻



This week in Reception

This week, we have been learning all about how to stay healthy. We practiced brushing our teeth correctly and learned the importance of doing it twice a day, using large-scale 'teeth' in the water tray. We also explored which foods help keep us healthy and which should be enjoyed as occasional treats. Finally, we discovered how exercise benefits our hearts and overall well-being.



This week in Year 1



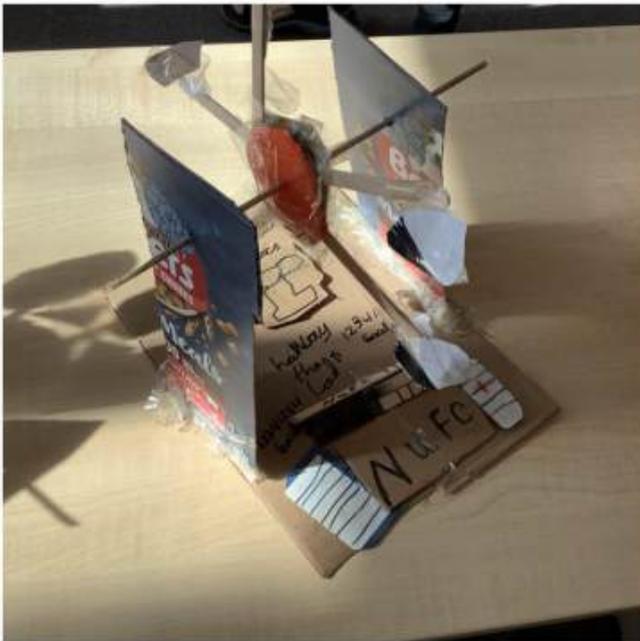
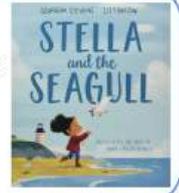
This week, Year 1 conducted some Geography Fieldwork and investigated how people use Ponteland. The children collected a tally chart of the number of people using the library, the park and also collected data of the number of cars using Callerton Lane. The children found out that Callerton Lane was the busiest area but mainly with cars travelling and some pedestrians. The park was the least busy area with only 2 people using it at that time. We thought about why so many people might be travelling along Callerton Lane.



This week in Year 2

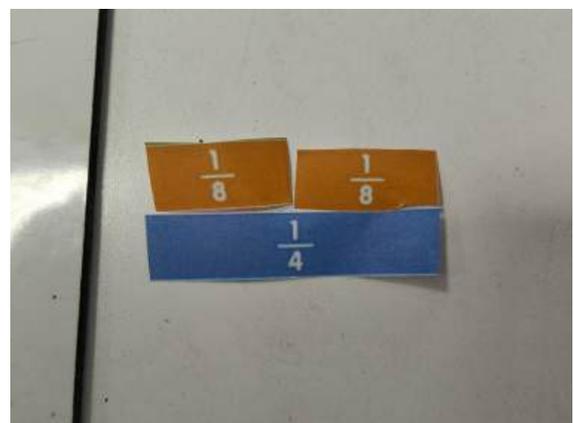
This week, we have been putting the message of Stella and the Seagull to use, as we reused old boxes to create mini model Newcastle-eyes by using axles, axles holders, wheels and frames. We also reflected on the message of Stella and the Seagull **“You’re never too small to make a big difference”**. We felt inspired by the work that children as young as 4 and 5 have

Our focus text this week has been Stella and the Seagull.



This week in Year 3

This week, Year 3 has continued working with fractions. Fractions have been a complicated concept as we have had to understand that they represent a part of a whole. We looked at fractions earlier in the half term as shapes, on number lines and as a scale. We used a fraction wall to explore and investigate different combinations of equivalent fractions. It involved a lot of resilience and a lot of logical thinking. We started by investigating fractions equivalent to a half and quickly noticed a pattern - when the numerator is half of the denominator, the fraction is $\frac{1}{2}$.



This week in Year 4

In PSHE this week, the children looked at spending and saving money and considered scenarios in which they might decide to spend money or save money. They thought about what they would like to save for in the future, and what they might like to do to earn money as an adult. This has linked well with the conversations we have had as classes following Colin the Career Bear's adventures home with some children over the past few weeks. He might pay you a visit next!

