

Friday Flyer

Friday 2nd October 2026

Headteacher Update

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been helping the children understand the importance of allergy awareness and safety in school. You will no doubt have heard in the press about Benedict's Law which came into force this September for all schools. With a number of children having allergies in our school, this is something we fully back. Every member of staff has completed training in allergy safety and we have purchased spare adrenaline auto-injectors which are accessible in the case of any severe reaction. In assemblies this week and last, the children and I have explored what an allergy is and how we can ensure school is safe and inclusive for anyone who has an allergy. The children shared very thoughtful and considered ideas and are part of the team making sure school is safe for everyone.

I have exciting news to share as this morning in assembly we celebrated our incredible Y6 girls' football team who took the Pele Trust Y6 football tournament by storm yesterday. Captained by Sadie, and with a very early first goal from Luna, the team was unbeaten with a total of 12 goals scored by the girls across the tournament, with each player contributing to that number, and no goals conceded thanks to the talent of Mia-Lily in goal. Mr Tailford said the girls were by far and away the strongest team and so it's no surprise that many of them have signed with professional football clubs, with Amelie, Tilly and Mia-Lily joining Sunderland, Rosie playing for Durham and Lucia joining the ranks at Newcastle. The talent doesn't stop in Y6 however, as we also have two Durham footballers in Y4 with Ada and Bronte both recently signing for the team. When I was talking to the Y6 girls earlier about the tournament, they said that the best part is seeing the girls from the other schools and feeling like they're part of something. If yesterday's performance is anything to go by I think they could well be part of a future Lioness's team! Well done girls, we are very proud of you all.



Best wishes,
Claire Johnson

Safeguarding & Wellbeing

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

FORTNITE

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite; it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often 'gone when they're gone'.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

There's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotos. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like The Witcher and Halo.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Power Rangers and Avatar: The Last Airbender, to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including KGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 22.10.2025



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		97.7%	
Reception Chestnut	96.3%	3 Pine	97.4%
Reception Pinecone	98.3%	4 Alder	96.3%
1 Holly	99.0%	4 Yew	96.3%
1 Ash	97.0%	5 Oak	100%
2 Sycamore	99.0%	5 Beech	98.1%
2 Willow	97.3%	6 Elm	95.9%
3 Maple	99.3%	6 Birch	98.7%

Whole school (cumulative from Sept)	97.2%
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98% - 100%	Excellent Attendance
95% - 97.9%	Good Attendance
92% - 94.9	Caution - Below National Average
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 9.15 am** 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 8.55 am 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.



CAREER FACT

Artificial Intelligence

Did you know? There are around **8,400 jobs connected to Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the North East**. AI is being used in areas such as healthcare, manufacturing, energy and technology.

 Talk about it at home: What do you think AI might help people do in the future?

Career of the week...



STEM
PERSON
OF THE
WEEK

Ashley Davenport
Teaching Laboratory Technician

Ashley looks after a teaching laboratory and prepares all the resources students need for their chemistry experiments. She is **hard-working** and **self-motivated** and has lots of tasks to complete each day, keeping the lab running smoothly even when there are no students around. Ashley is a **communicator** and works with students and teachers to understand what everyone needs for their experiments.

Hard-working

Communicator

Self-motivated

Opal Needs You!

We would love to receive footballs that
are still in good condition



Please chat to your child before making any donations to help them understand that the footballs will be shared and won't belong to them.

Thank you!

This Week in Nursery

This week in phonics, we have been learning the nursery rhyme Humpty Dumpty. We've had lots of fun exploring rhyming words and listening carefully to the sounds in the rhyme.

We then put our fine motor skills to the test by helping Humpty Dumpty get back together again. Using plasters, the children carefully repaired Humpty, developing their hand strength, coordination and control.



Mrs Kenyon

This Week in Reception

Another brilliant week from hard working Reception, completing their first week of jobs, learning new sounds in phonics and even sounding and blending words! We read *The Leaf Thief* together and our provision this week has been closely linked to the change into our current season. We have discussed the Autumn signs around us including the colours and what is different in our woods.

In maths we have been practising our understanding of repeating patterns, and have used natural resources in the woods to create our own. In PE the children have been developing their directional change skills, and dodging, playing shark tag. We have finished off the week with a well deserved disco in the woods!



