

Friday Flyer

Friday 16th October 2026

Headteacher Update

What a lovely week we have had! Mrs Adamson and her beautiful baby, Leo, popped in to see us all yesterday lunchtime and the children were so excited to meet little Leo. I thought you would all like to see a picture of him - he is adorable!

Leo and Mrs Adamson were not our only visitors in school this week as we also welcomed our Reception parents to our Harvest Festival. As I said to the parents at the end of the performance, it felt like such a joyful experience to hear the children sing so beautifully and we felt so proud of them all. Our Year 2 readers did an excellent job of explaining the work of The People's Kitchen who were so grateful to receive our donations. Thank you so, so much to everyone who donated - your generosity blew the charity workers away when they came to collect the donations.



We have had yet more sporting success this week with our Y3 and 4 children excelling in their cross country event at Mowden and our Year 5 & 6 boys winning their district tournament which means that they will go on to represent South West Northumberland in the county finals after Christmas. Exciting times for us as we now have both our girls' team and our boys' team representing South West Northumberland in the finals!

Finally, I am so proud to share the news that we have retained our flagship status with the Inclusion Quality Mark for the 5th year. Inclusion is at the heart of everything we do at our school and it is wonderful to have that formally recognised and celebrated. Our assessor shared the following in her report:

The staff at Ponteland Primary are unwavering in their commitment to inclusion, and work tirelessly to constantly review and improve their already excellent practice. The dedication shown to providing the best possible outcomes for every pupil, in every aspect of their school experience, was overwhelmingly clear in discussions with all staff on the day of assessment. Children speak enthusiastically about their school, and the warmth and confidence with which they greet, and are greeted by, every member of staff is testament to the supportive, inclusive practice which is at the heart of this school. As one parent told me, when she drops her child off, "it feels like he's with a family." This school continues to move from strength to strength in its inclusive practice.



Best wishes,

Claire Johnson



Thank you



Safeguarding & Wellbeing

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about INSTAGRAM



Instagram remains one of the world's most popular social media platforms, especially among teens – with around 70% of 13 to 17-year-olds using it. Owned by Meta, Instagram allows users to share photos and videos, create interactive 'stories', broadcast live, send private messages and follow others. With regular updates and new features, it's essential for parents and educators to stay informed about how children are using the app – and what the risks are.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Instagram's design encourages prolonged use through endless scrolling of trending content and generating a fear of missing out (FOMO). Children can quickly lose track of time browsing posts from friends, influencers, and strangers, which may disrupt their day-to-day activities.

AI CHATBOT CONCERNS

Meta's AI, which is available on Instagram, allows users to chat with an AI-powered chatbot. While often helpful, it can blur boundaries for young users, who may ask for or read content that is inappropriate or see it as a real friend or confidant. Privacy issues also arise, as conversations may not be as secure or private as children assume.

RISKS OF GOING LIVE

The livestream feature allows real-time broadcasting to followers – or anyone, if the account is public. This increases the chance of unwanted contact from strangers and pressure to act in ways that gain attention, including engaging in inappropriate behaviour. Viewers may also post offensive or harmful comments during live sessions.

THREADS INTEGRATION

Threads is Instagram's sister app for public, text-based conversations. Posts from Threads appear in users' Instagram feeds and can lead children to view, share, and comment on public conversations with strangers. The content may not always be age-appropriate and can be misleading or false.

SCHEDULED MESSAGING

Instagram's newer ability to schedule direct messages means that children could receive messages late at night or early in the morning. This can disrupt their sleep or keep them preoccupied before the school day even begins.

EXCLUSION AND LOW SELF-WORTH

Feeling left out online can have a real emotional impact. Being left out of photos, receiving fewer likes, being unfollowed, or being ignored in chats and comments can leave children feeling excluded, which often hurts as much as in real life. There is a risk this can lead to reduced self-esteem and a sense of not belonging.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE INSTAGRAM'S SUPERVISION TOOLS

Instagram's built-in Family Centre lets parents monitor how much time their child spends on the app. Specified 'teen accounts' are private by default and offer controls on who can message them. Make sure that children use their real age when registering their account to ensure they have these protections.

OPEN UP THE CONVERSATION

Talk regularly to the children in your care about what they enjoy on Instagram – and what makes them uncomfortable. Encourage honest chats about filters, body image, and online approval. Reassure them that they don't need to edit their appearance or chase 'likes' to feel valued.

SET BOUNDARIES FOR THREADS AND AI

Parental controls on Instagram also apply to Threads. These allow parents to monitor time spent in the app, check follower lists and adjust exposure to sensitive content. Discuss AI features, too, therefore helping children understand that chatbots aren't real people and should be used with care.

