Ponteland Primary School
Excellence For All

PELE TRUST

Friday Flyer

Friday 20th November 2026

Headteacher Update

One of my favourite weekly tasks as headteacher is delivering assemblies and I love it when we create an atmosphere of oneness in the hall where everyone is aligned in thought about something. Never is this truer than when we're talking about how to make our school the kindest place it can be and I was genuinely impressed by the children's thoughtful contributions to our discussions around anti-bullying this week. Several years ago, our school council launched a pupil version of the Anti-bullying Policy which we revisit each year and it was heartening to see that the children truly understand the impact of bullying and how to respond if they were to see it happening. They were able to talk about the importance of being an upstander instead of a bystander and we explored the range of options someone could take, from directly addressing unkind behaviour, to reporting it to an adult or simply checking in with the person affected. We spent some time unpicking the word 'snitch' and agreed that it is simply used by someone who is doing the wrong thing and doesn't want to be caught out. We agreed to take away its power and came up with a response if we were ever called a snitch: 'I'm not a snitch; I just care'. We all committed to the pledge to break the silence and continue to work together to eradicate any bullying in our school. Please follow this link if you would like to see our child-friendly policy.

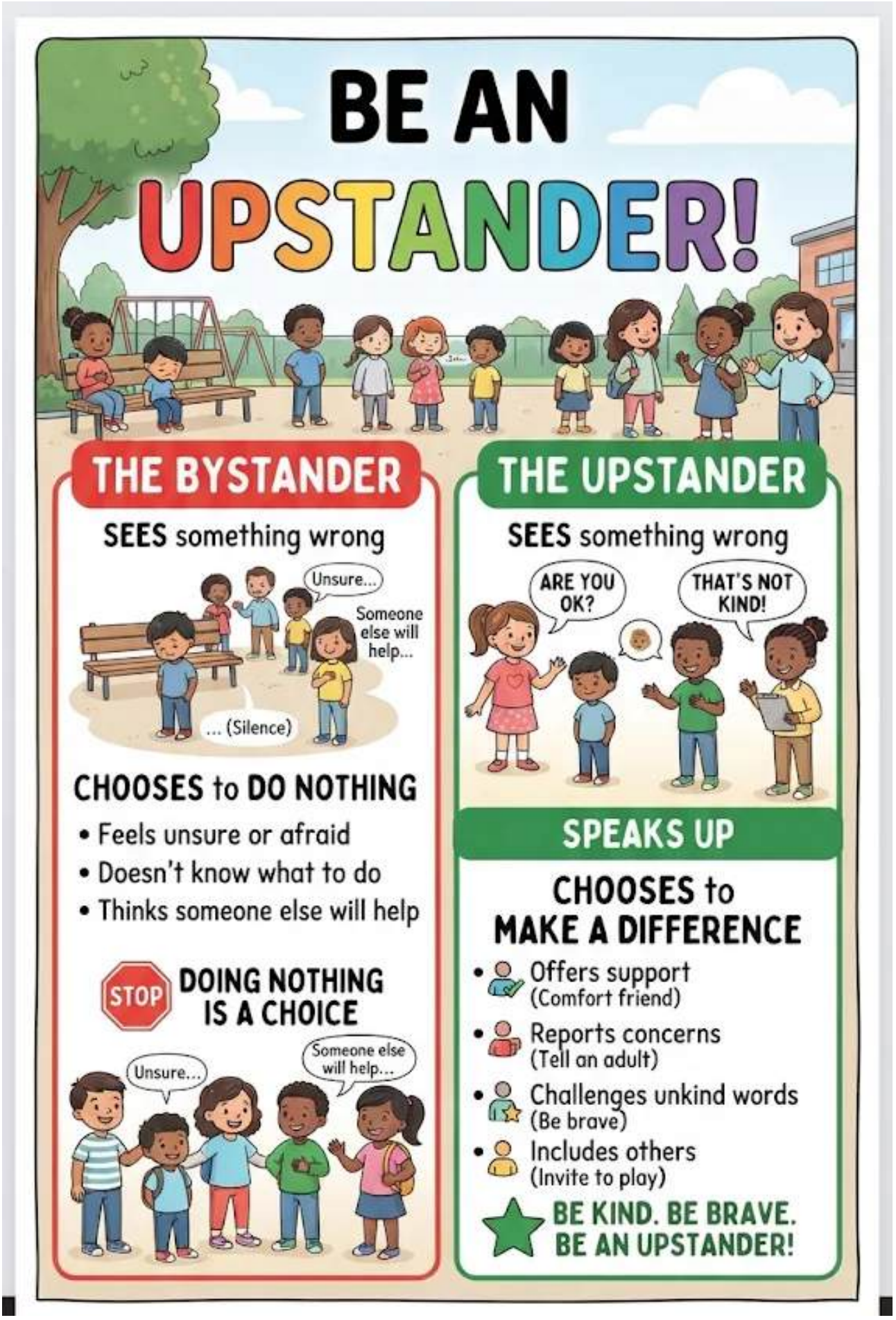


Speaking of child-friendly policies, there is another one which has just been finalised by our pupil-led Cyber Squad: the online safety policy. Mr McCourt and his cyber team have identified some rules and top tips to help everyone stay safe online. The Cyber Squad presented the policy to me this week and will be sharing it across all year groups in the coming weeks. The online world is an ever changing landscape and we see it as vitally important to equip the children with the knowledge and skills they need in order to navigate online spaces safely. Our digital critical thinking curriculum is designed to help the children question what they see on the Internet and in social media and guide them in how to conduct themselves online.