This Week in Year 1

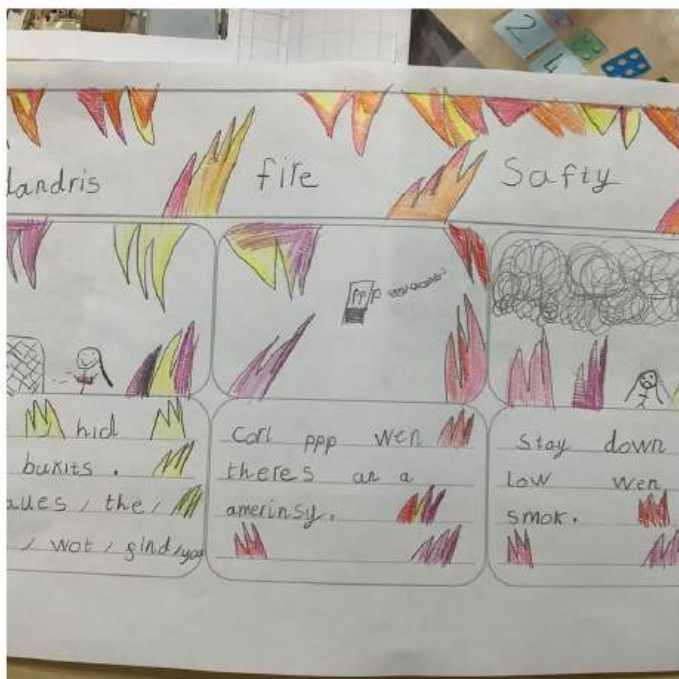
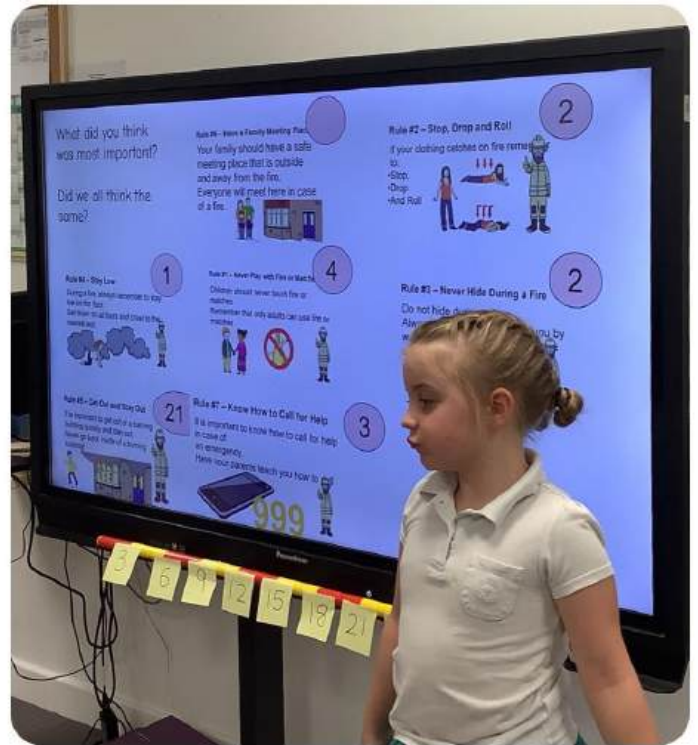
What a busy and brilliant week in Year 1! In phonics, the children have been super detectives as we began learning our Phase 5 alternative digraphs, discovering new ways to spell familiar sounds. Outdoor learning took on a mathematical twist during our Forest School session, where we explored 'more than' and 'less than' using natural treasures like twigs and leaves. We also introduced the important safety message 'Clever Never Goes', helping the children understand how to stay safe around people they don't know both online and out in the community. To wrap up our week, our imaginations have been soaring as we innovated story maps, creating our very own stories inspired by 'Where to Hide a Star' by Oliver Jeffers.



