

Friday Flyer

Friday 28th November 2025

Headteacher Update

A big thank you to the Friends of PPS for hosting yet another fantastic Scholastic Book Fair. With total sales of £2,206.54 resulting in an amazing £1,323.92 earned in book commission for the school, we are incredibly grateful to everyone who supported the event by helping out or purchasing books. Nothing makes me happier than seeing children enjoying books and I've loved chatting to them about which book they picked from the book fair and hearing them talk about why they like it so much. Thank you also to everyone who bought a book to kindly donate to their child's class.



If that wasn't impressive enough, the Friends of PPS were also in action last night, hosting our inaugural wreath-making event, which was a great success as you can see from the gorgeous photos below (thanks to Debbie for the professional pics!). The raffle for the Charlotte Tilbury advent calendar was drawn during the evening, and we are delighted to congratulate **Steph Tarrant**, our lucky winner!

It's a busy season for the Friends of PPS as they are also hosting our Christmas Fair next Friday after school. The fair is always a fabulous start to the festivities and will lead us nicely into our Christmas performances the following week. Thank you to everyone who brought in a chocolate treat for the tombola and thank you in advance for your donations of bottles next Friday when the children can wear their Christmas jumper over their school uniform. As well as the ever-popular bottle pull, the Friends of PPS have organised some new stalls and activities for the children and we will also be welcoming some students from Ponteland High School who will be selling items linked to their enterprise project, 'Grow £5'. As ever, we have an impressive array of raffle prizes, including vouchers from Fratellis, Sam's Cafe and Miller and Carter if you fancy a meal out and from Ponteland Leisure Centre if you want to treat the children to soft play or treat yourself to a spa day! I look forward to seeing you there - you'll find me in Mrs Claus' grotto (aka my office) reading stories by the fire!

Best wishes

Claire Johnson

Friends of Ponteland Primary School Wreath Making Event



Rocksteady Concerts

This week we had our first Rocksteady concerts of the year and they were awesome! The children have worked so hard to work as a band, learn new chords and music skills and were so incredibly brave to perform in front of such a large audience. Well done Rockstars!



Safeguarding & wellbeing

I imagine we're all starting to plan for Christmas presents so the following guide may prove useful if Santa is planning to deliver any new devices which may need to be protected before they're opened on Christmas morning.

All National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nos.org.uk for further guides, tips and links for adults.

Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to "Screen Time". From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select "Add Child" and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At myaccount.sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS4, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.



NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCs

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

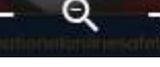
SMART TVS

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the settings menu, under "Broadcasting", you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however, some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

Meet Our Expert

 Barry Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years experience of writing for the nation's leading tech, IT and PC magazines, and Computerworld. He is a regular contributor to IT magazine and website and writes, including on-line, technology news for the TV channel of Freeview. He has written and edited regularly on the subject of safeguarding.

The National College  National Online Safety
 #WakeUpWednesday

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Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	89.8%	Year 3 (Pine)	98.7%
Reception (Chestnut)	96.7%	Year 4 (Alder)	98.1%
Reception (Pinecone)	92.7%	Year 4 (Yew)	98.3%
Year 1 (Holly)	94.3%	Year 5 (Oak)	94.8%
Year 1 (Ash)	89.3%	Year 5 (Beech)	91.0%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	98.0%	Year 6 (Elm)	92.9%
Year 2 (Willow)	94.7%	Year 6 (Birch)	93.8%
Year 3 (Maple)	96.2%	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.

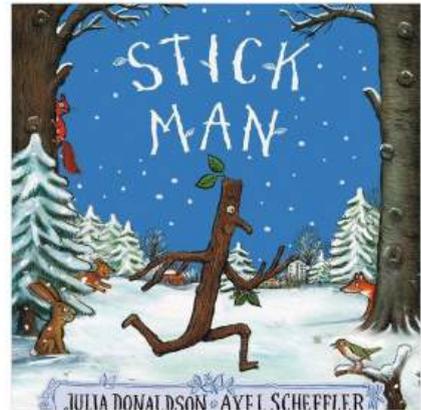
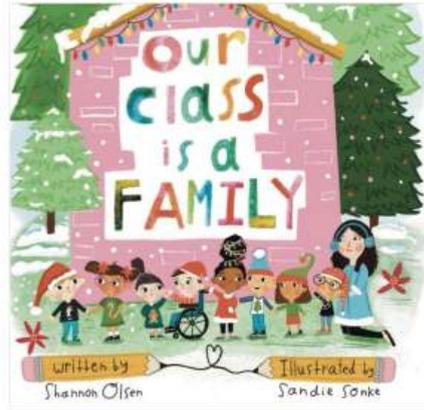
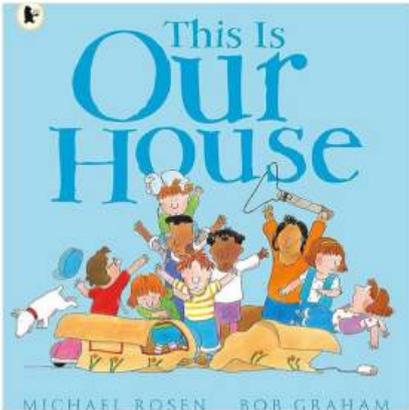
We have a continual focus on attendance and punctuality and this is of the utmost importance in your child's education. Please remember that our school gate closes at 8.55am as this is when our lessons begin. Anyone arriving after this time is classed as late and will miss valuable learning opportunities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

