Ponteland Primary School
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PELE TRUST

Friday Flyer

Friday 17th October 2025

Headteacher Update

Over this half term we have celebrated so many sporting and dance achievements in our Celebration Assemblies and I thought I'd share them with you in one fell swoop in this Friday Flyer. I am worried that there will be some children that I just don't know about and miss but I always love to hear about the children's achievements outside of school so please do get in touch if there is something your child would like to share with us in school.

We've had Merryn (Y4) and Hannah (Y5) competing in the Irish Dancing championship in Scotland and coming home crowned as champions - next stop the world championships in Chicago and Florida for our world-class Irish dancers! They are not our only dancing superstars as Betsy in Y5 was invited to dance in the Disney parade in Paris as part of her dance school - I must admit, this would have been my childhood dream so I was pretty envious! Henry from Y4 showed impressive resilience as he took part in a swim gala and was awarded the Bronze in Butterfly and Gold in Freestyle! Y5 also boasts some talented swimmers, as Sadie, Charlotte and Elle all represented Newcastle Swimming Club in a recent Gala and all picked up medals across different disciplines - well done girls! Theo in Y4 competed for months representing Close House in a golf tournament and along with his partner, not only won the league but also set a new record! Combining sport and charity, Noah in Y2 ran 'Miles for (his friend) Margot', and as part of a team raised a whopping £30,000 for the Great North Children's Hospital, earning him a much coveted Blue Peter badge - surely that was a childhood dream many of us had growing up too!

Y5 girls have some serious football talent and not only were Mia, Rosie, Tilly, Amelie and Lucia signed up for the Northumberland County U11 South East District team, but, along with their Y6 teammates in school, also competed in the Schools County 7-aside competition and made it to the final, securing second place. Mia is a girl of many talents for, shortly before making it into the Northumberland football team, she was also selected for the U11 County netball team with the Northumberland Performance Academy! Moving back to football, we are very proud of our Y6 boys who tried out for County, some of whom will be participating in the final trials for the Northumberland South East County team tonight. We have even more to celebrate in boys' football as our team made it through to the regional finals of Premier League Primary Stars - it's the girls' turn next month and Mr Tailford tells me they're a very strong team so I'm not too worried about jinxing things by mentioning that here! And if all of that wasn't enough for one half term, we also sent an incredibly talented team of Y6 footballers to Barcelona to play in the Schools World Cup where their impressive skills were rewarded with the title of Winners of the Plate - a truly amazing achievement. I was incredibly proud to hear that they showed great sportsmanship and demonstrated many of our school values including respect, kindness, effort and resilience. While we could only send a limited number of children to Barcelona, we know we have so many keen and talented footballers and the upcoming boys' 7-aside district league will provide the perfect opportunity to give different players a chance to represent the school.

I think it's worth finishing by acknowledging that none of the above happens by accident - it takes dedicated parents and school staff to nurture the talent and give the children the confidence to participate as well as the support they need to be resilient on the occasions when they don't make it to finals, win or get selected. I would like to say an enormous thank you to Mr Drane, Mr Tailford and Mr Orme who give up their time every Friday evening to coach both the boys and girls in football. I am so grateful to Mr Drane and Mr Tailford, along with Miss Smith, for giving up their weekend to give the boys the experience of playing in the Schools World Cup - true dedication. As one parent said, "we have had lots of experience of football coaches (outside of school) and I honestly couldn't ask for better coaches in Ryan and James. They are a credit to the school."

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On behalf of The People's Kitchen I would like to thank everyone for their generosity in donating so many gifts of food to the charity as part of our Harvest Festival. It was so lovely to have our reception parents join us for the children's performance and what a gorgeous performance it was - I'm sure you were beaming with pride, as was I. Reception were very well supported by years 1 and 2 and I was blown away by our brilliant Y2 speakers: Imogen, Joshua, George, Emmy, Grace and Dylan - all superstars.

