

Friday Flyer

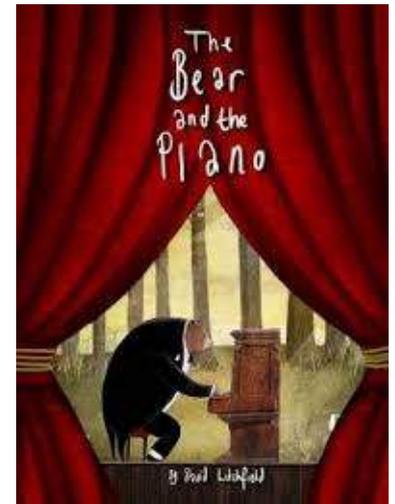
Friday 7th March 2025

Headteacher Update

I make no secret of the fact that I LOVE reading and nothing makes me happier than seeing children with their heads in a book so yesterday, celebrating World Book Day, was a real joy. We were keen to repeat the success of last year's 'Drop Everything and Read' and so Mrs McCaffery made an announcement over the tannoy and children from Years 1 to 6 moved across school in different groups to different teachers for a surprise storytime. Early Years did not miss out as they had their older siblings visit to read to them which, as you can see from the photos, felt very special.



Every year we choose one beautiful picture book as a focus for the whole school and our choice this year was David Litchfield's 'The Bear and the Piano'. The book explores ideas such as belonging, overcoming fears and celebrating strengths and it has inspired some rich discussion and excellent work in all year groups. The Bear and the Piano is part of a trilogy so if the story has captured your child's imagination, there are two more books to enjoy.



We started the week with an assembly dedicated to books and it was so lovely to hear the buzz about reading as children talked about their favourite stories. In my office I have a huge selection of picture books, novels and non-fiction books which the children are free to come and borrow at any time: Mrs Johnson's Sharing Books. Rose and Molly in Year 6 had made a particular request for a series of books by Noah Streatfield and so we purchased them and recommended them to the rest of KS2 and already lots of the books have been borrowed. Other children made recommendations in assembly, from Percy Jackson to the Rainbow Fairies, and I've had a flurry of visitors all week coming to take books home. Long may this love of reading last!

This morning the winners of the PTA competition to design a book front cover were announced; not an easy task given the incredible standard and sheer quantity of entries - well over two hundred children designed book covers and wrote accompanying stories, whether a recall of an actual book or something from their own imagination. The winner from each year group has received a £5 voucher to spend next week at our Scholastic book fair.





Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	87.8%	Year 3 (Pine)	93.3%
Reception (Chestnut)	99.2%	Year 4 (Alder)	95.2%
Reception (Pinecone)	97.5%	Year 4 (Yew)	96.7%
Year 1 (Holly)	95.8%	Year 5 (Oak)	96.4%
Year 1 (Ash)	99.2%	Year 5 (Beech)	95.7%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	86.3%	Year 6 (Elm)	95.4%
Year 2 (Willow)	95.8%	Year 6 (Birch)	94.2%
Year 3 (Maple)	100%	Whole school Cumulative from Sept	95.9%

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

Safeguarding & wellbeing

20 is plenty!

Children who read for
20 minutes a day...



Will have a world of
imagination & creativity
opened to them



Will have better
general knowledge



Will be exposed to 1.8
million words a year



Will improve critical
thinking skills



Will improve their
communication skills



Will have a broad
vocabulary



Will have reduced
stress levels



Will learn how to
develop empathy



Will improve their test
results



Ways a Parent Can Help with **READING**

1

Let your child see you reading!

Have magazines and books in your home.

2

Help your child find appropriate word & reading games on the computer.

Keep a dictionary on hand. Help your child look up new words they read or hear.

3

Read mysteries with your child and try to figure out the clues together.

4

Movie version coming out?

Read the book together first, then talk about which you each liked better.

5

Set aside a time and place for your child to read -

like a comfy chair and a reading light in a quiet place

6

Visit your public library regularly.

