



Friday Flyer

25th November 2022

Head of School Update

This week we welcomed into school Mr McGrane, who is the CEO of the Pele Trust, Mr Wheatley, who is a Head Teacher within the trust and Mrs Armstrong, who is the Chair of our Academy Committee. They spent a day in school for our Peer Review, observing all aspects of the school day and speaking to the children. Each school across the Pele Trust hosts a Peer Review with senior leaders from across the trust visiting to review practice and we were the first of the schools to be reviewed this academic year. I am pleased to say that our visit went well and Mr McGrane reported that he was pleased to see development from when he reviewed the school last academic year. Our visitors commented particularly on our well behaved, polite and engaged children who spoke articulately about their learning. We are very proud of them and I know you will be too.

A huge thank you to all our families who supported our Children in Need fundraising last week. We raised £145.60 which in a school of 75 pupils is certainly an amount to be proud of. Thank you also to everyone who has already brought in brand new toys for our campaign to collect Christmas gifts for the charity Norah's North Pole. If anyone else would like to donate, we will be collecting until 14th December.

Speaking of Christmas, you are welcome to bring your pre-loved and washed Christmas jumpers into school next week in anticipation of our Swap Shop on Thursday. The children are also invited to come into school on Thursday 1st December wearing non-uniform in exchange for a bottle or prize for our tombola at the Christmas Jingle which is taking place on Thursday 8th after school.

A reminder that next Friday (2nd December) is a teacher training day and school will be closed to the children.

I hope everyone has a lovely weekend and that the football fans among us enjoy tonight's game against USA.

Best wishes

Claire Johnson





The World Cup in Food!

Richard Bell, who oversees catering across the Pele Trust, is running a competition between all of the schools to see who can correctly predict the results of England's games in the World Cup based on the orders of school lunches!

On Monday all schools predicted the correct score:

	England 6	Iran 2
	Mince & Dumplings	Persian Chicken Kebab
Belsay	32	9
Darras Hall	138	117
Heddon St. Andrews	43	36
Ponteland	92	83
Richard Coates	96	54

Belsay correctly predicted the result would be a landslide to England!

For the England versus USA game tonight, the predictions are:

	England	USA
	Fish and Chips	Southern Fried Chicken Burger
Belsay	38	14
Darras Hall	153	140
Heddon St. Andrews	64	36
Ponteland	109	131
Richard Coates	83	75

Belsay is predicting a convincing win for England. Let's hope we're right!



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 apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-18 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

18
CENSORED

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the "blackout" trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-18s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app; it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social networking platforms, TikTok can be addictive: figures show that young people are investing increasing amounts of time in it. In the UK, children with TikTok spend an average of 102 minutes per day on the app, versus 63 minutes on YouTube. This compulsive repeated use can interfere with their sleep patterns – leading to irritability – and distract them from other activities.

TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the "TikTok Now" feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-18s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday



BELSAY PTA
CHRISTMAS JUMPER
SWAP SHOP



MONDAY 28TH NOV -
WEDNESDAY FOR
JUMPER DONATIONS

THURSDAY 1ST DEC SWAP
SHOP IS OPEN! SCHOOL
HALL, MORNING DROP OFF,
SUGGESTED DONATION £1-£2
OR SWAP TOKEN.



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:

28th - 30th Nov	Christmas jumper donations for Swap Shop
1st December	Christmas jumper Swap Shop, school hall at drop off
2nd December	Teacher training day - school closed to children
8th December	Christmas Jingle - after school
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.	

