

Friday Flyer

Friday 6th June 2025

Headteacher Update

We've reached the final half term of the school year and it's going to be a busy one. I thought it might be helpful to share an overview of what we have to look forward to over the next few weeks so that you can plan your diaries.

We've planned sports day for much earlier this year to allow us plenty of time to reschedule should the weather hamper our plans as it did last year. Sports day for Years 4, 5 and 6 will take place on the morning of 18th June at 9.30am and Years 1, 2 and 3 will have their events in the afternoon, starting at 1.40pm.

We would also like to invite you into school for your child's end of year assembly and an opportunity to meet the teachers the children will have next academic year. The dates for each assembly are shown below and will all start by 9.15 with the exception of the Year 6 Leavers' assembly which will start at 2pm.

Reception	Friday 11th July
Year 1	Wednesday 9th July
Year 2	Tuesday 8th July
Year 3	Thursday 3rd July
Year 4	Thursday 10th July
Year 5	Friday 4th July
Year 6	Wednesday 16th July (2pm)

As advertised by the PTA, we will be holding our summer fair on Friday 20th June straight after school. Thank you so much to the fabulous volunteers who make up the PTA for the time and effort that goes into organising events such as this. They are always keen to come up with new ideas and so, at this fair, the children can look forward to a new stall called 'Soak the Teacher'! Mrs Blyth asked for volunteers in our staff meeting this week and Mr Tailford, Mrs Bell and Miss Dinning all bravely stepped up! I tentatively offered my face for the stocks but fortunately Mrs Blyth told me I have to do the raffle! The PTA have asked for children to come to school wearing non-uniform on Friday 13 June in exchange for a tombola prize and wearing sporty (own) clothes on Friday 20th June in exchange for a bottle. As ever, if children would prefer to wear school uniform that is absolutely fine and all donations are entirely voluntary - we do not check which children have brought something in and so please do not worry if you are not able to provide something.

Finally, I'm excited to share that our KS1 Kaleidoscope choir will be performing at Party in the Park this Sunday! They have worked so hard and I know they will do themselves and the school proud.

Best wishes, Claire Johnson

Safeguarding & wellbeing

A few parents have mentioned concerns to me recently around group chats on WhatsApp so I hope the guide below is helpful in supporting you to adjust settings so that your child cannot be automatically added to groups.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

WhatsApp is a free messaging service owned by Meta which allows users to send text and voice messages, make video calls, share multimedia – such as images, videos, documents and polls – and have group chats. WhatsApp messages are encrypted, meaning only the sender and the recipient can view what is sent. While this privacy may sound attractive on paper, this app comes with several associated risks that must be considered – especially for younger users.

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GROUP CHATS
Group chats let friends talk together but can pose problems for young users. They might feel excluded – like discovering events they weren't invited to. Hurtful comments can also escalate quickly, as more people join in, amplifying the impact through a wider audience.

FAKE NEWS
WhatsApp's simplicity makes sharing news quick – accurate or not. To help curb misinformation, messages forwarded over five times now show a 'Forwarded many times' label with a double arrow. This alerts users that the message isn't original and may be unreliable.

EVOLVING SCAMS
WhatsApp's popularity makes it attractive to scammers. Tactics include impersonating a child in an 'emergency' to request money, or triggering a login code, then pretending to be WhatsApp and asking for it – giving them access to private messages and personal data.

CHAT LOCK
The new 'Chat lock' feature lets users store specific messages in a separate passcode- or biometrically-protected folder. While useful for privacy, it could be misused by younger users to hide conversations or content they know parents and educators might find inappropriate, including age-restricted material.

CHANNELS
'Channels' let users follow topics anonymously, interacting only through polls or emoji reactions. However, fake channels can mimic real ones, spreading misinformation, hate speech, or phishing for personal data. WhatsApp may also collect and share channel-following info with third parties, raising privacy issues.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES
Disappearing messages help share sensitive info, but young people may wrongly assume they're fully private. Senders can opt for their message to vanish after 24 hours, 7 days, or 90 days – or for media, after one view. However, recipients can still save them by bookmarking or taking screenshots, reducing their privacy.

VISIBLE LOCATION
WhatsApp's 'live location' feature helps friends meet up or parents check a child's route home. However, anyone in a child's group chats can track their location, potentially revealing their home address or regular travel patterns to strangers.