BE MEDIA-SAVVY WITH INFLUENCERS

Parents should follow a few of the influencers their child watches, so they can better understand the content they're seeing. Use this as a springboard to talk about the difference between genuine recommendations and paid promotions – and how online personalities can shape opinions and behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and online behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.






 @wake_up_weds
  /www.thenationalcollege
  @wake.up.wednesday
  @wake.up.weds



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		96.5%	
Reception Chestnut	96.3%	3 Pine	99.4%
Reception Pinecone	98.3%	4 Alder	100%
1 Holly	95.0%	4 Yew	98.0%
1 Ash	93.7%	5 Oak	99.0%
2 Sycamore	98.3%	5 Beech	99.4%
2 Willow	99.3%	6 Elm	99.0%
3 Maple	92.7%	6 Birch	96.8%

Whole school (cumulative from Sept)	97.1%
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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.



PELE TRUST PRIMARY
CAREERS

CAREER FACTS

Electric Cars

Did you know? The North East is a major centre for electric vehicle and battery manufacturing. The region has 44% of England's employment in battery and accumulator manufacturing.

 **Talk about it at home:** What do you think cars might look like in 20 years?

Career of the week...



Electric Car Designer

Ideas today for a cleaner tomorrow



What do they do?

Electric car designers create new and exciting cars that run on electricity instead of petrol or diesel. They design how the car looks, think about how it works and help make it safe, comfortable and good for the environment.



Where do they work?

They can work in design studios, engineering teams and factories, often with other people like engineers, computer experts and scientists.



Skills they need


Creativity and imagination


Problem solving


Using computers


Working with others


Caring about the environment


Attention to detail

Science to know


Electricity and batteries


Energy and power


Forces and motion

Physics and science help designers to understand how electric cars move and how to make them more efficient.

Level



Usually requires a degree in subjects such as engineering, design or physics (lots of people start by studying these at university).

Why it's important

Electric cars help to reduce pollution and keep our air cleaner. They use less fossil fuel and can be powered by renewable energy like wind and solar power. Electric car designers are helping to make a cleaner, greener and healthier future for everyone!



Big ideas. Real impact. Cleaner air, healthier communities and a brighter future!

This Week in Nursery

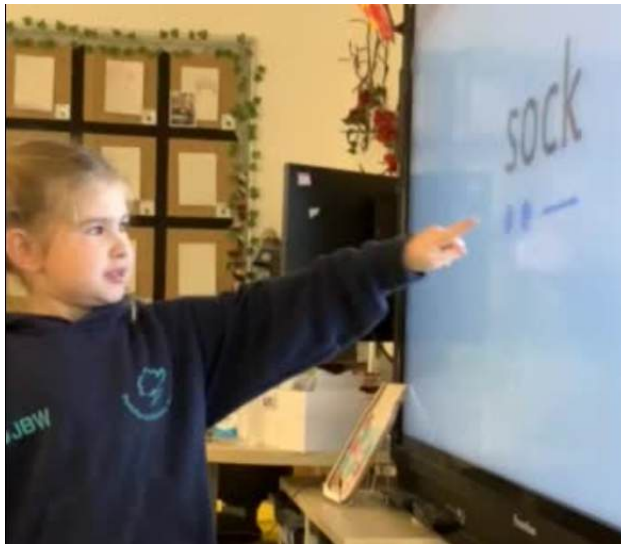
Our nursery children have been working together and getting creative while learning all about **conkers** as we make our very own natural conker soap!

The children were involved in every step of the process — **mashing, pouring, sieving and mixing**. This hands-on activity is a wonderful way to develop fine motor skills, explore textures and smells, and learn about how natural materials can be used in everyday life and have lots of fun getting messy along the way!



This Week in Reception

Happy Friday to all of our Reception families! This week has been packed with exciting learning, starting with phonics where the children have been introduced to our very first digraph **ck**, along with the new sounds **e**, **u**, and **r**, as they practice the vital first stages of reading through independent sounding out and blending. Linked to our lovely key text, *The Little Red Hen*, the children got stuck into a range of busy jobs, including mixing and kneading yogurt and flour to make their own bread, constructing story scenes using LEGO and small world figures, and matching sounded-out CVC words to the correct graphemes. Over in maths, we focused on accurate touch counting, learning that arranging objects into a clear line—rather than a messy pile—helps us count correctly, even helping "Betty" and "Counting Crow" spot and fix all their silly mistakes! Finally, a huge well done to the children for their fantastic singing during our Harvest Festival; we hope you enjoyed watching their performance, and we extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone for your generous donations to The People's Kitchen.

