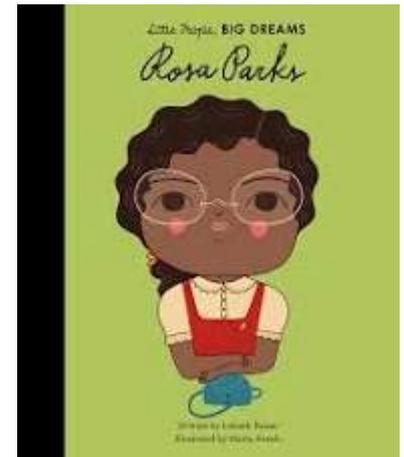


# Friday Flyer

Friday 10th October 2025

## Headteacher Update

October marks Black History Month in the UK and this is an important event in our school calendar. Our assemblies at the start of the week focused on why it is both necessary and important to shine a light on Black history: the contributions of the Black community have often been missed out of the history books of the past and so Black History Month gives us an opportunity to address that imbalance and to celebrate some of the inspirational Black and Brown people who have shaped the world. Through the book 'Little People, Big Dreams', years 1 to 3 explored the story of Rosa Parks whose brave act of refusing to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama in 1955, eventually led to the US Supreme Court ruling that bus segregation was unconstitutional. Years 4 to 6 also learned about Rosa Parks when we attended Sanctuary Foundation's Big Live Assembly, along with 308,000 other school children. There is a worrying rise in racist incidents in society and, as a school, we share Sanctuary Foundation's desire to respond with hope and compassion, helping children grow in understanding and kindness. Across the month, we will focus our oracy work on learning about and discussing Black and Brown people who used their voice to make a difference and in doing so, empower the children to use their own voice for change.



*"To this day I believe we are here on earth to live, grow, and do what we can to make this world a better place for all people to enjoy freedom."* Rosa Parks

In our music assembly this week we had fabulous flute demonstrations from Heidi, Immy and Phoebe. They were incredibly brave to play in front of such a large audience and they blew the audience's socks off! Well done girls! Remember, if your child would like to sign up to play a musical instrument there are still places available!

Next week, we are looking forward to inviting our **reception parents and carers** to our Harvest Festival on Wednesday morning at 9.15am. Reception, Y1 and Y2 have been practising and you are in for a treat! Please see below for items requested by The People's Kitchen.

Best wishes,

Claire Johnson



## Harvest Donations

We are delighted to be supporting The People's Kitchen again this year. Their wishlist for donations is below, please send these items to school on Monday or Tuesday next week.

Thank you for your generosity.

**THE PEOPLE'S  
KITCHEN** est. 1985  
NEWCASTLE

HOW YOU CAN HELP  
THE PEOPLE'S KITCHEN

Our work is only made possible thanks to your kindness and generosity. The People's Kitchen is run entirely by volunteers so every penny donated goes directly to helping our vulnerable Friends who might be homeless, at risk, unemployed, lonely, or living in poverty.

