

Friday Flyer

Friday 20th June 2025

Headteacher Update

I am writing this week's Friday Flyer having just returned from the Kaleidoscope Club's performance at the Tyne Theatre and I have been completely blown away by the whole event! It was truly inspirational with our amazing children singing and dancing their hearts out. The premise behind our Kaleidoscope project is to celebrate each of our differences: just as the multitude of colours in a kaleidoscope combine to create something special, so too do the differences in all of our children. Our Years 4, 5 and 6 children performed alongside their peers in the other Pele Trust primary schools, making both friends and wonderful memories. Brian in Y6 took the audience's breath away with his stunning solo of 'When you Believe' - I had tears in my eyes watching him, what a talent! As well as preparing our children for the show, Mrs Adamson has led the theatre aspect of the Kaleidoscope project across Pele Trust and has put in an enormous amount of work to make tonight's show the success it was. A performer herself, she knew exactly how to choreograph each piece and the final result was a real triumph! Thank you so much to Mrs Adamson and the team who supported her - Miss Briggs, Mrs Ogden, Miss Reilly and Mrs Frame - what an incredible experience they have given the children.



It was so lovely to welcome so many of our parents and carers into school this week for Sports Day. The children put in maximum effort in each of their events and had a blast cheering each other on. It was great to see the competitive spirit well and truly alive with the adults too! We had some very brave parents who stepped up to race and, much to the children's delight, the teachers also competed against each other! Mr Tailford on the field and Mr Smith on the mic were a dream team and ensured the event ran super smoothly. We're already looking forward to next year's event!



In other sports news, I'm delighted to share with you that we have been reaccredited the platinum award in the School Games Mark. The award recognises our commitment to developing competitive sport within school and is something we have worked hard to achieve. Huge thanks to Mr Tailford and Mr Drane for all the work they have put into this.

This week has brought not one but two accreditations as we have also been awarded gold in our OPAL assessment! Miss Dinning and the OPAL team have done a tremendous job in developing our outdoor provision and you can see from the pictures just how much joy OPAL brings to the children's day.



Excitement levels are high for Y6 who will be setting off on their residential trip to France bright and early on Monday morning. I will be accompanying them and so Miss Dinning will be leading school in my absence. I look forward to seeing everyone once we return in a week's time.
Best wishes, Claire Johnson

Safeguarding & wellbeing

This month's value is resilience and this week the children had the opportunity to draw on their resilience during sports day in those events where they didn't come in first place. It can be difficult for a child to cope with the upsetting feelings which arise when they lose a race or don't get picked for a sports team, but learning how to manage these emotions in a healthy way is an important part of growing up and so I hope this guide is helpful to you when you have those conversations with your child.

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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BUILD EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE

With increasing societal pressures, many children struggle with managing emotions, facing challenges and processing failure in a healthy way. This is why building emotional resilience in young people is vital for their mental health and personal success. This guide provides practical strategies for parents and educators to help children develop resilience and foster confidence, adaptability and a positive mindset.

- #### 1 ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Regularly engaging children in open dialogue fosters trust and emotional expression. Encourage them to share their thoughts and feelings freely without judgment. Set aside time daily, perhaps during dinner, to ask open-ended questions such as, "What's made you happy today?". This encourages children to express themselves openly.
- #### 2 MODEL POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Children often learn how to manage emotions by observing adults. By modelling calm and positive responses to challenges, you can teach them valuable emotional management skills. If you've had a difficult day, verbalise how you're feeling and explain how you plan to handle it, such as "I'm a bit worked-up, so I'm going for a walk to clear my mind."
- #### 3 TEACH PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS

Helping children break down challenges into manageable steps encourages a proactive mindset. Explain that every problem has a solution, even if it's not immediately obvious. For example, if a child is stuck on homework, support them in breaking the task into smaller steps, saying things like "Let's focus on just this first question for now."
- #### 4 FOSTER A GROWTH MINDSET

