

Friday Flyer

Friday 14th February 2025

Headteacher Update

You may recall I shared with you Mr Smith's brilliant idea of using football dance teams to engage the Y6s in dance at the start of this half term. Six weeks on and the interest and enthusiasm is still going strong! I was really impressed when I joined their lesson this week by the phenomenal progress they've made - over the half term, the children have choreographed their routines with clever formations and precise moves and they have evaluated and critiqued their own and each other's performances each week in order to make tweaks and improve. Mr Smith took the theme into his Monday night dance club and this morning, some of the Year 5 and 6 girls performed their routine in assembly and blew us all away. This inspired some of the Y6 boys to volunteer to perform their routine next week which I think shows the success of this unit of work, not only in developing the children's dance skills but also in their willingness to move out of their comfort zone. While dance club performed as a team, Charlotte performed a solo Irish dancing routine which showcased her incredible talent - talent which has taken her to the Irish dancing world championships!



This week we took part in Safer Internet Day which is celebrated in 170 countries across the world and involves not just schools but police, governments, charities and tech companies. The theme this year was 'Too good to be true? Protect yourself and others from crimes online'. The children have learned about the signs which may indicate they are being targeted in a scam such as links to claim a mystery prize, offers of free passes and money or requests for personal information. The children were brilliant at playing detective in assembly and recognising when something seemed 'too good to be true'. You'll be very pleased to hear that every single child was emphatic in saying they would NEVER give out their personal information! I have included a guide to recognising scams and fake news below to help you continue this conversation at home with your children. As one of the children pointed out, adults are not immune to being scammed and so I tasked them all with educating their parents and particularly their grandparents on how to stay safe online too.

Best wishes, Claire Johnson

Safeguarding Update

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

"CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risks of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk for more.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fake-news-and-scams>

Boost Your Child's Reading Skills with Subtitles

Subtitles are a simple, effective way to help your child improve their reading skills while enjoying their favourite TV shows or films.



Why Use Subtitles?

- Improves reading speed: helps children read faster as they follow the dialogue.
- Expands vocabulary: introduces new words and improves spelling.
- Boosts comprehension: aids understanding of the storyline.
- Engages reluctant readers: makes reading fun and less intimidating.

How to Use Subtitles Effectively

1. Choose age-appropriate content: pick shows that interest your child.
2. Start with familiar shows: begin with their favourite programmes.
3. Watch together: pause to discuss tricky words.
4. Encourage repetition: rewatch shows to reinforce new vocabulary.

Key Benefits of Subtitles

- Improves reading fluency: seeing and hearing words at the same time boosts confidence.
- Expands vocabulary: children learn words in context.
- Enhances focus: keeps children engaged and helps them process information.

Expert Insight

Dr. Amanda Gummer, child development expert, notes that subtitles create a multisensory experience that supports word recognition and focus, making reading practice enjoyable.

Tips for Success

- Be patient and celebrate progress.
- Make it fun by turning it into a game.
- Balance screen time with other reading activities.

Using subtitles is a simple way to enhance your child's reading skills while they unwind. Enjoy the learning process together!

Mrs Maccoy

PTA News

Congratulations to Mrs Horsley who won our fabulous Valentine's Day Hamper filled with gorgeous treats!



Thank you to everyone who bought tickets - we raised £297.50!



Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	88.6%	Year 3 (Pine)	96.0%
Reception (Chestnut)	98.7%	Year 4 (Alder)	93.9%
Reception (Pinecone)	96.0%	Year 4 (Yew)	95.7%
Year 1 (Holly)	98.0%	Year 5 (Oak)	96.5%
Year 1 (Ash)	96.7%	Year 5 (Beech)	98.6%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	95.0%	Year 6 (Elm)	94.7%
Year 2 (Willow)	99.0%	Year 6 (Birch)	94.7%
Year 3 (Maple)	100%	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.

