Ponteland Primary School
Excellence For All

PELE TRUST

Friday Flyer

Friday 6th November 2026

Headteacher Update

There are no prizes for guessing what I'll be writing about in this week's Friday Flyer! The excitement began in half term with hints on Class Dojo about a special visitor and nobody was disappointed when Gladiator Steel came into school on Wednesday! While we were incredibly impressed by Steel's signature move, his walking handstand, the real highlight was hearing about his resilience in overcoming the challenge of having 20 allergies and going from being a little boy with very little confidence, to becoming the UK's fittest man and one of the nation's favourite Gladiators. Steel, aka Zack, shared that as a child he had been overweight and timid but around the age of 14, he was asked the question: what would you do if you were guaranteed to succeed? His immediate answer was to become a gladiator and he became single minded in pursuing that goal until he was successful. Zack's story perfectly illustrates the importance of resilience and recognising that while life brings challenges, we can push through and overcome them if we have belief in ourselves and learn how to navigate difficult or uncomfortable emotions. Zack's visit was perfectly timed to enhance the work we are doing this year in school to develop resilience across our community. Staff and pupils have all completed RISE screeners to help us map out the aspects of resilience which are real strengths in our school and those where we can work to develop them. RISE identifies 8 core pillars of resilience: confidence, connection, competence, character, contribution, coping, control and enjoyment and we have mapped ways of strengthening each through all parts of school life. Now, back to that handstand. While Steel managed an impressive 30 seconds, our very own Sienna in Y6 managed a walking handstand for 42 seconds! A future gladiator in the making perhaps!