Look for and read together the books that were your favorites when you were a kid.

7

Encourage your child to write -

letters, thank you notes, emails, journals, lists, stories about their own trips, events, and daily life

8

Ask your child questions about what he or she is reading, such as:

- What is the story about?
- Who are the important characters in the story?
- Where does the story take place?
- Why do you think the character made that choice?
- Why did that happen?
- How did you know about...?
- Would you recommend this book to your friends?

9

Ask your child to draw a comic strip about what happens in the story.

Provide word searches, crossword and other word games and puzzles, or help your child make his/her own



Share with your child about what you're reading... and encourage your child to do the same

This week in Nursery

Over the past few weeks in nursery we have been celebrating different careers and the people in our community. We have had visits from builders, doctors, a nurse, a dentist, a footballer, a pilot, a vet nurse and even the firefighters and their engine. We also enjoyed stories in Portuguese by two of our parents. We can now sing some of our welcome song in Portuguese, obrigado! Thank you to all of our special visitors, Acorn class are very lucky!



PIC • COLLAGE

This week in Reception

The children have returned to school full of enthusiasm and what a fun packed week it has been! We focused on the text Mr Wolf's Pancakes, linking this to our school value of kindness. We have written shopping lists and recipes and of course we have had so much fun making and eating our pancakes! We also had a wonderful World Book Day yesterday, the highlight being our older children visiting to read to us.



This week in Year 1



This week in Geography, the children were looking at their environment and explored the school grounds. They collected data about which area of the yard was the most popular for children to play on. They used a tally to collect data and reflected on their own preferences too.



We also enjoyed celebrating reading during World Book Day and sharing our favourite stories.



Mrs Rogers and Miss Storey

This week in Year 2

To celebrate World Book Day, we have been sharing our favourite stories from home. We enjoyed sharing books with each other and we all learned about friendship from **The Bear and The Piano**. We also began to discover our new class book, **Stella and the Seagull** by Georgina Stevens.

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

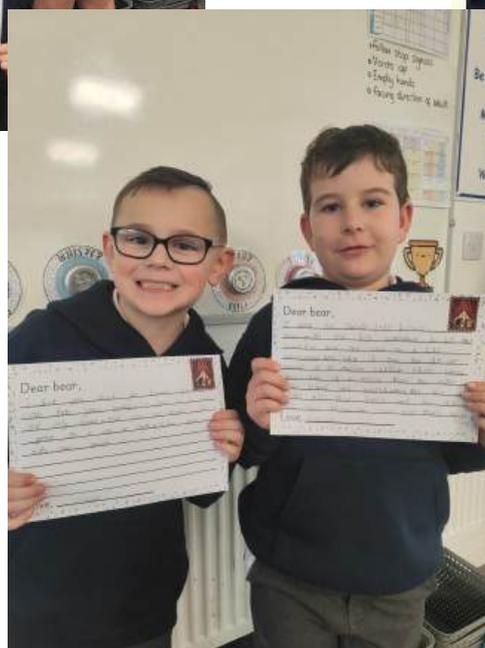
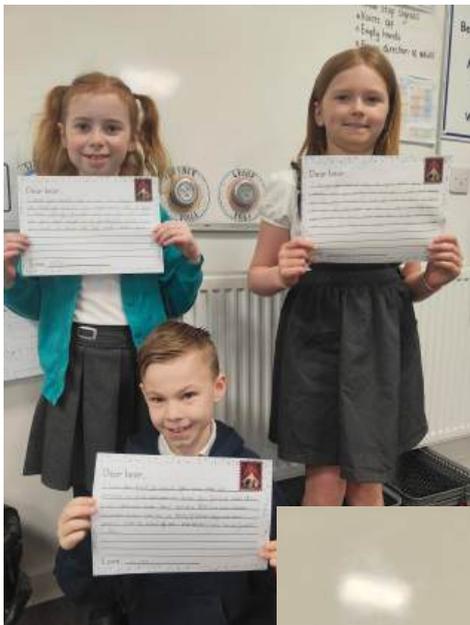


