

Friday Flyer

Friday 15th May 2026

Headteacher Update

The atmosphere in school this week has been one of quiet determination as our Year 6 pupils reached an important milestone and took their SATs. They have shown exactly the right attitude of maturity, resilience and a desire to do their best all week. They should be very proud of themselves; I know we certainly are. While the children have rightly taken the tests seriously, it is also very important to remember that the SATs assess only English and maths and do not measure all of the children's other talents from dancing to football to art and their many, many achievements across the whole curriculum and beyond during their time in primary school.

You may recall from your visits into school our creations for St Oswald's Tales on the Tyne: Rio the Snowdog and Shaun on the Tyne is All Mine All Mine. This week our third sculpture, Rustle the Rabbit, set off for this year's art trail. Our Arts Ambassadors, from Year 1 to Year 6, worked together to design Rustle, researching sculptures and discussing what makes our school special. They thought carefully about our woodland setting, the importance of Forest School, and how much the children enjoy learning outdoors. Inspired by our school identity, with a tree as our logo and each class named after different leaves, the design celebrates these natural links and the calm atmosphere of our school. Rustle will be part of [St Oswald's 2026 Tales on the Tyne](#) project and will feature in the **Tales on the Tyne Art Trail** from **Wednesday 15th July – Monday 14th September 2026**. More details will follow, but we are excited that our sculpture will be part of this creative celebration in the community.



Best wishes, Claire Johnson



Safeguarding & wellbeing

PRODUCT RECALL

URGENT CHILD PROTECTION MEASURE



PRODUCT NAME: Instagram

REASON FOR RECALL:

- Appearance-based comparison issues
- Quantification of social status via likes
- Pressure to curate identity in adolescence
- Normalising unrealistic beauty standards

U16 RISK LEVEL:
Very very high

The UK government is advised not to reintroduce this product to children until clear child safety standards are met. To ensure action, sign the petition to raise the age of social media to 16.

 **SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD**

SMARTPHONEFREECHILDHOOD.ORG/PETITION





ATTENDANCE MATTERS
every student, every day

At primary school, children who attend nearly every day in Year 6 (95–100% attendance) have 30% higher odds of reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to similar pupils who attend 90–95% of the time. Please work with us to help your child's attendance stay above 95% throughout their time in primary school.

Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery (Acorn)	91.6%	Year 3 (Pine)	100%
Reception (Chestnut)	98.0%	Year 4 (Alder)	97.1%
Reception (Pinecone)	98.3%	Year 4 (Yew)	98.7%
Year 1 (Holly)	98.0%	Year 5 (Oak)	92.9%
Year 1 (Ash)	97.3%	Year 5 (Beech)	98.3%
Year 2 (Sycamore)	98.7%	Year 6 (Elm)	92.6%
Year 2 (Willow)	96.6%	Year 6 (Birch)	97.2%
Year 3 (Maple)	95.7%	Whole school Cumulative from Sept	95.7%

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.

This week in Nursery

This week has been all about moths! We started by reading the story *The Woolly Bear Caterpillar* before learning about prints through symmetry. We then practised a repeating pattern and made our own craft life cycle. We now know that caterpillars can turn into moths or butterflies!