FOOD FRIENDSHIP FUTURES



Items we need	Examples
<b>Tinned Vegetables</b>	Chopped Tomatoes, Peas, Carrots, Sweetcorn, Potatoes, Baked Beans
<b>Tinned Fruit</b>	Peaches, Pineapples, Fruit Cocktail, Pears
<b>Soup</b>	Tinned or Instant: Vegetable, Tomato, Chicken, Broth, Lentil, Potato & Leek
<b>Cooking/ Baking Ingredients</b>	Sugar, Self-Raising Flour, Plain Flour, Jam, Desiccated Coconut, Cocoa, Porridge Oats, Dried Fruit, Cooking Oil, Lentils, Broth, Pulses (Chickpeas, Kidney Beans, Butter Beans)
<b>Snacks</b>	Pot Noodles, Crisps, Biscuits, Chocolate, Sweets
<b>Drinks</b>	UHT Milk, Coffee, Tea, Instant Hot Chocolate, Cartons of Juice, Fruit Squash
<b>Desserts</b>	Rice Pudding, Angel Delight, Evaporated Milk, Golden Syrup
<b>Tinned Meat</b>	Ham, Corned Beef, Chilli, Curry, Minced Beef, Stewing Steak
<b>Cooking Sauces</b>	Indian, Thai, Chinese, Italian, Mexican, Coconut Milk
<b>Condiments</b>	Tomato Ketchup, Brown Sauce, Salt, Pepper
<b>Pasta &amp; Rice</b>	Lasagne, Egg Noodles, Rice
<b>Stock and Gravy</b>	Vegetarian, Beef, Chicken and Onion
<b>Toiletries</b>	Soap, Deodorant, Shampoo, Conditioner, Shower Gel, Razors, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Toilet Roll
<b>Cleaning/Other</b>	Washing Up Liquid, Washing Powder, Spare Carrier Bags
<b>Pet Food</b>	Dog and Cat Wet and Dry Food

## Safeguarding & wellbeing

The [NSPCC](#) has some useful information to support parents when talking to their children about racism and being anti-racist:



### How to talk to children about racism

Children and young people may have seen images and stories in the news about race and racism.

Some children might not fully understand the stories and they may have questions. It's important to encourage positive and open conversations about race and racism with children and young people.

- Have conversations about this often, not just when it's in the news.
- Keep the conversation going and let children know it's OK to ask questions.
- Encourage children to understand the lived experience of ethnically minoritised groups better.
- Discuss social media, read books or watch shows together that deal with racism or stereotypes
- Let them know they can come to you or their teachers if they're confused or have specific worries

### When people talk about being anti-racist, it includes:

- Listening to people who experienced racism and accepting what they say as truth.
- Calling out racism and discrimination wherever you see it and using your own privilege to draw attention to it.
- Continuing to learn about inequality and how it affects others.
- Regularly assessing your own thoughts about racism and discrimination.
- Passing on what you learn to those around you, including family, friends and colleagues.

### Encourage children to appreciate diversity

Encourage conversation, understanding and empathy with people who are different from them.  
Help children to notice race and racial difference and appreciate it.

### Let children know:

- We aren't all the same and the world would be a very boring place if we were all the same.
- We can learn from people with different backgrounds and cultures.
- The human race is diverse and that is a good thing.



### Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	92.3%	Year 3 (Pine)	96.7%
Reception (Chestnut)	96.7%	Year 4 (Alder)	95.5%
Reception (Pinecone)	98.0%	Year 4 ( Yew)	93.7%
Year 1 (Holly)	93.0%	Year 5 (Oak)	94.2%
Year 1 (Ash)	95.2%	Year 5 (Beech)	98.7%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	98.7%	Year 6 (Elm)	98.1%
Year 2 (Willow)	91.7%	Year 6 (Birch)	90.7%
Year 3 (Maple )	91.3%	Whole school Cumulative from Sept	96.8%

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

After a weekend collecting Autumn treasures with our parents, we brought them into class and shared them with our friends. We then used these items to make autumn prints, making lots of different patterns.



## This week in Reception

We had our first Reception fire in the forest this afternoon. Before we went to the woods we learned about how to stay safe around the fire, how to kneel in the respect position and to always use the hand with our fire glove on to hold our skewers. The children were brilliant and remembered all of the rules; they were delighted to toast giant marshmallows on the fire and of course to eat them!



