



# Friday Flyer

1st December 2022

## Head of School Update

This week we introduced our new school rules and the children spent assembly unpicking what each rule looks like in action and trying to memorise them - I wonder if they can tell you what they are?

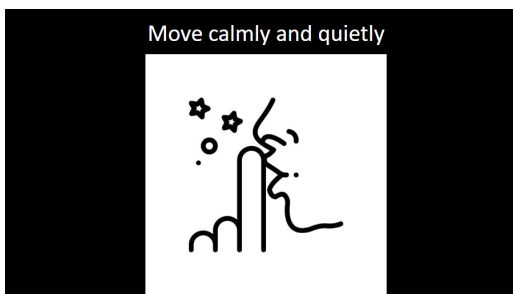
Treat everybody and everything with respect



Be kind and gentle



Move calmly and quietly



Work hard



I am delighted to share with you, following our Peer Review last week, that Mr McGrane has identified the top 5 strengths he observed when in school:

1. The behaviour of children and pupils throughout the day was a strong feature within the school. They were polite, attentive in lessons and cooperative with one another.
2. Staff know the pupils well and have very positive relationships with them.
3. Teachers have well established routines that ensure classrooms are calm and orderly.
4. Pupils feel safe and have a trusted adult they can turn to if they have any worries or concerns.
5. The school's work on using values to drive the ethos and culture is developing well.

A reminder that school is closed tomorrow and children will return on Monday 5th December. Next week we have our Christmas Jingle to look forward to on Thursday and we hope to welcome as many families as possible into the school hall to take part in the festive fun. Thank you to everyone who sent in bottles and tombola prizes and also for supporting our Christmas Jumper Swap Shop - there are still a few left if you would like to pop into the school office next week.



What an exciting Thursday we had in school! Jane McCracken, from Drawing for the Planet came into school to do some work with our Y3/4 and Y5/6 children. We were very fortunate that Belsay School was chosen as the UK representative to participate in a Chimpanzee Community project in partnership with the non-profit organisations Born Free and Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue and Protection. There are two other schools participating globally in the USA and Liberia so this was a very special and exclusive opportunity! The project raises awareness of endangered chimpanzees and it thoroughly captured the children's attention.

The day started with a fascinating online workshop from Laura Gosset who is Head of Education at Born Free and following this, the children participated in a drawing workshop with Jane McCracken where they created ballpoint pen drawings of the orphan chimpanzees cared for by Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue and Protection. This was an incredibly exciting opportunity as a selection of the children's work will be curated by Jane to include in her new artwork 'Chimpanzee Community' which will be displayed in a public space in Liberia and possibly also Laguna Beach in the USA. All of the children's work will be showcased online in Jane's Drawing for the Planet project gallery.

Many thanks to Jane and also Sue Etherington who assisted Jane in her workshops. Sue has long been a supporter of Belsay School and for many years led eco initiatives in school.

I have included links to each of the charities involved in today's superb workshops in case you would like further information about the work they do or make a donation.



DRAWING  
FOR THE  
PLANET

[Drawing for the Planet](#)



[Born Free](#)



[Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue and Protection](#)

Best wishes,  
Claire Johnson





At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guidance, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interactions they're having. On social media, it can be easy to go down 'rabbit holes' that aren't beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing such 'legal but harmful' content, lives are being impacted – sometimes to tragic effect. We might be daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content which so enthral young people, but we can still help children to be aware of their mental wellness: recognising when something isn't OK – and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

## 1. UNDERSTAND THE ALGORITHM

Algorithms rank content by user interest: someone who regularly interacts with sports news, say, will see the latest results at the top of their feed. Likewise, if a user browses content that can cause harm, that's what will be recommended to them in future. Someone who's had a bad day and looks for posts which reflect their mood will find similar content being suggested to them more and more.

♥ 73

## 2. AVOID THE MAIN FEEDS

Avoiding the default feeds on social media platforms limits the amount of recommended content that's shown. Users can opt to only scroll through the accounts they follow, use restricted modes, or highlight posts that they don't want to see more of. Explore the platform safety settings to see how you can take control of what your child's phone shows them when they open the app.

## 3. DISCUSS WHAT THEY'VE SEEN

Chatting about what your child's seen online keeps you aware of the content they're interacting with. Don't assume that platforms are screening out inappropriate material, or even that your child would recognise content as being harmful. Discuss what they follow, what posts they like and what comes up in their feeds. If alarm bells ring, it could be time for a more in-depth talk or to seek support.

