Monday 19th October 2026

Dear Families,

Following our survey about smartphones, we arranged a parent talk in July which unfortunately clashed with an England game in the World Cup. We have rearranged the talk for **Wednesday 11th November at 5pm at Ponteland Primary School**. The majority of respondents to the survey expressed overwhelming support for schools encouraging a delay in smartphone ownership, citing concerns over mental health, social media addiction, and the loss of traditional play. While many parents advocated for restrictions, a minority of respondents raised understandable reservations concerning personal parental choice and the practicalities of child safety during solo travel. Suggestions for alternatives included the use of basic mobile phones or smartwatches to maintain communication without the risks of internet access. The responses overall highlighted a strong community desire to reduce peer pressure and protect children from the digital world's potential harms.

As a result of the responses from the survey we are hosting a 30 minute Parent Talk at **Ponteland Primary School on Wednesday 11th November at 5pm** for the Pele Trust primary schools, led by Becca Smith, Regional Leader for Smartphone Free Childhood. The meeting will be full of practical ideas and friendly discussion about helping children thrive in the digital age. We'll look at what's working for families right now — from first phones to healthy habits at home. There will be no judgement, just an opportunity to talk about small steps that make a difference. All parents are warmly welcome – whether you've already made decisions about smartphones or are just starting to think about it.

Please complete the Google Form to express your interest in attending so we know how many to expect.

Yours faithfully,

C. Shaw
Headteacher
Belsay Primary School



J. Watson
Headteacher
Richard Coates CE Primary School



R.McVittie
Headteacher
Darras Hall Primary School



C. Johnson
Headteacher
Ponteland Primary School



A.Wheatley
Headteacher
Heddon On The Wall St Andrew's C of E Primary School