

# Friday Flyer

Friday 3rd October 2025

## Headteacher Update

There were a fair few tears yesterday, from children, staff and parents alike, as we said goodbye to our wonderful Mrs McCaffery. After almost a decade at Ponteland Primary School, Dominique leaves us to join the private sector, working for Nexus. The children were all very excited to hear she will be working for the Metro trains although I think they were slightly disappointed when she revealed she wouldn't actually be driving them! While most of you know Dom as our incredibly efficient front desk administrator, those with children in Upper Key Stage 2 will



remember Mrs McCaffery as a teaching assistant in Reception class where she was much loved by the children. For the last nine years Dominique has given so much to our school and she will be truly missed by all of us. Yesterday, we had a whole school parade through the main office so the children could say their goodbyes to Mrs McCaffery with some very touching personal messages from children who were eager to show their appreciation for everything Mrs McCaffery has done for them.



There is a bit of a staff theme to this week's Friday Flyer as in assembly this morning, the pupil-led Fundraising Council told us all about the Shine Night Walk which lots of our staff are taking part in tomorrow night to raise money for Cancer Research UK. Sadly our school community has been affected by cancer and so this is a charity we are all passionate about supporting. If you would like to make a donation in support of the team, please follow [this link](#) - they have already raised over £2000!

On an entirely different note, please see the information below regarding music tuition. We would love to see more of our children learn to play an instrument and Mrs Wigham is keen to develop a band within our school to perform along with other Pele Trust primaries. If your child is part of Rocksteady, they may also have tuition for another instrument of their choice. Please follow the links below to sign up.

Best wishes, Claire Johnson

## Music Tuition

Instrument	Teacher	Price	How do I sign up?
Guitar	<i>Richard Dudley</i> <a href="mailto:richardodudley@icloud.com">richardodudley@icloud.com</a>	£90 per term	Complete following form: <a href="https://forms.gle/heKvtLtoxTQQEn2v6">https://forms.gle/heKvtLtoxTQQEn2v6</a>
Keyboard	<i>Rachel Gill</i> <a href="mailto:regill@outlook.com">regill@outlook.com</a>	£90 per term	Complete the following form and Miss Gill will contact you directly: <a href="https://forms.gle/heKvtLtoxTQQEn2v6">https://forms.gle/heKvtLtoxTQQEn2v6</a>
Brass <i>trumpet, french horn and trombone</i>	<i>Alastair Lord</i> <a href="mailto:lord.alastair@gmail.com">lord.alastair@gmail.com</a> or 07834 226 096	Please contact the instrumental teacher for pricing information	Complete the following form and the teacher will contact you directly: <a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeOBDHpK3Leknrpbf609zRu4tMZL1Df-HG3B8EEMcKWsl5-pg/viewform">https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeOBDHpK3Leknrpbf609zRu4tMZL1Df-HG3B8EEMcKWsl5-pg/viewform</a>
Violin, Saxophone, Clarinet and flute	<i>Rachel Jeffers</i> <a href="mailto:rachel.jeffers@btinternet.com">rachel.jeffers@btinternet.com</a>	Please contact the instrumental teacher for pricing information	<a href="https://forms.gle/heKvtLtoxTQQEn2v6">https://forms.gle/heKvtLtoxTQQEn2v6</a>

### Group sizes and costs

Individual 30 minute lesson	£19.95 per lesson
Individual 20 minute lesson	£13.86 per lesson
Group of 2	£10.37 per lesson
Group of 3 or more	£7.13 per lesson



Please note that if you opt for a group lesson of 2 or 3 or more and there are insufficient numbers to make the group, you will be offered an alternative option.

Any enquiries contact [mpn@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:mpn@northumberland.gov.uk)

To sign up please see attached Music Partnership North flyer attached and click on the link in the flyer or below

<https://paritorliveparentv4.azurewebsites.net/2302>

## Safeguarding & wellbeing

Senso - Computer Monitoring in school

It is of paramount importance to us that the children are safe when accessing technology in school. We use a monitoring system, called Senso, which helps us to keep everyone safe by tracking online activity.

If something concerning is typed or viewed, Senso automatically takes a screenshot which is sent to Mrs Johnson to review and address.