Best wishes, Claire Johnson

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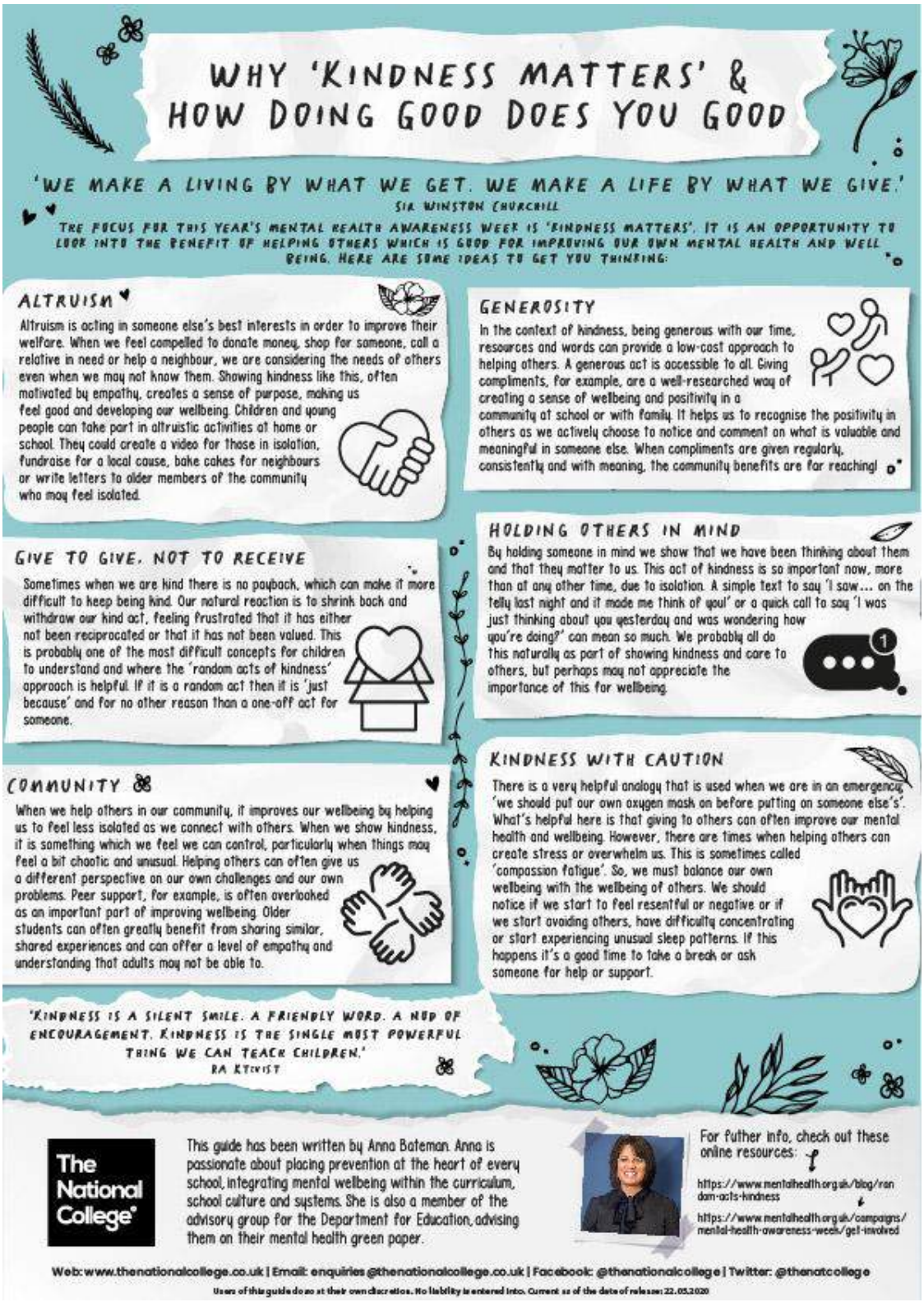
Safeguarding & wellbeing

Our value this month is kindness and in school, both adults and children, have been carrying out random acts of kindness. Our happiest minute of the week in assembly today was filled with teachers giving shout-outs to children who have done something kind which has brightened their week. I've challenged the children to continue this at home and in their communities so please let me know if you notice them being particularly kind!



