Ponteland Primary School
Excellence For All

PELE TRUST

Friday Flyer

Friday 18th July 2025

Headteacher Update

As each academic year draws to a close I always hope that the children go into the summer with happy memories of the year behind them, feeling a little more confident and knowing that they have the skills and values to approach anything life brings them. I love watching the children in their end of year assemblies and thinking back to smaller versions of them 12 months ago, when they were yet to embark on the challenges of their new year group; I always feel so proud of how much they've achieved and how far they've come in a year. I'm sure you all feel the same when looking at your own children, and no one more so than the Year 6 parents who, like me, will be thinking back to when their big 11 year olds were really quite little and stepping over the threshold into Ponteland Primary School for the very first time. Our Year 6s have certainly done us proud this year and we will miss their sparkiness and sense of fun next year but, having seen them mature over the year and develop in their confidence, resilience and sense of responsibility, I know that they are ready for High School and wish them the best of luck.

The children have all achieved so much this year and so too have the staff - I'm very fortunate to have such a dedicated and hard working team who care so much about the children. We are also incredibly lucky to have such a supportive and generous parent body who make a real difference in our school. Enormous thanks to Sinead and the PTA for hosting the most fabulous fairs and enhancing the children's experience of school with their parties and events and, of course, the annual end of year ice cream treat which everyone enjoyed yesterday! Thank you also to all of the parents who have supported our careers education programme by coming into school to share their expertise and give the children a taste of their working life.

One such parent was Autumn and Roman's dad who not only came into school to talk about his role as Regional Director at Belway Homes but also supported our Kaleidoscope exhibition by providing the scaffolding free of charge which meant Mrs Frame's vision of a curved walkway could be realised. Dan's generosity meant an already exceptional exhibition was elevated to even greater heights.

As well as excitement for the summer holidays, this week also brought some sadness as we said goodbye to staff who leave us for pastures new. After 26 years in the classroom, 8 of which were at Ponteland Primary, Mrs Maccoy is retiring from teaching. For the past ten years, alongside teaching, she has built a running business, These Girls Can Run, and she intends to spend her time focusing on this. An exceptional teacher, she will be sorely missed but our loss is very much the running community's gain and I have no doubt that she will have everyone whipped into shape ready for the Great North Run! Also leaving us to develop her own business is Miss Choudhury who plans to grow her private tuition. Miss Choudhury came to us on supply four years ago and did such a good job we managed to persuade her to stay and become part of our teaching team! We also say goodbye to Miss Booth, who has supported in Year 1, and Mrs Tucker, who has supported in Reception. They will both be missed and we wish them the best of luck moving forward.
We always end our Friday celebration assemblies with the 'happiest minute of the week' where we give shout outs to those who have gone above and beyond and I want to end this final Friday Flyer of the year in the same style with some shout outs for some of our incredible children who have, over the last week, truly embodied our school values of kindness and empathy with their charitable endeavours. Seb in Year 4 held a birthday party and instead of gifts, asked his friends to make a donation to Cancer Research UK - this very kind and selfless act resulted in £700 being raised for the charity! Meanwhile, Sophie in Reception made the very brave decision to chop her long hair into a bob and donate it to the Little Princess Trust where it will be made into a wig to help a child who has lost their hair. Immy in Year 5 is creating rugs for toy ponies which she is selling with all proceeds going to her favourite charity - the World Horse Welfare. Finally Max and Leo in Year 4 and Year 2 joined a family friend for the first leg of a 50 mile walk to raise money in memory of a lost loved one and, in doing so, helped raise £9000 for St Cuthbert's Hospice in Durham. What amazing children we have - they really are making a difference in the world.

I hope everyone has a very happy summer, filled with lots of quality family time. We'll see you all on Tuesday 2nd September!