What does the Government say about school attendance?

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 Reception

Over the last couple of weeks we have been working on our core text, 'This is our House' alongside our spine book, Stickman. We have been thinking of our class community and our families and we have created our own family trees. We also read our core text 'Our Class is a Family' and we realised that, although all of our families look different, they are all full of love.

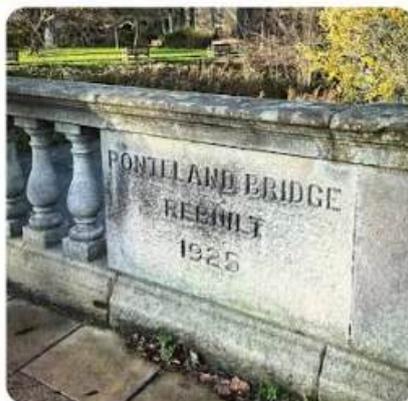


This week in Year 1

Yesterday, Year 1 enjoyed a wonderful local history walk. As we travelled around the village, we looked at old photographs and talked about what has stayed the same and what has changed over time.

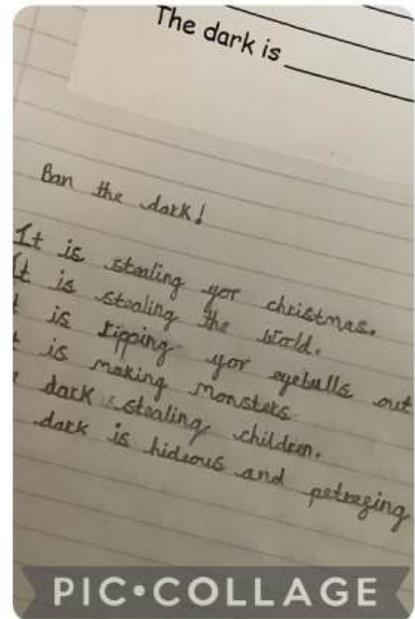
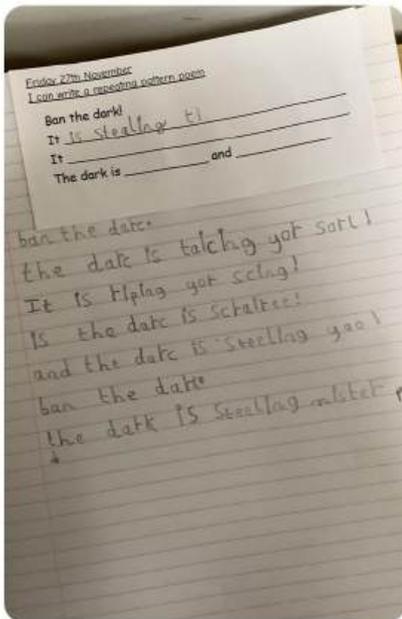
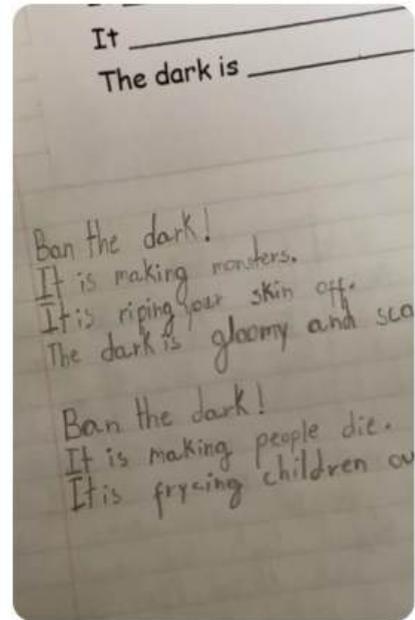
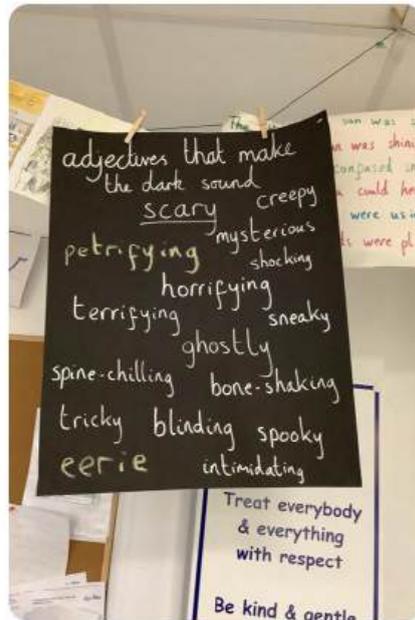
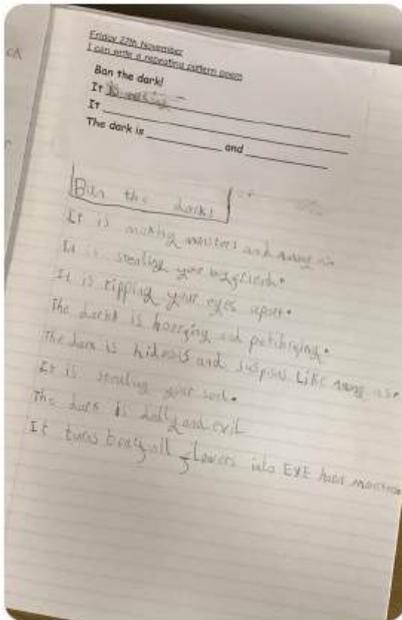
The children were very enthusiastic as we explored a range of historical landmarks.