## 4. LEARN HOW TO HIDE CONTENT

If your child stumbles across unsuitable content on social media, there's the option to hide that post as well as indicating you'd prefer any similar material not to be suggested in future. On some platforms, you might also be able to block posts that contain specific words, which is an excellent way to start taking control of what your child sees online.

## 5. SET DAILY LIMITS

Phones and most apps can tell you how much they're being used. Spending too long online can mean a child misses out on other activities that are important to all-round wellbeing. You could set some family rules – for everyone to follow – around device use, such as screen time limits and tech-free spaces. Involving your child in creating this agreement makes them more likely to stick to it.

## 6. MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY

Keeping a discreet eye on how your child is using social media can help ensure they're not entering potentially dangerous situations. As they grow up, of course, children need space to exercise their independence – but you can still occasionally ask to see what they're looking at. Be transparent about your own social media use and try not to sound judgemental about your child's.

## 7. TURN OFF PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

Even for adults, it's tempting to check an email or message as soon as the alert sound pings. Push notifications encourage people to open their apps and spend time on their device, so turning them off will help your child to practise mindful use of tech. Most of us have other things that we need to focus on as a priority – and those notifications will still be there later, when we have more time.

## 8. USE DEVICES TOGETHER

Giving children internet-enabled devices and complete freedom to explore platforms on their own can result in exposure to hugely damaging content. You could consider making a particular area at home a designated space to use phones, tablets and so on – making it much easier to monitor what content your child is viewing and (if necessary) steer them away from any potentially harmful paths.

## 9. ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES

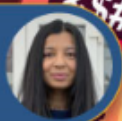
Mental health professionals often highlight the importance of exercise, quality time with loved ones, a balanced diet and restful sleep for our mental wellbeing. Spending hours on social media can cause us to sacrifice other activities that our brains need to feel well – so encouraging your child to put down their phone and enjoy something that doesn't involve a screen can be immensely beneficial.

## 10. TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE

Most platforms default children's accounts to private, so only people they've accepted as friends can see their posts. This reduces the risk of bullying or unkind comments, but – just like offline life – the digital world can still make children feel as if they need to act or look a certain way to fit in. Talk to your child about peer pressure, and listen to any concerns so you can provide the support they need.

## Meet Our Expert

Shazia Sarwar-Amin is executive headteacher at a specialist primary school and, as an emotional therapy coach, works with school leaders to focus on the SEND, mental health and wellbeing agenda. A passionate advocate for vulnerable learners, Shazia is a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and the author of *The Rainbow Within*, a book which supports children with SENH needs.



Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-53374000>  
<https://www.nos.org.uk/what-is-social-media-vg/2019/>

**National Online Safety**  
 #WakeUpWednesday



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

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**Belsay School**

# *Christmas Jingle*



**Thursday 8th  
December 3.15pm**

Cake stall, games, refreshments, craft  
activity, biscuit decorating..... and the  
big Christmas tree light up!




**Upcoming events:**

2nd December	Teacher training day - school closed to children
5th December	Costumes due in for the Christmas performance dress rehearsal
8th December	Christmas Jingle - after school <b>(all clubs cancelled)</b>
12th December	Christmas performance 9.15am
13th December	Belsay Carol Singers perform at Kirkharle 12pm
14th December	Christmas lunch day (wear Christmas jumpers)
16th December	Pele Trust Primary Choir Music Concert at St Mary's church
20th December	Whole school trip to the pantomime, am
23rd December	School closes at 1.30pm for the Christmas break
9th January	Return to school
15th January	Closing date for Reception applications
All dates may be subject to change.	