AI INTEGRATION
Meta AI on WhatsApp poses risks to children, including exposure to misinformation, inappropriate content, and data privacy issues. AI responses may be inaccurate, and kids might share personal information unknowingly. It can also hinder critical thinking by offering ready-made answers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION
Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution. Get them to consider, for example, whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

THINK BEFORE SHARING
Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content sent to one user to then be shared more widely, and even publicly on social media. Encourage them to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS
It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. To do this, go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups'. You can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if the child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY
Have a conversation with youngsters about how they're using WhatsApp, emphasising that it's for their own safety. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of messages that are in there, who they're with and why they have been hidden. Also, if a young user has sent any 'view once' content, discuss their reasons for using this feature.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp/2025>

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 16.04.2025



Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	91.6%	Year 3 (Pine)	89.7%
Reception (Chestnut)	96.3%	Year 4 (Alder)	91.6%
Reception (Pinecone)	94.3%	Year 4 (Yew)	95.3%
Year 1 (Holly)	98.7%	Year 5 (Oak)	92.6%
Year 1 (Ash)	99.0%	Year 5 (Beech)	85.5%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	94.3%	Year 6 (Elm)	98.7%
Year 2 (Willow)	92.7%	Year 6 (Birch)	97.0%
Year 3 (Maple)	93.2%	Whole school Cumulative from Sept	95.7%

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](#)

★ TRAIN TO TEACH WITH ★

Northumbria Teacher Training in School @



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Join our highly regarded, school-centred teacher training programme, accredited by Northumbria University and start your journey towards becoming a confident capable and successful teacher.

Our Course:

We are a very supportive training course that helps you towards your goal of becoming a qualified teacher.

- School-based training, in main placement school from September
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- Weekly training days with expert-led workshops
- Continuous support and development through observations, feedback and assignments
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What we offer:

A PGCE (Primary) accredited by Northumbria University

Two training routes:

- Primary 3-7 years
- Primary 5-11 years

Training in schools across the Pele Trust in Ponteland.

Entry Requirements:

- A degree (preferably 2:1 or above – a 2:2 is considered)
- GCSEs at grade C/4 or above in English, Maths and Science
- School experience is desirable but not essential – contact us to arrange a visit

Trainee Testimonials:

"This has been a fantastic experience, allowing me to feel equipped and ready to be a primary school teacher."

– M. Thomas

"The support from staff and pupils has been excellent. This is the best way to get into teaching." – A. Cragg



Contact us:

Alistair McCourt
alistair.mccourt@pbschool.uk
Lynn Blain
l.blain@peletrust.org.uk

Apply Now:

3-7 years course:

<https://www.find-postgraduate-teacher-training.service.gov.uk/course/16S/Q718>

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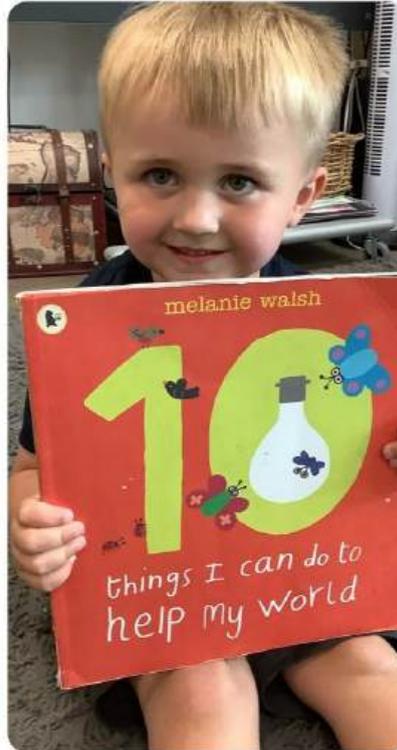
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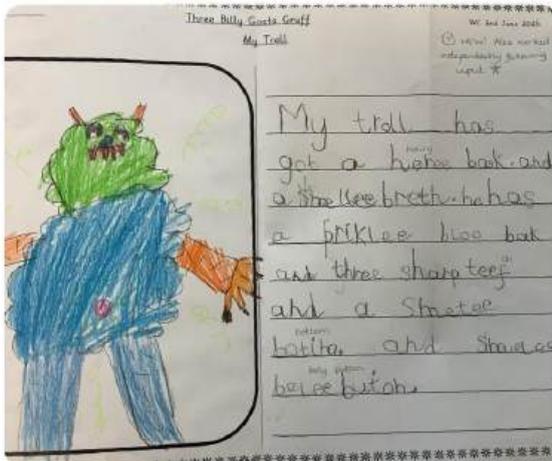
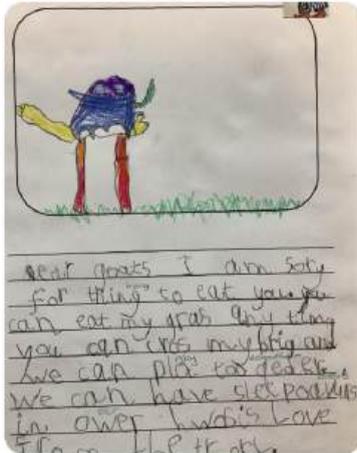
This week in Nursery

This week we have explored our core text 10 Things I can do to help my world. We then looked at the recycling symbol before identifying it on packaging, we were very happy to see lots of recycling logos on most of our packaging!