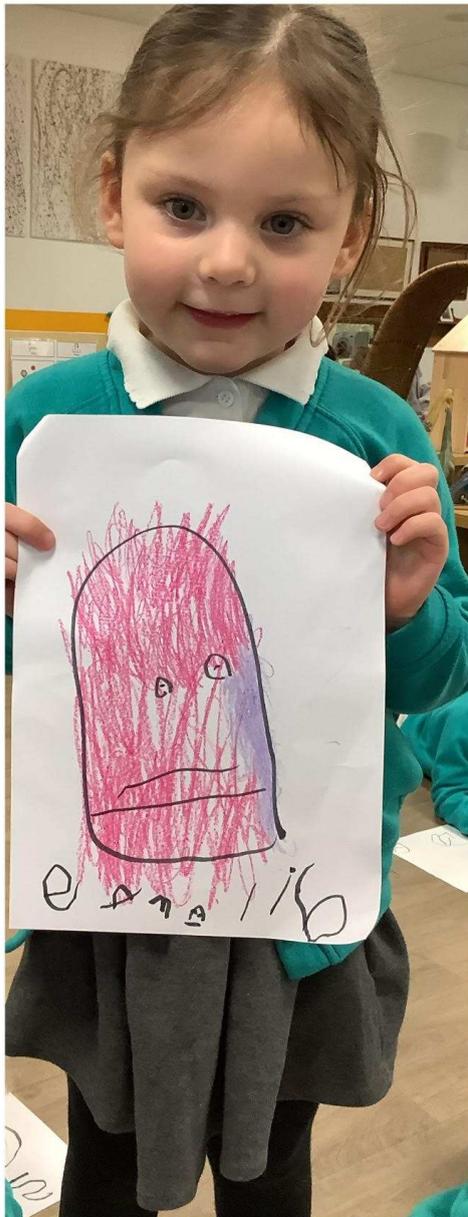
We have a continual focus on attendance and punctuality and this is of the utmost importance in your child's education. Please remember that our school gate closes at 8.55am as this is when our lessons begin. Anyone arriving after this time is classed as late and will miss valuable learning opportunities which take place immediately after registration, such as phonics.

What does the Government say about school attendance?

"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

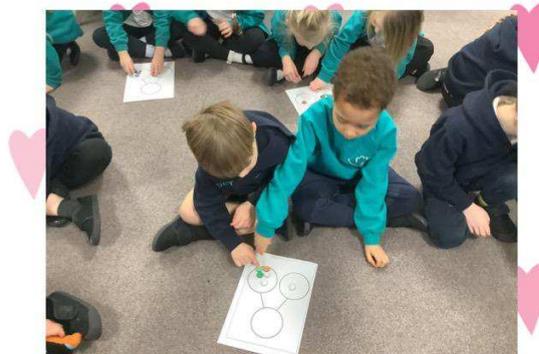
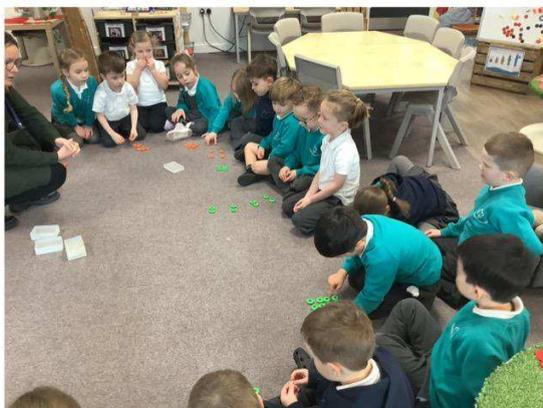
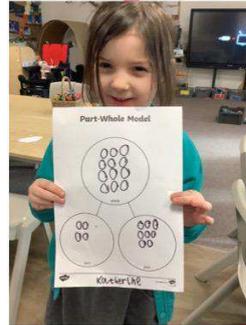
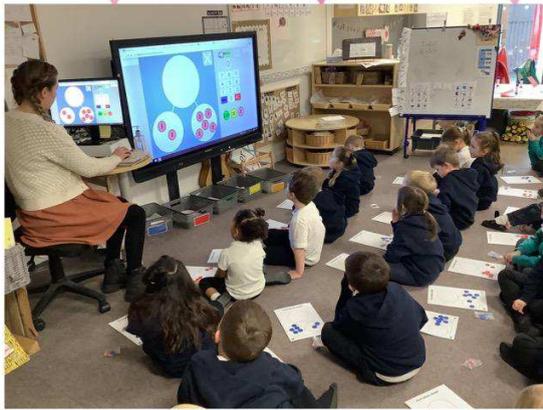
This week in Nursery

Following the joy that nursery experienced reading our core text Rhyme Crime by Jon Burgerman, we explored another of his texts 'How to eat pizza'. We followed instructions to draw a pizza, made a patterned pizza in maths and even made our own pizza dough before making our own mini pizzas. We finished our school day by turning our squiggles into a large piece of 'inspired by' Jon Burgerman art.



This week in Reception

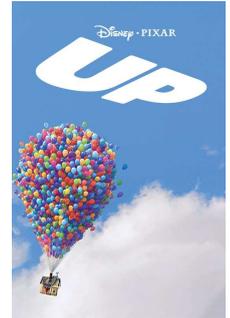
In our maths sessions this week we have focused on the composition of 6, 7 and 8, saying the number sentences and even having a go at writing them. We have used 10 frames and Part Part Whole models to partition the numbers as well as everyday things that we found in our classroom. We are now experts, please ask us about ways we can make 6, 7 and 8!