This system helps us spot risks quickly and make sure the right support is in place. Please remind your child to always use school technology responsibly, and remind them that they can speak to a trusted adult if they are ever worried about something online.

Below is an acceptable use agreement which we would appreciate you discussing with your child:

**I want to feel safe all the time.**

**I agree that I will:**

**Always keep my passwords a secret;**  
**Only use, move and share personal data securely;**  
**Only visit sites which are appropriate;**  
**Work in collaboration only with people my school has approved and deny access to others;**  
**Respect the school network security;**  
**Make sure all messages I send are respectful;**  
**Show a responsible adult any content that makes me feel unsafe or uncomfortable;**  
**Not reply to any nasty message or anything which makes me feel uncomfortable;**  
**Not use my own mobile device in school unless I am given permission;**  
**Only give my mobile phone number to friends I know in real life and trust;**  
**Only email people I know or are approved by the school;**  
**Always follow the terms and conditions when using a site;**  
**Always keep my personal details private (my name, family information, the journey to school, my pets and hobbies are all examples of personal details);**  
**Always check with a responsible adult before I share images of myself or others;**  
**Never meet with an online friend without taking a responsible adult that I know with me.**

**I am aware of the CEOP report button and know when to use it.**

**I know that anything I share online may be monitored.**

**I know that once I share anything online it is completely out of my control and may be used by others in a way that I did not intend.**

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK!](#)

**ALL STARS SPORT**

# FREE RUGBY DEVELOPMENT

**SESSION**



Free rugby development session in partnership with Ponteland RFC. This session is open to players aged 6-16 and all ability levels. The session will be delivered by highly experienced coaches and ex players.

**31st October 2025**  
**10am - 1pm**



Ponteland RFC, Callerton Lane, NE20 9EG  
<https://all-stars-sport.classforkids.io/camp/32>



### Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	95.0%	Year 3 (Pine)	90.3%
Reception (Chestnut)	98.3%	Year 4 (Alder)	95.2%
Reception (Pinecone)	96.0%	Year 4 ( Yew)	95.3%
Year 1 (Holly)	95.0%	Year 5 (Oak)	94.5%
Year 1 (Ash)	91.4%	Year 5 (Beech)	98.7%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	100%	Year 6 (Elm)	97.4%
Year 2 (Willow)	95.7%	Year 6 (Birch)	93.8%
Year 3 (Maple )	94.3%	Whole school Cumulative from Sept	96.8%

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 Nursery

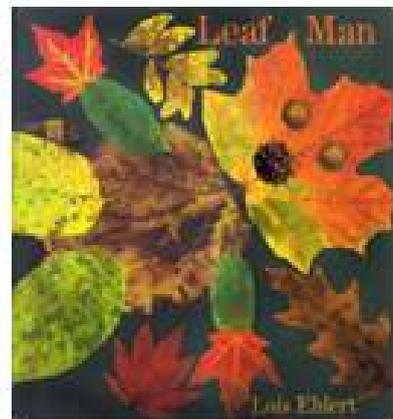
In nursery this week we have celebrated our differences by looking at our faces and creating our own self portrait. We found lots of different colour eyes and hair but the same lips. We hope you like our pictures!



PIC•COLLAGE

## This week in Reception

This week we have embraced Autumn - thank you to all of our lovely families for taking the time to go on Autumn walks with their children and to collect Autumn treasures. We had some fantastic finds and the children have loved exploring all of the treasures. We shared the story 'The Leaf Thief' and looked at our changing seasons. In the forest this afternoon we have also shared the story 'Leaf Man' and created our own leaf men, women and families.