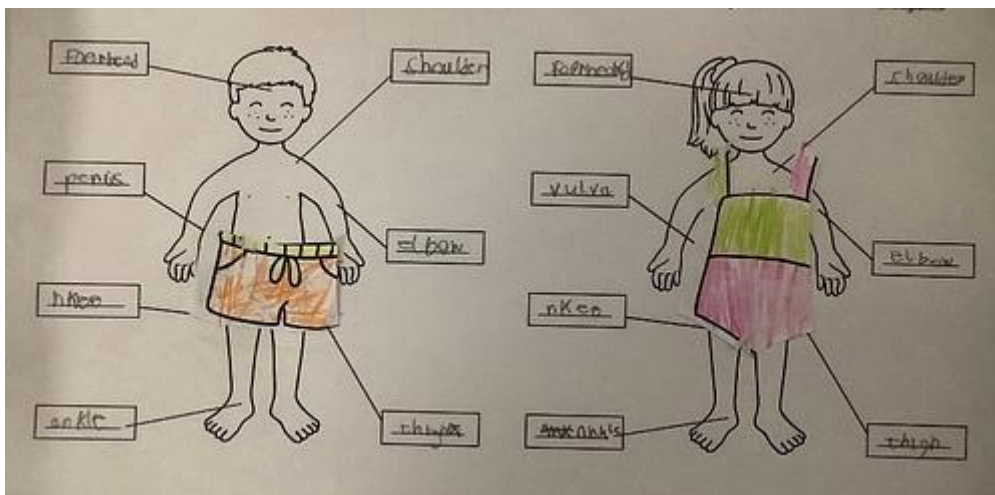
This week in Reception

Our story focus this week has been *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. We have loved designing our own trolls and using adjectives to describe them. We have also been super engineers, building bridges with Lego, Duplo, wooden blocks and magnetic tiles. Spanning the bridges across the water was tricky, but we showed great resilience and collaboration to succeed. The children have also been fantastic storytellers while acting out the story. On Wednesday we had some very special visitors, Lily's Dad and his firefighter colleagues brought their fire engine for us to look around, they told us about life as a firefighter and we loved sitting in the cab and most of all, squirting the hose!



This week in Year 1

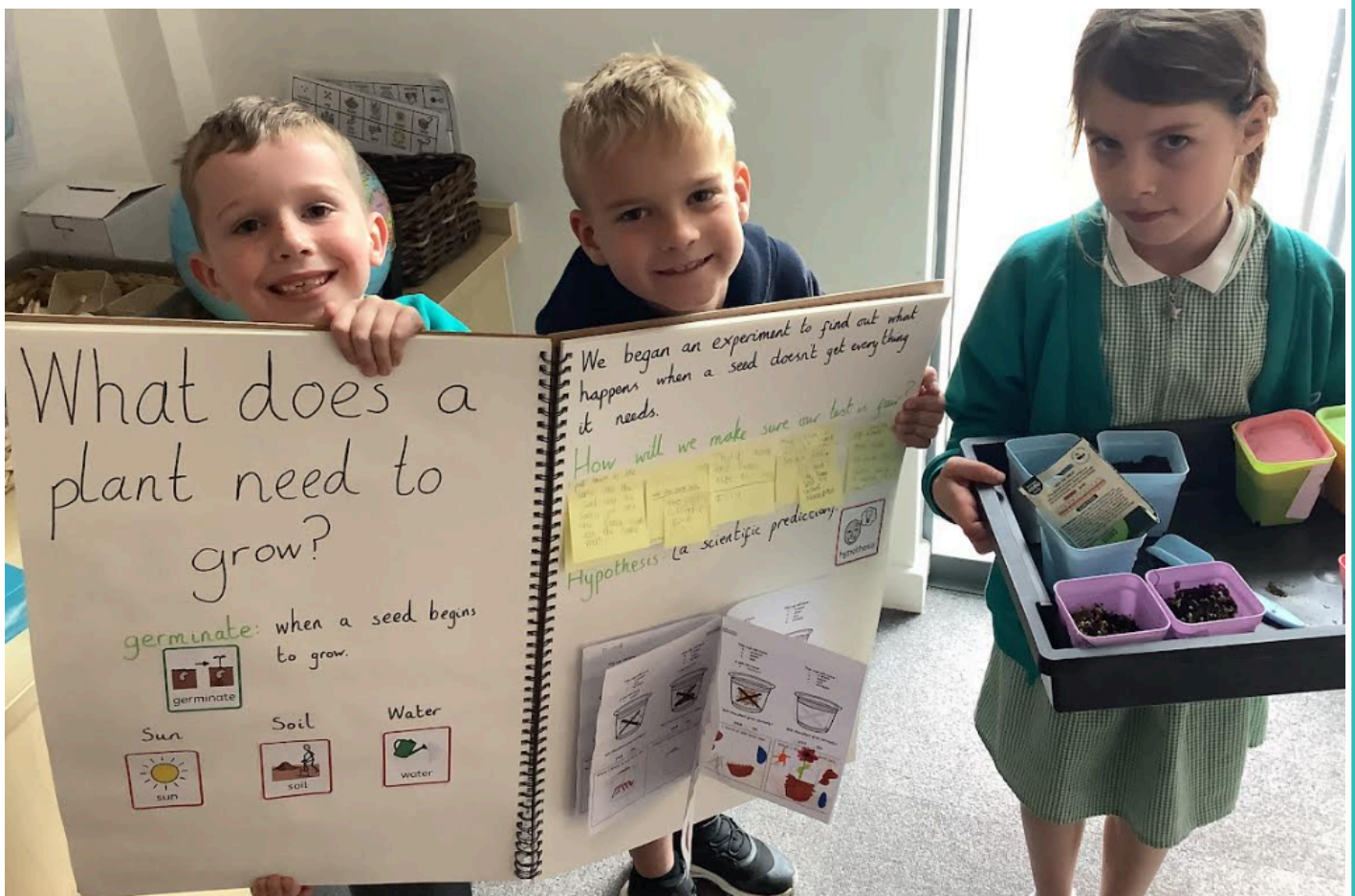
It has been an incredibly busy and productive week in Year 1! In our Maths lessons, we have been diving into the world of fractions by exploring how to find quarters of both shapes and quantities, ensuring we have four equal parts every time. Our Geography journey took us all the way to India this week, where we studied the climate and created a rainfall graph. In Phonics and during our independent Rainbow Challenge jobs, the children have shown great determination while practicing their decoding skills, working hard to read both real and "alien" words with confidence. Finally, as part of our PSHE curriculum we have progressed our understanding of the Pants Rule and the children have been learning about the similarities and differences with boys and girls bodies. The children have discussed internal and external differences, including hair colour, height, skeleton and organs. We also discussed how parts of our body that are covered by underwear are private and belong only to us.



