

# Friday Flyer

Friday 14th November 2025

## Headteacher Update

This has been a busy week of national initiatives with Anti-Bullying and Children in Need falling in the same week and of course, Remembrance Day. Wearing odd socks on Monday helped continue to promote the message we explored last year through our Kaleidoscope project: that our differences are to be celebrated. Understanding and accepting the parts of each other that are different plays a significant role in reducing bullying and our work on the school values of **empathy, respect and kindness** does a lot of the heavy lifting in terms of helping children know how to treat each other in the right way.

The school council representatives have spent time in their classes this week re-sharing our child-friendly anti-bullying policy which has also been sent to you with the Friday Flyer and can be found [here](#) on our website. They drew particular attention to the section I've shared below which explains the difference between being a defender and being a bystander, hopefully empowering everyone to take action if needed:

### **What should I do if I think someone is being bullied?**

In our school we all take responsibility for keeping each other safe. It is never okay to see someone being bullied and do nothing (being a **bystander**). You can tell people to stop (become a **defender**) or you can tell an adult about what has happened. If you think someone is being bullied then talk to the person, ask if they're okay and ask if you can help them talk to a teacher or an adult they trust.

As part of Pele Trust, we have an annual safeguarding review and ours for this academic year took place last month. During the review, various groups of pupils were interviewed and the following was written in our report:

"Pupils can explain what bullying is and say that it rarely happens in school. However, they outline a reporting culture and that adults would take it very seriously - they say that adults would stop it if it were happening."

As ever, our pupils are spot on and I am delighted that they recognise that, while bullying is rare in our school, it is taken very seriously when it does occur.

We embraced this year's Children in Need theme of "*Challenge Yourself!*" by participating in a whole-school Strictly dance routine in assembly this morning, children and staff alike - I've chosen not to share the video evidence! If you would like to donate to the charity please follow [this link](#).

Finally, while marking Remembrance Day, we explored November's value of empathy through the story '*Where the Poppies Now Grow*' in assemblies and the children showed real sensitivity in their discussions.

Best wishes,  
Claire Johnson

## Safeguarding & wellbeing



News

### Autism-friendly Christmas events guide for the North East

North East Autism Society has compiled a round-up of autism-friendly sessions – often called “relaxed”, “SEND” or “quiet” sessions – of Christmas events in the region.

From calm, quiet grottos to relaxed pantomime performances, more and more venues are creating autism-friendly experiences so autistic individuals and their families can fully enjoy the magic of Christmas.

By adjusting lighting and sound, welcoming smaller groups, keeping queues short, and allowing families to move freely and make noise, these venues are helping autistic individuals feel safe, included, and able to join in the festive fun with confidence.

The autism-friendly sessions have been welcomed by the North East Autism Society. Rebecca Weatherstone, Deputy Manager of Family Development Services and Early Years Lead, says: “The festive season should be a time when every family feels welcomed, valued, and able to enjoy the magic of Christmas together. Families have shared how much this matters to them, explaining that being in spaces where understanding and acceptance come naturally helps them feel at ease and confident in joining community celebrations.”

Please follow [this link](#) to explore a wealth of options to support children with SEND celebrate Christmas.

north east  
autism society



### Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	95.6%	Year 3 (Pine)	98.7%
Reception (Chestnut)	98.7%	Year 4 (Alder)	95.2%
Reception (Pinecone)	98.7%	Year 4 ( Yew)	96.7%
Year 1 (Holly)	99.3%	Year 5 (Oak)	95.8%
Year 1 (Ash)	97.9%	Year 5 (Beech)	97.7%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	99.3%	Year 6 (Elm)	95.5%
Year 2 (Willow)	98.7%	Year 6 (Birch)	94.5%
Year 3 (Maple )	100%	Whole school Cumulative from Sept	96.1%

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

The Caterpillars had their first session as a full class whilst the Butterflies were missing just one! We have practised kindness week by saying kind words to our friends and singing 'if you are kind and you know it'. We are such a kind Acorn class 😊



PIC•COLLAGE

## This week in Reception

This week the children have demonstrated our school value of empathy when learning about remembrance and they were so sensible during our minute silence before creating lots of different representations of poppies. We also kicked off Anti-bullying Week by wearing our odd socks to celebrate our differences. Throughout the week we used the story, 'Little Rabbit Foo Foo' to frame our discussions. The children worked so hard to write captions about how the characters were feeling. We learned about Pudsey Bear and how he helps children who are not as lucky as us.



## This week in Year 1

It's been a busy and exciting week! We started by wearing our odd socks and talking about using our "power for good" — learning not to just stand back when we see someone who needs help.