PIC • COLLAGE

This week in Year 1

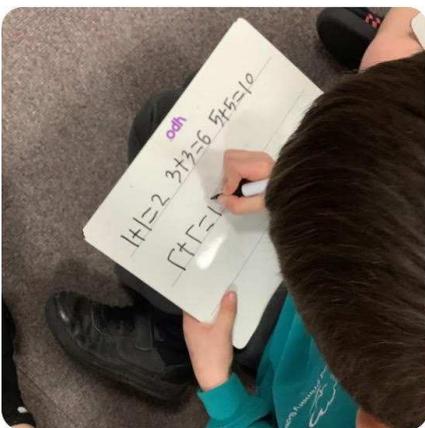
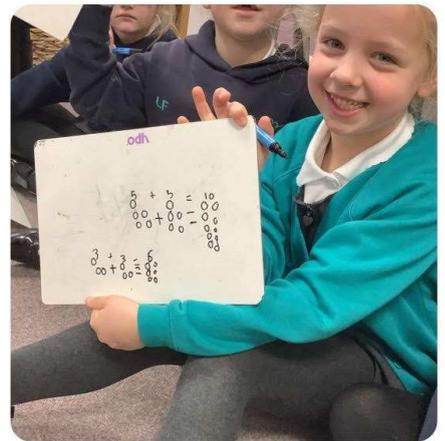
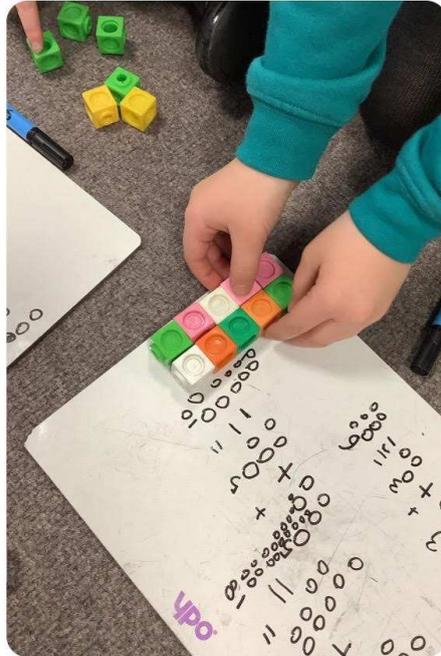
Year 1 have had such a busy week putting lots of learning into practice. In Maths we have been looking at different ways to find the difference and really reinforcing our understanding using various classroom resources. We have also been looking at related facts and know how to create number sentences from part-whole models. During our music lesson this week we have been thinking about the elements and characteristics within pieces of music and how they make us feel. We then discussed what about the music made us feel that way and using our musical terminology such as fast/slow tempo, piano and forte, high and low pitch. Year 1 have really enjoyed learning about Judaism and as we come to the end of this learning in the Spring 1 term we have been looking at Shabbat and how and why Jewish people practise this. They know which stories form their beliefs and have been able to recite the Creation story and describe the elements of how Jewish people practice Shabbat.



Mrs Rogers and Miss Storey

This week in Year 2

This week, we have been exploring odd and even numbers. On Wednesday, we were given a statement that was 'an odd number add another odd number makes an even number'. We had to investigate to see if we agreed. We drew on our whiteboards and used cubes to help us come to the conclusion that this was true. We used our oracy skills to help us reason.

