

Friday Flyer

Friday 12th December 2025

Headteacher Update

This time last week the Friends of Ponteland Primary School spent the entire day transforming school into a festive wonderland ready for our Christmas fair and what a fair it was! There was so much on offer for the children to enjoy and some brilliant new additions such as 'Spin the Wheel' with fantastic prizes. Thank you so much to the parents who donated prizes for both Spin the Wheel and the raffle and to everyone who contributed to the fair by bringing a bottle or tombola prize. We had some gorgeous musical entertainment from Mrs Adamson's Key Stage 1 choir who sang their hearts out and Alastair and Freddy who played their saxophones brilliantly! Enormous thanks to all the volunteers in the Friends of Ponteland Primary for the thought, time and effort that went into our fabulous fair and to our incredibly generous families for spending so much money; we raised an incredible **£4306.41!**



There is no rest for the Friends of PPS as they were back in school every day this week to serve tea and coffee at our Christmas performances - thank you! We had a staggering nine productions performed across the week and I am so proud of the children as they put their hearts and souls into their singing and acting, making each play a resounding success. Thank you so much to all of the staff for the massive amount of work they have put into creating such special performances. I hope you all enjoyed watching the plays as much as the children enjoyed performing them.

The festivities will continue in school next week with year group parties for the children before we break up on Friday at 1.30pm.

Best wishes
Claire Johnson

Safeguarding & wellbeing

Tomorrow we will be 12 days from Christmas so my advent gift to you is the 12 Days of Clickmas guide which was sent as an attachment with the Friday Flyer email. Here are a couple of excerpts to get you started...



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**On the first day of Clickmas,
my child said to me,
“Can I have that new device,
app or game?”**

Parental settings are really important for everyone to understand, it's useful to know what controls you can have and how you can keep the whole family **safe** online

First look at what settings you can put in place on your home Wi-Fi, then on your devices and then on the games and apps your children use

Many platforms allow you to set limits and restrictions, explore these tools together so your children see this as a shared responsibility, not just a set of rules

This three-step approach will **filter** out most of the harmful content while you continue to **monitor** the content they are accessing

Learn more: www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/



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**On the second day of Clickmas,
our house agreed to be,
“Device free at mealtimes!”**

It's all about **balance**, not necessarily bans and we'll all agree that sometimes we spent too long on devices and not enough time connecting with each other

As a family try to **agree** on device free times such as mealtimes, when watching a movie, or when settling down for bed

Set clear and consistent boundaries in relation to time on devices with a **healthy mix** of activities so screen become just one part of a balanced day rather than the main focus

And remember this is for the adults too, we need to **role model** expectations so devices off for everyone!

Learn more: www.childnet.com/blog/screen-time-guidance-for-parents-and-carers/



Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	94.0%	Year 3 (Pine)	97.3%
Reception (Chestnut)	94.7%	Year 4 (Alder)	91.3%
Reception (Pinecone)	90.0%	Year 4 (Yew)	97.7%
Year 1 (Holly)	92.7%	Year 5 (Oak)	91.0%
Year 1 (Ash)	97.2%	Year 5 (Beech)	94.0%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	99.7%	Year 6 (Elm)	96.8%
Year 2 (Willow)	96.0%	Year 6 (Birch)	89.3%
Year 3 (Maple)	86.7%	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](#)

This week in Nursery

Nursery enjoyed showcasing their super singing, story telling and dancing talents to their parents this week. They were so super that a special visitor popped in after and gave them each an early Christmas present! We were pleased to hear they were all on the 'good list'....phew!



This week in Reception

We were so incredibly proud of our Reception superstars when they performed The Sleepy Shepherd on Thursday. FAB-U-LOUS!



This week in Year 1

This week, Year 1 have been very busy indeed! We have had our Christmas lunch, Christmas jumper day and our singing Nativity, so needless to say we are ready for a rest! In Literacy this week we have been learning about rhyming words and this has led up to us creating our own short verse rhyming Christmas poems. We have also been doing some different fine motor activities and readying ourselves for making some Christmas creations next week. In Science we carried out an experiment to test and observe waterproof materials, and in the woods we made our own jingle sticks and sang jingle bells all the way back to school!



This week in Year 2

Year 2 wrote persuasive letters this week based on our 'King Who Banned the Dark' book to try and convince him to bring the dark back. We had to consider all the reasons that the dark was good and use persuasive adjectives. We then went to Reception to read our letters to them. It was wonderful!



This week in Year 3

The Christmas festivities have well and truly begun in year 3 this week! We thoroughly enjoyed our day with each other on Tuesday where we all wore our festive jumpers and sat together for a very festive and delicious Christmas Dinner. It was also very much the fuel we needed for Wednesday and Thursday's incredible Nativity performances - we all looked so amazing in our sparkles, jumpers and smart Christmas outfits. We are so proud of you for doing such a fantastic job to learn some incredibly catchy but tricky songs!



Miss Mears and Mr Shaw

This week in Year 4

Festive Feeling!

In English this week, Year 4 have been busy getting into the festive spirit by writing their own Christmas-themed scripts, packed with expressive stage directions and imaginative scenes. From snowy settings to cheerful characters, the children showed great creativity and teamwork as they brought their ideas to life.