This week in Reception

Our final story from our core text 'Yummy' has been 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' and we have enjoyed designing our own trolls and thinking of adjectives to describe them. We have been super engineers and built bridges using lego, duplo, wooden blocks and even spaghetti and marshmallows. It was really tricky to make sure that the spaghetti didn't snap but we all persevered and had lots of fun! We have been fantastic storytellers whilst acting out the story and we have written sorry letters to the goats from the troll!



This week in Year 1

This week in Year 1, the children have been exploring common plants in the local area as part of their Science learning. They named some wild plants such as buttercups and daisies by identifying their key features. Then the children went to the woods to see if they could identify the plants in our woodland environment. They spotted a dock plant, oak tree and horse chestnut tree but didn't find any dandelions.



Mrs Rogers and Miss Storey

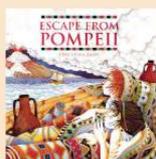
This week in Year 3

Welcome to summer 2! Recently, year 3 has been learning a little bit more about pitch and pitch patterning. We have been recognising how pitch in a piece of music can change. Mrs Whigham uses her hand in singing assembly to demonstrate pitch - we continued to practice this strategy in class to learn a short song. We know that music is written by using notes and a staff, so we are working on our knowledge of music notation by using blocks.

We used the song and knowledge from last half term to show music notation using cubes and were able to follow this to recall the song. Over the coming weeks, we will look forward to creating our own notations and using chime bars to perform our own melodies.



This half term,
we are
exploring the
text 'Escape
from Pompeii'
by Christina
Balit.



This week in Year 4

This week we have been exploring Greek culture. We have discussed the differences and similarities between Greek and British clothing, traditions, dancing and our particular favourite- food! We had the opportunity to try Greek foods such as olives, tzatziki, pitta and feta. We discussed what we liked and didn't like about the different foods. We created our own Greek menus based on the items we liked the best! Yamas!



Miss Davis, Mrs Maccoy and Mrs Bell

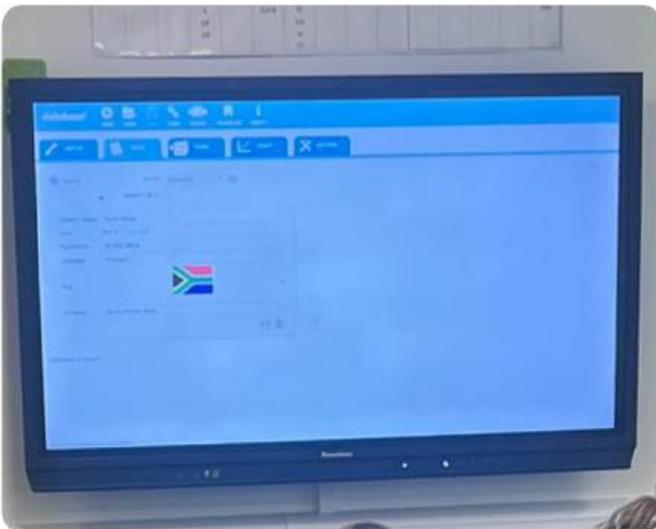
This week in Year 5

Crunching the Data(bases)

This term in ICT, Y5 have been diving into the world of databases.