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ATTENDANCE MATTERS
every student, every day

Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	**95.1%**	Year 3 (Pine)	**97.7%**
Reception (Chestnut)	**100%**	Year 4 (Alder)	**98.1%**
Reception (Pinecone)	**95.7%**	Year 4 (Yew)	**97.3%**
Year 1 (Holly)	**99.0%**	Year 5 (Oak)	**91.9%**
Year 1 (Ash)	**97.9%**	Year 5 (Beech)	**98.0%**
Year 2 (Sycamore)	**97.3%**	Year 6 (Elm)	**94.8%**
Year 2 (Willow)	**98.7%**	Year 6 (Birch)	**89.0%**
Year 3 (Maple)	**93.0%**	Whole school Cumulative from Sept	**96.4%**

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

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This week in Nursery

Welly Wednesday has to be our favourite part of the week! This week we picked tomatoes that we had been growing in the woods to make our own tomato soup, which we enjoyed by the fire for our snack. We added some enhancements to our woodland too, trying out the new tree swing and running through our ribbons. We finished our time in the woods by forest bathing after listening to the story 'I Hear you Forest'.

Mrs Wilds

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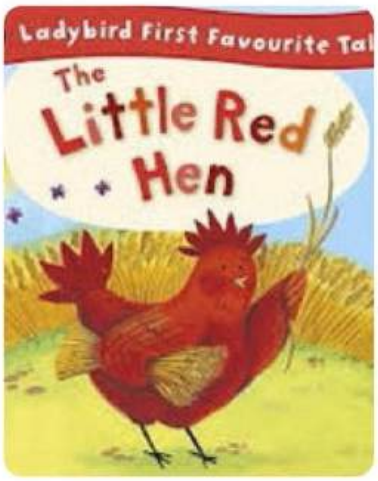
This week in Reception

We were so proud of our Reception superstars for their Harvest Festival performance this week and we hope that you have managed to get the songs out of your heads! We have talked a lot about harvest this week and our story focus has been 'The LittleRed Hen'. The children have loved acting out the story and it has inspired some fabulous independent writing too!



Mrs Blyth and Mrs Adamson

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This week in Year 1

This week in English we have been practising our oracy skills. We have a new core text, The Smeds and the Smoos, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed sharing their predictions about the book, detailing the characters and the setting, and this has led up to them sequencing and acting out the story. In our oracy sessions the children utilise not only their speaking skills but, very importantly, their listening skills. I am very impressed with the feedback we have shared together after watching each session and how the children have borrowed ideas and improved their performances. Well done Year 1!