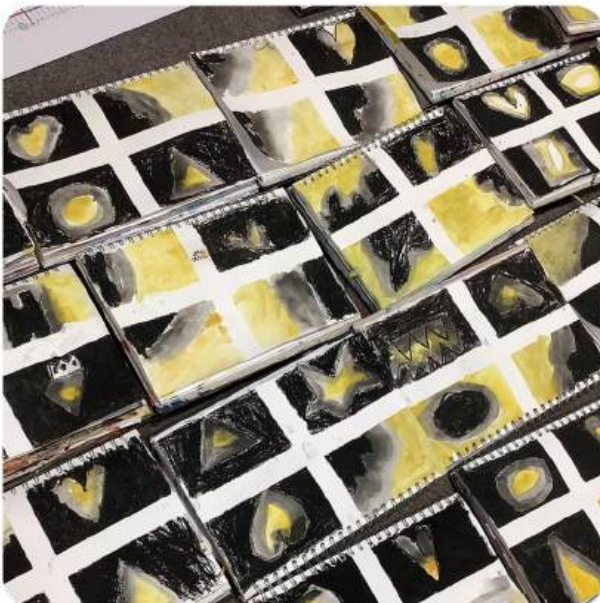
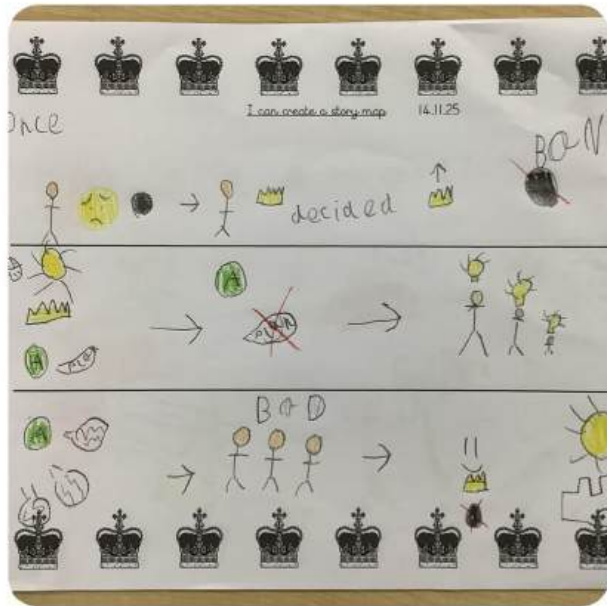
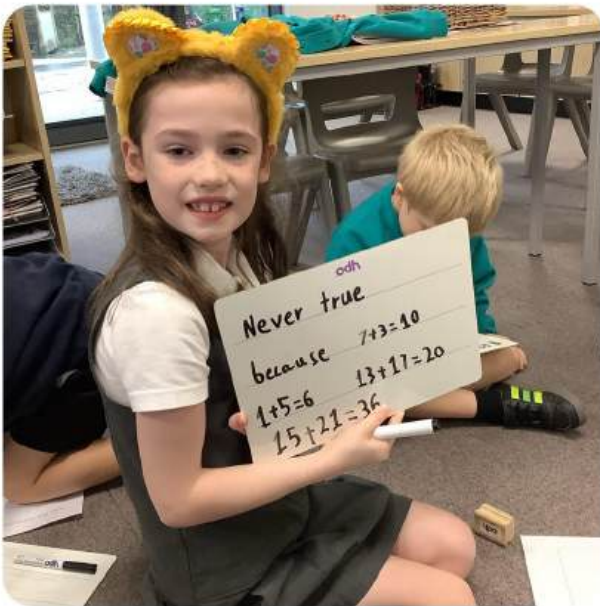
We also used our fine motor skills to make beautiful remembrance poppies, and in maths we began learning how to use rekenreks to help us create addition and subtraction fact families.

Throughout the week, we've also been getting into the Children in Need spirit by learning a fun Strictly dance routine — lots of smiles and great energy all round!



## This week in Year 2

Here is a small mixture of the wonderful work completed by Year 2 this week. In maths, they have been adding and subtracting. We got to use our oracy and reasoning skills by working in groups to discuss statements and deciding if they were true or not. In English, we have been reading *The King who Banned the Dark*. We created a story map ready for our retell next week. This book also inspired our art lesson where we used black and yellow to create artwork.