Encourage young people to view mistakes as learning opportunities. A growth mindset helps them see setbacks as part of the process, rather than something to be upset about. After a child loses a game or performs poorly on a test, for example, ask them what they've learned from the experience. This reinforces the idea that effort – and even failure – leads to improvement.
- #### 5 PROMOTE SELF-CARE PRACTICES

Teaching children about self-care helps them understand the importance of balancing work with relaxation to maintain emotional wellbeing. Parents and carers could start a screen-free hour before bedtime where the family engages in relaxing activities like reading, setting an example to the child for how to unwind.
- #### 6 BUILD HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Strong relationships with peers and adults provide a support system that enhances resilience. Encourage positive, respectful interactions to develop social skills. Playdates or group activities can be instrumental in teaching children how to resolve conflicts with friends by modelling and practicing calm communication.
- #### 7 SUPPORT EMOTIONAL AWARENESS

Helping children to identify and name their emotions allows them to manage those feelings more effectively. When a child's upset, encourage them to talk to you about what they're feeling in an empathetic and supportive manner, and ask them why they might be experiencing these emotions.
- #### 8 ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENCE

Giving children opportunities to make their own decisions boosts confidence and problem-solving skills. A good example of this would be letting children choose and pack their own lunches for school, guiding them with options but allowing them to assume responsibility for the task to help them take ownership.
- #### 9 DEVELOP COPING STRATEGIES

Teaching children techniques like mindfulness, deep breathing or journaling can help them to manage stress. Show them how to perform breathing exercises when they're feeling anxious, and practise this regularly. Reinforcing this behaviour in young people will make it easier for them to use these techniques of their own accord during stressful moments.
- #### 10 CELEBRATE SMALL WINS

Recognising effort, no matter how small, reinforces perseverance and encourages children to keep trying. After a child completes a difficult task, makes progress on a project or reaches another type of personal goal, praise their efforts. Emphasise the hard work they've put in and be sure to let them know how proud you are!

Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, which works with schools on improving their mental health provisions.

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Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	93.2%	Year 3 (Pine)	83.3%
Reception (Chestnut)	96.7%	Year 4 (Alder)	91.6%
Reception (Pinecone)	94.3%	Year 4 (Yew)	97.7%
Year 1 (Holly)	95.7%	Year 5 (Oak)	89.4%
Year 1 (Ash)	99.3%	Year 5 (Beech)	96.2%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	93.3%	Year 6 (Elm)	98.3%
Year 2 (Willow)	99.3%	Year 6 (Birch)	88.7%
Year 3 (Maple)	93.9%	Whole school Cumulative from Sept	95.6%

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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- 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@pbschool.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>

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<https://www.find-postgraduate-teacher-training.service.gov.uk/course/16S/2YVQ>

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<https://www.apply-for-teacher-training.service.gov.uk/candidate>

This week in Nursery

This week we have read to text Somebody Swallowed Stanley. We found out that if we litter lots of animals might think the litter is food and eat it! This would make them very unwell. We then decided to go on a litter pick, clearing litter from our woods and playground. We are all Eco Warriors!



PIC·COLLAGE

This week in Reception

This week we have continued with our dinosaur learning and found out some fascinating facts - Did you know that a T-rex's poo is 1 metre long? This was definitely a firm favourite! We've also enjoyed lots of fun in the sun and water play.

Did you know?



Name: Max Lings Date: WC 9th June 2025

A T-Rex's teeth were as big as bananas and as sharp as knives. When a Stegosaurus gets angry, the blood pumps into its plates, and they turn red.

Did you know?



Name: Max Lings Date: WC 9th June 2025

A T-Rex's poo was one metre long. The postman came for dinosaur poo is coprolite.