Mrs Tailford, Mrs Rogers and Mrs Blyth

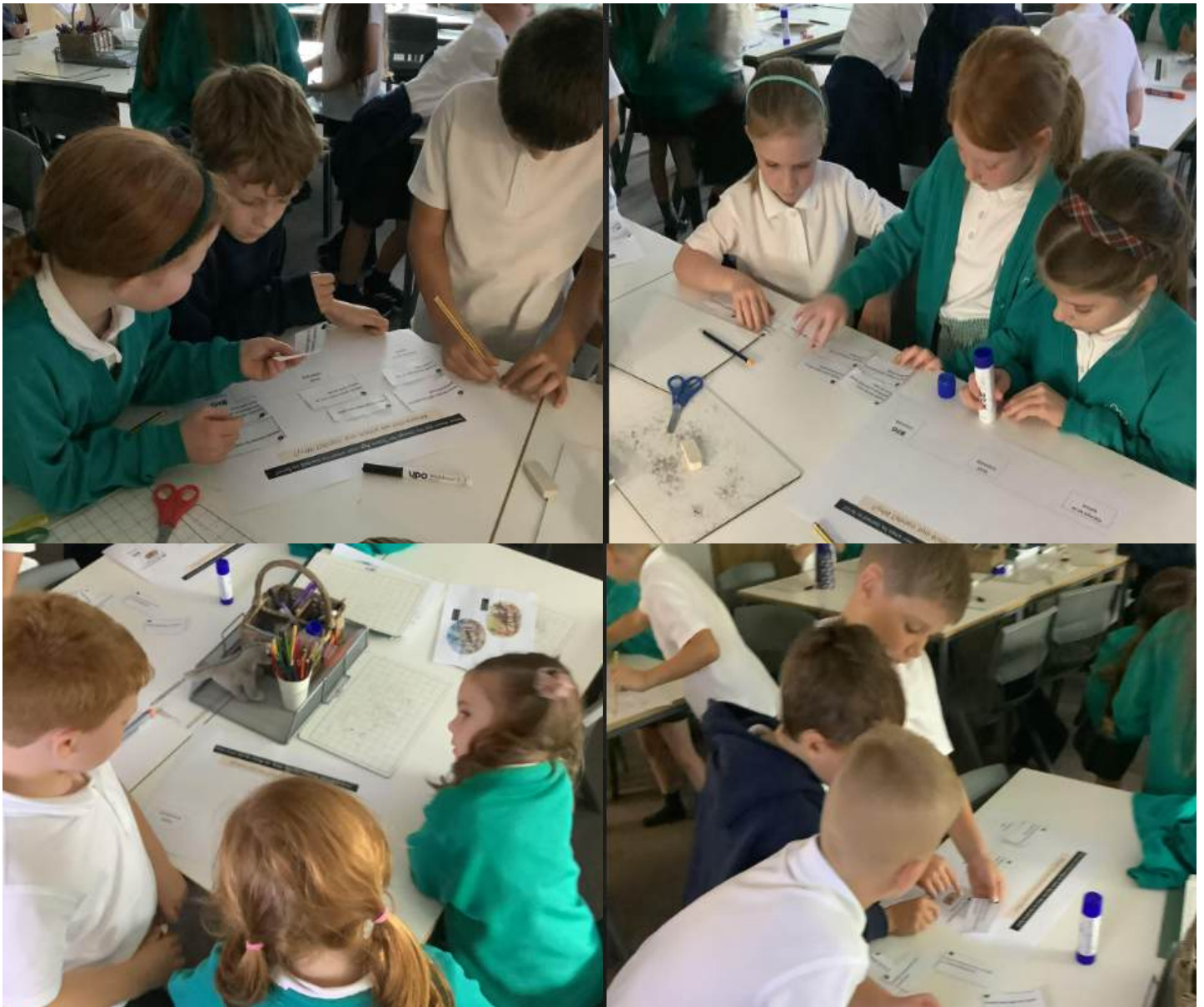
This Week in Year 2

This week, Year 2 pupils have been diving into fire safety! The children engaged in debates, using lots of oracy skills, about important safety rules, thoughtfully discussing which ones matter most and sharing their reasons why. They then put their new knowledge to work by designing eye-catching fire safety posters to showcase everything they learned.



This Week in Year 3

In History this week, Year 3 have been travelling back to the Stone Age to explore how human life transformed from the Mesolithic to the Neolithic era. The children investigated the dramatic shift from nomadic hunter-gatherer lifestyles to the birth of early farming and permanent settlements. We compared how the development of agriculture allowed prehistoric communities to build fixed homes, grow crops, and keep livestock, completely changing how people lived day-to-day. Maple and Pine impressed us with their brilliant historical enquiry skills and insightful discussions - do ask them at home whether they would have preferred living in a Mesolithic shelter or a Neolithic village!



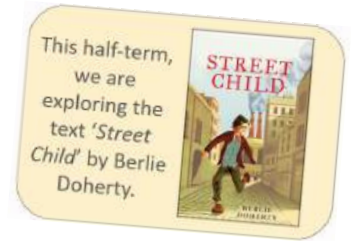
Mr Tailford and Miss Mears

Mrs Bell and Miss Davis

This Week in Year 5

All Work and No Play!

This week, we continued to build on the writing skills we developed last week. The children took the lead in their own research, finding out about the harsh realities of child labour during the Victorian era.



Armed with their new knowledge, they put their report-writing skills to the test, explaining the types of work children as young as five were expected to do, the dangers they faced, and how child labour eventually came to an end. It was fascinating to see them combine their research with their writing skills to produce informative reports about such an important part of history.