Miss Storey and Mrs Kenyon

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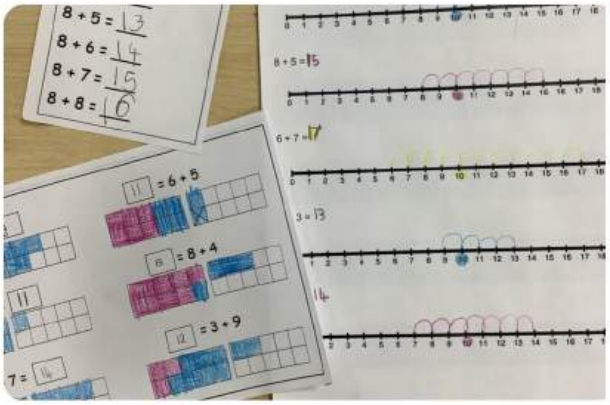
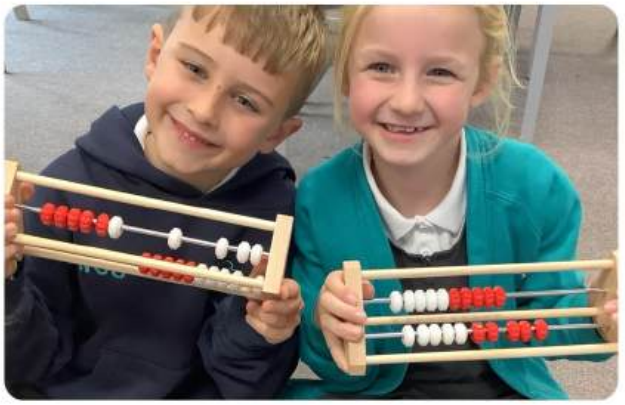
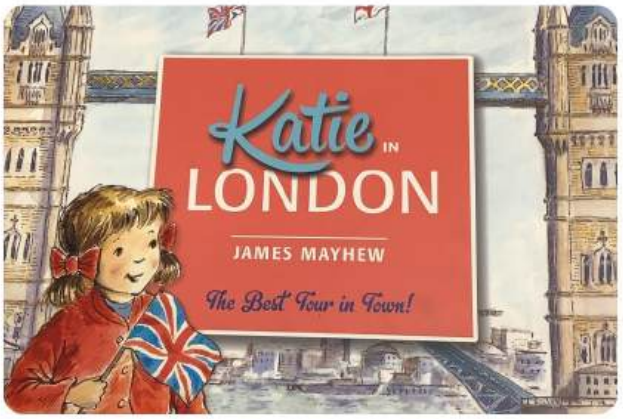
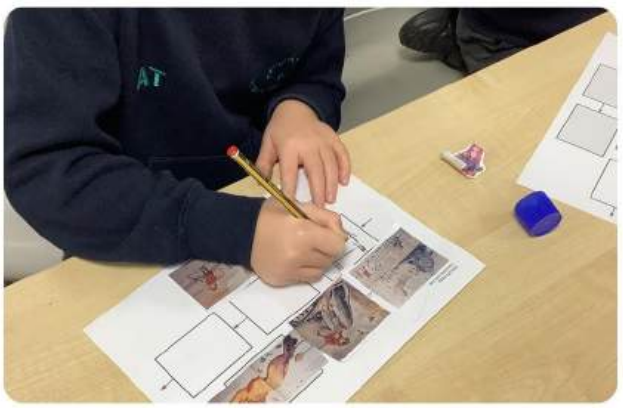
This week in Year 2

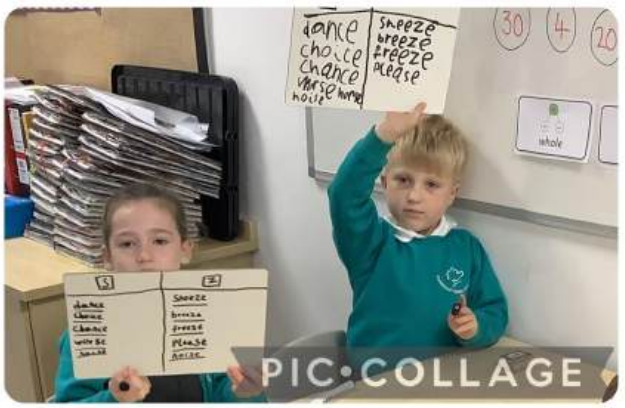
A week full of learning in Year 2 - we have been learning how to bridge ten in maths. We have introduced these carefully on number lines and tens frames so that we can fully grasp what happens when we bridge a ten. We have also been reading a new story in English called 'Katie in London' which we will be retelling next week. In phonics, we practised the different phonemes 'z' and 's' and sorted words based on which sounds they contained.











Mrs Nowosielska and Mr Massey

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This week in Year 3

It's almost mince pie season… with that in mind as part of our DT unit we have been evaluating mincemeat used to fill mince pies.

We discussed the texture, taste, smell and appearance of each mine meat filling.

I think our taste buds might need a little bit of work on these - we found them sweet and juicy but we're not too sure on the textures and spices. Maybe with a little bit of pastry they could be better?

After half term, we will reflect on our evaluations to design our own mince pie filling.

Miss Mears and Mr Shaw

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This week in Year 4

The children have thoroughly enjoyed their Tag Rugby sessions in PE with Mr Drane this week. They showed great enthusiasm and energy as they developed key skills such as passing, dodging, and working as a team. It was fantastic to see how quickly they picked up the rules of the game and how supportive they were of one another during matches.

