

Friday Flyer

Friday 7th November 2025

Headteacher Update

Many of you who have popped into the main entrance this week will have spotted our brand new Admin Assistant, Amy Usher. Amy brings with her a wealth of administrative experience and that has already been very apparent as she has picked up our school systems in no time!

One of the things I'm very conscious of in terms of safeguarding the children is the fact we have a busy carpark on site and that presents a number of hazards. This week in assembly, I worked with the children in Years 4 - 6 to recognise what those hazards may be and how we can navigate them safely. One of the dangers we explored was around being on mobile phones when walking through the carpark. I've tried to impress upon the children how important it is that they don't look at their phones when crossing through the carpark and I would be very grateful if you could reinforce this at home. As ever, I would urge everyone to be mindful of the many children accessing the carpark as you drive in and out and ask you to drive as carefully as possible.

We have also considered our use of the play park this week and looked at how we can access it in a way which is respectful of the different ages who play in there. I shared with the children that sadly some of our younger pupils have become afraid of playing in the park as some of our older children kick a football around inside the park. The children have agreed that they will play football outside of the park on the grassy area - please could you remind them if they begin to venture back inside with a football.

We've moved to our winter offer for OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) which means the field is now closed at lunchtime and the Zen Zone is open. The climbing frames and digging area will remain open and so the children will need their waterproofs and wellies to access the activities so please remind them to bring them into school.

Finally, next week is looking very busy! It is national Anti-Bullying Week and we will be starting off our anti-bullying work with Odd Socks Day on Monday when **the children are invited to wear odd socks** in recognition of how our differences are to be celebrated. The School Council has met today to look at our child-friendly anti-bullying policy and next week the reps will relaunch the policy with their classes. It is also Children in Need on Friday and we will be raising the profile of the charity's work by learning a special school-friendly Strictly Come Dancing routine in classes which we will perform together as a whole school in Friday's assembly. We're **not** asking the children to wear non-uniform on Friday but they are very welcome to wear an **optional Pudsey or spotty accessory with their school uniform** if they would like. We will also be marking Remembrance Day at the start of the week and there are poppies available in school to purchase if you wish. I always enjoy seeing lots of our children in the Ponteland Remembrance Day parade and will look out for them this Sunday.

I hope everyone enjoys a restful weekend.

Claire Johnson

Safeguarding & wellbeing

Mrs Wright often receives requests for support around sleep and so this workshop may be of interest to lots of parents - good sleep is, of course, the holy grail of parenting isn't it!

Is your child struggling with sleep?



*For children and young people aged between 4-25 years

- Understanding sleep cycles
- Causes of sleep issues
- The importance of sleep
- What you can do to support your child to sleep better

Virtual Sleep Workshop

Delivered **virtually** over one session.

Tuesday 25th of November 4:30pm - 6:30pm

Wednesday 17th December 10am - 12pm

Visit our website

http://



nland.cc/familyhubs



Friends of Ponteland Primary School Update

Well done to Sophia who won the Halloween scavenger hunt and to Grace who was the lucky recipient of the Autumn hamper!



Thank you as always to our fabulous Friends of PPS for all the work that went into these initiatives - through your fundraising you are making such a difference to our pupils' experience of school.

Children in Need - Friday 14th November

School will be supporting *Children in Need* next Friday, 14th November. To celebrate, we are inviting children to come to school in their **usual uniform**, paired with some *spotty accessories*! This could include a hairband, clips, cap or hat, socks or tights, Pudsey merchandise **or** anything else creative and fun! Spotty accessories would be lovely but they are definitely optional and don't have to be worn.

A suggested donation of **£1** would be greatly appreciated to support this wonderful cause.

This year's theme is "*Challenge Yourself!*", so on Friday the whole school will also be putting their **Strictly** steps to the test by taking on a fun and challenging dance routine!





Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	94.2%	Year 3 (Pine)	98.8%
Reception (Chestnut)	96.3%	Year 4 (Alder)	93.1%
Reception (Pinecone)	92.5%	Year 4 (Yew)	93.3%
Year 1 (Holly)	94.2%	Year 5 (Oak)	95.2%
Year 1 (Ash)	99.6%	Year 5 (Beech)	100%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	97.9%	Year 6 (Elm)	94.0%
Year 2 (Willow)	91.7%	Year 6 (Birch)	90.1%
Year 3 (Maple)	95.4%	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](#)

This week in Nursery

Nursery have come back to school excited and ready to explore, sharing stories from Halloween and enjoying bonfire night celebrations both in class and in the woods. We enjoyed hot chocolate, chocolate sparklers and watching Mrs Wilds light a real sparkler.