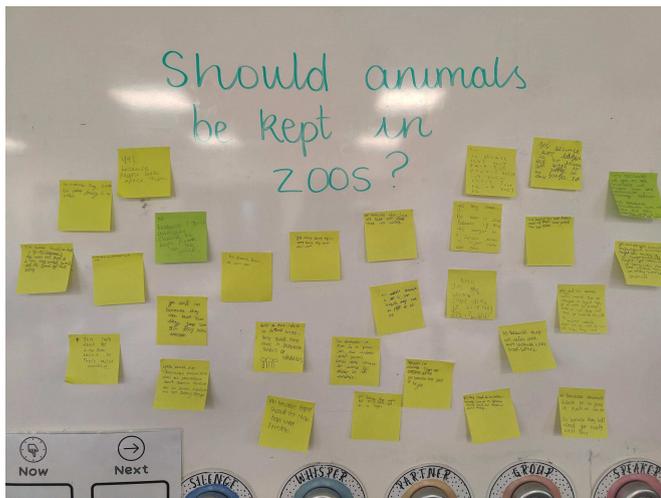


PIC • COLLAGE

Miss Briggs and Mr Massey

This week in Year 3

In line with our core text, we have been considering the lives of animals in captivity this week. We were introduced to discussion texts and their features and have begun researching and sorting arguments to answer the question **'Should animals be kept in zoos?'** To do this we had to understand arguments *for*, support the question and arguments *against*, disagree with the question. We have so far had lots of divided opinions which have been backed by some excellent arguments. The adults in year 3 have been so impressed by how well we have been communicating and following rules around debates when walking through the 'conscience alley' to listen to opinions.



This half term,
we are
exploring the
text 'The One
and Only Ivan'
by Katherine
Applegate

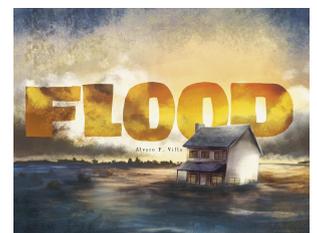


This week in Year 4

In English, we have been putting our oracy skills to the test with a 'traverse' to discuss our predictions based on the front cover of our new class text, 'Flood'. A traverse involves two lines of children standing opposite one another. After a quick 30 second discussion, the children in one line move down one space and restart their discussion with a different talk partner. It was very interesting to hear how discussions evolved and expanded based on the ideas of others!



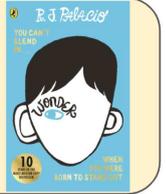
Miss Davis, Mrs Maccoy and Mrs Bell



This week in Year 5

Worrits all about

This term, we are exploring the text 'Wonder' by R.J. Palacio



In PSHE this half-term and the next, we are following a programme called MELVA, a fun and accessible creative intervention that supports children and the adults in their lives to talk openly about—and better understand—their mental health, emotions, and well-being. Each week, we watch a video featuring Melva Mapletree and a quirky cast of characters on the *Quest for Barnabus Boggle*, which helps us better understand our worries (or 'worrits,' as Melva calls them) and niggling voices and those of others.

We've thoroughly enjoyed the first few sessions and look forward to discovering what Melva gets up to next!



Winnie mentioned that he didn't look happy. She also said he was going to talk to Melva about something but he hasn't done.

What are reasons someone might not want to talk to friends about their feelings?

What are some things we can do to make it easier to talk to us?





Ugh rain, those clouds look angry. I didn't think there was a storm due today!



What have we learnt about Melva?

Is there anyone like Melva in your life?



PIC-COLLAGES

Mr McCourt and Mr Tailford

This week in Year 6

This week, we were lucky enough to have two groups of sixth form pupils visit us to lead a session about online safety. The pupils, who were accompanied by their tutor from Ponteland High School, delivered a carousel of activities aimed at recapping the key messages about the risks that young people can encounter online and importantly, how to protect themselves from these risks.



Safer Internet Day 2025 | Tuesday
11 February
Prepare • Protect • Thrive



Miss Allan and Mr Orme

Dates for your diary in 2025



18th & 19th Feb 2025	Parents Evening - Reception to Year 6
18th/19th/20th Feb 2025	Nursery Open Week
Wc 24th February 2025	Half Term
Monday 3rd March 2025	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 4th March 2025	School resumes
Wed 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)
Tuesday 8th April 2025	Yr6 Trip - Discovery 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 Christmas 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



Got an itch? Tummy trouble? Tickly cough?

NHS



**Head to your
local pharmacy.**

Did you know?
Pharmacists across
the North East and
North Cumbria can
offer advice and FREE
treatment for a wide
range of common
conditions* – just like
having a prescription
from your GP!

**Please ask your
pharmacy team
for more details
and eligibility.**

UTI's non pregnant women 16-64 years

Shingles 18 years+

Impetigo 1 year+

Sore throat 5 years+

Sinusitis 12 years+

Infected insect bites 1 year+

Earache 1 to 17 years

Additional conditions can be treated, without the need to visit a GP.
Ask a member of your pharmacy team about the minor ailments scheme.

Step 1

**Go to your local community pharmacy (chemist)
about your illness and they will offer advice.**

Step 2

**If needed, you will be offered treatment and
if you qualify, this will be given free of charge.**

Step 3

A suitable medicine may be offered to you.*

*You qualify for free treatment if you do not pay for your prescriptions.



**Find further information at:
www.thinkpharmacyfirst.health**

**HERE
TO
HELP**



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:

Booking.com

ebay

M&S

GROUPON



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**





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)