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	**94.2%**		
Reception Chestnut	**88.3%**	3 Pine	**97.4%**
Reception Pinecone	**96.0%**	4 Alder	**91.0%**
1 Holly	**95.7%**	4 Yew	**93.3%**
1 Ash	**89.0%**	5 Oak	**95.3%**
2 Sycamore	**92.7%**	5 Beech	**94.8%**
2 Willow	**93.3%**	6 Elm	**93.8%**
3 Maple	**99.0%**	6 Birch	**88.7%**

Whole school (cumulative from Sept)	**96.1%**

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
Construction

Did you know? Construction involves much more than building houses. Architects, engineers, electricians, plumbers, surveyors and many other people work together to create the places where we live, work and learn.

💭 **Talk about it at home:** Who do you think you would need to build a new school?

Career of the week...




SCHOOL
HOT CHOCOLATE
STAND
FRIDAY 20th NOVEMBER
FRIDAY 27th NOVEMBER
3.10pm - 3.30pm
HOT CHOCOLATE £1
HOT CHOCOLATE WITH MARSHMALLOWS £1.50
HOT CHOCOLATE WITH SQUIRTY CREAM £1.50
HOT CHOCOLATE WITH SQUIRTY CREAM AND MARSHMALLOWS £2
THE HOT CHOCOLATE STAND
RAISING FUNDS FOR St Oswalld's Hospice

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This Week in Nursery

We had a lovely time back at forest school. The children loved exploring the new willow tunnel that Mr Bray has kindly started creating. There was lots of climbing, swinging and wheeling lots of heavy logs around in wheelbarrows, as well as plenty of imaginative play in the mud kitchen.



Mrs Kenyon

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This Week in Reception

What a fantastic and busy week we have had in Reception! We kicked off the week celebrating Anti-Bullying Week by wearing our odd socks and talking about kindness, alongside exploring the Zones of Regulation to understand what puts us in different zones and what 'thumbs up' and 'thumbs down' choices look like. In phonics, the children have been working hard to learn the new sounds **v, w, x,** and **y**, and they loved reading *Little Rabbit Foo Foo* before putting their skills to the test by writing CVC captions during jobs time. Over in maths, we have been comparing groups using the vocabulary 'more than' and 'fewer than'. Finally, a huge thank you to all of our families for visiting the book fair throughout the week—have a wonderful weekend!