PIC-COLLAGE

This week in Year 1

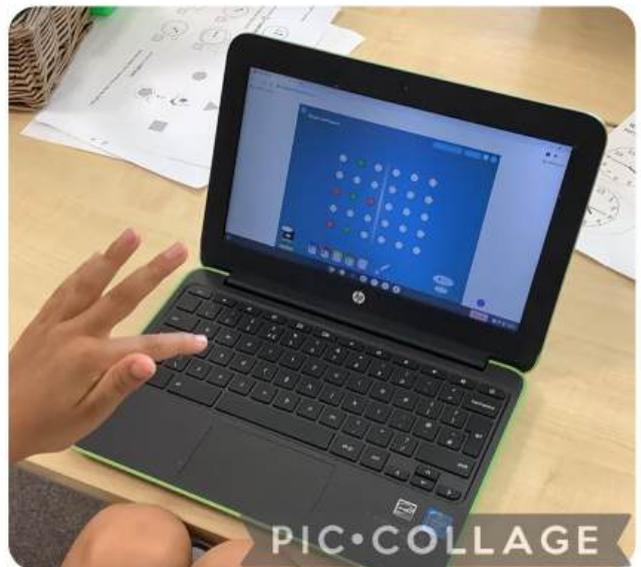
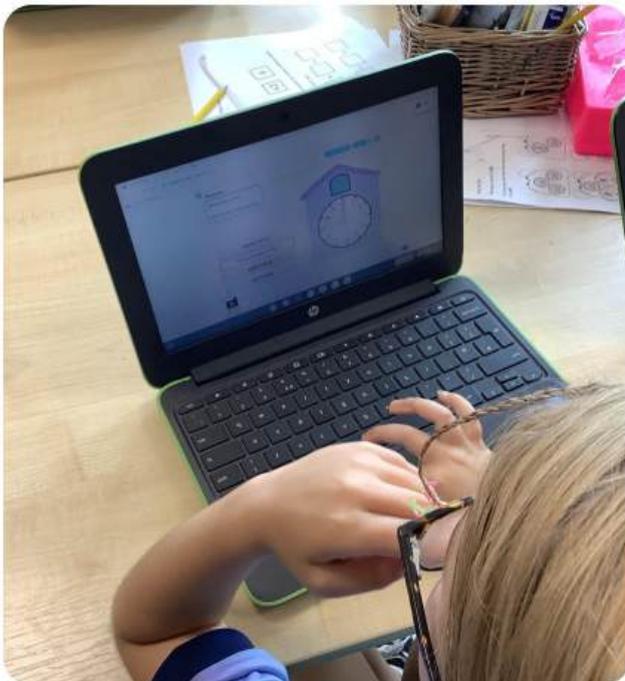
Year 1 have had a fun and sunshine filled week this week! We have certainly been able to make the most of our wonderful weather with smores in the woods and Sports Day!

We have also been learning about FairTrade in Geography and have been tasting and rating some FairTrade foods such as bananas, chocolate and apple juice. In English we have been learning about non-fiction texts and creating fact files to go alongside our core text of the term, Lost and Found. We are all so proud of everyone for their participation during Sports Day, not only for taking part and giving their best effort but for being super cheerleaders and supporters of all of the other children. Well done Year 1!



This week in Year 2

Year 2 has been problem-solving using an online maths programme. We've been working hard to apply our arithmetic skills to different contexts.



This week in Year 3

We are so impressed with the efforts of every single member of year 3. They all showcased their athletic skills and sportsmanship on Wednesday afternoon during sports day. Each child competed in 6 events - standing long jump, lap run, howler throw, sprint, shotput and the egg and spoon race. During each event the children showed determination and resilience as they put into practice the skills they have been learning in PE. What really impressed us was how each child was celebrated by their peers - regardless of which position they came in! Well done everyone and a huge thank you to Mr Tailford and Mr Smith for organising such a fun afternoon.