## This week in Year 1

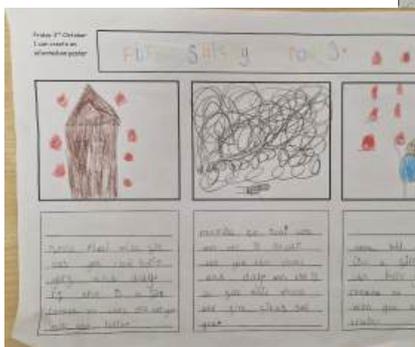
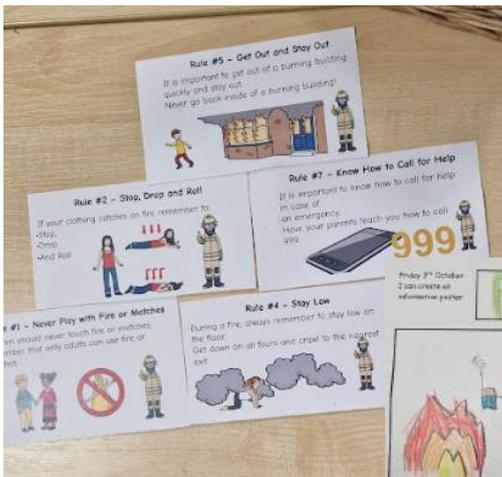
This week in Year 1 we have been exploring our senses. We have been designing our own planets for Beegu in Literacy and writing descriptive sentences using our chosen adjectives. We have also been over to our woods to practise using our senses in real life, and there was lots to explore! We could hear loud birds tweeting, we saw a giant, orange pumpkin, felt flaky, bumpy trees and we could smell the wet, fresh grass.



Miss Storey and Mrs Kenyon

## This week in Year 2

Year 2 children have been learning more about fire safety. We began the week with lots of oracy around which rules we thought were most important. This was a great opportunity to talk about why each fire safety rule was important in