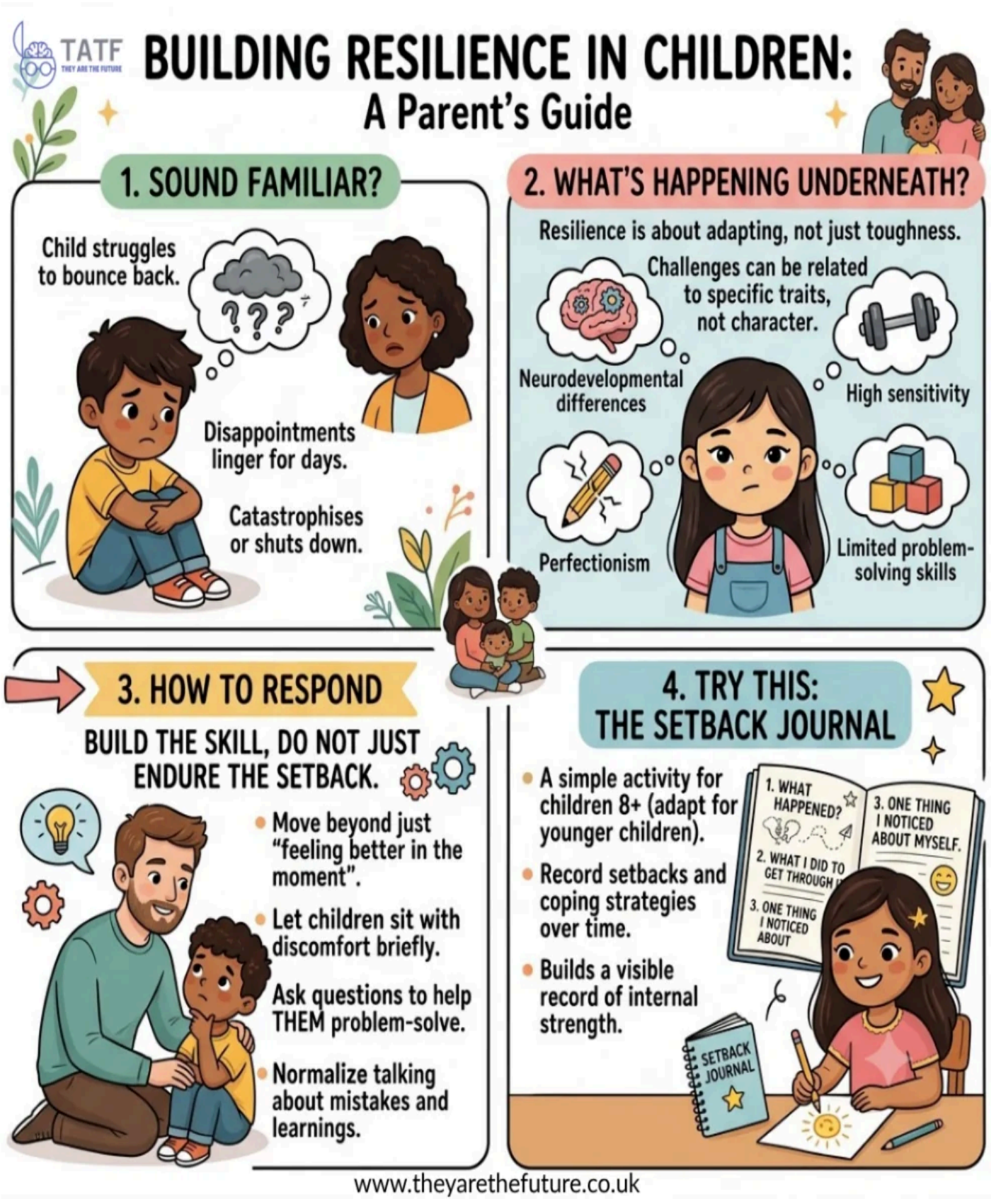






Enormous thanks to Frances in the Friends of PPS who very kindly arranged for Steel to visit us. A huge thank you also to everyone who took part in our half-term pumpkin competition! The entries were fantastic, making it so tricky to choose just one winner per class. We hope submitting your photos via Dojo and Tapestry made taking part much easier than bringing them into school. Our winners received their spooktacular prizes earlier this week. Thank you so much to the Friends of Ponteland Primary for organising both the competition and the scavenger hunt, giving the children such exciting experiences to engage in over half term.Best wishes, Claire Johnson

Safeguarding & Wellbeing



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ATTENDANCE MATTERS
every student, every day

In primary school, children in Year 6 who attend nearly every day (95–100% attendance) have 30% higher odds of reaching the expected standard in reading, writing, and maths than 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		**90.8%**	
Reception Chestnut	**96.7%**	3 Pine	**95.6%**
Reception Pinecone	**93.8%**	4 Alder	**98.8%**
1 Holly	**97.5%**	4 Yew	**96.3%**
1 Ash	**96.3%**	5 Oak	**94.2%**
2 Sycamore	**96.7%**	5 Beech	**96.8%**
2 Willow	**95.8%**	6 Elm	**93.5%**
3 Maple	**98.8%**	6 Birch	**94.0%**

Whole school (cumulative from Sept)	**96.8%**

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.

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Career Spotlight

PELE TRUST PRIMARY
CAREERS

CAREER FACTS
Television and film

Did you know? More than **60,000 people** work in the North East's wider creative industries, including careers in film, TV, photography, design and digital media.

💭 **Talk about it at home:** If you made a TV programme, what would it be about?

Career of the week...



This Week in Nursery

What a lovely week we've had in nursery!

This week we've been talking about Bonfire Night and learning all about how to stay safe around fireworks and bonfires. The children shared their ideas and talked about the importance of keeping a safe distance and never going near fireworks without a grown-up.

We also spent time learning about Remembrance Day and why we wear poppies. We talked about how poppies help us remember and say thank you to all the people who have helped and protected us. The children created some beautiful poppies to decorate our classroom.

We've enjoyed lots of lovely creative activities too! We made our very own edible sparklers using pitta bread and vegetables, practising our cutting skills with child-friendly knives and cutters. We also created some fantastic firework pictures using salt, chalk and glue, exploring different textures and getting creative with colour.








Mrs Kenyon

This Week in Reception

What a fantastic first week back in Reception!