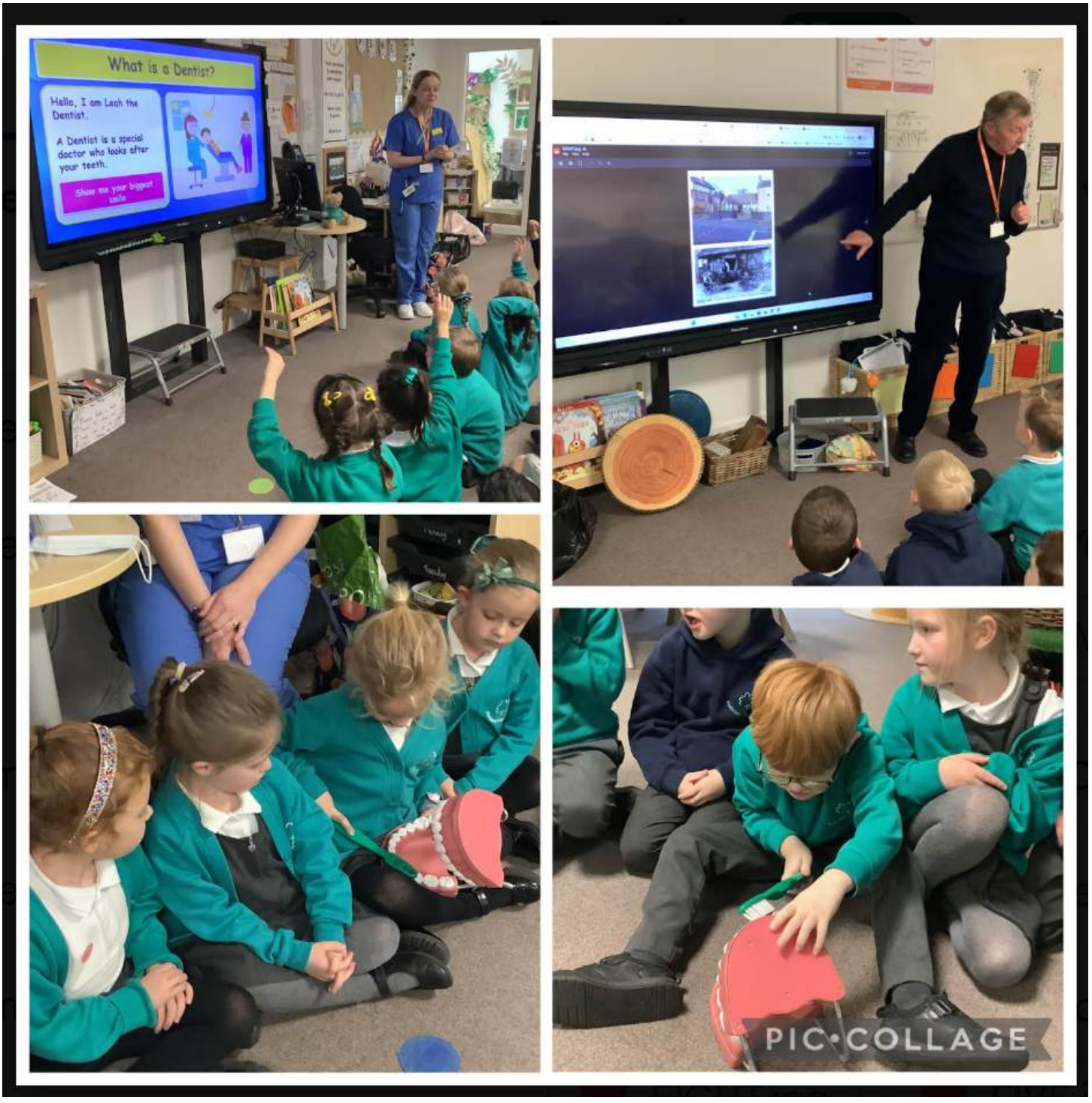
Mrs Wilds & Miss Storey

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This Week in Year 1

We have been lucky enough to welcome two wonderful visitors to Year 1 this week. On Tuesday, Erica's mummy came in to tell us all about her career as a dentist and taught us the importance of keeping our teeth and mouths healthy. Then, on Thursday, Michael from the Ponteland History Society visited to share what life in Ponteland was like in the past. The children listened brilliantly, asked fantastic questions, and were amazed to discover that there used to be a railway line with a steam train running right from Ponteland to Newcastle!



