Ponteland Primary School
Excellence For All

PELE TRUST

Friday Flyer

Friday 13th November 2026

Headteacher Update



This week may not have brought us a gladiator but it certainly did deliver a real life hero. We always mark Remembrance Day and this year the children were fortunate to join a live interview with the incredible Flight Lieutenant Colin Bell who is one of the UK's last surviving RAF World War Two veterans and the last living Mosquito pilot. We were so fortunate to hear a firsthand account of courage, hope, and gratitude from someone who lived through the Second World War. It certainly added a poignancy to our one minute silence at 11am which all of the children observed respectfully.

Our school value this month is empathy and November provides us with a lot of natural opportunities to develop this with the children. In addition to Remembrance Day, we also focus on anti-bullying this month and next week is national Anti-bullying Week when the children will have lots of opportunities to explore how empathy can help them relate to other people and ensure our school is somewhere that everyone feels they belong. We are asking everyone to come to school on Monday wearing odd socks to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique!



Empathy and kindness go hand in hand and today marks World Kindness Day! We have talked to the children about the power of doing one kind thing and the ripple effect this can have. Please do share any acts of kindness that your child carries out as I would love to give them a shout out in our 'happiest minute of the week' during our Celebration Assembly.

Finally, I would like to wish all of our families who celebrated a very happy and prosperous Diwali.

Best wishes,

Claire Johnson

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Safeguarding & Wellbeing

We welcomed Becca Smith from Smartphone Free Childhood into school on Wednesday evening to meet with parents who are interested in finding alternatives to smartphones for their children. If you are interested in finding out more about this then please follow this link to the Smartphone Free Childhood website which has a wealth of information as well as the Parent Pact.



How do I talk to my primary school age child about delaying smartphones?



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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		**95.0%**	
Reception Chestnut	**90.0%**	3 Pine	**94.2%**
Reception Pinecone	**94.3%**	4 Alder	**94.7%**
1 Holly	**91.3%**	4 Yew	**93.3%**
1 Ash	**93.3%**	5 Oak	**96.7%**
2 Sycamore	**97.3%**	5 Beech	**94.8%**
2 Willow	**92.3%**	6 Elm	**87.9%**
3 Maple	**92.0%**	6 Birch	**92.3%**