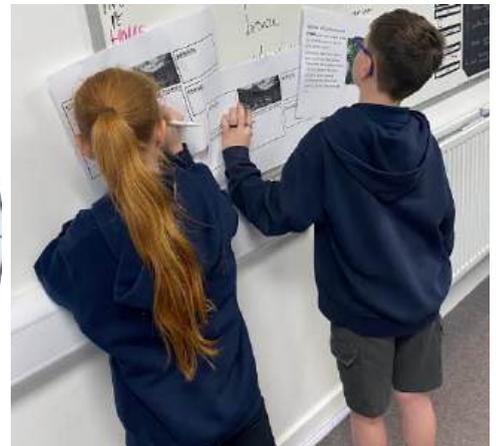
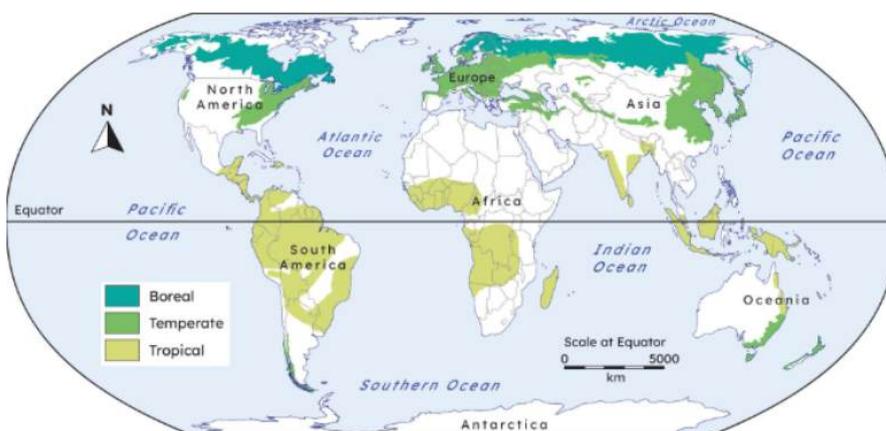


Miss Davis, Mrs Maccoy and Mrs Bell

This week in Year 5

Wood you believe it?

We continued our geography focus on natural materials by looking into the importance of Canada's boreal forests for timber production, which accounts for about 9% of the wood we use. Boreal forests are found in the northern hemisphere and have the perfect climate for coniferous trees and the wildlife that inhabit there. We understand the importance of timber production but also sustainability. In these boreal forests the trees are always replanted after they're used as it's good for the environment and it keeps habitats safe! Ask us about them - we have plenty more facts up our sleeves.



This week in Year 6

This week we have been writing our own endings to an animated story called 'Contre Temps'. This French animation is set in a peculiar underwater world where a lone man and little girl have to escape the rising water. The children wrote their own endings to the story and were full of amazing and creative ways to continue the narrative. We then spent some time editing and improving our writing. We worked in pairs to look for elements of our partner's work that we liked as well as any areas they could develop. It was great to hear the children speak so positively about their peers' work and the constructive advice they offered was invaluable.



Dates for your diary in 2025



Monday 7th April	De-escalation and dysregulation training for parents
Monday 7th April 2025	Year 5 - Woodhorn Trip (Packed lunch needed)
Tuesday 8th April 2025	Year 6 Trip - Discovery Museum (Packed lunches needed)
Tuesday 8th April 2025	Year 3 Trip - Alnwick Castle (Packed lunches needed)
Tuesday 8th April 2025	Year 2 Trip - Cragside (Packed lunches needed)
Wednesday 9th April 2025	Reception Trip - Whitehouse Farm (Packed lunches needed)
Thursday 10th April 2025	Year 1 Trip - Discovery Museum (Packed lunches needed)
Friday 11th April 2025	Year 4 Trip - Locomotion 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 item

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



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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- 2 Sign up and search for Ponteland Primary School PTA
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GROUPON



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!

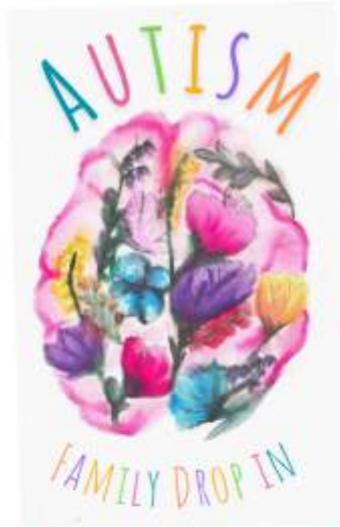
Voluntary contributions to the PTA welcomed.

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)