The class loved making connections between the past and present and were full of great questions. We're looking forward to using what we discovered in our upcoming history lessons.



This week in Year 2

Year 2's amazing writing from this week. We have been writing repeating pattern poems about banning the dark based on our class book *The King Who Banned the Dark*. We came up with lots of creative ideas and adjectives to persuade people to ban the dark like the king did and then turned them into a poem.



This week in Year 3

Year 3 has had a very busy week this week. We began the week with a school trip to Woodhorn. We had a really engaging time across 3 workshops and are so thankful to Woodhorn for working with us. We used our knowledge from Rocks and Soils in Science to sort different Rocks and Fossils and learn more about where they came from. We also got to use clay to make some imprints of fossils to take home. Another of our workshops allowed us to get a glimpse into the life and experience of a miner working in the pits. We donned our caps, neckerchiefs and waistcoats as we learned more about life in the mines. Our final workshop was a tour around the Coillery.



Miss Mears and Mr Shaw



This week in Year 4

A Magical Day at Lilidorei!

We're so excited to share the wonderful news about our recent school trip to Lilidorei at The Alnwick Garden! It was a magical day from start to finish, and the children made us so proud with their lovely behaviour. Their good manners and respectful attitude really stood out all day.

The children were completely swept up in the fun; meeting the snowman, elf, goblin, and fairy, listening to the brilliant storyteller, and bravely climbing the amazing play structure!

A real highlight was when a member of the Lilidorei team came over specially to tell us how fantastic our pupils were. They said the children were brilliant ambassadors for the school, which made us feel incredibly proud.

We hope the magic, excitement, and happy memories stay with them for a long time!



This week in Year 5

(A)I Can't Believe it!

This week, Year 5 stepped into the world of AI as we turned our written descriptions of a Marley-type ghost into spooky illustrations!

We began by writing detailed character descriptions, taking inspiration from our core text, *A Christmas Carol*. The children worked hard to include a range of techniques such as fronted adverbials, three-word sentences, and plenty of sensory details to bring their phantoms to life.