This week in Reception

The children have returned to school full of enthusiasm and our week has been all about celebrations with a focus on Bonfire night. We learned the story of the gunpowder plot and created some beautiful firework art. We finished our week with a fire in the forest where we made our own chocolate sparklers!



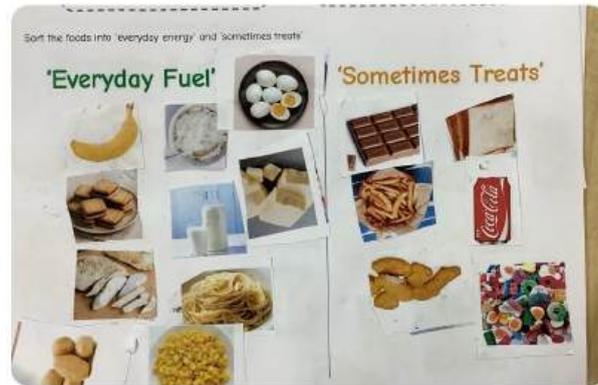
This week in Year 1

Year 1 have had a brilliant first week back at school learning about The Gunpowder Plot and creating lovely descriptive poetry around fireworks. They worked together using, using their senses, to gather a word bank of adjectives and used this to create their own senses poems. We have used our oracy skills to rehearse and perform the Gunpowder Plot story, listening to each other and giving constructive feedback. We have shared our opinions on this historic event and given our reasons, showing that we agree or disagree with our friends' ideas too. In History we have been looking at Ponteland in the past compared to Ponteland now. I wonder if your child can tell you any facts about the buildings in Ponteland?



This week in Year 2

Year 2 have been learning about how to keep their minds and bodies healthy this week as part of their Science and PSHE learning. We talked about the benefits of exercise and carried out an enquiry into how our heart rate increases when we exercise. We talked about sleep and how important it is, thinking about what helps us get a good night's sleep and what doesn't. We also looked at the healthy eating plate and the importance of a balanced diet. We sorted foods into 'everyday fuels' and 'sometimes treats'. We understand that these all impact our mind and body and know the importance of all three.

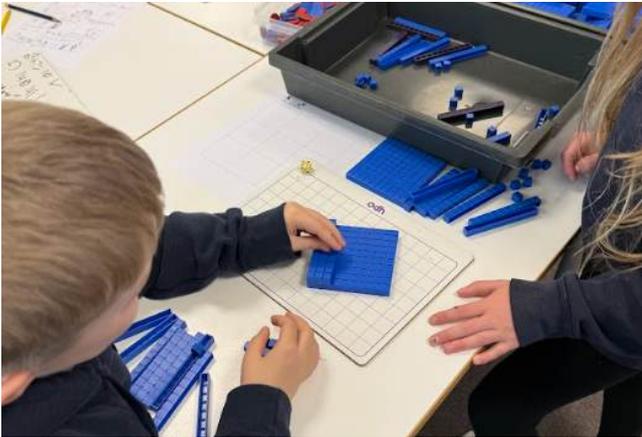


Exercise	Did your heart rate increase?	Did you your body feel anything else?
Walking	yes a little	Legs moving
Star jumps	yes a lot	tired arms and l
Stretching	yes a little	pulling on muscle
Running	yes a lot	out of breath