## This week in Year 1

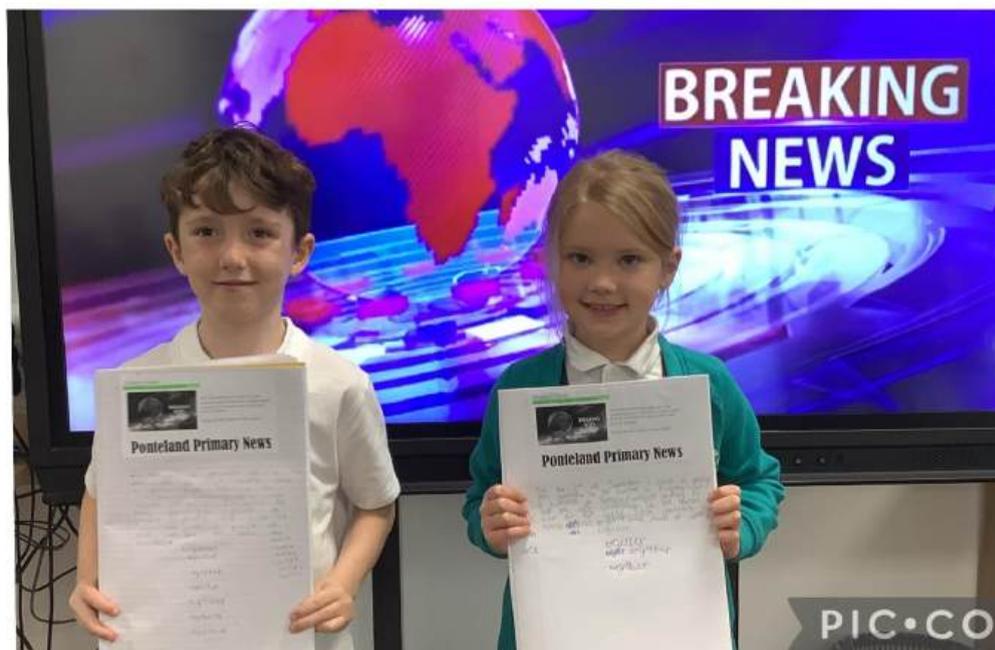
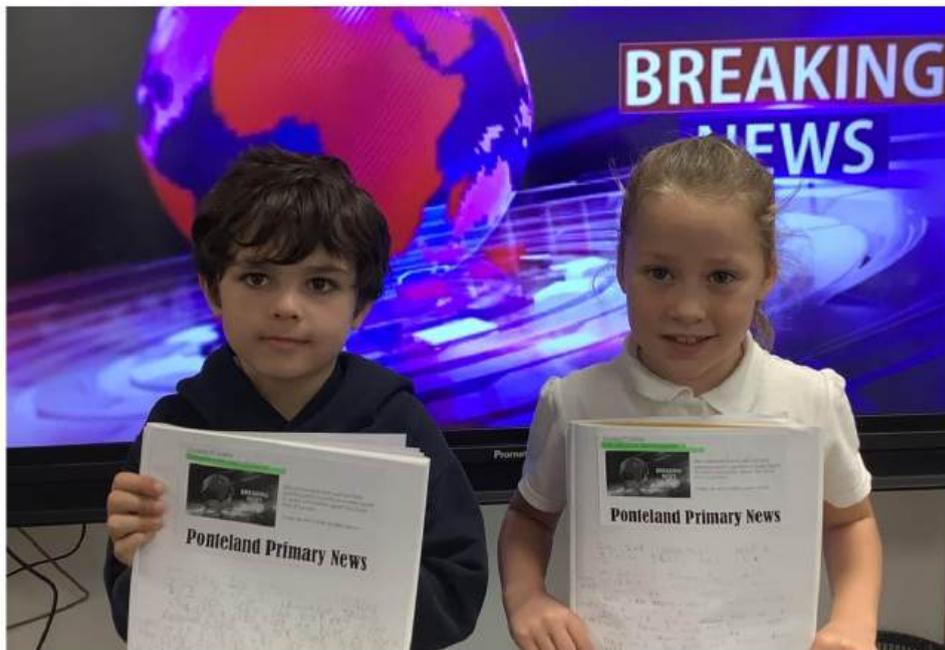
This week in Maths in Year 1 we have been using a number line to find the missing number in addition sentences.