keeping us safe. We then planned and created our own fire safety posters which were eye-catching and full of useful information.



## This week in Year 3

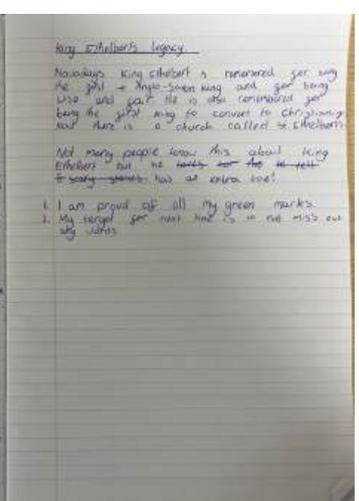
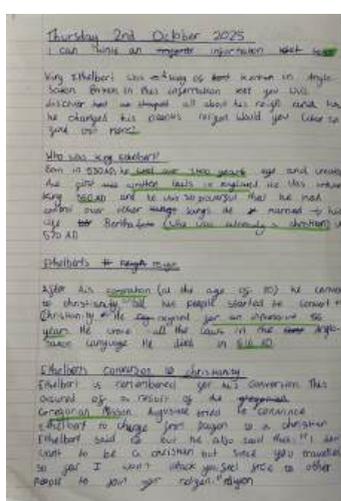
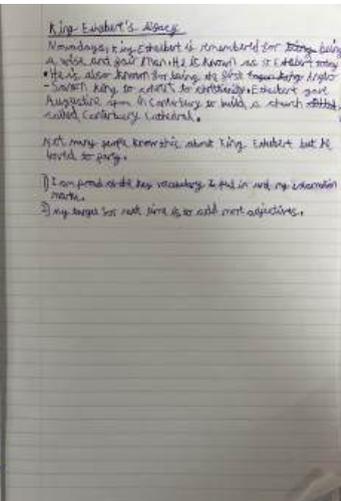
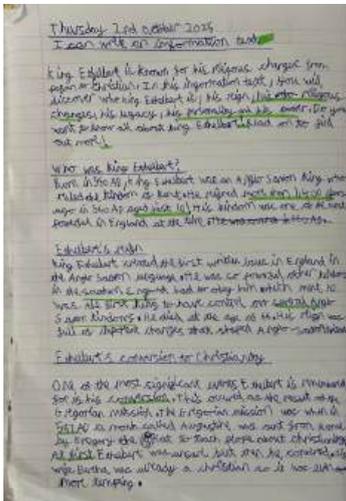
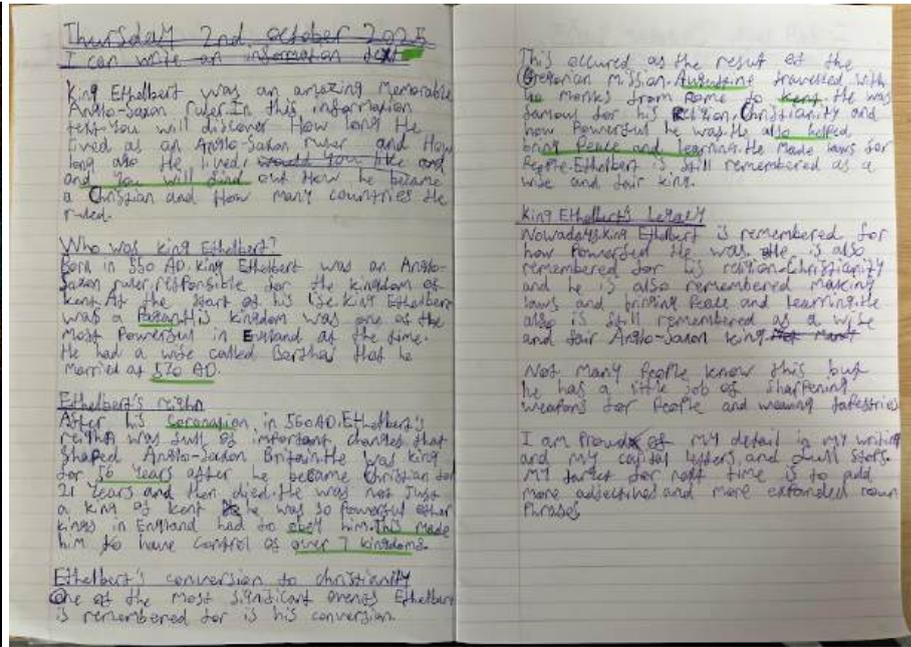
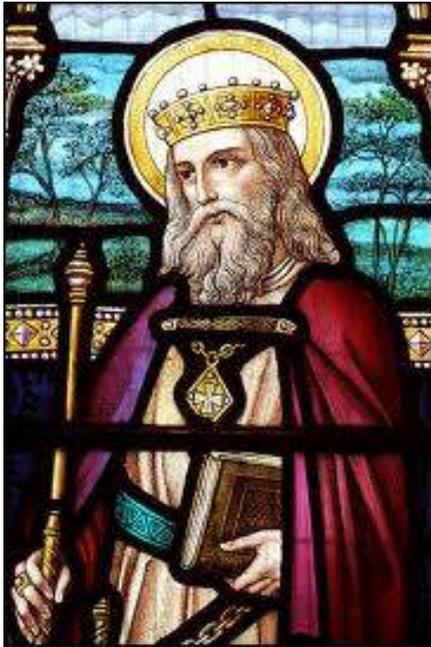
This week in maths, Year 3 have been continuing to learn about Place Value and Number. We have been using our learned knowledge so far to apply it when adding amounts. We are starting off gradually by adding 1s, 10s, 100s, and subtracting 1s, 10s, and 100s to a given number. In this process we are trying to recognise how our starting value changes and which column / digit is changing as we add or subtract amounts.