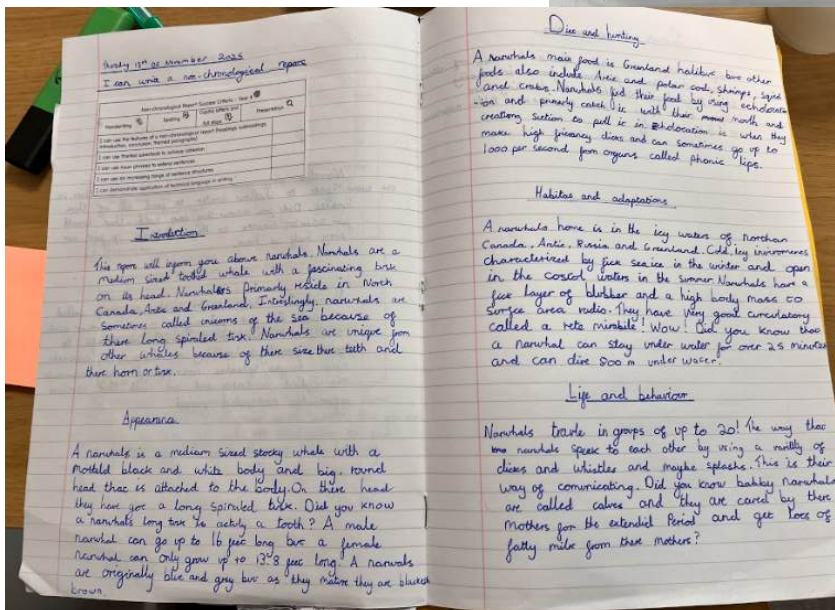
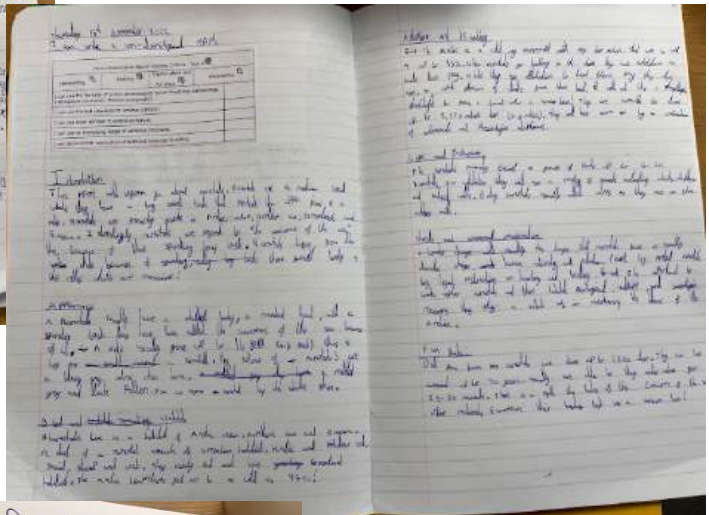
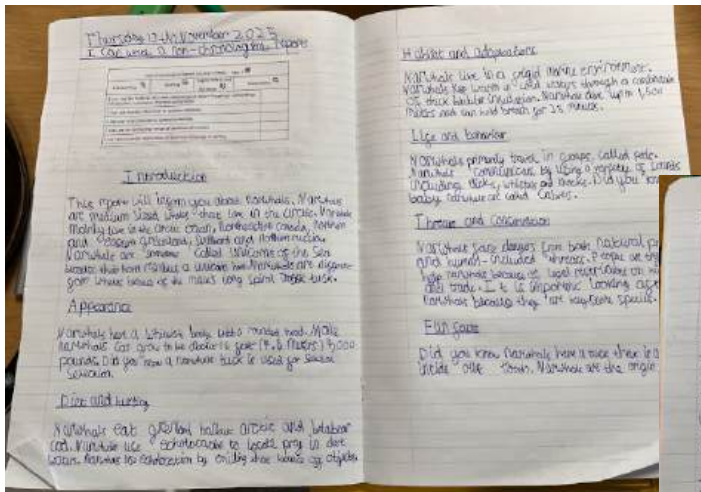
## This week in Year 3

It has been a busy week for us this week in Year 3. We began the week celebrating our individuality, differences and uniqueness with Odd Socks Day. It was lovely to see so many of us choosing socks because of their pattern, colour or use. As well as this, as part of Anti-bullying week, we considered the importance of kindness, respect and thought about our role in situations we may see through PSHE. We considered how we could help others to find an adult, be a friendly face, stick up for what is right and not be a bystander. We also came together on Tuesday to show reflection and mark our Remembrance through music and our minute silence. Later in the week, we showed our support for Children in Need by wearing our spotty accessories. It's hard to believe that amongst all of this we have also been working our socks off in English, Maths, Geography and Science. In science we have moved on to learning about Forces and Magnets and used magnets to explore the 'magnetic field' and identify materials which are magnetic.