PIC•COLLAGE

This week in Year 3

This week has been busy. It has also been 'Careers Week' so we have had a lot of focus on different jobs and 'careers' people might choose. We started the week with a visit from Michael from Cushman and Wakefield who talked to us about his role as a Supply Chain Manager. He informed us of what life was like in his role, the skills he needed and we even had the chance to try and consider what might be involved by thinking about the Supply Chain that is created when we purchase items that come from different countries. We have also taken the time to read lots of picture books which have encouraged us to think about different roles, skills and aspirations. One in particular for World Book Day was the Bear and the Piano. We read the story and found the bear was torn between following the career of his dreams or staying with family so we wrote postcards to the bear offering him some advice.

In line with careers, Colin our Career Bear will begin making his way home. Please take time to answer the questions in the book with your child around your career.



This week in Year 4

We have loved reading *The Bear and the Piano* as part of World Book Day. The story was about a bear who learnt to play the piano and became famous by hitting the big city. Later in the story, he returned to his roots and discovered that his friends hadn't actually forgotten him or who he was, but showed great pride in his achievements. We discussed the moral of the story and what advice we would give to the bear in his position. We wrote a postcard from the bear's perspective and shared our ideas. We had a great World Book Day, ask us about 'Drop Everything and Read', when we get home!



Miss Davis, Mrs Maccoy and Mrs Bell

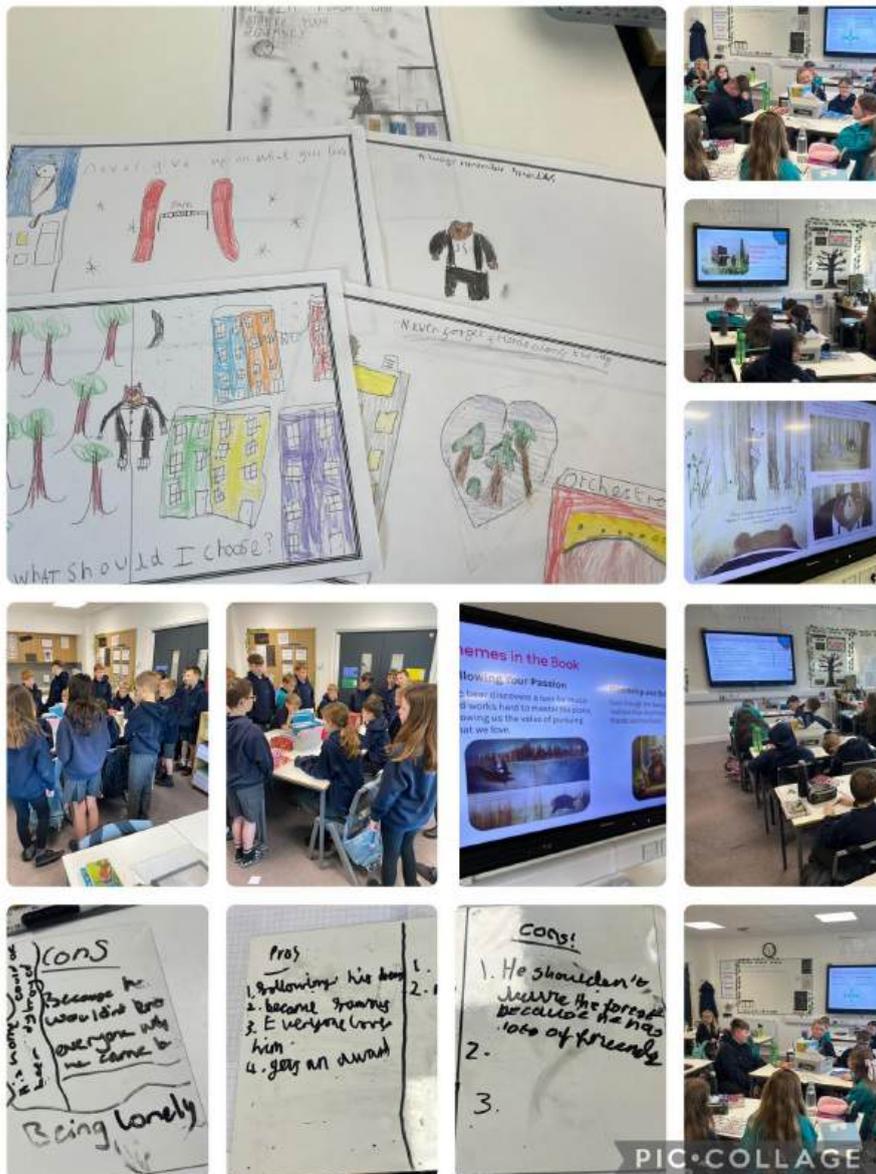
This week in Year 5

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