Mrs Tailford, Mrs Rogers and Mrs Blyth

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This Week in Year 2

This week, as scientists, we began to explore how forces can change the shape of a variety of objects, and discussed the materials that those objects were made from. We squeezed, twisted, bent and stretched. Some of us thought that metal would be too strong to change the shape of with these methods, but then we found that we could change the shape of a paperclip!







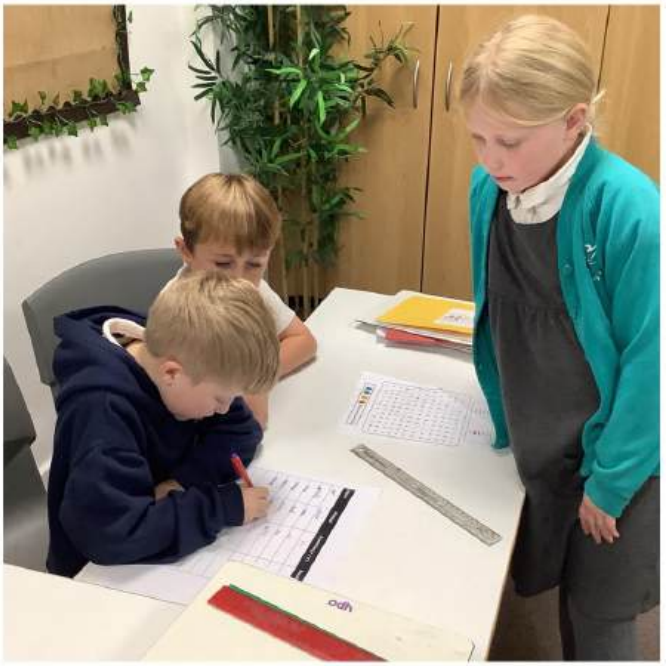


Mr Massey & Mrs Nowosielska

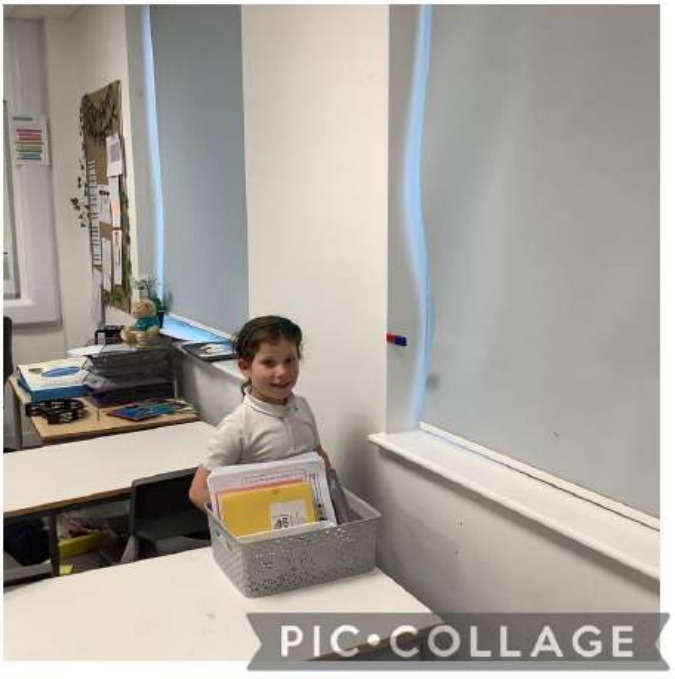
This Week in Year 3

In Science this week, Year 3 have been putting their investigative skills to the test by hunting for magnetic materials around the classroom! Armed with magnets, Maple and Pine explored a wide variety of everyday objects, making the brilliant scientific discovery that while all magnetic materials contain metal, not all metals are actually magnetic. The children loved predicting which items would stick and testing their theories. With Christmas just around the corner, they've decided that Santa's sleigh must be magnetic too, because it's always irresistibly attracted to the North Pole! Fantastic scientific enquiry from our budding young physicists.