## This week in Year 4

What a brilliant week of English for Year 4! Our young explorers have been diving deep into the world of non-chronological reports. They began by identifying the key features of reports about the Arctic and its incredible animals. Then, they zoomed in on one fascinating creature: the narwhal! After gathering their own research, the children wrote their own brilliant non-chronological reports. We are so impressed with their writing. Be sure to ask them for a cool fact about the 'unicorn of the sea' this weekend.



## This Week in Year 5

### A Week to Remember

This week has been full of important events and meaningful activities for Year 5!

We began with **Remembrance Day**, taking part in a live British Legion assembly. The children met veterans and learned about the significance of Armistice Day. The two-minute silence was particularly poignant, and the class reflected respectfully on the importance of remembering those who have served.

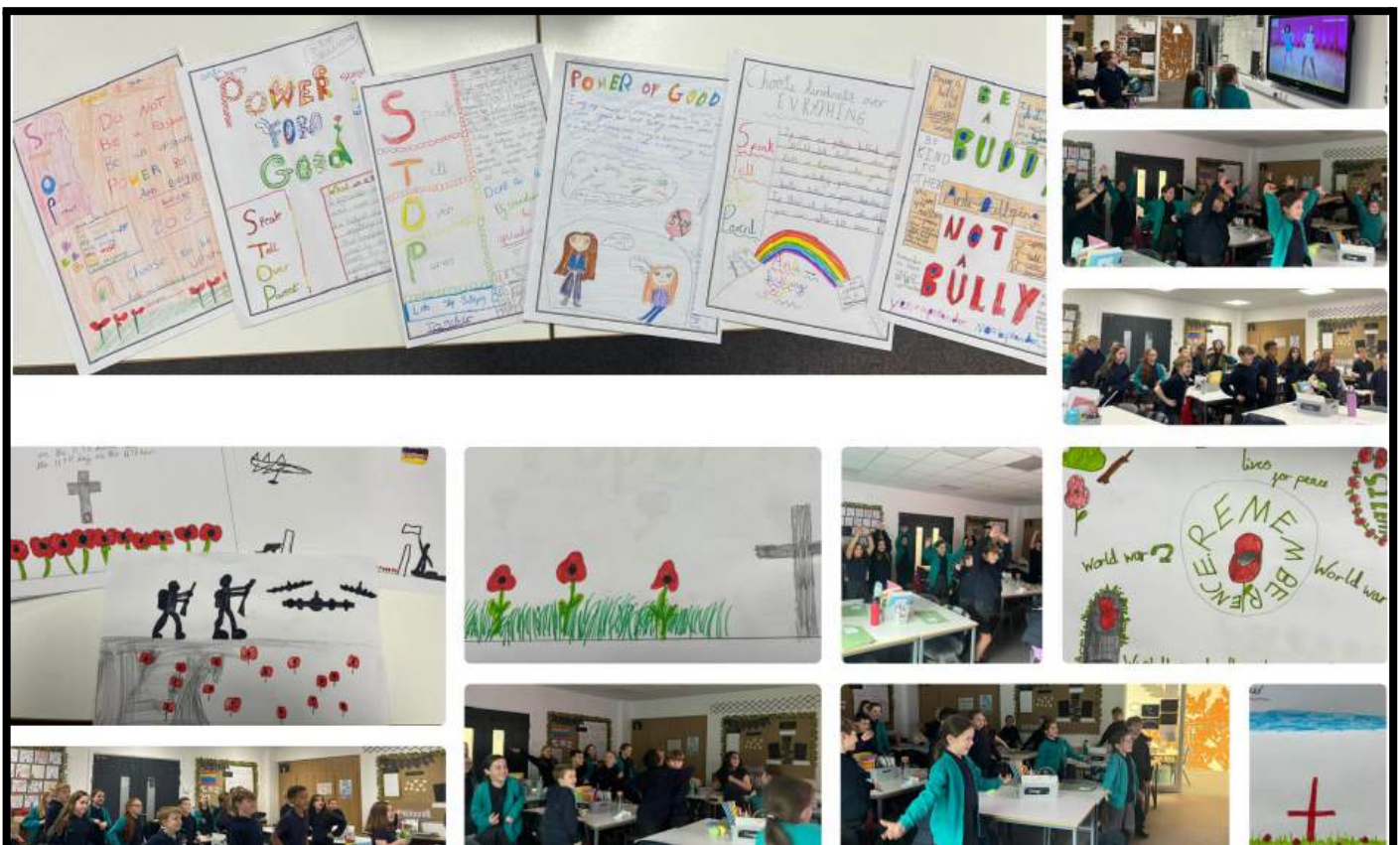
For **Anti-Bullying Week**, we participated by wearing odd socks on Monday and creating thoughtful anti-bullying posters during our lessons. This tied in perfectly with our **school values**, giving the children a chance to reflect on kindness, respect, and standing up for each other.