Whole school (cumulative from Sept)	**96.4%**

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

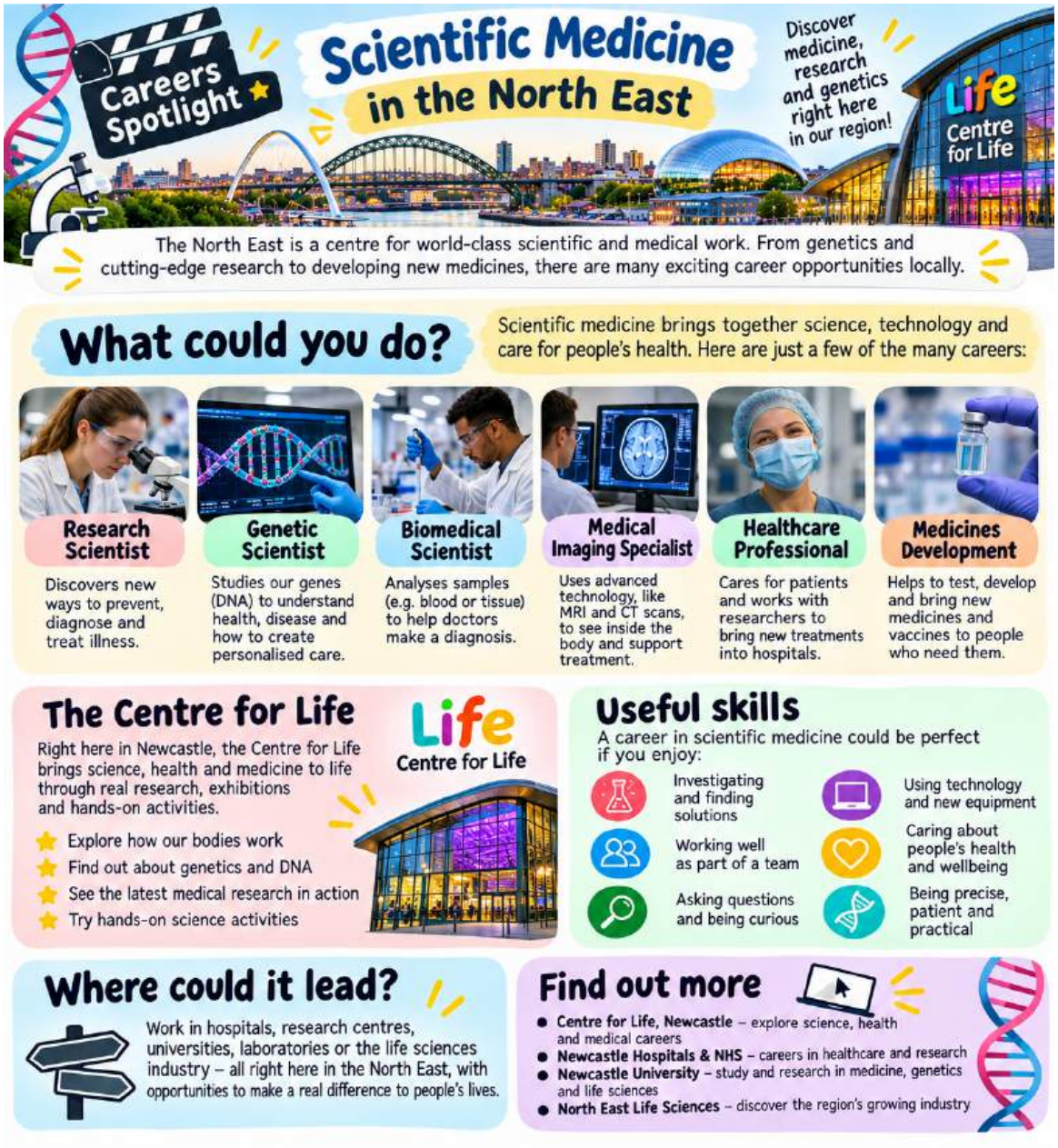
PELE TRUST PRIMARY
CAREERS

CAREER FACTS
Scientific Medicine

Did you know? Around **8,000 people work in life sciences in the North East**, including scientists and people who help develop medicines.

💭 **Talk about it at home:** What problem would you like medical scientists to solve?

Career of the week...



This Week in Nursery

We have really enjoyed welcoming our parents into the setting for our Open Week and sharing some special moments together.

We have also been learning all about Diwali, the Festival of Lights. The children got creative making their own diva lamps and decorating colourful paper hands. We also had lots of fun making a delicious banana milkshake, adding and crushing some optional cardamom seeds to give it a lovely aromatic flavour!

We have enjoyed the story 'Have You Filled a Bucket Today?' and are thinking about how our words and actions can make others feel happy. We talked about how we can fill each other's buckets through kindness, sharing, helping our friends and using kind words. The children are now taking on a special Nursery challenge – to work together to fill our very own Nursery bucket full of kindness! We will be looking out for those lovely acts of kindness, big and small, and celebrating how we can make everyone feel happy, valued and included.











Mrs Kenyon

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This Week in Reception

What a busy and brilliant week we have had in Reception! We have been learning all about different celebrations and events, exploring Diwali by making our own diya lamps during jobs time, talking about Remembrance Day while creating collaborative poppy floor art and individual paper poppies, and also learning about Children in Need as we made Pudsey masks ready to wear for Forest Friday! In Maths, we have been practising subitising up to 4, using building blocks to construct our own number representations and spotting the smaller parts we can see inside them. We also kicked off our brand new handwriting sessions and reading groups this week, and the children have been fantastic at spotting their sounds on the phonics cards, sounding out, and blending. We hope you have a wonderful, restful weekend and gets lots of reading practice in!