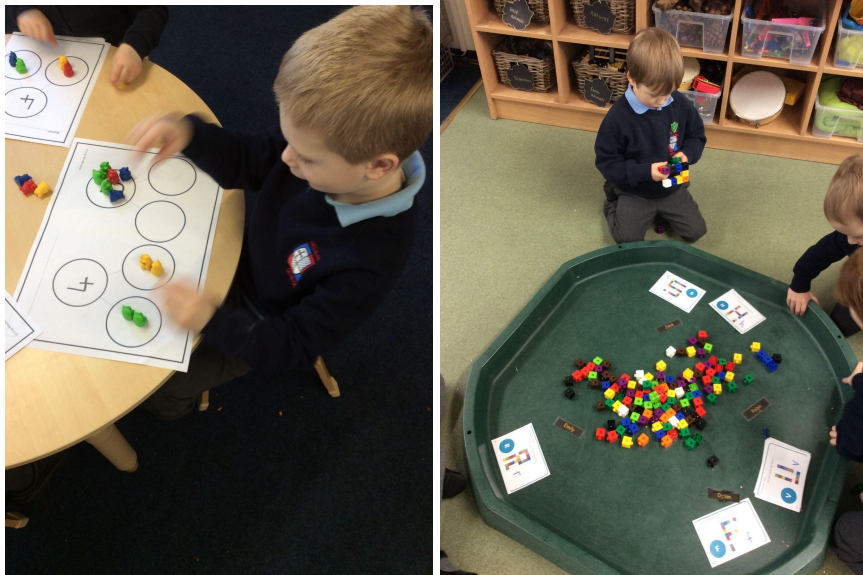
## The week in Reception

What another fantastic week we have had in Reception! The children have been brilliant at staying calm despite the fact we are so excited for Christmas. We have started our countdown to Christmas this week and we are looking forward to counting backwards to the big day.

We have also worked very hard this week and it is wonderful to see the phonics skills starting to be seen in all of our focus tasks. The children are beginning to write simple words and phrases. I am very impressed.

We have also thought about the part, part, whole method for the numbers 4 and 5. The children were magnificent at this.

Also don't forget to keep checking tapestry for regular updates throughout the week.

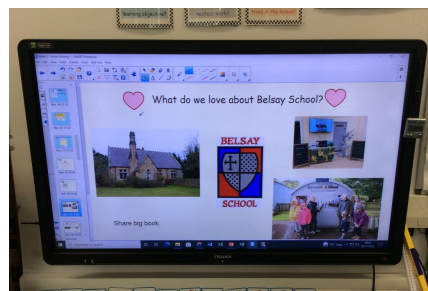


Miss Houghton



## The week in Key Stage 1

Year 1 and 2 have had a busy and brilliant week learning about power and governance. We have been discussing positions of power within the UK, the local area and in school. We thought carefully about what we love about Belsay School and what makes it special and unique. We then worked collaboratively to think of ideas of what we could change to make our school even better. We decided which changes were most important to us and wrote letters in English using features of persuasive writing.



We have been discussing seasonal change in Forest School and have enjoyed making leaf crowns.



Year 1 had lots of fun playing swat the sound in Phonics!

Miss Dixon



## The week in Year 3 and 4

Year 3 and 4 have had such an exciting week and in particular an exciting day on Thursday. We spent the morning in an online lesson with Born Free who informed us about their important charity. We had lots of discussions about chimpanzees and we were very curious and creative with our questions. We then worked in the classroom with Jane from Drawing for the Planet and each child worked independently on Jane's exciting international project - some children will be able to have their work showcased for LCRP which will be displayed in a public space in Liberia. We showed amazing enthusiasm and our guests were impressed by how much knowledge and passion we already had as well as showing our school value of empathy towards the chimpanzees and how we can help them.



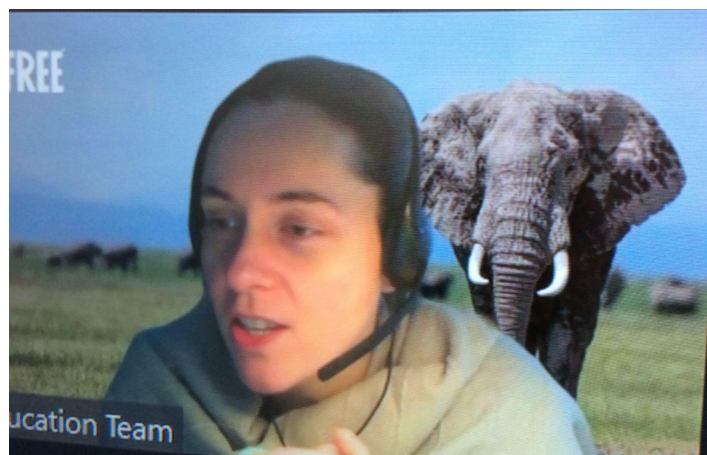




## The week in Year 5 and 6

A fantastic week had by all in Year 5 and 6 again this week. We have been writing some amazing balanced arguments about whether Christmas has become a time for giving presents and the real meaning may have been forgotten.