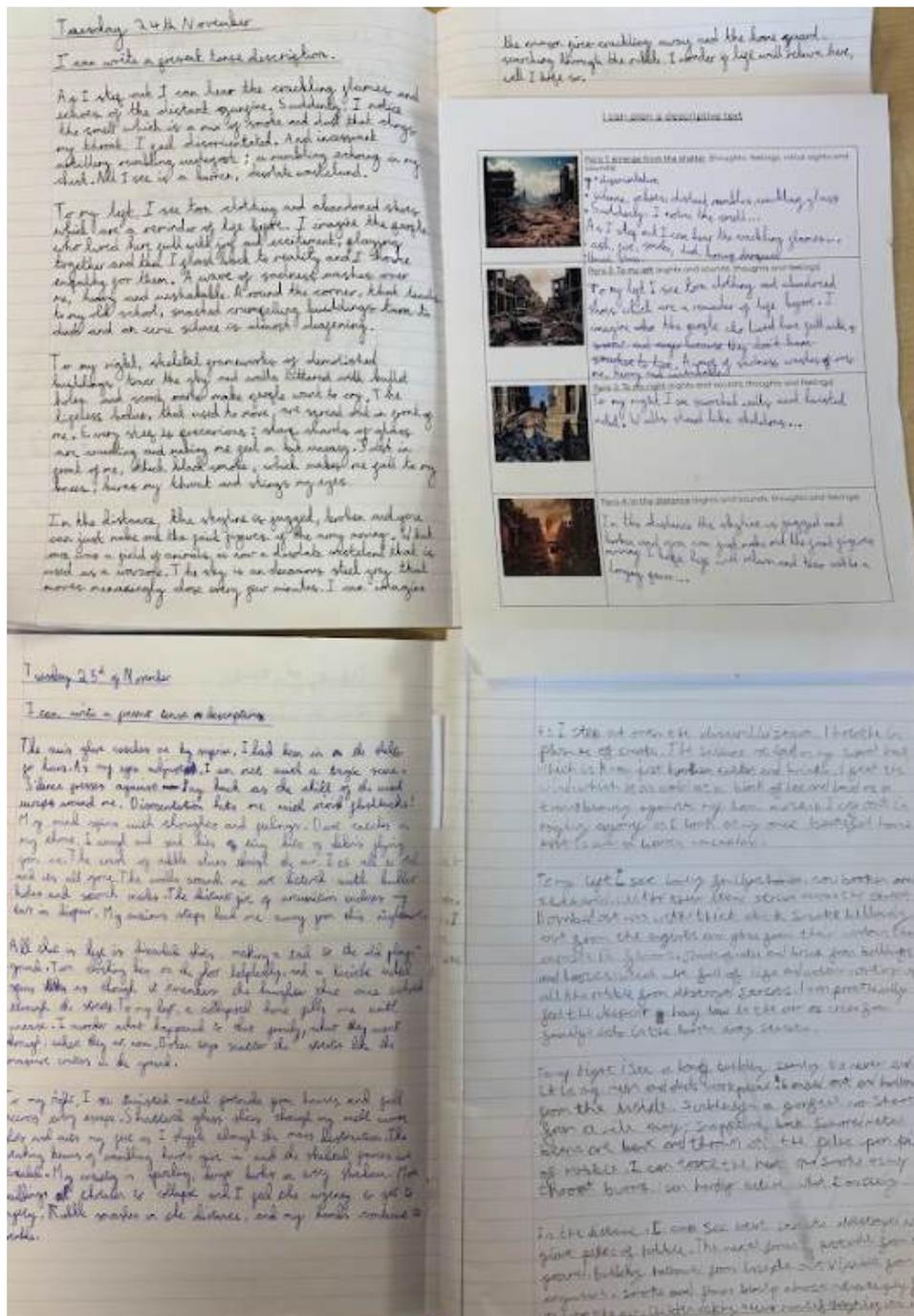
Once the writing was complete, we fed our descriptions into an AI platform to generate an image. The clearer and more vivid the writing, the more accurate the picture — and the children were eager to see whether their ghostly visions would appear on screen!

The results were wonderfully mixed, from eerie spectres to fearsome phantoms, and many images looked just as the children had imagined them. It was a brilliant blend of creativity, technology, and classic literature.



This week in Year 6

Building on last week's work, Year 6 have been drafting and refining their final pieces inspired by our core text, *Yellow Butterfly*. Over several weeks, they have practised key writing skills and applied them to craft powerful first-person, present-tense narratives. Each pupil structured their work into four descriptive paragraphs, capturing the stark realities of modern conflict with sensitivity and impact. The children demonstrated remarkable resilience and dedication throughout the editing process, carefully improving and elevating their writing to produce their very best work. We are incredibly proud of their effort, creativity, and determination.



Dates for your diary in 2025



Friday 5th December 2025	Christmas Jumper Day (with uniform) for donation of a bottle for our famous bottle pull! PTA Christmas Fair. Games, food, drinks, Santa, raffle, tombola and so much more!
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 & Christmas Jumper Day with uniform 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
Thur 18th December 25	Pele Trust Christmas Choir Concert at St Mary's Church in Ponteland - Performance starts 1.45pm.
Fri 19th December 2025	School breaks up for Christmas break - School finishes at 1.30pm
Mon 5th January 2026	School Resumes
Wed 14th January 2026	Year 5 trip to Robinwood. Return Friday 16th January.

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



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!



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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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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

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