Finally, we celebrated **Children in Need** on Friday, by getting active — the children completed 25 dance steps for Pudsey, raising awareness and having fun at the same time.

It was a busy week, but one full of learning, reflection, and fun — and the children enjoyed every part of it!

This half-term, we are exploring the text 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens.

We are using an abridged audio read-along version in class.



## This week in Year 6

In the lead up to Remembrance Day, Year 6 read *The Last Post* by Keith Campion. This is a moving story that captures the sacrifice and courage of soldiers. It helped us to understand the grim reality of the First World War and the debt of gratitude we owe to all members of the armed services, past and present. On Tuesday, Year 6 joined a live Remembrance assembly hosted by JJ Chalmers, which further supported our reflections on this important day.

Later in the week, during guided reading, we explored extracts from stories detailing the struggles of everyday people living in modern-day conflict zones. Through this, we are developing a deeper understanding of our Global Curriculum theme, *Peace and Conflict*.



Miss Allan and Mr Orme

## Dates for your diary in 2025



Wc 17th November 2025	PTA Scholastic Book Fair all week
Tue 25th November 2025	Yr3 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.
Thur 27th November 2025	Year 4 Alnwick Garden Visit (Packed lunches needed)
Fri 28th November 2025	Rocksteady Concerts afternoon 1.15pm - Y1/2/3 & 2.15pm - Yr4/5/6 Winner of Charlotte Tilbury Raffle revealed
Friday 5th December 2025	PTA Christmas Fair. Games, food, drinks, Santa, raffle, tombola and so much more! Also School Jumper Day in return for a bottle donation for our bottle pull stall.
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 Day & Jumper Day Year 1 & Year 2 - Christmas Performance - 2pm
Wed 10th December 2025	Year 3 & Year 4 - Christmas Performance - 9.15am
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
Tues 16th December 2025	KS1 choir carol singing at Grange Lea Care Home ( <i>more info to follow soon</i> )
Thurs 18th December 2025	KS2 choir carol service at St Mary's Church
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**



 <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)

# FRIENDS OF PONTELAND PRIMARY NEWSLETTER



AUTUMN TERM 1 - 25/26

## A New School Year

### New Year... New Name!

As you may have noticed above, we've officially adopted a new name that better reflects the wonderful mix of people who support our committee – from grandparents to friends and members of the wider community – not just parents. We hope this feels more welcoming and encourages anyone who'd like to get involved to join us. We're so grateful for all the support we receive, in every form and size, and we look forward to another fantastic year of working together.

During our AGM, we were delighted to have Mrs Johnson set us an exciting new fundraising challenge – to help resource a **NEW ARTS AND MUSIC SPACE!**

It's certainly an ambitious goal, but one that we are thrilled to take on. This new space would provide wonderful opportunities for all children to explore, learn, and create in an environment dedicated to the arts.

We will also continue to help fund school trips for all year groups, some of which have already started! Most recently, we have funded the purchase of 40 new dictionaries for the school, which are already being put to good use.

### Reminder

Please consider using My Nametags for all your uniform needs. Use the link below, enter the ID CODE: 109705 at the checkout and the school gets 24% of the value.  
[www.mynametags.com/colour-sticker-name-tags](http://www.mynametags.com/colour-sticker-name-tags)

Thank you.



## Halloween Events

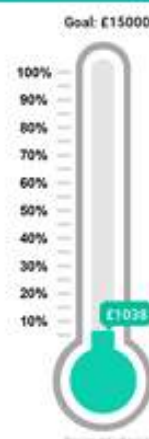
A fun time was had by all over at Halloween - the children (and adults) seemed to love all of our activities and they get more creative each year! We have raised a fantastic **£1038** from the Halloween disco, year 5 movie night, pumpkin decorating competition, hamper raffle and scavenger hunt.



## Upcoming Events

18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> November - Scholastic Book Fair  
27<sup>th</sup> November - Wreath Making - SOLD OUT  
**SAVE THE DATE - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Christmas Fair**

## Fundraising Goal



## Stay in touch:

Check out our social media pages to keep up to date with all our latest news, events, and fundraising activities:

Facebook: Friends of Ponteland Primary  
Instagram: @friends\_of\_ponteland\_primary



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

# Turn your daily shopping into everyday magic for us with easyfundraising

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 easyfundraising

Help us make a difference when you shop.  
Visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)



- 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

Shop with 7,500+ brands including:

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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](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**