Mrs Wilds & Miss Storey

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This Week in Year 1

What another brilliant week we've had in Year 1! To begin our local history topic, we went on a walk around Ponteland to spot landmarks and compare them with photographs from the past. The children loved being history detectives - discovering that the Chinese restaurant was formerly a blacksmith's shop and learning that St. Mary's has hosted a church for over 1,000 years! Meanwhile, in English, we launched our new core text, *The Paper Bag Princess*. The children have really impressed us with their thoughtful predictions, rich character descriptions, and vibrant drama and oracy work.













Mrs Tailford, Mrs Rogers and Mrs Blyth

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This Week in Year 2

This week, as scientists, we began to explore where different materials were found in school and wondered why. We found that more objects in school were made of metal than any other material. We wondered if this could be because metal is so strong. In computing, we explored with pointillism to create more digital artwork.

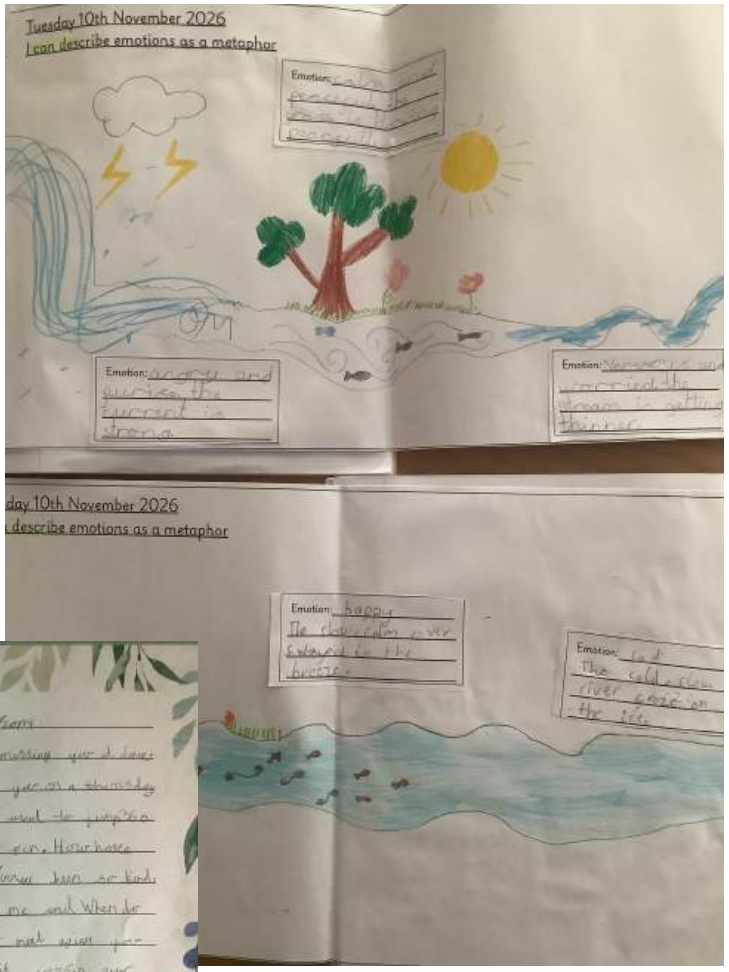


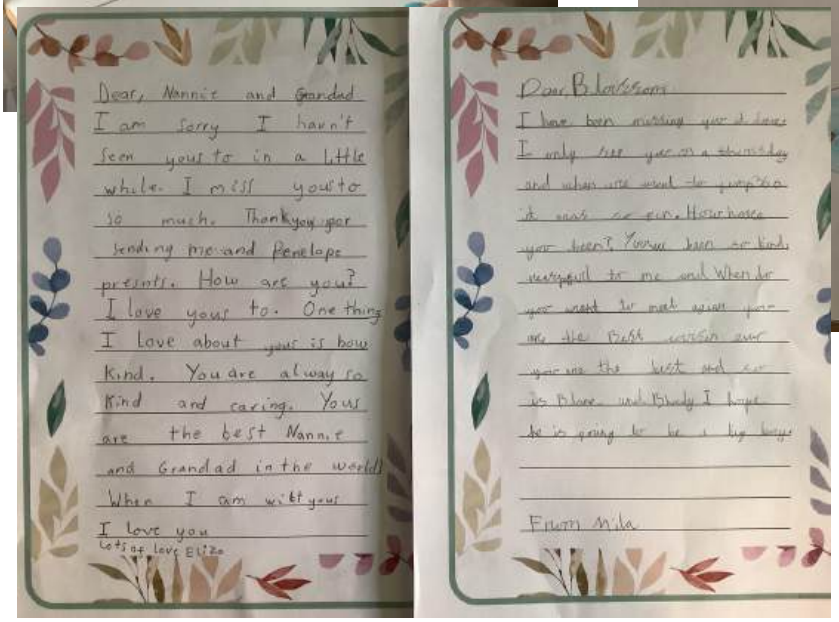
Mr Massey & Mrs Nowosielska

This Week in Year 3

It has been a wonderful and thoughtful week in Year 3 as we focused on developing our understanding of empathy. After reading the story *The River*, the children explored how emotions can look and feel by illustrating their own rivers to map out an emotional journey. We also sorted a wide range of feeling vocabulary to think about how "big" different emotions can be. To celebrate World Kindness Day, the class took on kindness challenges by writing heartfelt letters and crafting paper hugs to send to others. Earlier in the week, we also marked Armistice Day by observing a respectful two-minute silence, taking time to reflect on the service and sacrifices of people in the armed forces both past and present.