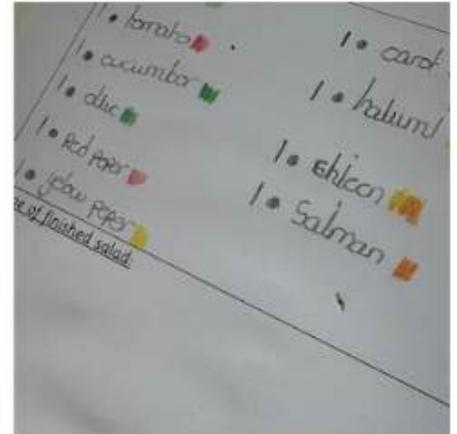
This half term,
we are
exploring the
text 'Queen of
Darkness' by
Tony Bradman



Miss Mears and Miss Choudhury

This week in Year 4

In DT, we have been learning about food hygiene, food groups and practicing our cutting skills. We are building our skills to create our very own salads in the coming weeks. This week we practiced our bridge grips and claw grips to cut cucumbers and tomatoes. We then thought about what ingredients we would need and hygiene rules we would need to follow to create our own designs. Watch out for our ingredients lists coming home soon to make our exciting creations!



This week in Year 5

Chasing your Tail(ford)

What a fantastic morning it was for Year 5 during Wednesday's Sports Day! The pupils gave it their all, showcasing not only their athletic talents but also superb sportsmanship across six exciting events: standing jump, lap runs, howler throw, sprint, shot put, and of course, the ever-popular egg and spoon race.

Throughout the morning, the children displayed excellent determination and resilience, putting into practice the skills they've been developing in PE. What made the event truly special was the way they encouraged and celebrated one another, regardless of final positions.

A definite highlight was the Teacher's Race, with a big congratulations to Mr Tailford for his Usain Bolt-like storming to victory and securing the gold!

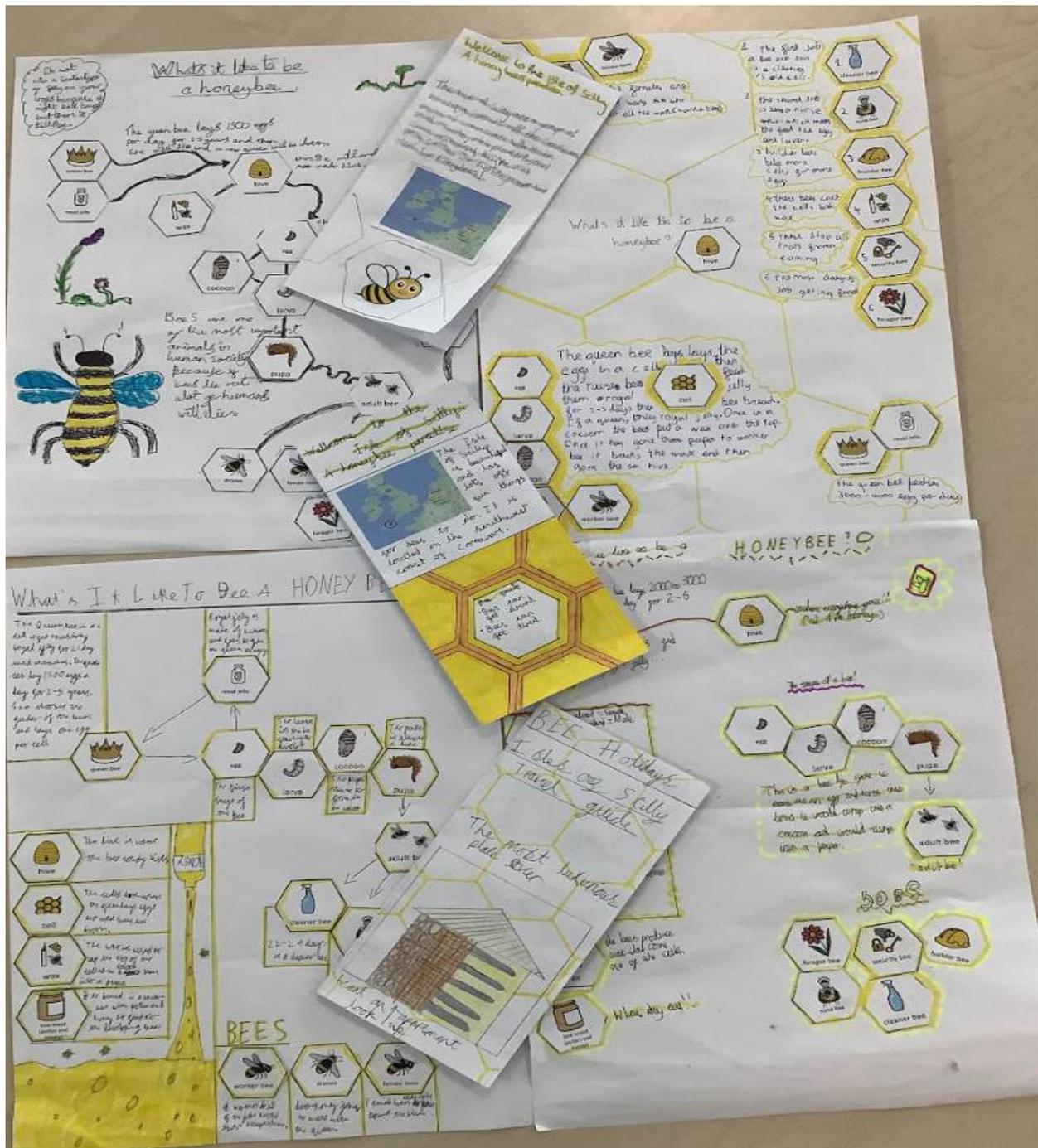
Well done to all of Year 5, and thank you to the parents for your cheer and support.