Miss Storey, Mrs Kenyon and Mrs Tailford

This week in Year 2

In Year 2 this week, we have begun learning about data collection and handling in computing. We learned how to make tally charts to gather information about our class's favourite colours, sports, food and more. As scientists, we began investigating what a plant needs to grow healthily.



Mrs Nowosielska and Mr Massey

This week in Year 3

It has been another super week in Year 3! In Maths, there was a real "buzz" in the classroom as the children put their money skills to the test. Through interactive market games, they practiced buying various items and, most importantly, accurately calculating how much change they would receive.

In English, we have turned into expert non-chronological report writers. We have been diving deep into the life of Howard Carter, exploring his incredible journey as a world-famous archaeologist and Egyptologist.

Our Music lessons were equally impressive; we have now mastered our song, 'Once a Man Fell in a Well,' after carefully exploring how different pitches and tempos can change the feel of a piece. It has been a wonderful week of learning and discovery!

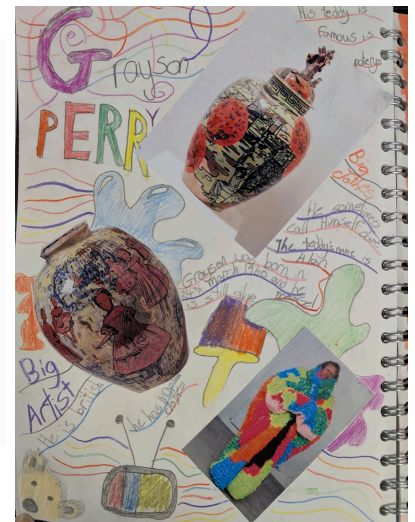
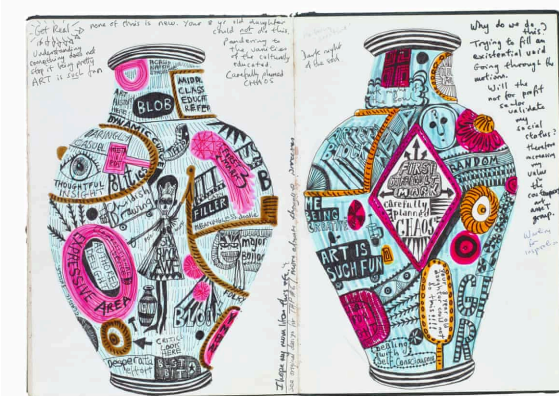


Miss Mears and Mr Shaw

This week in Year 4

Building on their learning about the Ancient Greeks, our Year 4 children have been exploring how pottery can be used to tell stories. They compared ancient Greek pots, which often show myths, battles and scenes from everyday life, with the contemporary ceramic work of Grayson Perry. Like the ancient artists, Grayson Perry uses his pots as a storytelling surface, but instead of myths, he shares scenes from his own childhood and imaginative fantasy worlds ruled by his teddy bear, Alan Measles. Inspired by this fascinating comparison, the children created vibrant and creative artist study pages to celebrate the work of this contemporary artist and to understand how art can communicate stories across time.

Next, the children will take inspiration from Perry's designs to create their own autobiographical, annotated pot designs. We look forward to seeing the imaginative and personal stories they choose to share through their artwork.