We were so lucky to link up live with the Born Free Foundation animal charity who kindly organised a lady called Jenny, from a chimpanzee rescue centre in Liberia, to talk to us all about the important work her charity does to protect and preserve the chimpanzee population in West Africa. We learnt so much about Mary the chimpanzee who was left orphaned when her mother was killed by humans.



'I've learnt that chimps live up to 60 years old' - Lucy

'I learnt all about chimpanzees and they're endangered' - Max

'Jenny told us that humans hunt chimpanzees for bushmeat' - Emily

'I love my new 'brothers' as we are also apes' - Jamie

'I am sad because the species are becoming less over time' - Olivia

Mr Harvey



## **Hosanna Rock Christmas Performance**



A reminder that we are performing Hosanna Rock this Christmas in school on Monday 12th December at 9.15am. We would be grateful if you could arrange a costume for your child to bring into school before 5.12.22 in time for dress rehearsals.

Reception - Stars

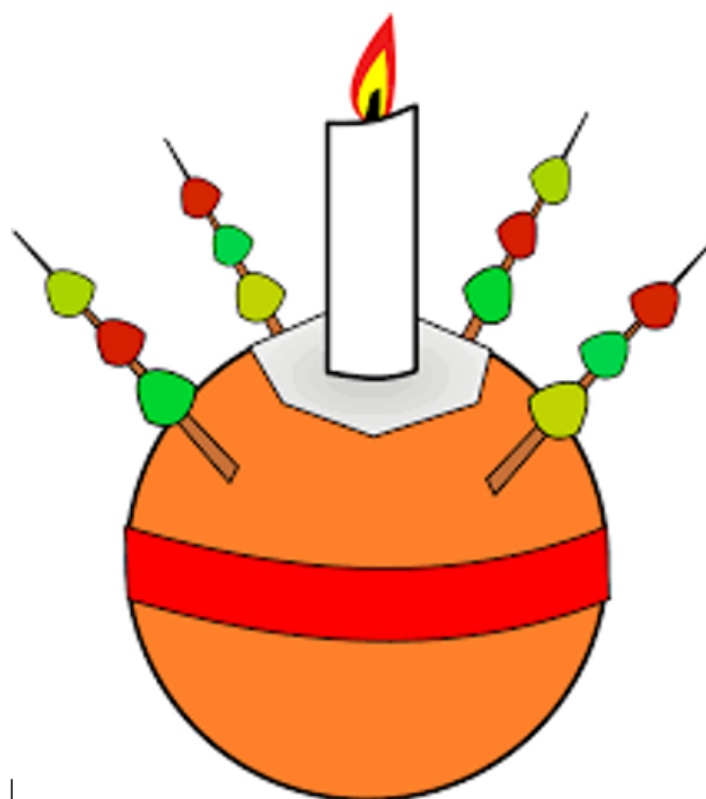
Year 1 - Angels

Year 2 - Donkeys

Year 3 and 4 - Children have been allocated individual roles and parts chosen by themselves and Mrs Wigham

Year 5 and 6 - Narrators to dress in a coloured t-shirt and plain bottoms

Please do not feel an expectation to purchase expensive costumes; simple homemade costumes made up of items you already have at home will be perfectly suitable.



Christingle Service Bolam  
Church

3.30pm Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>  
December





# Sounds of Christmas!!!

HARTBURN CHURCH

Sun. Dec. 4th 3.00pm

NE61 4JB

The Ravenswood Singers

*present a concert of favourite Christmas songs and Carols. The singers have a wide following across the region and regularly perform at Churches, Art Centres & Theatres throughout the North-East.*



This is the 3rd Hartburn Concert in memory of our late Organist and Benefactor, Margaret Elliot. Entrance by Donation to the Hartburn Community Project.

Refreshments available. Please reserve seats, call 01670 772636.