Mr Tailford and Miss Mears

This Week in Year 4

The festive countdown has officially started this week as we kicked off rehearsals for our Christmas performance. The children have already thrown themselves into learning the songs and finding their places on stage, and the energy in the hall has been brilliant. We're keeping the finer details under wraps for now, so keep an eye out for costume notes and performance dates coming home soon.





Mrs Bell and Miss Davis

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This Week in Year 5

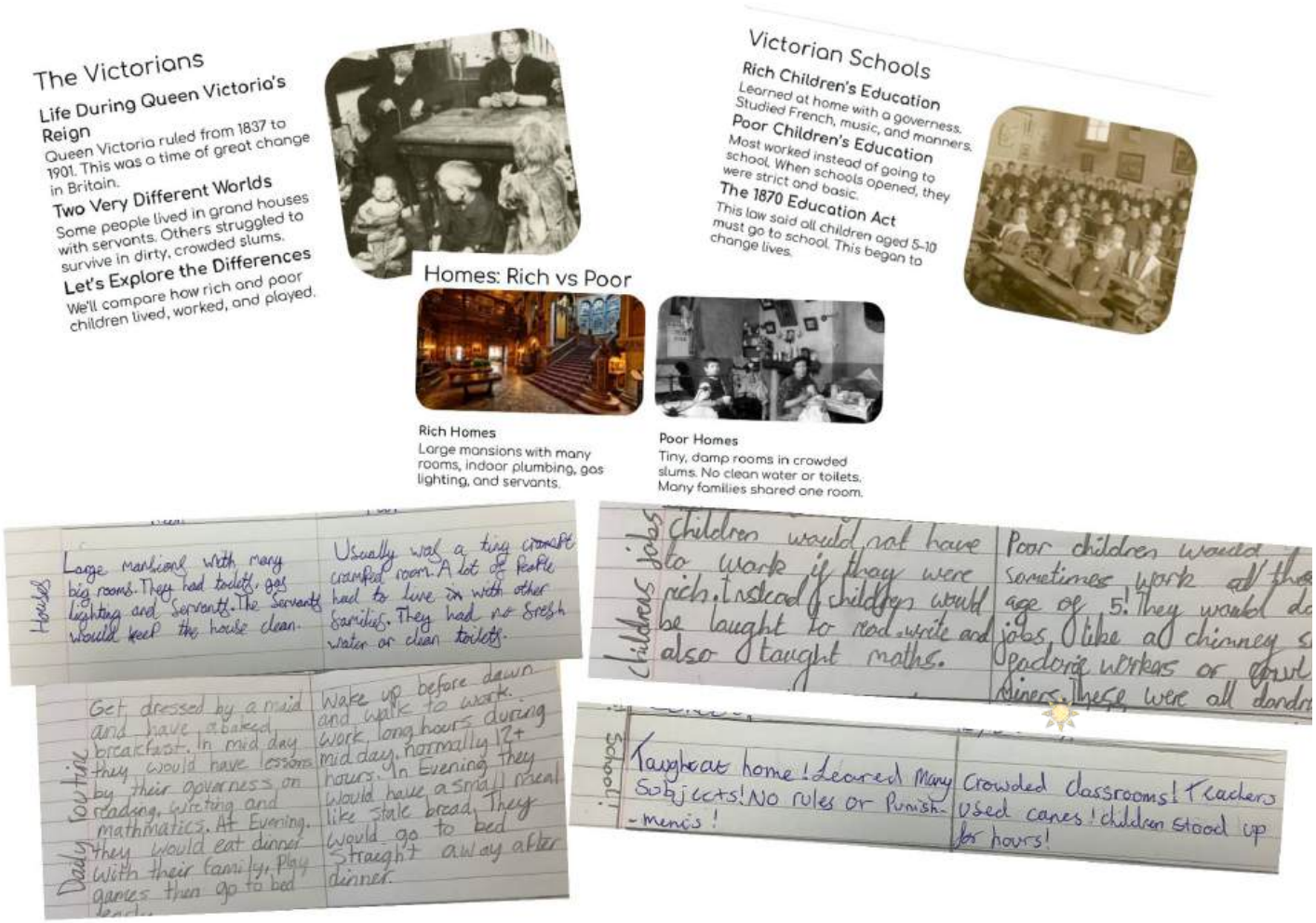
🎩 It was the best of times, it was the worst of times! 🎩