Mrs Bell and Miss Davis

This Week in Year 5

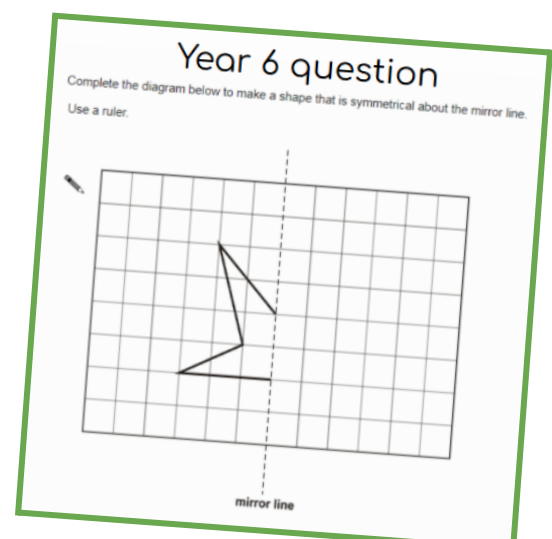
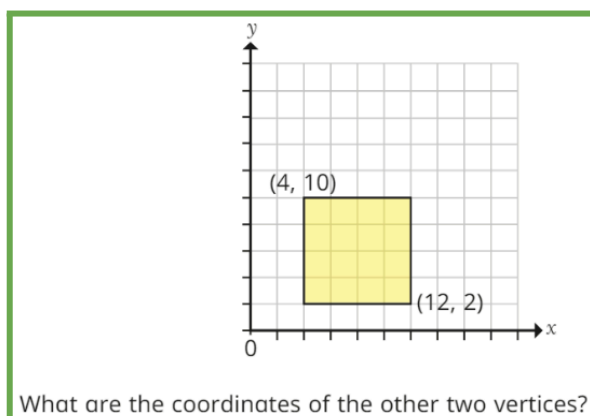
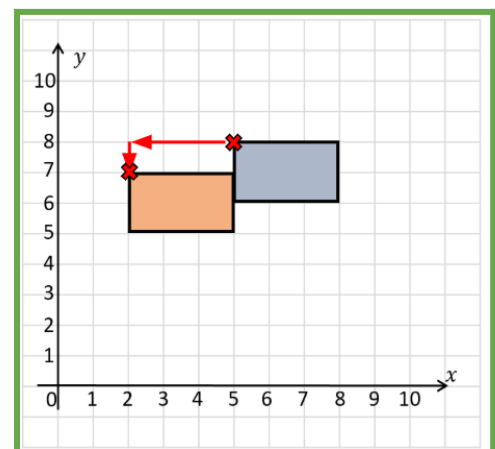
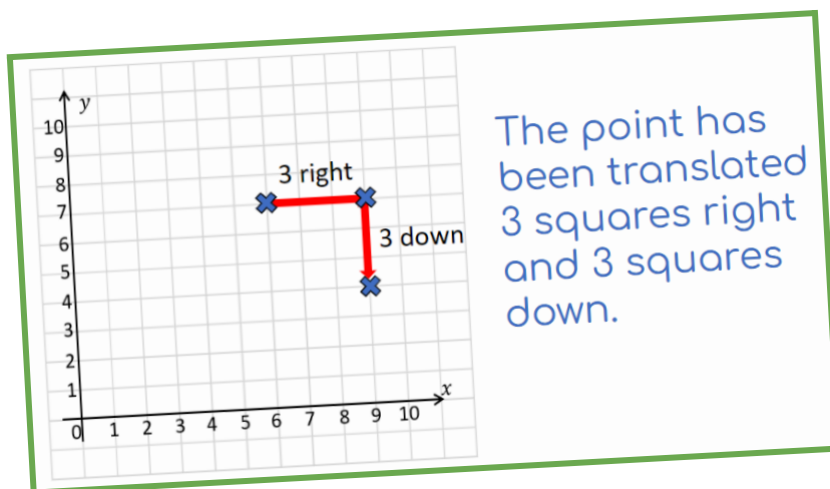
Lost in Translation

This week in Maths, Year 5 have been exploring the topic of **Position and Direction**. The children have worked hard to develop their understanding of coordinates, shape translations, lines of symmetry, and mirror lines.

Throughout the week, the class took part in a range of practical and problem-solving activities to help strengthen these skills. From plotting coordinates accurately to carefully translating shapes across grids, the children showed great focus and determination as they tackled each new challenge.

They particularly enjoyed investigating symmetry and using mirror lines to complete patterns and shapes, discovering just how important accuracy and attention to detail can be in Maths. It was wonderful to see the children becoming more confident as the week progressed and applying their knowledge to increasingly tricky tasks... even a Year 6 question!

Now that we have completed this unit, Year 5 is ready to move on to our next topic: **Negative Numbers**. We're looking forward to exploring numbers below zero and discovering where we might use them in everyday life.



This week in Year 6

What a week it has been for Year 6! Our wonderful cohort have worked incredibly hard during SATs week, and we are so incredibly proud of the quiet determination and resilience they have shown throughout.