1. We followed these rules:
2. Circle the part number we know
3. Dot the whole number
4. Draw jumps from the part number to the whole number
5. Count the jumps
6. Complete the number sentence



## This week in Year 2

Year 2 have been learning about news reports this week. We analysed news reports and then used this understanding to help us write our own news reports about The Great Fire of London. We had to make sure that we included all of the important facts like what, where, when, who and why. We then presented our new reports as television news, using Newsround as our inspiration to speak clearly and with expression.



## This week in Year 3

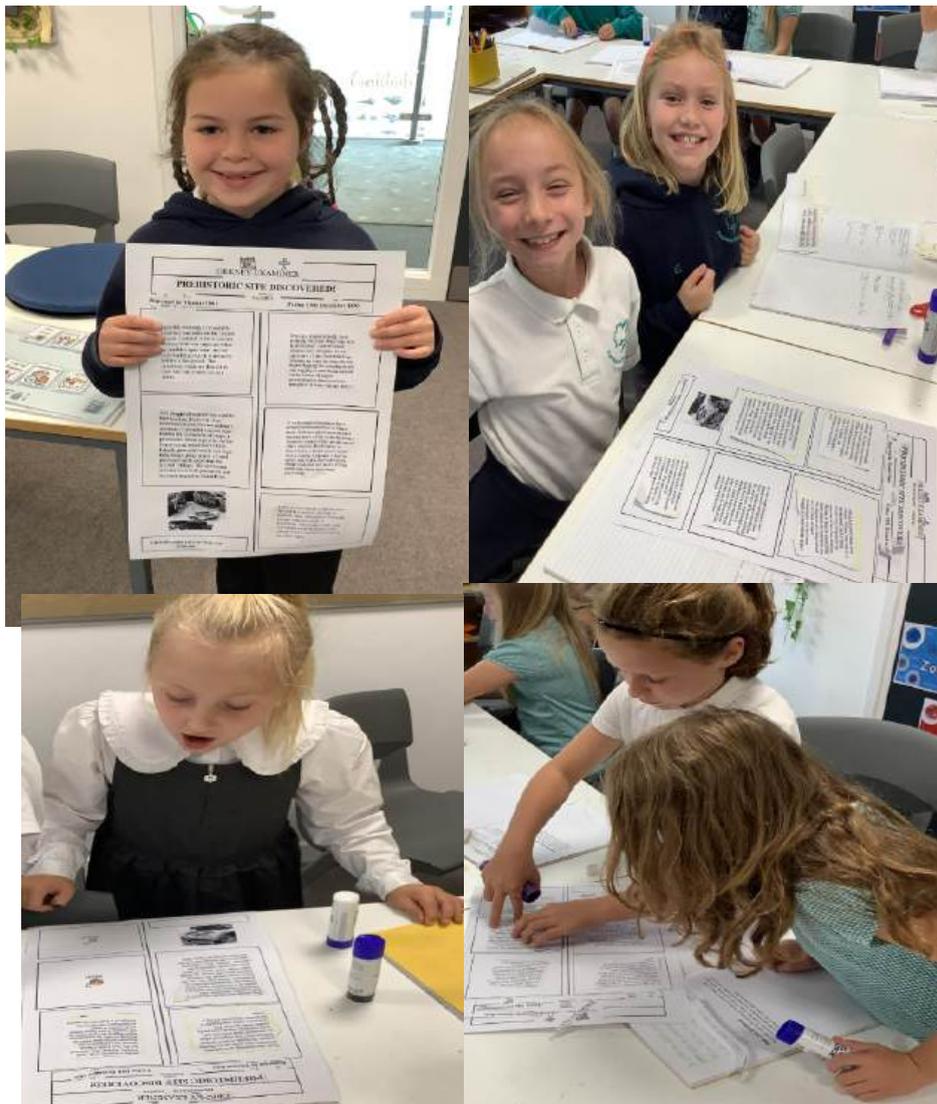
It's been another exciting week in Year 3, full of curiosity, creativity and kindness!