This week in Year 3

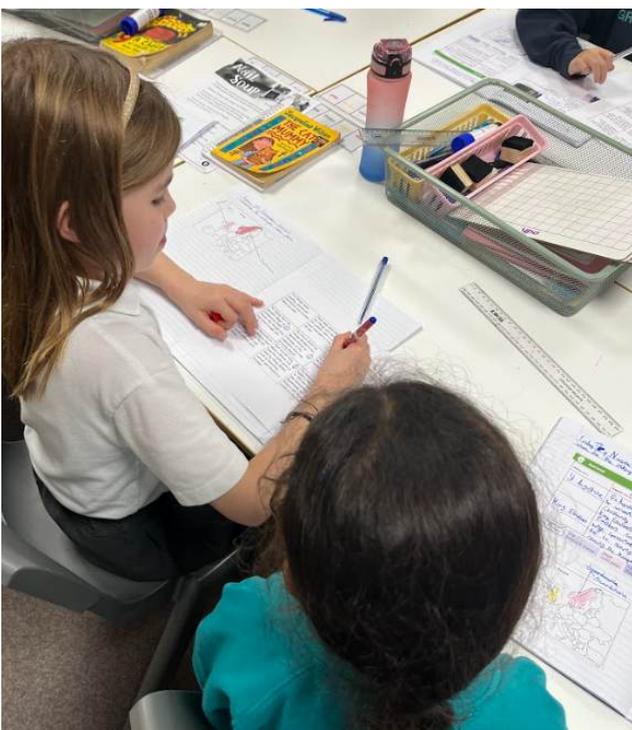
Year 3 had a great first week back after the break! We dove straight back into our maths work, continuing to build our skills in column addition by focusing on calculations that involve exchanges. In Science, the class began an exciting new topic all about magnets and forces; the children were absolutely fascinated and eager to learn more about how different materials interact. We also started exploring different types of settlements in Geography. It's been a fantastic start to the half term, and we're looking forward to all the learning and activities ahead!



This week in Year 4

Year 4 have settled back brilliantly after the half-term break and have made a fantastic start to the new term. We are diving straight into our exciting new History topic: the Vikings!

We kicked off our learning by tackling a big historical question: Were the Vikings invaders, settlers or a combination of both? The children engaged in a very thoughtful discussion and shared some excellent initial ideas. We are looking forward to exploring this fascinating era further!



This week in Year 5

Work Hard, Play Bard

This week, Year 5 immersed themselves in the captivating world of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*!

They explored the intense drama of the story, not just by reading, but by bringing it to life with freeze-frame acting. This activity helped them understand the emotions and pivotal moments of the play by physically embodying the characters. Furthermore, they engaged in lively discussions to uncover the motives and complex relationships that drive the tragedy, analysing the characters' choices.

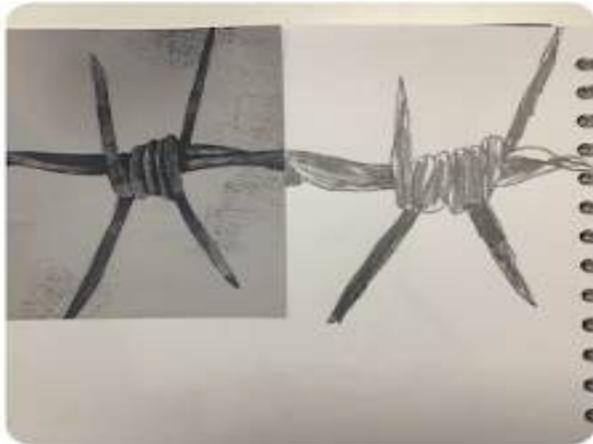
Finally, the children became literary detectives, closely examining how play scripts differ from other forms of text, learning about stage directions, character lists, and dialogue formatting, a key skill in understanding dramatic literature. Well done, Year 5, for your brilliant work on this timeless classic!



Mr McCourt and Mr Tailford

This week in Year 6

To coincide with our new class text, *Yellow Butterfly*, year 6 have begun their new art topic looking at printmaking. The children will be asked to consider the symbolism of the book, which has no words, and what these images mean to the reader. They began by experimenting with shading and mark making to mimic some of the dark and brooding images they saw in *Yellow Butterfly*. The children used feathered lines, varying pressure and the contrast between light and dark in their sketchbooks.



Dates for your diary in 2025



10th & 11th November 2025	Parents Evening for Year 2 - Willow class only
Wc 17th November 2025	PTA Scholastic Book Fair all week
Tue 25th November 2025	Yr6 Woodhorn Trip (Packed Lunches Needed)
Wed 26th November 2025	Individual Photo Day
Thur 27th November 2025	PTA Wreath Making Evening. Save the Date! More info to follow.
Fri 28th November 2025	Winner of Charlotte Tilbury Raffle revealed
Friday 5th December 2025	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
Wed 10th December 2025	Year 3 & Year 4 - Christmas Performance - 9.15am Year 1 & Year 2 - Christmas Performance - 2pm
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
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



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BOOK NOW >>

Thursday 11th September 12:30-2:30pm

Wednesday 15th October 10:30-12:30pm



Visit our website
<http://nland.cc/familyhubs>

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



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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 easyfundraising

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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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GROUPON

Argos

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