While the assessments were certainly a big part of our week, we have found lots of lovely ways to enjoy some down-time and celebrate our tremendous efforts. There have been extended breaks, Kahoot quizzes, art competitions, and "Bake Off" challenges, as well as the long-awaited arrival of the leavers' hoodies and even a surprise visit from the ice cream van! Every single child has been an absolute star, and we are now looking forward to even more special experiences together next week.



Dates for your diary in 2026



Wc 25th May 2026	May Half Term - School Closed
Mon 1st June 2026	School Resumes
Tue 2nd June 2026	Year 6 Trip - Packed lunches needed.
Fri 5th June 2026	PTA Quiz Night. £10 per ticket, includes food and quiz entry. Games, raffle and drinks are also on sale!
Weds 10th June 2026	Class Photo Day
Thur 11th June 2026	Reception Trip (AM only)
Mon 22nd June 2026	Year 2 Trip - Packed lunch needed
Wed 1st July 2026	PTA Joke Competition. £1 entry. Write out your funniest joke and submit to win a prize!
Fri 3rd July 2026	PTA Summer Fair. Starts 3.10pm until 5pm.
Fri 17th July 2026	Last day of school - 1.30pm finish
Tue 1st Sept 2026	Teacher Training Day
Wed 2nd Sept 2026	School Resumes
Fri 23rd October 2026	Teacher Training Day

Autism Family Drop in

Do you have a child aged 0-19 years?

Come along for a cuppa and chat and to meet other parents. No diagnosis needed!



Join us on:

Tuesday 21st April 2026, 10am - 12pm:

Hexham Family Hub, Hexham First School, Beaufront Avenue, NE46 1JD

Tuesday 28th April 2026, 10am - 12pm:

Blyth Central Family Hub, 103 Wright Street, Blyth, NE24 1HG

Wednesday 29th April 2026, 1pm-3pm:

Ashington Family Hub, Alexandra Road, Ashington, NE63 9EF

Tuesday 5th May 2026, 1pm-3pm

Cramlington Community Hub, Forum Way, Manor Walks, NE23 6YB (next to Concordia)

Wednesday 6th May 2026, 1pm-3pm:

Berwick Family Hub, Ladywell Place, Tweedmouth, Berwick-upon-Tweed,
TD15 2AE

Thursday 14th May 2026, 10am-12pm:

The Lindisfarne Centre, 30 Lindisfarne Road, Alnwick, NE66 1AU

Monday 18th May 2026, 1pm - 3pm:

Morpeth Golf Club, Loansdean, NE61 2BT

Evening session:

Tuesday 19th May 2026, 5pm - 6:30pm:

Morpeth Golf Club, Loansdean, NE61 2BT

West Northumberland Family Hubs

What's On in the **EASTER** Holidays 2026



Prudhoe Family Hub

Tuesday 7th April
Baby Stay and Play
(ages 0-18 months)
10-11am

Thursday 9th April
Family Stay and Play
(All ages) 10-11am

Tuesday 14th April
Baby Stay and Play
(ages 0-18 months)
10-11am

SEND Safe Space
(All ages, additional
needs and disabilities)
1-3pm

Thursday 16th April
Family Stay and Play
(All ages) 10-11am

Hexham Family Hub

Wed 8th April
Family Stay and Play
(All ages) 10-11am

Tuesday 14th April
Calm Family
Stay and Play
(All ages, additional
needs and disabilities)
1.15-2.15pm

Wed 15th April
Family Stay and Play
(All ages) 10-11am

Thursday 16th April
SEND Safe Space
(All ages, additional
needs and disabilities)
10am-12pm

Haltwhistle Family Hub

Friday 10th April
Family Stay and Play
(All ages) 10-11.30am

Monday 13th April
Sensory Stay & Play
(ages 0-18 months)
10-11am

Tuesday 14th April
Family Stay and Play
(All ages) 1-2pm

Friday 17th April
Go Outside & Play
at Walltown
Country Park
Greenhead, CA8 7HZ
(All ages) 10.30am-2pm

Bellingham Family Hub

Over the Easter break our team are focusing on moving to the new Family Hub in Bellingham! We'll be working hard to get this ready to welcome families soon!



Become a Family Hub Member!
Scan the QR code or visit

nland.cc/fhreg



Find us online!
Scan the QR code or visit

nland.cc/familyhubs



Find us on Facebook & Instagram

@WestFamilyHubs



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 the Friends of Ponteland Primary School?

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

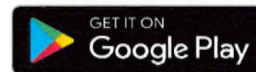
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Help us make a difference when you shop.
Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk



- 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:

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GROUPON

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JOHN
LEWIS



Viking

ASOS



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

20669059