There was a real sense of excitement during each session, especially as the children began to apply their skills in small-sided games. They demonstrated great teamwork, communication, and a growing understanding of tactics ,all while having lots of fun! We're really proud of how they've embraced the sport and shown such positive attitudes on the field.

Miss Davis and Mrs Bell

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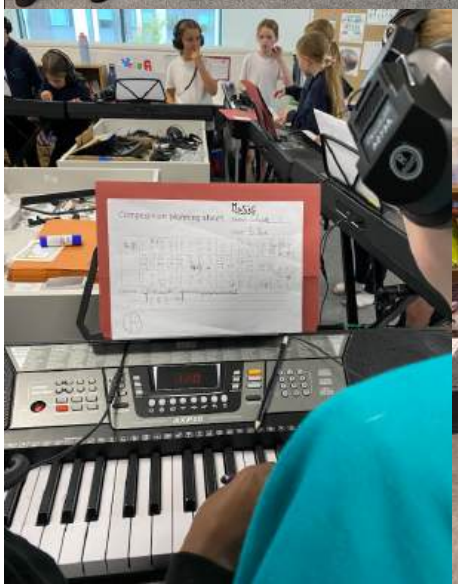
This week in Year 5

Composing Ourselves

Our Year 5 musicians have been making fantastic strides in their music lessons! Working collaboratively in pairs, they've embraced the role of composers and producers, using keyboards to bring their original ideas to life. The students didn't just play a tune; they meticulously planned, wrote, and created a complete piece of music, including a thoughtful accompaniment. The lessons culminated in a series of engaging performances where each pair bravely shared their creation with the rest of the class. It was wonderful to see their creativity and teamwork flourish, resulting in a diverse and impressive range of compositions!



Mr McCourt and Mr Tailford

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This week in Year 6

This week in English, year 6 have been focusing on poetry and writing a poem about a stormy night at sea. We studied the features of poetry, looked at some great examples of the types of poems we would be writing and gathered vocabulary and ideas that we could use to compose our poems. We wrote free verse poems that aimed to create a dark and threatening mood through our use of carefully selected description, similes, metaphors and personification. The results were fantastic!

Check out Daisy and Tom's finished poems. Just two of the many amazing pieces the children produced!

Storm at sea

Thunder builds and lightning zaps.
Rain comes pouring from the sky sending waves to crash against the cliffs and rocks.
On top of the rocky cliff the red and white striped lighthouse stands proud above the sea.
The wind howls like a wolf and the thunder won't stop building.
Crash,bang,boom

The storm is here!
The waves get stronger and stronger that they could pull you beneath.
The storm is a deadly beast and the thunder gives a deafening roar.

Lightning shoots across the sky like arrows all around.
Boom boom boom.
Clouds clash and lightning whips.
Citizens in the distance cry for help but there is no escaping this storm.
It strikes midnight…

The Darkest Night

A rumble of demonic thunder brews in the distance.
A storm is coming.
The clouds gather and a torrent falls from above.
Waves become taller and stronger pulling at the coast.
The calm is soon to be over.

A crash of the waves batters the weathered shore.
A storm is here.
Icy spray and crackling lightning sends everyone into a panic.
The sea is a tempestuous beast churning up horror.

The rain is reduced to a pitiful splatter.
The inky clouds disperse.
A storm is over.
The sorrowful rumble grows faint.
It is the darkest night.

Miss Allan and Mr Orme

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Dates for your diary in 2025

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
Wc 20th October 2025	Reception Open Week (Mon - Thursday)
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
Tue 4th November 2025	Yr5 Robinwood Parents Info Meeting - 5pm - 6pm (School Hall)
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.
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

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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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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://

Visit our website
nland.cc/familyhubs

Northumberland County Council

Family Hubs
Here for everyone

Sleep ACTION

Can you help our PTA?

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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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Shop with 7,500+ brands including:

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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 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

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