This week, we continued our history topic on the Victorians. After exploring the era and discovering how the Industrial Revolution transformed the country, we turned our attention to what life was like for people living through these changes.

Our focus was on the differences between the rich and the poor, and the children discovered just how divided Victorian society could be. From the homes people lived in to the opportunities they had and the lives they led, it really was a time of opposites. While some enjoyed wealth and luxury, others faced poverty and hardship.

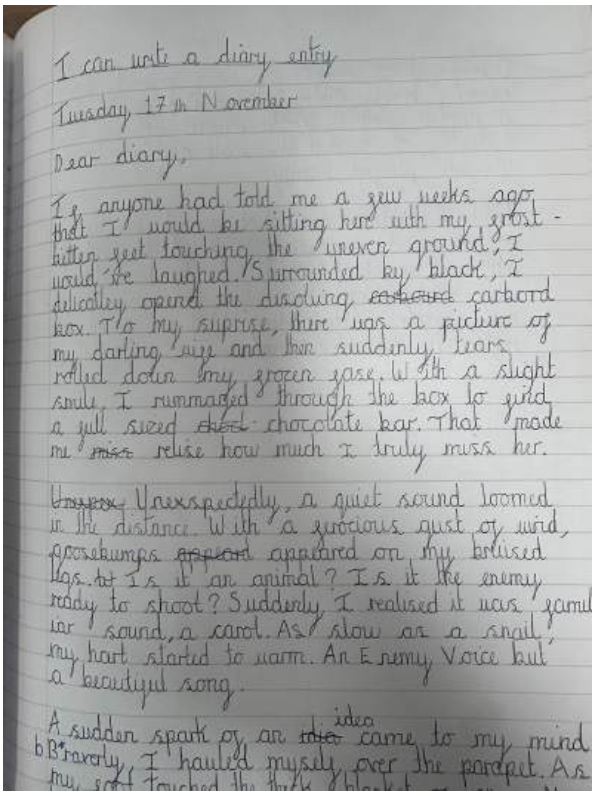
It has been fascinating to explore these contrasts and discover just how different life could be depending on where you sat in Victorian society!



Mr McCourt and Mr Orme

This Week in Year 6

Year 6 have written some truly moving diary entries this week, imagining what life was like for soldiers in the trenches during the 1914 Christmas Truce. Taking inspiration from our core text, The Last Post, and the poignant Sainsbury's Christmas advert about the historic ceasefire, the children brought real heart and vivid detail to their writing. Their reflections on our Remembrance Day observances also added a personal touch, helping them thoughtfully explore themes of friendship, peace, and sacrifice in wartime. We are so proud of the maturity, kindness, and creativity they showed in bringing this special moment in history to life.