We have had a wonderful time settling back into school and learning all about Guy Fawkes and Bonfire Night. The children have been busy creating some beautiful firework pictures, full of colour and creativity! ✨

We also had an extra special visitor this week… Gladiator Steel! The children were very excited to meet him, he even challenged us to see if we can complete the monkey bars by the time we finish reception!











Mrs Wilds & Miss Storey

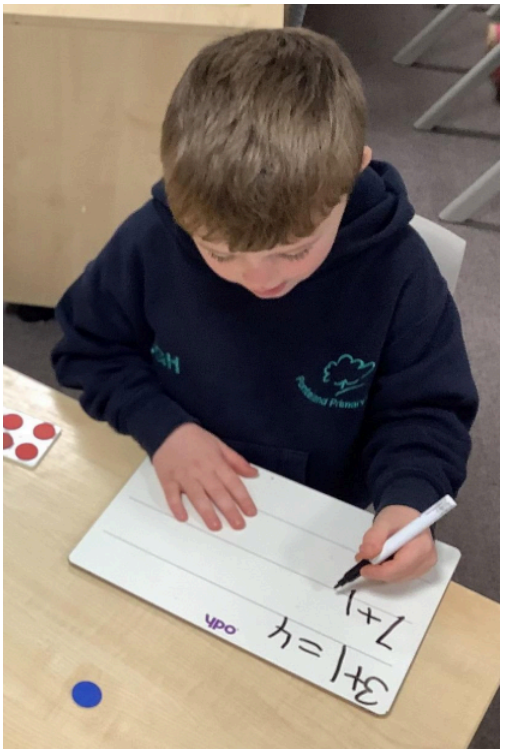
This Week in Year 1

It has been an action-packed week of learning and excitement! We were thrilled to welcome Gladiator Steel to school, who delivered an inspiring talk on keeping our bodies and minds healthy, wowed us by walking on his hands both forwards and backwards, and took the time to answer all of our questions. In maths, the children have been consolidating their addition and subtraction skills by adding one and two and working with number lines. Meanwhile, in English, we stepped back in time to learn about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot, which inspired some lovely bonfire pictures created during our rainbow challenges.