Lily: Oh no i nocked the jar of reindeer flying dust i better get the broom

Milly: Ooo theres sugar on the floor (licking her lips)lets not put this sugar to waste im going to eat it

Lily: Oh no Milly dont eat it (shocked) its reindeer flying dust|

Milly: ermmm why am I flying?

Miss Davis and Mrs Bell

This week in Year 5

Cane You Imagine?

This week, Year 5 travelled back to the Victorian era to discover what school life was like for children in the 1800s. We explored the strict rules of the classroom and even experienced a few of them for ourselves!

The children learned about the expectations Victorian pupils faced — from standing to answer questions to writing on slates and keeping perfect posture at all times. They were fascinated (and slightly horrified!) by some of the punishments used in those days and quickly decided they preferred modern classrooms.



Taking part in a few Victorian-style routines gave everyone a chance to compare past and present, and the children were full of brilliant questions and lively discussions about how education has changed over time. It was a fun, eye-opening week that left us feeling very grateful for today's school life — especially the lack of canes and dunce hats!

In conclusion, Victorian schools and schools today are very different. Many people don't like school so much. I don't like school in the Victorian times. From that, school now is way better than then even though they do have some similarities.

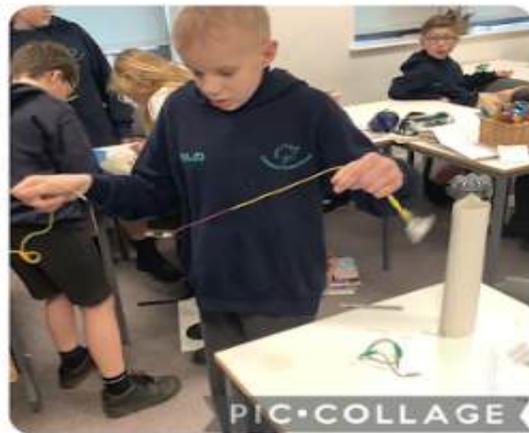
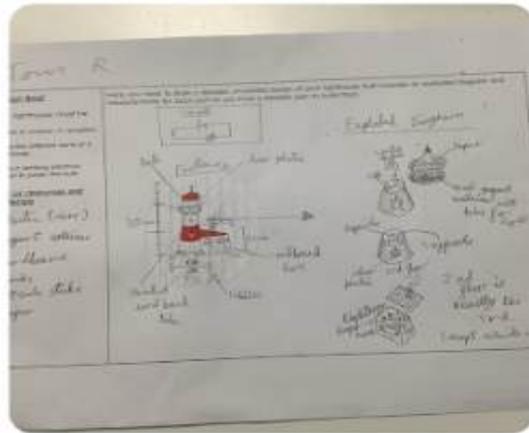
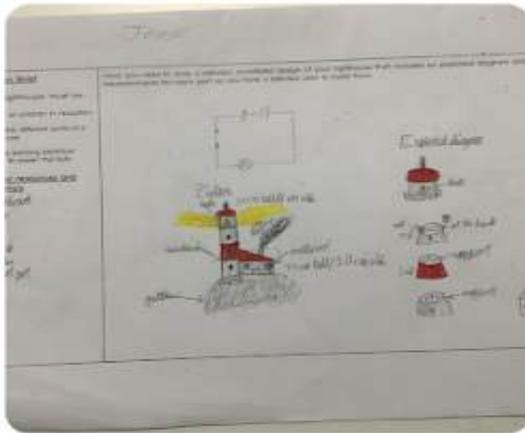
What is better and why?
In my opinion I think that our day schools are much better because our teachers are much kinder and are funny and they don't whip us. Would you rather live in a Victorian school?

Overall, schools have changed for the good, in the past schools were for to get a different job to your parent. However, now it is for fun, learning and to get a job you like. I think now schools give a better chance of succeeding even though schools were very formal and disciplined.

I believe that now the schools are much better because the teachers are so much nicer and they make school a better place.

This week in Year 6

This week we have drawn closer to the end of our DT project by building our lighthouses. We have learned about lighthouses and their functions and spent some time designing our lighthouses. We worked to a design criteria to ensure our final products fitted the brief as well as they could and we decorated them to ensure they looked the part. We even included an electrical circuit so our lighthouses have a working light room at the top. The children worked with great care and showed excellent collaboration and resilience when things didn't quite go to plan. And also, a big well done to all of year 6 for their amazing effort in our Christmas performance! Well done to everyone!



Dates for your diary in 2025



Thur 18th December 25	Pele Trust Christmas Choir Concert at St Mary's Church in Ponteland - Performance starts 1.45pm.
Fri 19th December 2025	School breaks up for Christmas break - School finishes at 1.30pm
Mon 5th January 2026	School Resumes
Wed 14th January 2026	Year 5 trip to Robinwood. Return Friday 16th January
Wc Mon 16th February 2026	Half Term Break
Mon 23rd February 2026	Teacher Training Day
Tue 24th February 2026	School Resumes
Easter Break 2026	School closed on Friday 3rd April 2026
Mon 20th April 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



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

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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M&S

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