This week, we spent World Book Day reading the whole school text, *The Bear and the Piano*. The story follows a bear who mysteriously comes across a piano in the forest and tries to play it. The bear then becomes quite the player and goes on a journey to showcase his skills. We explored its themes of friendship and belonging, pursuing our passions, and valuing home.

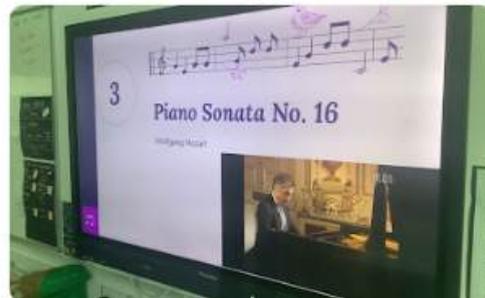
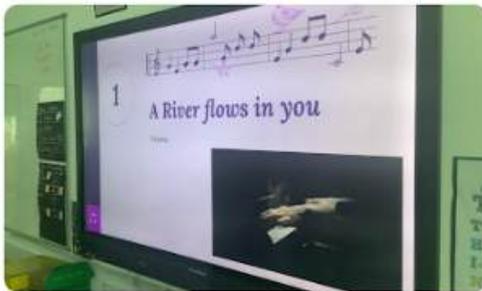
We practised our oracy skills, debating whether the bear should have left the forest or stayed with his friends. While some shared their thoughts, others listened and provided a summary of what they heard.

The children really enjoyed the book. Take a look at the things we did:



This week in Year 6

Year 6 loved exploring our whole school World Book Day text, *The Bear and the Piano*. We started by making predictions from the front cover and used our oracy skills to build upon and respectfully challenge each other's ideas. After reading the story, we discussed the theme of 'belonging' and the importance of having a support system of family and friends around you. We then thought about the power of music and how listening to a particular piece can transport you to another place and time. Finally, we illustrated our thoughts when listening to four well known piano pieces.



Miss Allan and Mr Orme

Dates for your diary in 2025



Thurs 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)
Monday 7th April 2025	Year 5 - Woodhorn Trip
Tuesday 8th April 2025	Yr6 Trip - Discovery Museum (Packed lunches needed)
Weds 9th April 2025	YR Trip - Whitehouse Farm (Packed lunches needed)
Fri 11th April 2025	Yr4 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 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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ebay

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GROUPON



TUI

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LEWIS



vikings

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!

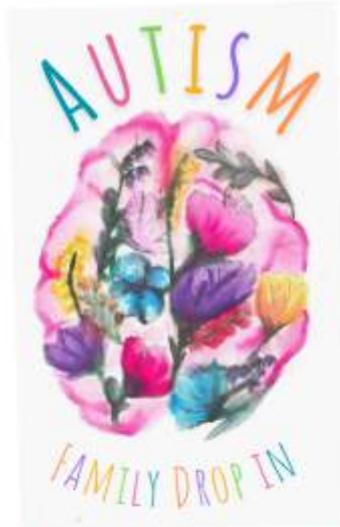
Voluntary contributions to the PTA welcomed.

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)