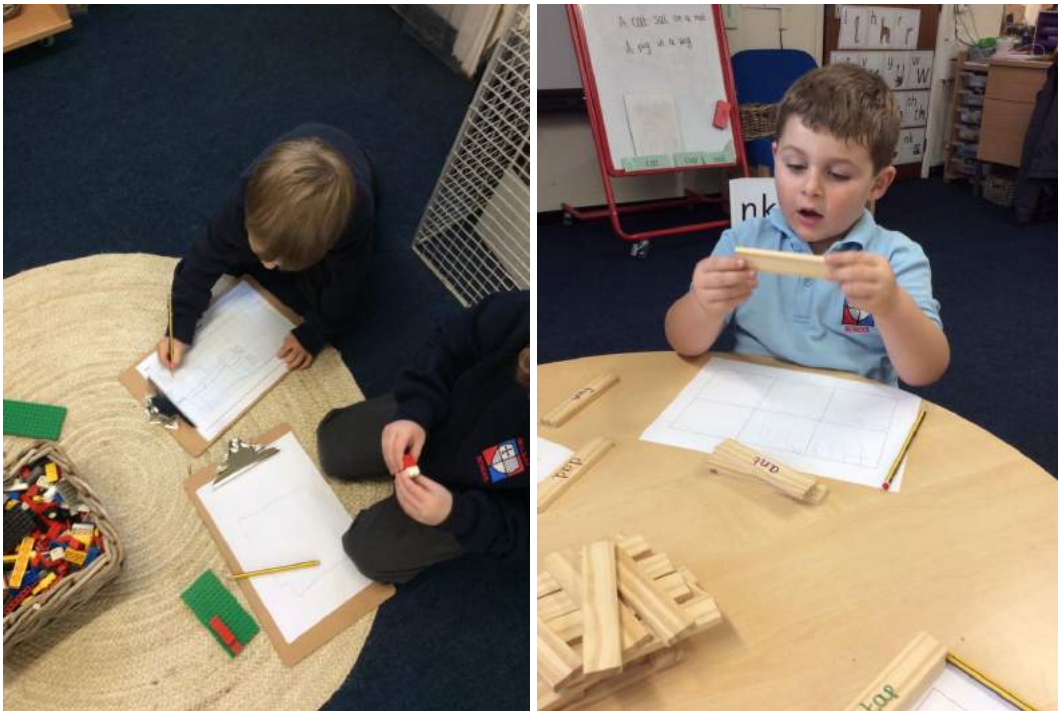


The week in Reception

Our reading journey has progressed a lot this week. Everyone has tried very hard to read words using our phonic knowledge to help us. We are also brilliant at remembering a digraph is two letters that make one sound. As well as this, we have used the plan, do and review method to make a house out of lego.

We have been reading the story 'This is our house'. In this story the boy called George will not let the children in his house. This has led to us discussing kindness and friendships. Thankfully everyone in Reception knows how to be a very kind and thoughtful friend, who considers the feelings of others.

We are very excited to begin our countdown to Christmas next week!



Miss Houghton



The week in Key Stage 1

We worked hard using our team work and resilience skills in Commando Joes this week in Year 1 and 2. We worked in small groups using lots of equipment to build our very own astronaut suits! We thought about all of the things an astronaut might need to keep themselves safe in space and used our equipment to incorporate these ideas into our designs. We made helmets out of buckets, oxygen tanks out of water canisters and even used cones for the legs of our space suits. We worked cooperatively as a class and supported our friends when we were building together. We had good discussions about all of the things we know about space!

Can you spot our children hiding in their space suits?!



Miss Dixon and Miss Henery



The week in Year 3 and 4

What an exciting week in Year 3 and 4. We have been coming to an end of our learning of Boudicca in English and brought all our knowledge together by creating a biography. The children worked collaboratively at the start of the week to gather all the knowledge and facts together to then apply features of a biography to bring them to life and produce some excellent work. In Art some of us began to create our own clay models of volcanoes while the rest of our class began to create some crafts that we would love to use on our seasonal window display. In History we were sharing our experiences of Hadrian's wall as we began to explore why Emperor Hadrian built a wall and the effect it had on Roman Britain. As a class we enjoyed continuing our work on rocks in science and investigated the properties of rocks we had in the classroom. Well done for this week Year 3 and 4!



Miss Cruse

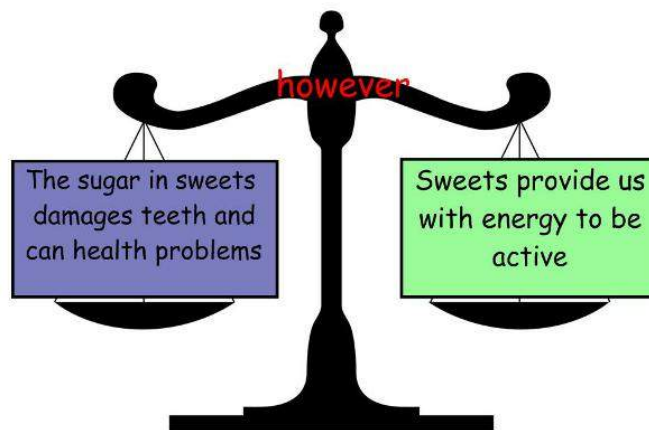


The week in Year 5 and 6

Another incredible week in our Year 5 and 6 classroom. We welcomed many guests on Monday from across The Pele Trust who were impressed with our thirst for learning and motivation to succeed at everything that we put our minds to.

In our English lessons we have focussed on issues that we feel passionately about and have begun planning our balanced arguments. Some of us have considered the Qatar World Cup and whether the country should be hosting such a prestigious event, given its record on human rights. Others have been considering the cost of living crisis and changes that might need to be made to make society fairer.

For a balanced argument we have to
present both arguments equally



This links in well to our PSHE lessons where we have questioned what real poverty looks like and the impact this has on families.

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.



Rotary
Ponteland



Coming to a street near you.....

SANTA'S SLEIGH

Friday December 2nd - Ponteland

Saturday December 3rd - 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



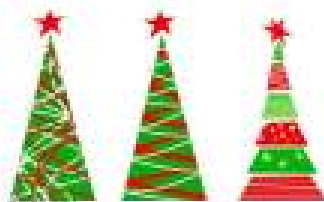
Sunday 4th December

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 or 01661 864426 if you wish to apply, or for a further discussion about working hours.