In English, we've been busy becoming journalists as we planned and published our very own newspaper reports all about the fascinating discovery of Skara Brae. We loved learning about what life was like thousands of years ago and imagining what people might have thought when they first found it!

Over in Maths, we've been working hard on our addition and subtraction skills, finishing the week by tackling the tricky challenge of adding tens across one hundred. Our number brains are definitely growing stronger every day!

In PSHE, we've had some really meaningful conversations about kindness; what it looks like, how it makes us feel, and the lovely things we can do to brighten someone else's day. From compliments to helping hands, we've all been inspired to spread a little extra kindness around our classroom and school.

Well done Year 3, keep up the amazing work!



## This week in Year 4

Year 4 have been channelling their enthusiasm for our Anglo-Saxon topic with a fantastic outdoor learning experience this week. The children enjoyed a lovely morning in the forest, immersing themselves in nature as they gathered inspiration for their setting descriptions. Surrounded by the sights, sounds, and smells of the forest, they used all of their senses to bring their writing to life.

To make the experience even more memorable, we tantalised our taste buds with some delicious treats around the campfire — the perfect way to spark creativity and conversation! The children worked brilliantly together, developing their oracy skills as they shared ideas and vivid descriptions. What a fantastic Friday treat and a wonderful way to bring our learning to life!

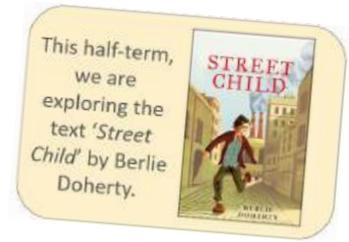


Miss Davis and Mrs Bell

## This week in Year 5

### Write ... Not Wrong!

Year 5 continued their **Free Write Fridays**, and what an amazing time we had! The classroom was full of excitement as we focused on **persuasive writing**, trying to convince our readers with powerful words and clever arguments.



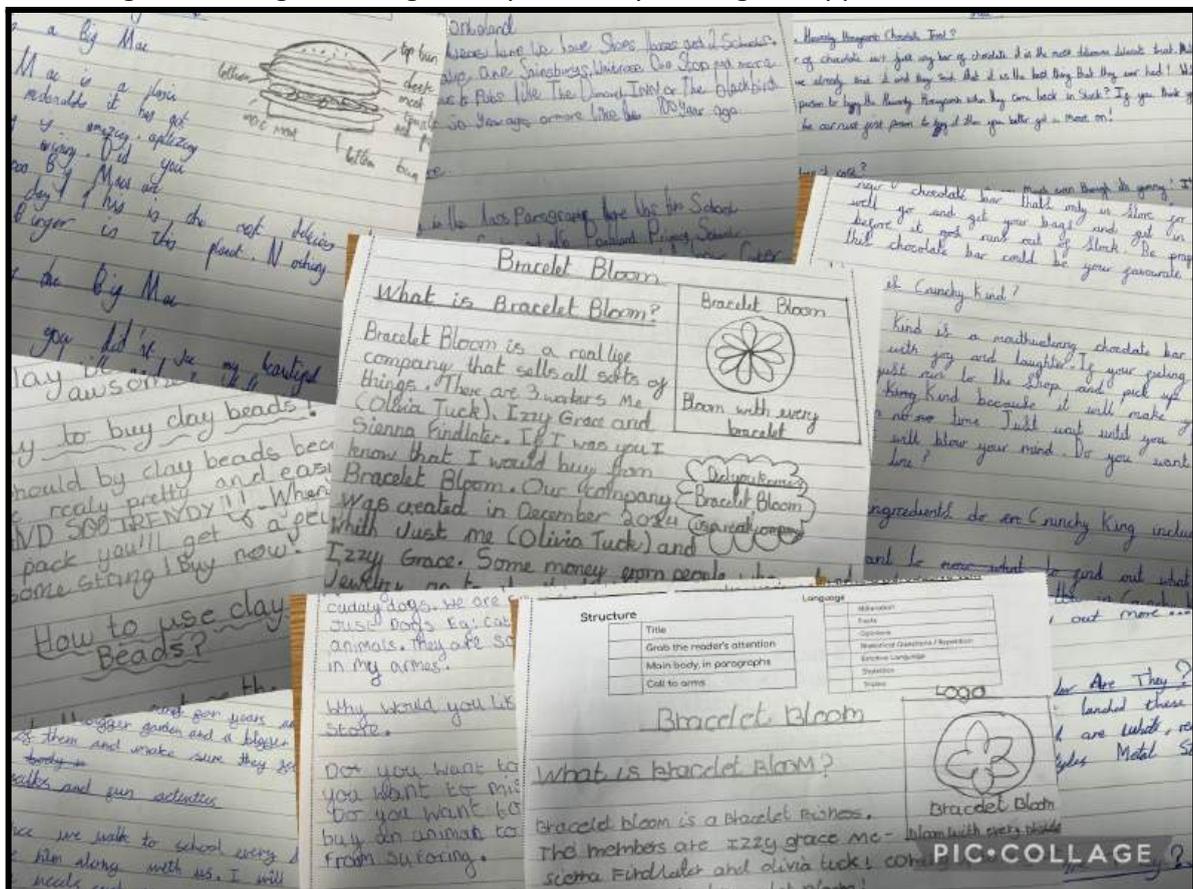
The children could choose any topic they felt passionate about — and they certainly did! Some wrote speeches about why dogs make the best pets, others argued that homework should be banned, and a few even tried to persuade us that chocolate should count as one of our five a day!