Claire Johnson

Ponteland Primary School
Excellence For All

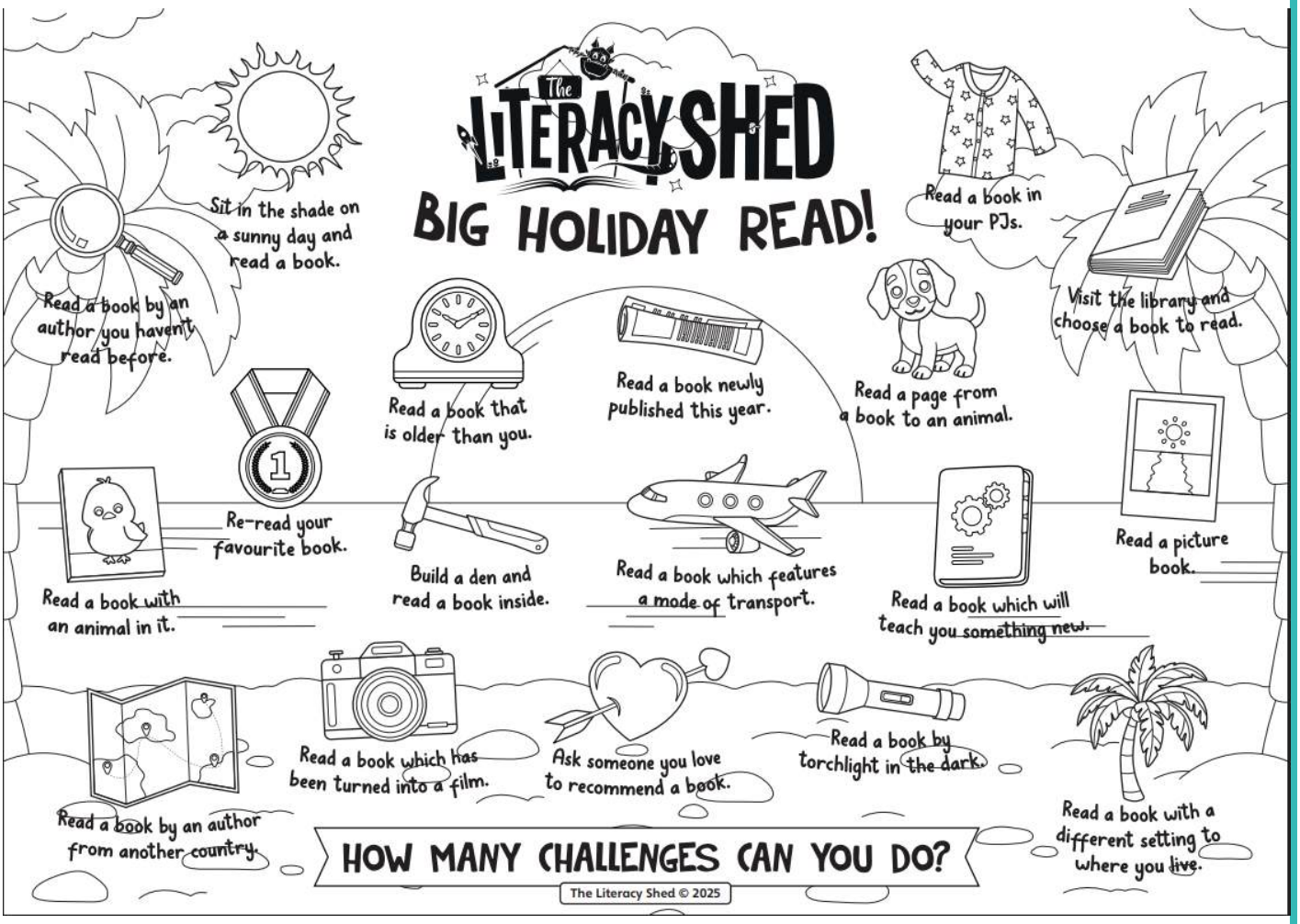
PELE TRUST

Safeguarding & wellbeing

School holidays likely means increased screen time and so this guide may be helpful in ensuring the children can enjoy their devices as safely as possible.

Ponteland Primary School
Excellence For All

PELE TRUST



Ponteland Primary School
Excellence For All

PELE TRUST

ATTENDANCE MATTERS
every student, every day

Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	**91.2%**	Year 3 (Pine)	**94.7%**
Reception (Chestnut)	**92.7%**	Year 4 (Alder)	**93.5%**
Reception (Pinecone)	**94.0%**	Year 4 (Yew)	**95.3%**
Year 1 (Holly)	**92.3%**	Year 5 (Oak)	**93.5%**
Year 1 (Ash)	**97.3%**	Year 5 (Beech)	**87.2%**
Year 2 (Sycamore)	**93.7%**	Year 6 (Elm)	**96.0%**
Year 2 (Willow)	**95.0%**	Year 6 (Birch)	**96.3%**
Year 3 (Maple)	**97.4%**	Whole school Cumulative from Sept	**95.5%**

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

Ponteland Primary School
Excellence For All

PELE TRUST

This week in Nursery

Nursery have been getting ready for the summer holidays by making our own fans. We listened to the story Emma Jane's Aeroplane before sharing pictures of our own holidays from home. We then used our cutting skills to cut out a fan shape. Let's hope the warm weather stays for our summer break so we can use them! Have a lovely summer everyone!

Mrs Wilds

Ponteland Primary School
Excellence For All

PELE TRUST

This week in Reception

Unfortunately the weather was not on our side for our parents' picnic in the forest on Tuesday. Plan B was implemented and it was so lovely to invite our families into the dining hall for some fun and games. Thank you to the PTA for arranging for Tony's Ices to come and for paying for the children to have an ice cream. Thank you also to our lovely parents for all of their support this year and we hope you have a lovely summer with your gorgeous children.

Mrs Blyth and Mrs Adamson

Ponteland Primary School
Excellence For All

PELE TRUST

This week in Year 1

The final week in Year 1 brought our last Forest School session where the children made ‘celebration sticks’ using their fine motor skills. They wound round colourful ribbons and threaded bells to create a ‘magic wand’ to hold all their memories of Year 1. They also enjoyed making memory rainbows with their favourite things from Year 1 like the woods, taking home Paddington, our trips and many more!

What a great year it has been. Year 2, here we come!