I can write a diary entry

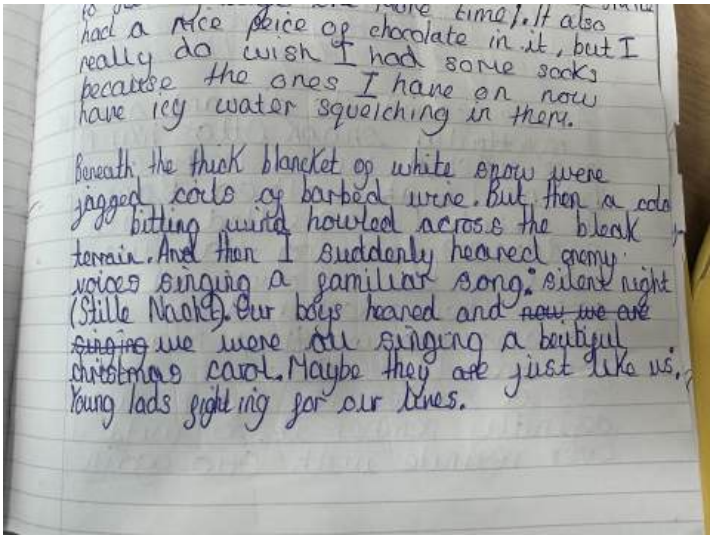
Tuesday 17th November

Dear diary,

If anyone had told me a few weeks ago that I would be sitting here with my frost-bitten feet touching the uneven ground, I would've laughed. Surrounded by black, I delicately opened the discoloured cardboard box. To my suprise, there was a picture of my darling wife and then suddenly, tears rolled down my frozen face. With a slight smile, I rummaged through the box to find a full sized chocolate bar. That made me realise how much I truly miss her.

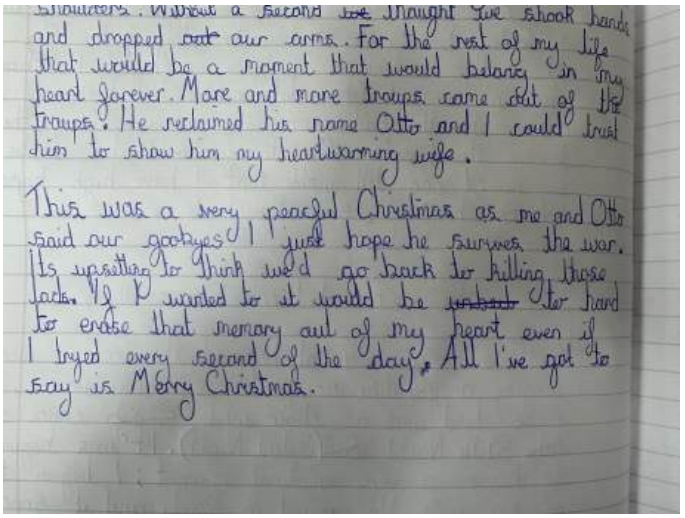
Unexpectedly, a quiet sound loomed in the distance. With a ferocious gust of wind, goosebumps appeared on my bruised legs. But is it an animal? Is it the enemy ready to shoot? Suddenly, I realised it was familiar sound, a carol. As slow as a snail, my heart started to warm. An Enemy Voice but a beautiful song.

A sudden spark of an idea came to my mind bravely, I hauled myself over the parapet. As



had a nice piece of chocolate in it, but I really do wish I had some socks because the ones I have on now have icy water squelching in them.

Beneath the thick blanket of white snow were jagged coils of barbed wire. But then a cold biting wind howled across the bleak terrain. And then I suddenly heared enemy voices singing a familiar song. Silent night (Stille Nacht). Our boys heared and now we are singing we were all singing a beutiful christmas carol. Maybe they are just like us, young lads fighting for our lives.



and dropped our arms. For the rest of my life that would be a moment that would belong in my heart forever. More and more troops came out of the trenches. He reclaimed his name Otto and I could trust him to show him my heartwarming wife.

This was a very peaceful Christmas as me and Otto said our goobyes. I just hope he survives the war. Its upsetting to think we'd go back to killing those lads. If I wanted to it would be so hard to erase that memory out of my heart even if I tryed every second of the day. All I've got to say is Merry Christmas.

Miss Allan and Mrs Main

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Dates for Your Diary in 2026/2027



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
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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

Ponteland Primary School
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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