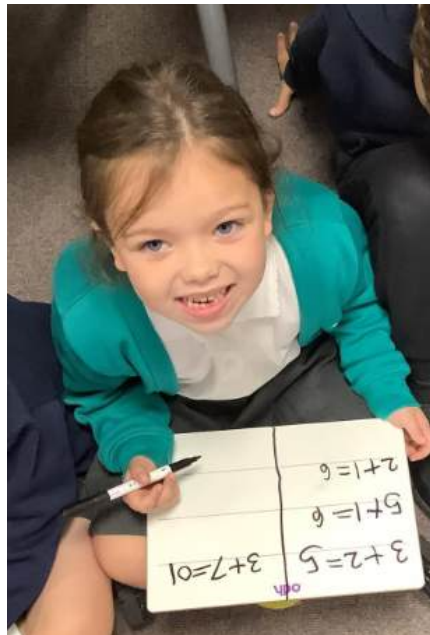
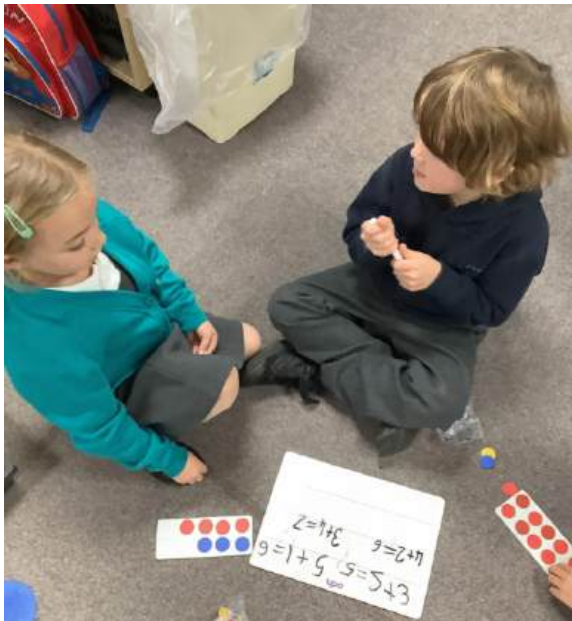


Mrs Wilds & Miss Storey

This Week in Year 1

What a fantastic week in Year 1! In English we have been exploring poetry and our senses. We explored the outdoor area collecting ideas for our senses poems and yesterday we wrote them. We remembered to use brilliant adjectives for the crackling fire, whistling wind and crunchy leaves. In computing, we explored the role of technology in our everyday lives and in maths, the children made great strides constructing number sentences using the '+' and '=' symbols. We also loved seeing their fantastic fine motor skills in action during Rainbow Challenges as they crafted paper pumpkins.

Mrs Tailford, Mrs Rogers and Mrs Blyth



This Week in Year 2

This week, Year 2 have been practising logging on to the Chromebooks using their personal logins. We've talked about what the internet is and how it helps us to access the world wide web. We revisited our rules of using the Chromebooks and internet safely and we signed a whole class agreement. We had a great time learning about how to visit different BBC pages.



Mr Massey and Mrs Nowosielska

This Week in Year 3

This week, Year 3 has been practicing different knots. We have recently been considering how to make a den and the resources we would need. Analysing some different examples of dens, we noticed some looked really sturdy while others could have been stronger. One thing we noticed was the ones that were stronger in appearance also had rope which tied materials and logs together.

We explored a piece of rope to consider some of its properties - flexibility, strength and thickness. We then tried different ways of tying. It was definitely a real challenge!



Step-By-Step: Basic Scout Knots

Overhand Knot



Right over left...

Square Knot (or Reef knot, the classic joining knot.)



Left over right...



makes a knot tidy...



and tight.

Granny Knot (The Granny knot is very UNSAFE. This is why your shoelaces come untied!)



Right over left...



Right over left...

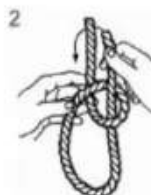


makes a knot ugly and WRONG.

Bowline (The rescue knot.)