Mrs Rogers and Miss Storey

Ponteland Primary School
Excellence For All

PELE TRUST

This week in Year 2

Year 2 have been sewing this week! We designed our own pouches and then used sewing techniques to attach the fabric together. This required lots of resilience and patience but we managed really well! We are sure you will agree that they look fantastic!

Miss Briggs and Mr Massey

Ponteland Primary School
Excellence For All

PELE TRUST

This week in Year 3

As year 3 comes to a close we want to wish all parents and children a very lovely summer and send our gratitude for the wonderful year we have had together. This week has been a week of fun and treats getting to spend time together - we enjoyed an excellent game of rounders as a whole year group and we also enjoyed delicious ice creams (huge thanks to the PTA and Tonys).

Miss Mears, Miss Choudhury, Mrs Hazelton and Mrs Hurst

This week in Year 4

We have had the best week celebrating the end of Year 4 and looking ahead to Year 5. Miss Davis, Mrs Maccoy, Mrs Bell, Mr Armstrong and Mrs Holliday want to wish all of our children and their families a wonderful, restful summer full of their favourite things. We have loved being a part of your Year 4 journey and we can't wait to see what you go on to do in Upper Key Stage 2! You will all be amazing. ⭐

Yew Class 2024-2025

Alder Class 2024-2025

Miss Davis, Mrs Maccoy and Mrs Bell

This week in Year 5

The end of an ~~error~~ era

Thank you so much for your continued support throughout the year. The children have made tremendous progress, both academically and personally, and should be incredibly proud of all they've achieved. It's been a joy to watch them grow and flourish. Just look at them now!

Mr Tailford and I wish them the very best of luck as they head into their final year at Ponteland Primary.

Have a wonderful, restful summer – you've all earned it!

September 2024

July 2025

Mr McCourt and Mr Tailford

Ponteland Primary School
Excellence For All

PELE TRUST

This week in Year 6

It's the end of the school year, and we've been preparing to say farewell to our brilliant, energetic Year 6 cohort**.** This week's Leavers' Assembly gave us a chance to reflect on memorable moments and thank those who supported them along the way. Today has been filled with celebration, fond farewells—and of course, the customary signing of shirts and T-shirts. The children are more than ready for their next steps and all the exciting opportunities that high school will bring. We wish them the very best of luck!

Miss Allan and Mr Orme

Ponteland Primary School
Excellence For All

PELE TRUST

Dates for your diary in 2025

1st September 2025	Teacher Training Day
2nd September 2025	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

Ponteland Primary School
Excellence For All

PELE TRUST

TRAIN TO TEACH WITH

Northumbria Teacher Training in School @ PELE TRUST Ponteland

Your Pathway to Exceptional Training and Teaching Starts Here…

Inspire the Next Generation

Are you ready?

Join our highly regarded, school-centred teacher training programme, accredited by Northumbria University and start your journey towards becoming a confident capable and successful teacher.

Our Course:

We are a very supportive training course that helps you towards your goal of becoming a qualified teacher.

- School-based training, in main placement school from September
- A second placement, in a contrasting school in January
- Weekly training days with expert-led workshops
- Continuous support and development through observations, feedback and assignments
- Teaching build-up to prepare you for teaching your class in 2026
- Extensive time in schools – more than most traditional PGCEs
- Hands-on teaching from day one
- Support from experienced mentors, tutors, and peer networks
- Access to university resources, facilities, and academic sessions
- Training across diverse school settings in the North East
- Excellent employment support and guidance

What we offer:

A PGCE (Primary) accredited by Northumbria University

Two training routes:

- Primary 3-7 years
- Primary 5-11 years

Training in schools across the Pele Trust in Ponteland.

Entry Requirements:

- A degree (preferably 2:1 or above – a 2:2 is considered)
- GCSEs at grade C/4 or above in English, Maths and Science
- School experience is desirable but not essential – contact us to arrange a visit

Trainee Testimonials:

"This has been a fantastic experience, allowing me to feel equipped and ready to be a primary school teacher."
– M. Thomas

"The support from staff and pupils has been excellent. This is the best way to get into teaching." – A. Cragg

Contact us:

Alistair McCourt
alistair.mccourt@ppschool.uk
Lynn Blain
l.blain@peletrust.org.uk

Apply Now:

3–7 years course:
https://www.find-postgraduate-teacher-training.service.gov.uk/course/16S/Q718
5–11 years course:
https://www.find-postgraduate-teacher-training.service.gov.uk/course/16S/2YVQ
Apply:
https://www.apply-for-teacher-training.service.gov.uk/candidate

Ponteland Primary School
Excellence For All

PELE TRUST

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
Excellence For All

PELE TRUST

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

Ponteland Primary School
Excellence For All

PELE TRUST

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**

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

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 · Argos · TUI

JOHN LEWIS · Viking · ASOS · BT · Uber Eats

Ponteland Primary School
Excellence For All

PELE TRUST

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

Ponteland Primary School
Excellence For All

Ponteland Primary School
Excellence For All

PELE TRUST