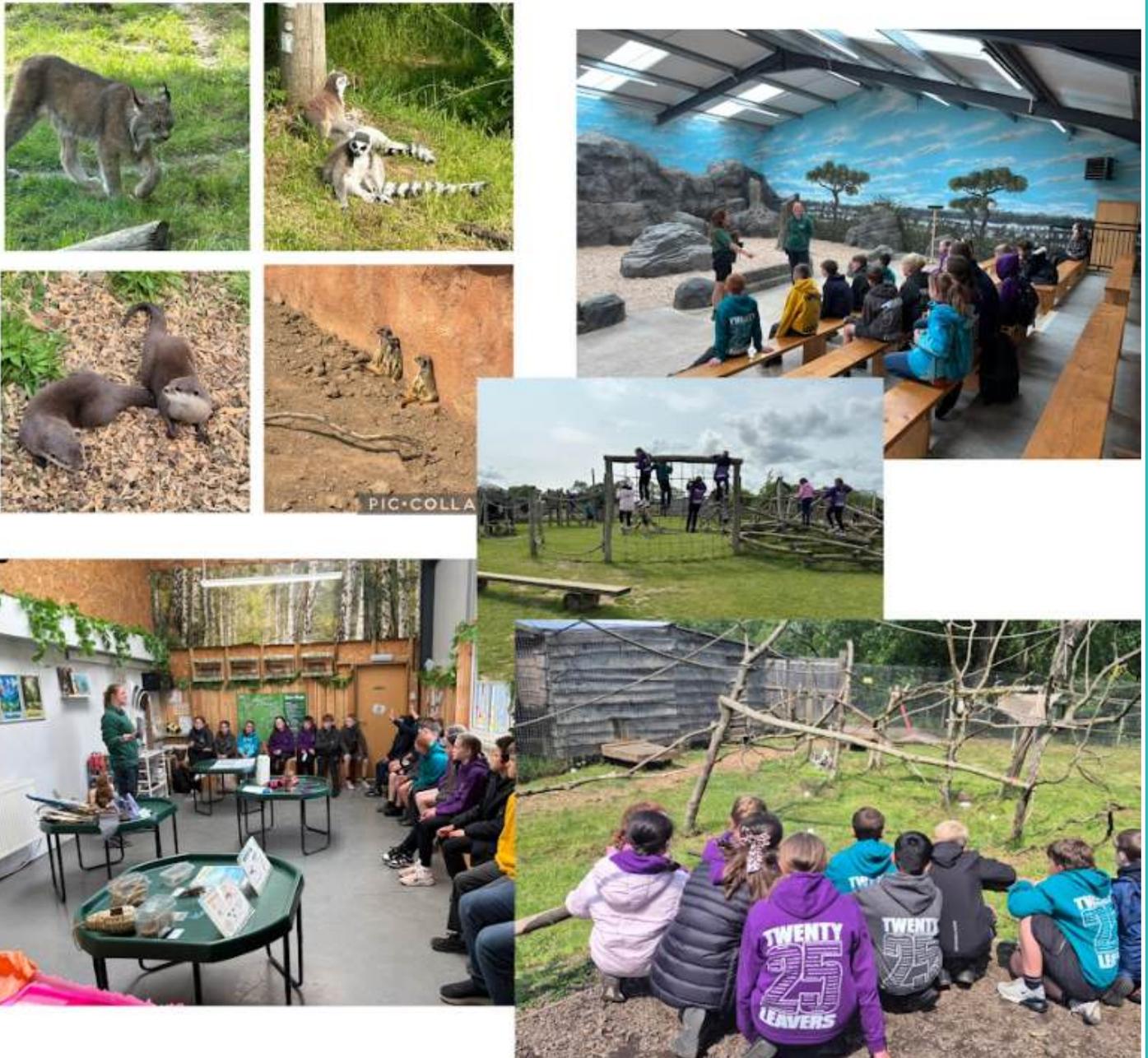
This week, they explored two different ones—one about minibeasts and another about countries. They discovered what fields and records are—no, not fields to run around in, but bits of information! They also learned how to sort data to find what they're looking for without getting lost in a sea of numbers.

To test their new skills, the children challenged each other with tricky questions, using their database knowledge to sort and search like pros. It was a fun way to sharpen their ICT skills.



This week in Year 6

This week, Year 6 enjoyed a fantastic day out at Northumberland Zoo. We enjoyed a private birds of prey show, took part in a workshop about how to be a zoo keeper and gathered information about the conservation status and classification of the animals in the zoo. Lots of the children said it has been one of the highlights of the year so far, and the staff would agree!



Miss Allan and Mr Orme

Dates for your diary in 2025



11th June 2025	Class Photo Day
13th June 2025	Dress Down Day - for donation for childrens / adults fair tombola
18th June 2025	Sports Day - Years 4/5/6 - 9.30am start. Gates open 9.15am. Sports Day - Years 1/2/3 - 1.40pm start. Gates open 1.30pm.
20th June 2025	Dress Down Day - for donation for our adults bottle pull - Sporty clothes
20th June 2025	Summer Fair 3.15pm to 5.00pm
25th June 2025	Year 1 Trip - Gibside Trip (Packed lunches needed)
27th June 2025	Year 2 Trip - Beamish (Packed lunches needed)
23rd - 27th June 2025	Year 6 France Trip
1st July 2025	International Joke Day - £1 per entry winner announced for best joke
3rd July 2025	Year 3 assembly and information meeting with Yr 4 teachers - 9.15am
4th July 2025	Year 5 assembly and information meeting with teachers - 9.15am
8th July 2025	Year 2 assembly and information meeting with Yr 3 teachers - 9.15am
9th July 2025	Year 5 Movie night after school
9th July 2025	Year 1 assembly and information meeting with Yr 2 teachers - 9.15am
10th July 2025	Year 4 assembly and information meeting with Yr 5 teachers - 9.15am
11th July 2025	Reception Assembly and information meeting with Yr 1 teachers - 9.15am
Sat 12th July 2025	Wine & Cheese Tasting. Parents/Carers only. £25 per ticket. St Mary's Church Hall.
16th July 2025	Year 6 leavers assembly - 2pm
18th July 2025	Last School Day. Close at 1.30pm
1st September 2025	Teacher Training Day
2nd September 2025	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

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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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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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**