1 Make a loop (top to you).



2 The rabbit goes out of the hole...



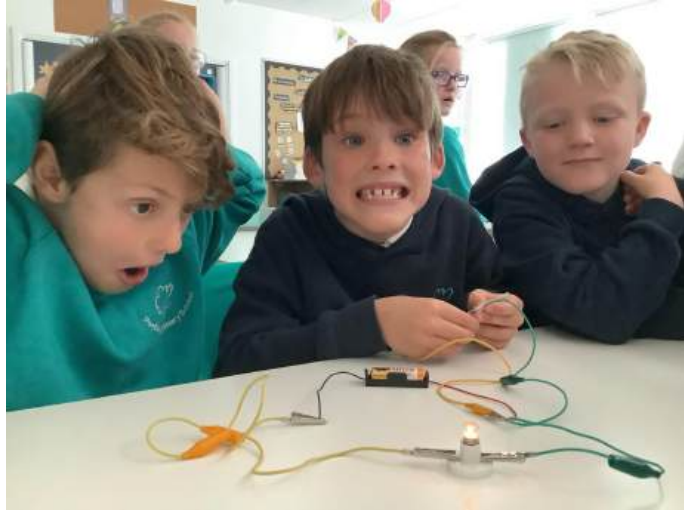
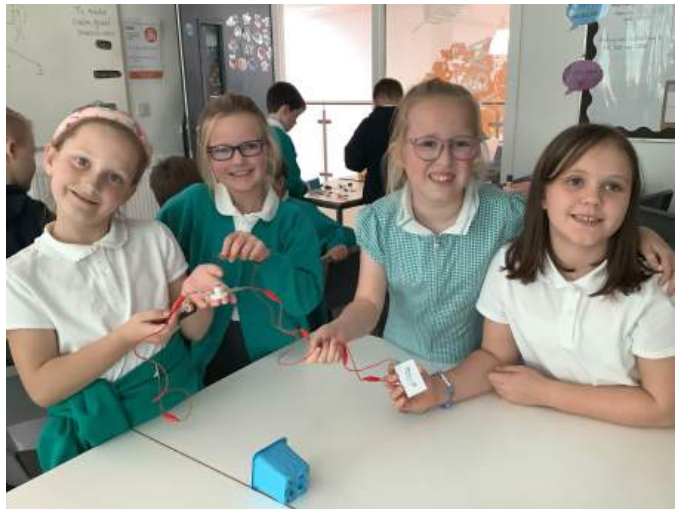
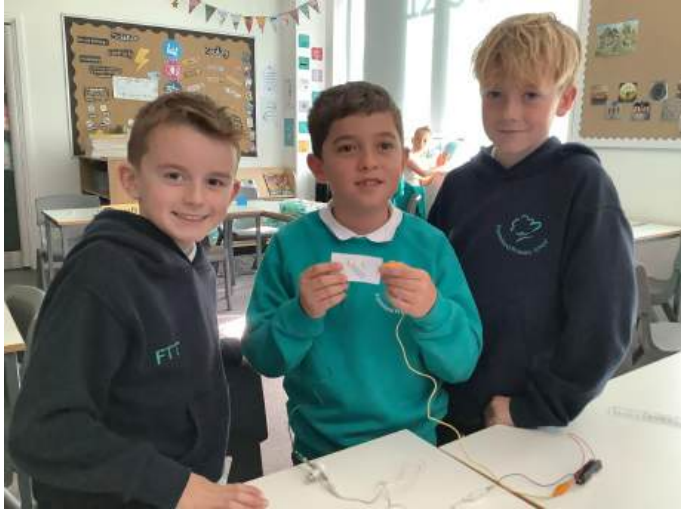
3 around the tree...



and back into the hole.

This Week in Year 4

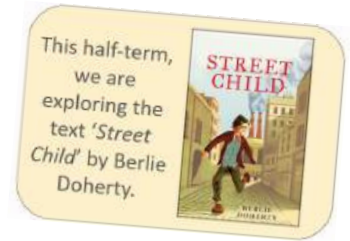
This week, Year 4 wrapped up their hands-on science unit on electricity by putting their learning into action. Demonstrating impressive teamwork and problem-solving, the pupils worked collaboratively to build their very own working switches using paper clips, split pins and cardboard to complete a full electrical circuit. It was fantastic to see them support one another, testing their ideas and observing firsthand how opening and closing a switch controls the flow of power!



This Week in Year 5

Quizzes Whizzes!

In computing this half term, we have been working on online quizzes through a new piece of software we are using across school called Purple Mash. the children accessed the 2Quiz application and spent time designing and building their own quizzes.



The children built quizzes around a set of given questions, used question formatting to develop their own quiz structures and also built their own exciting online quizzes based around a subject of their choice. They added title screens, pictures and employed a range of question types to make their quizzes as fun and interactive as possible. As well as the designing stage, children have also been learning how to debug and troubleshoot their work and the work of others.



This Week in Year 6

This half term, Year 6 have been coding in their computing lessons. Learning to use Python was a real challenge, as it was nothing like the programming we'd tried before, but we did a great job comprehending this complex language. In the last two weeks they moved on to programming microbits, in preparation for our exciting DT project next week. It's amazing how many different ways a tiny piece of equipment can light up, and it was great fun choosing how to personalise them.



Dates for Your Diary in 2026/2027



Tue 20th October 2026	Yr 6 Trip - Packed lunches NOT needed
Thur 22nd Oct 2026	Halloween Disco Rec/Year1 & Year 2 in school time Halloween Disco - Year 3 & Year 4 - after school until 4.30pm Halloween Raffle Drawn
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