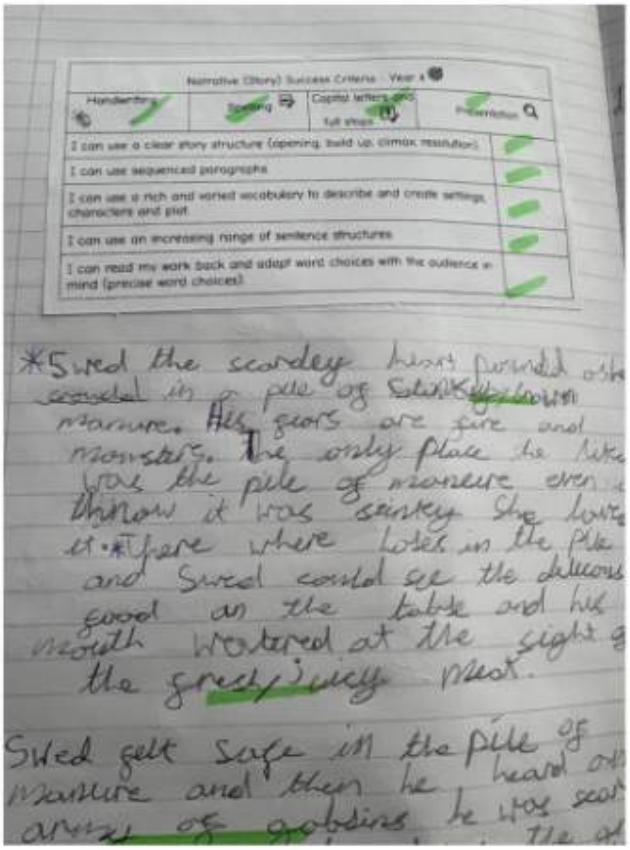


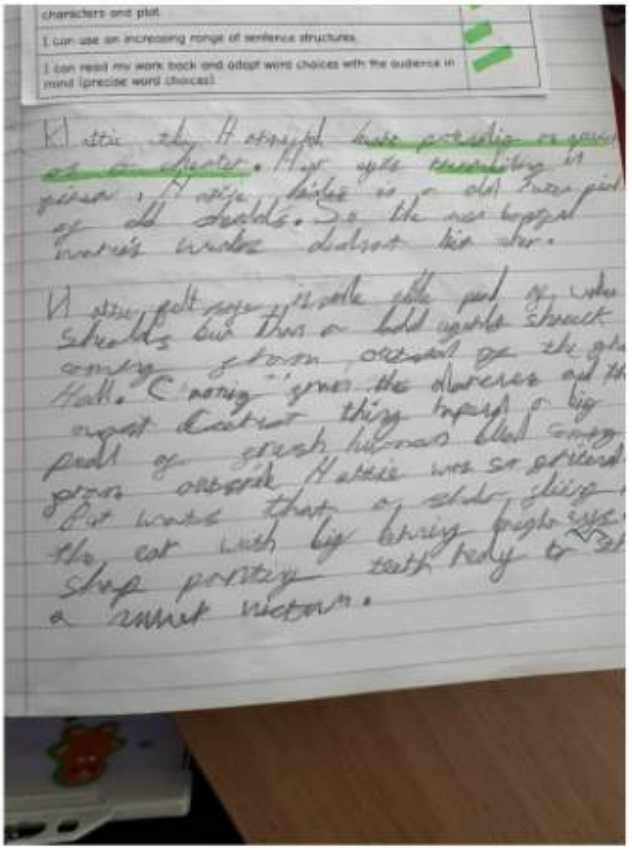


Mr Tailford and Miss Mears

This Week in Year 4

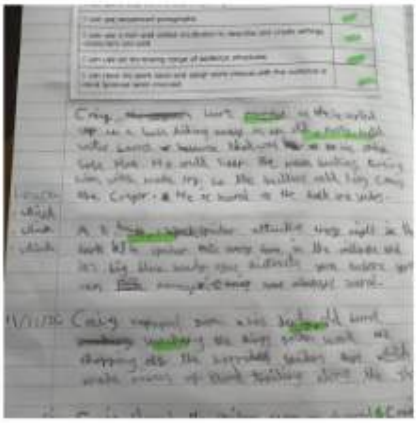
This week in English, Year 4 has been putting their full writing cycle into practice, moving through the stages of planning, composing, editing, and publishing our work. To bring this process to life, the children have been crafting their very own Viking sagas! Focusing on the classic elements of Norse storytelling, each pupil has created a brave hero, a fearsome beast, and an exciting central quest or twist. The class has shown fantastic creativity and resilience, carefully refining their vocabulary and punctuation during the editing phase before publishing their final, action-packed tales.