This understanding is really important to support and shape our understanding as we move on to adding and subtracting in more complex manners (especially as after half term, we will look at more formal approaches to adding/subtracting).



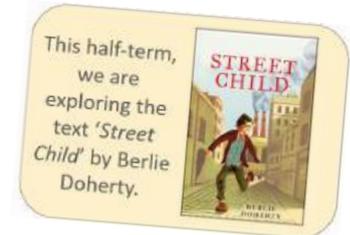
## This week in Year 4

This week, Year 4 created engaging information reports on King Ethelbert, an Anglo-Saxon ruler from more than 1,200 years ago. They explored aspects of his reign, his conversion to Christianity and the lasting impact of his legacy. The children showcased a brilliant range of information text features.

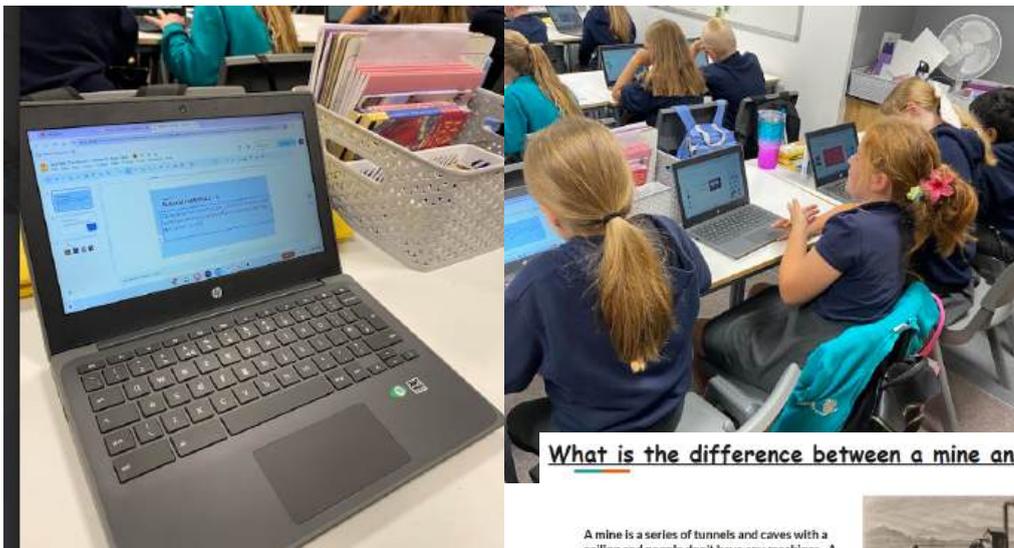


## This week in Year 5

### Wood you believe it?



We continued our geography focus on natural materials by thinking about how minerals we extract from the ground are turned into everyday objects, such as quartz used in electronics. The children created presentations on Google Slides explaining how they are extracted and also included the importance of Canada's boreal forests for timber production, which accounts for about 9% of the wood we use. Boreal forests are found in the northern hemisphere and have the perfect climate for coniferous trees and the wildlife that inhabits them. We understand the importance of timber production, but also sustainability.



#### What is the difference between a mine and a quarry?

A mine is a series of tunnels and caves with a ceiling and people don't have any machines. A quarry on the other hand is a large pit without a roof where they use trucks and machines to dig out materials.



#### What are these materials used for?

We use these materials for things like play parks, instruments, fuel, glass, tools, computers/electronics, books and coins/money. These are all everyday items that are from the earth's crust.



#### What are economic minerals?

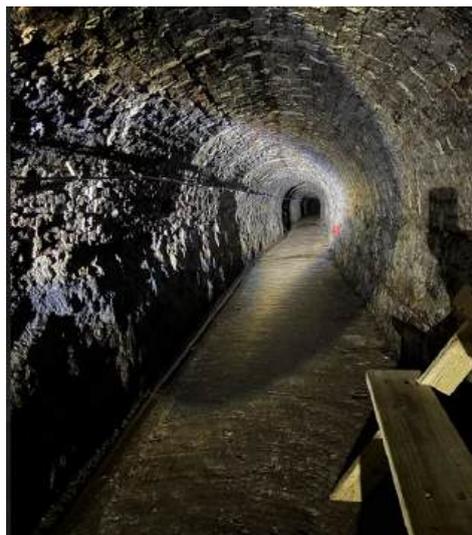


Economic minerals are things that are found in the ground such as quartz, iron, copper, gold, sand and clay. They can be used for jewelry, construction, cutlery, tools, computer chips, windows, toothpaste, bricks, ceramics and electronics.



## This week in Year 6

Year 6 loved their trip to the Victorian Tunnels in the Ouseburn in Newcastle this week. The children took part in a fascinating workshop about what life was like for people living in that part of Newcastle during the Second World War which they could relate to our class text, Letters from the Lighthouse. There were also a range of amazing artefacts to look at, including ration books, tin helmets and even a decommissioned bomb! The children were knowledgeable and respectful and had a lot to share and many questions to ask. We then spent some time down the tunnel learning what it would have been like to be stuck down there for up to 16 hours during an air raid.



## Dates for your diary in 2025



Tue 14th October 2025	Flu Immunisations Day
Weds 15th October 2025	Harvest Festival
Thur 16th October 2025	PTA Year 5 Movie Night - Save the Date! More details to follow.
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
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
10th & 11th November 2025	Parents Evening for Year 2 - Willow class only
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

## 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

# 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**

Visit our website

http://



[nland.cc/familyhubs](http://nland.cc/familyhubs)



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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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- 1 Visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://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

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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](mailto: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**