Mrs Tailford, Mrs Rogers and Mrs Blyth



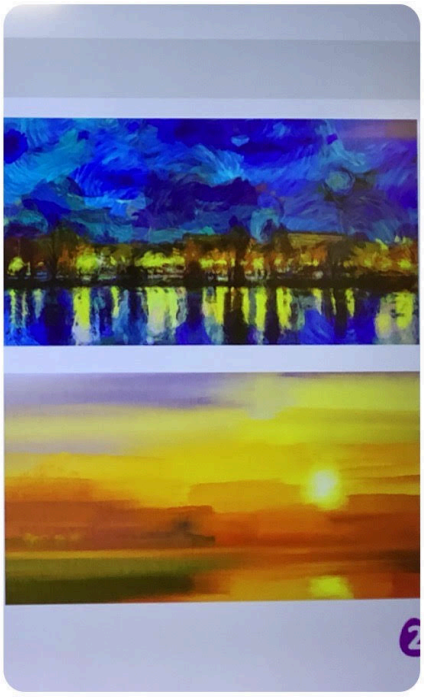




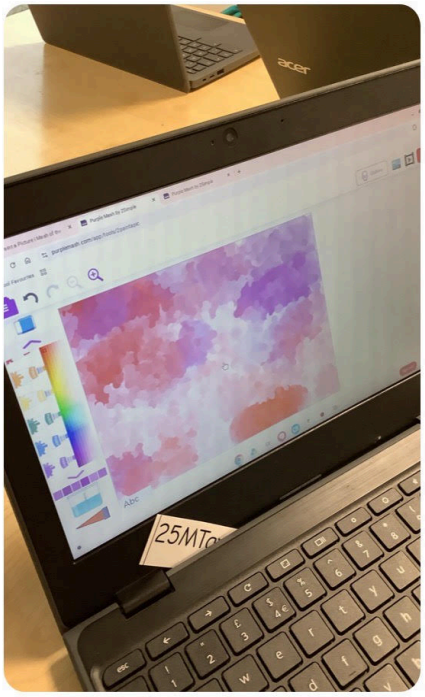


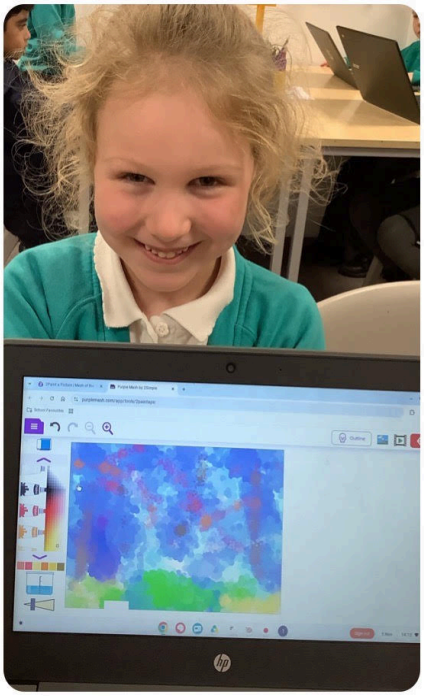
This Week in Year 2

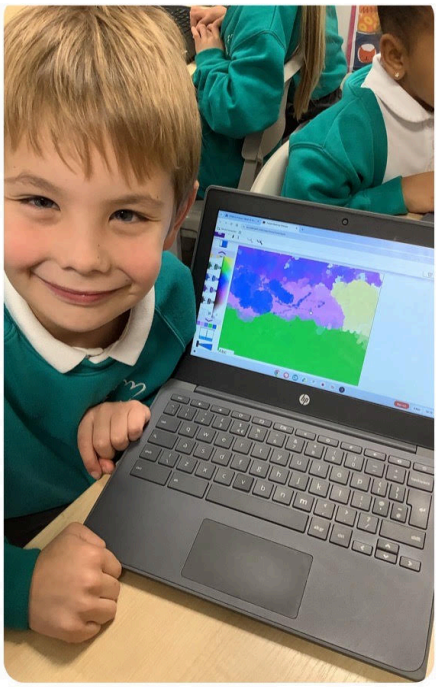
This week, in computing, Year 2 has been exploring impressionism. We learned about what impressionist art is and explored some examples. We then used the '2 Paint a Picture' programme to create our own digital art piece in the style of impressionism. Using the tools on the cursor gave us some good fine motor challenges too. We thought about the use of colour to create nature scenes. We loved this lesson!