Mrs Bell and Miss Davis

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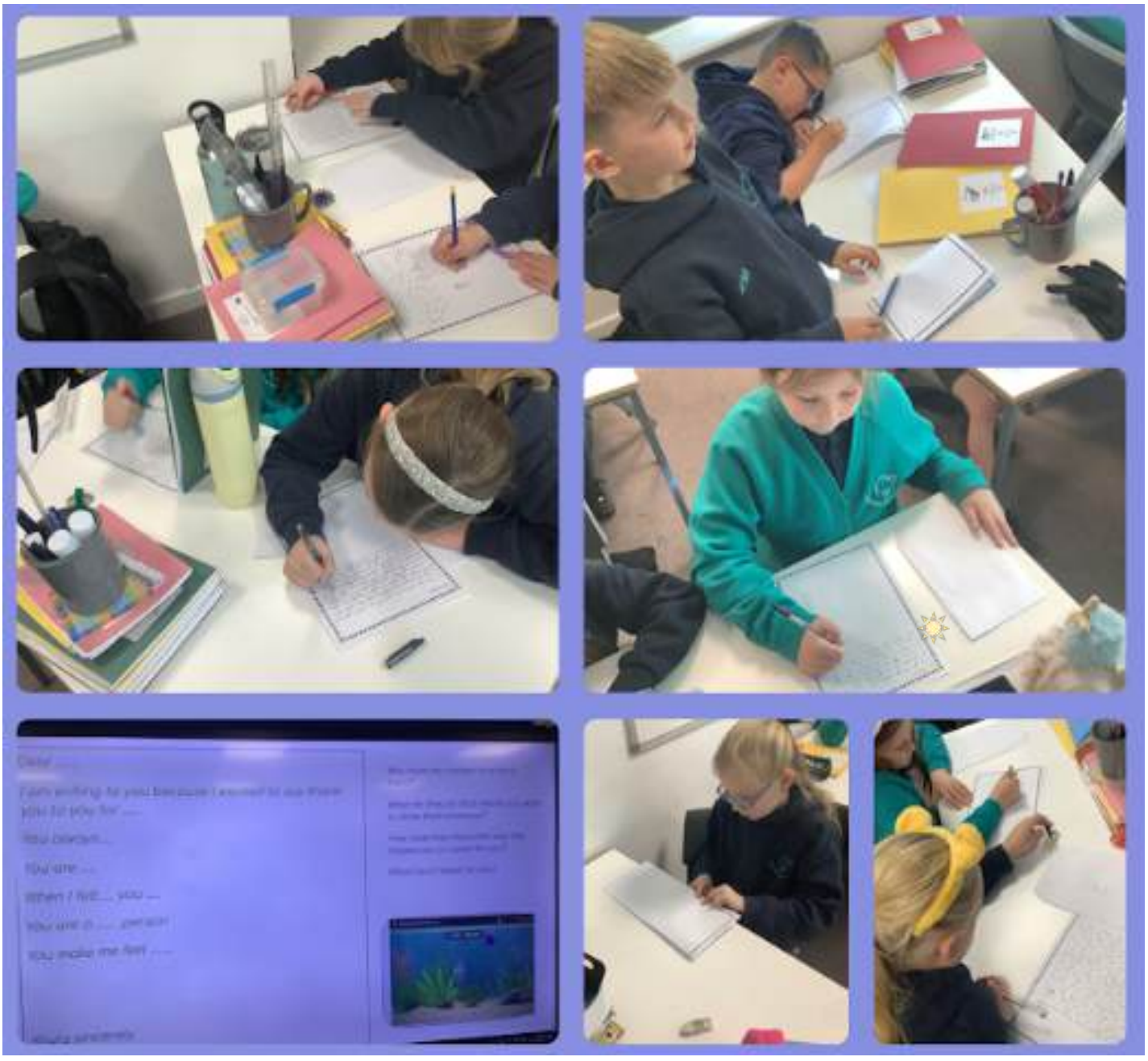
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This Week in Year 5



Kindness is King

As it is World Kindness day today, we thought we would mark the occasion by spreading some kindness. We wrote kindness letters to friends, family or important people who mean something to us. We had many reasons for writing; to thank them, to let know why we appreciate them or to simply let them know what we have been up to. It was lovely to see the range of people who were written to and it's fabulous to think about all of the positivity and kindness we have radiated out into the world around us. Kindness can have a ripple effect so hopefully we have sent those kind waves out towards others and the wave can keep rippling forward to more and more people.



Mr McCourt and Mr Orme

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This Week in Year 6

This week, Year 6 began our Autumn Religious Education unit exploring Hinduism. To launch the topic, the children reflected on the different religions and worldviews they have studied throughout their primary school journey. Together, we discussed what makes each tradition unique, while also recognising the shared values and similarities that connect different faiths. Building on this foundation, the class explored what daily life can look like in a Hindu family through the lived experiences of a young girl named Vandana. Learning through personal stories helped the children appreciate how faith, family life, and everyday routines connect in meaningful ways. We then took a closer look at several important deities within Hindu traditions, exploring the qualities, stories, and symbolism associated with each of them.



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
Wed 2nd Dec 2026	Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper 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 Holidays
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
Fri 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