## Santa's Sleigh Route timings



### Ponteland - Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup>

	Time (PM) (arr.)	Time (PM) (dep.)	
Ladywell Way	5.00	5.06	
<b>Thornhill Road (Crescent)</b>	<b>5.10</b>	<b>5.25</b>	<b>STOP 10 MINS.</b>
Thornhill Road (Northbound)	5.25	5.30	
<b>Bellway estate (Ashcroft)</b>	<b>5.40</b>	<b>5.50</b>	<b>STOP 10 MINS.</b>
<b>Northumbria Police HQ car park</b>	<b>5.55</b>	<b>6.05</b>	<b>STOP 10 MINS.</b>
<b>Ponteland Golf Club car park</b>	<b>6.15</b>	<b>6.25</b>	<b>STOP 10 MINS.</b>
Eland Edge	6.25	6.35	
Ponteland Road/Cheviot View (Westbound)	6.35	6.40	
Ridgely Drive	6.40	6.50	
<b>Ponteland Road/Cheviot View(Eastbound)</b>	<b>6.50</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>STOP 10 MINS.</b>

### Darras Hall - Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup>

	Time (PM) (arr.)	Time (PM) (dep.)	
Ponteland Memorial Hall	5.00	5.10	STOP 10 MINS.
Darras Road	5.10	5.20	
<b>Darras Road (Oaklands)</b>	<b>5.20</b>	<b>5.30</b>	<b>STOP 10 MINS.</b>
Darras Road	5.30	5.45	
<b>Broadway Shops</b>	<b>5.45</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>STOP 15 MINS.</b>
Middle Drive	6.00	6.05	
<b>The Rise</b>	<b>6.05</b>	<b>6.15</b>	<b>STOP 10 MINS.</b>
The Rise	6.15	6.20	
<b>Edgehill (Hadrian Court)</b>	<b>6.20</b>	<b>6.30</b>	<b>STOP 10 MINS.</b>
Edgehill	6.30	6.40	
Eastern Way	6.40	6.50	
<b>Eastern Way (Willow Way)</b>	<b>6.50</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>STOP 10 MINS.</b>

Follow via app. download from <http://www.sleightracker.co.uk>

**THE BEST PLACE TO SEE SANTA WILL BE AT THE STOPPING POINTS  
PLEASE BEAR WITH ME IF I DO NOT ARRIVE AT THE SCHEDULED TIME  
YOU WILL HEAR MUSIC AND THE SOUND OF MY BELL WHEN I AM  
GETTING CLOSE.....SEE YOU SOON.....SANTA CLAUS**

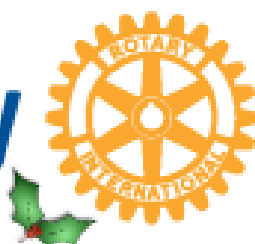


[www.rotaryponteland.org.uk](http://www.rotaryponteland.org.uk)





**Rotary**  
Ponteland



Coming to a street near you.....

## **SANTA'S SLEIGH**

**Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup> - Ponteland**

**Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup> - Darras Hall**

**5pm - 7pm**



**Track Santa by app**



**Or**

**<http://www.SleighTracker.co.uk>**

**Donate   £5 TEXT SANTA   to 70560**  
**£10 TEXT SNOWMAN   to 70560**  
**£20 TEXT ROBIN   to 70560**

**In support of**

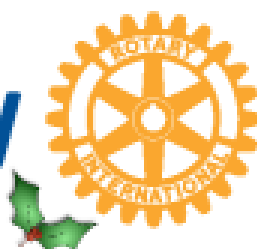


**Children's  
Cancer North**





**Rotary**  
Ponteland



Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December

# CHRISTMAS MARKET

Ponteland Community Primary School  
Callerton Lane

Craft stalls, Hot food, Santa's grotto

11.00am – 3.00pm



**In support of**



**Children's  
Cancer North**



### **Vacancy - Lunchtime Supervisor**

Are you, or a friend or relative, interested in a role in school? We are looking for additional Lunchtime Supervisors to support the supervision of children at lunchtime, between 12pm and 1pm Monday to Friday (we can be flexible around days if you would prefer not to work every day).

You will:

- Provide support and guidance to children in the school setting during lunchtimes.
- Work as part of a welcoming and supportive team of staff, parents and governors
- Have excellent communication skills and a commitment to working within a team
- Be a positive role model for all of our pupils and uphold our school values.

Salary details:

£9.50 per hour (equated to account for term time working)

Access to the Local Government Pension Scheme

This school is strongly committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The successful applicant will be required to obtain an Enhanced Certificate of Disclosure from the DBS and a range of other recruitment checks.

Please contact Claire Leightley at [c.leightley@peletrust.org.uk](mailto:c.leightley@peletrust.org.uk) or 01661 864426 if you wish to apply, or for a further discussion about working hours.