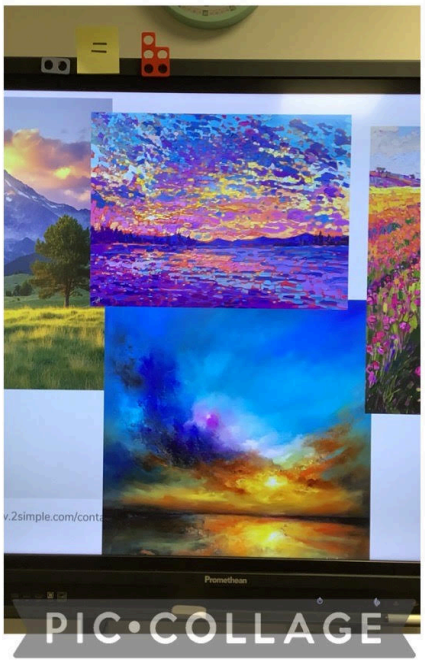












Mr Massey & Mrs Nowosielska

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This Week in Year 3

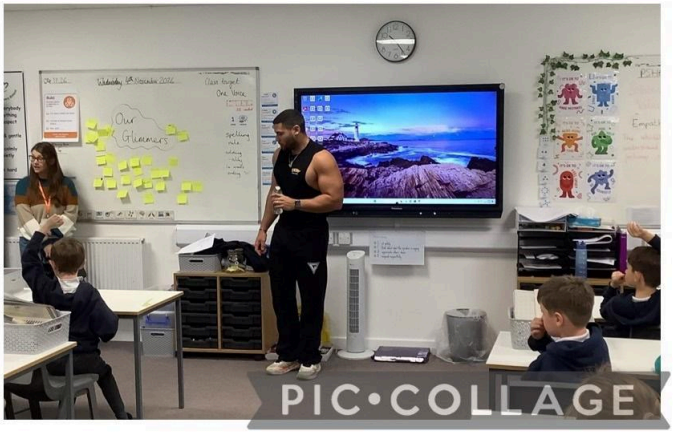
This week, we had an extraordinarily exciting visit as Steel from TV's *Gladiators* came into school to deliver an inspiring workshop on his Zactiv programme! The children were starstruck as Steel spoke passionately about the power of movement, emphasising the importance of staying hydrated, building self-confidence and resilience, keeping active, and making healthy lifestyle choices. Following his energising assembly, he took the time to visit every classroom to answer all of our pupils' curious questions and pose for some wonderful class photographs. It was a hugely motivating day, and Year 3 have certainly returned to their desks feeling inspired, refreshed, and ready to champion healthy habits!









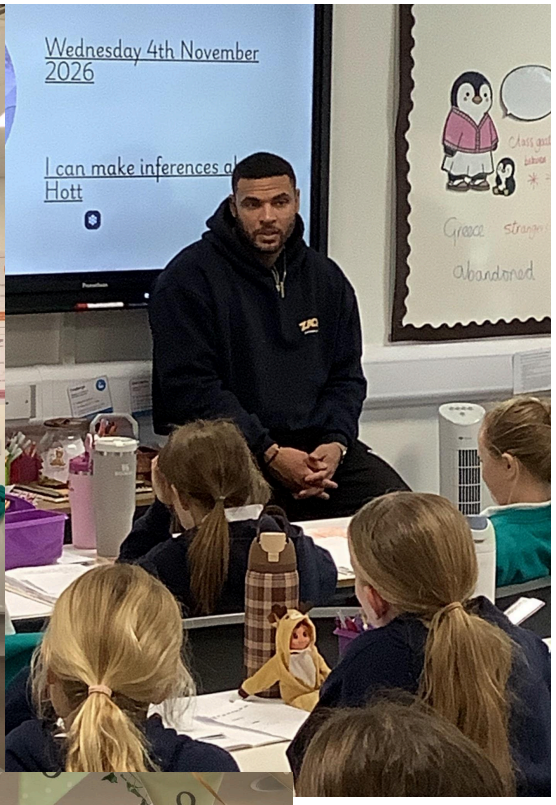


Mr Tailford and Miss Mears

This Week in Year 4

What an exciting week it has been in Year 4! The highlight was undoubtedly a visit from Steel from The Gladiators, who led an inspiring assembly focused on building confidence and resilience, as well as leading a Q and A in the classroom. Alongside this, we launched several exciting new topics: exploring solids, liquids, and gases in Science, journeying back in time to study the Vikings in History, and mastering multiplication and division in Maths. In English, we dove into our new Viking story collection, The Dragon's Hoard, reading 'The Boy in the Bones' to spark thoughtful discussions about integrity, bravery and resilience.







Mrs Bell and Miss Davis

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This Week in Year 5



🏆 Steel-ing the Show! 🏆

This week, the children were incredibly excited to welcome a very special visitor… Steel! They loved his assembly, where he shared some brilliant messages about building resilience, believing in yourself and taking pride in who you are. We even managed to persuade him to show off one of his special talents by walking on his hands!

Steel also spent time visiting our classrooms, where he introduced the children to the idea of **'glimmers'** – the little moments, achievements or experiences from the past week that make us feel happy or proud. The children enjoyed sharing their own glimmers and celebrating the positive things, both big and small, that had happened in their lives.