Before writing, we discussed what makes persuasive language strong: using emotive words, giving clear facts, and finding ways to hook the reader.

At the end of the session, lots of children were brave enough to share their writing with the class. We loved hearing everyone's different ideas — it's amazing how unique each piece was.

Free Write Friday has quickly become one of our favourite times of the week. It's a chance to be imaginative, try new things, and remember that writing can be lots of fun!

✨ "There's no right or wrong in writing — only creativity waiting to happen!"



## This week in Year 6

This week in PE, Year 6 have been exploring a range of invasion games including basketball, handball, and football. Across the lessons, pupils have been developing essential skills such as passing, dribbling, shooting, and defending, while learning how to work effectively as a team. They've also focused on tactical thinking—understanding how to create space, intercept the ball, and transition between attack and defence. It's been brilliant to see their enthusiasm grow as they apply these skills in game situations.



## Dates for your diary in 2025



Tue 14th October 2025	Flu Immunisations Day
Weds 15th October 2025	Harvest Festival - Please bring donations into school 13th & 14th Oct
Thur 16th October 2025	PTA Year 5 Movie Night - Save the Date! More details to follow.
Wc 20th October 2025	Captain Chemistry
20th & 21st October 2025	Parents Evening for Year 1, Year 2 (Sycamore), Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6
Weds 22nd October 2025	PTA Halloween Disco 1.45pm-2.45pm Reception, Year 1, Year 2 3.15 - 4.30pm - Year 3 & Year 4
Wc 27th October 2025	October Half Term
Mon 3 November 2025	Teacher Training Day
Tue 4th November 2025	School resumes
10th & 11th November 2025	Parents Evening for Year 2 - Willow class only
Wed 26th November 2025	Individual Photo Day
Thur 27th November 2025	PTA Wreath Making Evening. Save the Date! More info to follow.
Friday 5th December 2025	PTA Christmas Fair
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

# 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.

**BOOK NOW** >>

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

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

Visit our website

http://



[nland.cc/familyhubs](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](mailto: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](mailto: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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- 1 Visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://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

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# 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](mailto: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**