After learning about the long hours, dangerous conditions and tough lives faced by Victorian children, we think it's fair to say that **school doesn't seem quite so bad after all!**

Why children worked.
Children worked because families (adults) did work but did not get paid very high wages. This caused just adults working to get by. The children did not work they were unable to afford food, housing, clothes and they would become tired. It would be hard to do their remaining jobs. They needed the extra money because it would not be unusual to have 8 children, so people had a lot to pay for and many became ill.

Dangers and challenges
Tiny children crawled under machines to pick up cotton bobbins. Children also worked in coal mines without a single bit of light! They crawled through tunnels that were too narrow for adults. This could kill you! Some people were 5 when they started. A nother job was to open and close a door for 8 hours! Some people would fall asleep and the door broke their legs. You could get stuck or choke on soot when chimney sweeping. You could also get tired and fall when chimney sweeping in 3, 4, 5 storey houses that would kill you.

Why did children stop working?
Over time, people began to realise how unfair and dangerous child labour was. It took time for the government to decide working children should be protected by laws, as many didn't see anything wrong with the idea of children earning their keep. They felt parents had a right to send their children out to work. People worked hard to persuade the public that it was wrong for children to work.

Why children worked
During the Victorian age, child labour was common for children. The industrial Revolution relied on the exploitation of child workers. These children were paid very little and were unable to stand up to any cruelty they may face in their workplace. The meagre wage they received often went towards feeding their families, so any rebellion could mean dire consequences. Children were seen as 'ideal' for many jobs that required fitting into tight spaces, such as under machinery in factories or inside chimneys. Kids as young as 5 were made to work long hours and worked because their parents earn low wages. So they needed their kids to work to pay for food, clothes, food and rent, too.

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This Week in Year 6

Year 6 pupils have kicked off their new PE unit with boundless energy, enjoying the first of three specialist rugby sessions. Perfectly complementing their current topic on invasion games, this initial workshop introduced core handling drills, tactical positioning, and fast-paced team challenges. The coach was thoroughly impressed by the children's fantastic enthusiasm and resilience as they embraced new skills right from the start. With two more sessions to look forward to, Year 6 are already demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship and setting a brilliant standard on the pitch!



Dates for Your Diary in 2026/2027



Tue 20th October 2026	Yr 6 Trip - Packed lunches NOT needed
Fri 23rd October 2026	Teacher Training Day (school closed to pupils)
W.C. 26th Oct 2026	Half Term
Mon 2nd Nov 2026	Teacher Training Day (school closed to pupils)
Tue 3rd Nov 2026	School Resumes
Mon 23rd Nov 2026	Flu Immunisation Day
Wed 25th Nov 2026	Individual Photo Day
Fri 18th Dec 2026	Last day of school - 1.30pm finish
Mon 4th Jan 2027	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:

- Footballs
- Wellies
- Waterproofs
- Barbies/dolls
- Toy trucks/cars
- Dressing up items
- Metal pots and pans
- Children's Gardening Tools
- Shop items: till, fruit and veg baskets etc

After School Club Needs You!

We would love to take any of these off you:

- Loom Bands
- Comics
- Beads





PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM



Do you have Ponteland Primary School uniform in GOOD condition that your child no longer wears but could be worn by someone else in our school community?



Please donate your pre-loved, wearable uniform via the donation basket in reception.

Looking for uniform?

Follow this link to let us know what you're looking for. Uniform will be delivered to your child's class.

Voluntary contributions to the FPPS are welcomed. Donate here or at the money box at reception.



Friends of
Ponteland Primary School





PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM



✓ Yes please



✗ No thank you



No frayed or
ripped items



No stained
items



No grey items
needed at
this time

HIGH SCHOOL ITEMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Please donate your pre-loved, good condition
PPS uniform via the donation basket in
reception.



Friends of
Ponteland Primary School





Got an itch? Tummy trouble? Tickly cough?

NHS



**Head to your
local pharmacy.**

Did you know?
Pharmacists across
the North East and
North Cumbria can
offer advice and FREE
treatment for a wide
range of common
conditions* – just like
having a prescription
from your GP!

**Please ask your
pharmacy team
for more details.**

UTI's non pregnant women 16–64 years

Shingles 18 years+

Impetigo 1 year+

Sore throat 5 years+

Sinusitis 12 years+

Infected insect bites 1 year+

Earache 1 to 17 years

*Additional conditions can be treated, without the need to visit a GP, under the minor ailments scheme. Please ask your pharmacist for more details.

Step 1

**Go to your local community pharmacy (chemist)
about your illness and they will offer advice.**

Step 2

**If needed, you will be offered treatment and
if you qualify, this will be given free of charge.**

Step 3

A suitable medicine may be offered to you.*

*You qualify for free treatment if you do not pay for your prescriptions.



**Find further information at:
www.thinkpharmacyfirst.health**



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