We finished by putting Steel in the hot seat with plenty of questions! The children were keen to find out more about life as a Gladiator, as well as what he enjoys doing away from the show. (They weren't too impressed that he didn't support Newcastle!)

It was a fantastic opportunity to meet such an inspiring visitor, and certainly a day the children won't forget. What a special day!



Mr McCourt and Mr Orme

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This Week in Year 6

It's always exciting to meet a celebrity, but especially wonderful when that person can share relevant and inspirational experiences that we can use to reflect on our own lives. Our visit from Steel was so meaningful to Year 6 as he talked to us about facing challenges and change head on (perfect for our upcoming transition to high school) and the importance of believing in ourselves. One of Mrs Main's favourite phrases is 'comparison is the thief of joy' and Steel really emphasised this when he made the point that we should never compare ourselves to others, as we can never be anyone else!
Year 6 have started the half term with a bang, pouring all their effort into fractions, formal and informal language, light and shadows and the geography of the UK. We can't wait to find out what's coming in the next few weeks!







Miss Allan and Mrs Main

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Dates for Your Diary in 2026/2027



Wc 16th Nov 2026	FPPS Scholastic Book Fair
Mon 23rd Nov 2026	Flu Immunisation Day
Wed 25th Nov 2026	Individual Photo Day
Fri 4th Dec 2026	FPPS Christmas Fair - 3.30pm start
Mon 7th Dec 2026	Christmas Performance, 2pm - Year 5 & Year 6
Tue 8th Dec 2026	Christmas Performance, 9.15am - Year 5 & Year 6
Tue 8th Dec 2026	Christmas Performance, 2pm - Year 1 & Year 2
Wed 9th Dec 2026	Christmas Performance, 9.15am - Year 1 & Year 2
Wed 9th Dec 2026	Christmas Performance, 2pm - Year 3 & Year 4
Thur 10th Dec 2026	Christmas Performance, 9.15am - Reception Classes (Chestnut & Pinecone)
Fri 11th Dec 2026	Christmas Performance, 9.15am - Year 3 & Year 4
Fri 18th Dec 2026	Last day of school - 1.30pm finish
W/c 21st Dec 2027	School closed for Christmas
Mon 4th Jan 2027	School Resumes
W/c 15th Feb 2027	Half Term - School Closed
Mon 22nd Feb 2027	Staff Training - School Closed
Tue 23rd Feb 2027	School Resumes
Thur 26th Mar 2027	School closed for the Easter Holidays
Mon 12th April 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



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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

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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

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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

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FRIENDS OF PONTELAND PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN TERM 1 - 2026/27

No Tricks, All Treats

What a spooktacular start to the year! We've had a fantastic time celebrating autumn, with lots of fun along the way. Here's a little look at what we've been up to:

- **Y5 Movie Night**: Minions, Monsters and mountains of popcorn!
- **Halloween Discos**: Spooky costumes and plenty of dancing from Reception to Year 4.
- **Half-Term Scavenger Hunt**: Autumn adventures for all the family.
- **Pumpkin Decorating**: Some truly amazing creations from every year group!

Together with our Halloween Raffle, refreshment sales, and other activities, these events have raised an incredible **£1,335** so far this academic year! A huge thank you to everyone who helped organise, support and join in the fun. Congratulations to Eliza, our Halloween hamper winner, and to all our other lucky prize winners! 👏🎃







Upcoming Events

- **Gladiator Visit to School**
  Wednesday 4th November
- **Scholastic Book Fair**
  16th - 20th November
- **Wreath Making Workshop**
  Thursday 26th November - 6pm
- **Christmas Fair**
  Friday 4th December - 3:30pm

Next Meeting

Christmas Fair Planning meeting - **Wednesday 4th November - 5:30pm** at The Diamond





Stay in touch:

Check out our social media pages to keep up to date with all our latest news, events, and fundraising activities:

📘 Facebook: Friends of Ponteland Primary

📸 Instagram: @friends_of_ponteland_primary

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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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

HERE TO HELP