Mr McCourt and Mr Tailford

This week in Year 6

As we begin to think about transition to high school, this week has been Bee week in year 6. We have spent time researching bees and their roles in the hive, their life cycles and how crucial they are to humankind. We have tasted various honeys, studied a bee's anatomy and found out where they thrive on planet Earth. Some examples of our work from this week will be displayed at a special exhibition at the high school during our first few weeks at Ponteland High school in September. Can you BEE'lieve we have nearly finished year 6!?



Dates for your diary in 2025



25th June 2025	Year 1 Trip - Gibside Trip (Packed lunches needed)
27th June 2025	Year 2 Trip - Beamish (Packed lunches needed)
23rd - 27th June 2025	Year 6 France Trip
1st July 2025	International Joke Day - £1 per entry winner announced for best joke
1st July 2025	Year3 Trip - Arbeia Roman Fort - (Packed lunch needed)
1st July 2025	Year 4 Trip - Druridge Bay - (Packed lunch needed)
3rd July 2025	Year 3 assembly and information meeting with Yr 4 teachers - 9.15am
4th July 2025	Year 5 assembly and information meeting with teachers - 9.15am
8th July 2025	Year 2 assembly and information meeting with Yr 3 teachers - 9.15am
9th July 2025	Year 5 Movie night after school
9th July 2025	Year 1 assembly and information meeting with Yr 2 teachers - 9.15am
10th July 2025	Year 4 assembly and information meeting with Yr 5 teachers - 9.15am
11th July 2025	Reception Assembly and information meeting with Yr 1 teachers - 9.15am
11th July 2025	Rocksteady Concert - 1.15pm prompt start - Years 4-6 & 2.15pm prompt start for Years 1-3
Sat 12th July 2025	Wine & Cheese Tasting. Parents/Carers only. £25 per ticket. St Mary's Church Hall.
16th July 2025	Year 6 leavers assembly - 2pm
18th July 2025	Last School Day. Close at 1.30pm
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

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Ways you can help...

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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!



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...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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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**



