



Friday Flyer

3rd February 2023

Head of School Update

As you will be very aware, this has been a challenging week in schools across the country as the NEU held the first of their scheduled strike days. I am very grateful to all of the staff who were open with me about their intentions which allowed me to make decisions last week and to communicate with you as far in advance as possible. Thank you to the entire staff team, teachers and support staff, for ensuring school ran smoothly this week and to families for your patience while we considered how best to navigate the proposed strike action.

We are so lucky at Belsay to be situated in a rural community and to have the benefit of the countryside all around us. You only have to stand on the yard and look out over the field to realise how special our location is! In our curriculum planning we have thought carefully about the context of our school and how to both recognise and celebrate the culture and heritage of our local communities and also give the children exposure to the wider world. As such, the teachers have planned key learning about farming, including safety on farms, to reflect the fact that many of our families are from farming communities. We have also developed a global curriculum which is at the heart of our personal development work and gives the children insight into other communities and helps them understand how they fit into the world themselves. An established and very successful project which has been happening at Belsay over the last several years is the Linking Schools Project, run in conjunction with Laing Art Gallery and this links us with St Lawrence's Primary School in Byker. The children benefit from learning alongside a school in a different context and the older children have spoken very positively about their experience of taking part in this previously. We welcomed Victoria from Linking Schools into assembly this week to launch the project with KS1. Thank you to Miss Dixon who leads on this in school. We are looking forward to the joint learning with St Lawrence's this year!



Our week finished with a bang as everyone came to school dressed as rock stars to mark NSPCC Number Day! The reason for choosing the rock star theme came about through Times Tables Rockstars as our older children have all adopted a rock star persona on the platform which adds some excitement to learning their times tables. While the younger children have not been learning their tables, they have enjoyed lots of different number games and challenges.



Best wishes,
Claire Johnson



Safeguarding Update

Next Tuesday (7th February) is Safer Internet Day: an annual event which promotes the safe, responsible and positive use of digital tech among children and young people. The focus of this year's theme is to encourage conversation between adults and children about life online.

One of the most eye-catching results of a survey conducted last year by National Online Safety (taking in more than 1,000 UK parents and carers) was that more than one in six – 18% – *never* talk to their child about staying safe online. There are many understandable reasons for this, such as feeling that their child is still too young, or assuming that they're being taught online safety at school. The fact remains, however, that regular conversations about our digital lives can help children keep online safety firmly in mind and avoid many common internet hazards. The guide I am sharing this week has some ideas for starting these beneficial chats with children – letting them know that you're taking a keen interest without making it feel like an interrogation. It has also been sent as an attachment with the Friday Flyer so you are able to download it for future reference.

Tips for Encouraging Open Discussions about DIGITAL LIVES

The online world is an entirely familiar and commonplace part of life for today's children and young people, for more so than for previous generations. There are many positives to children being able to access online materials, so it's important not to demonise the internet, games and apps, with the hope of their positive aspects. At the same time, we do have a responsibility to educate children about the risks they may encounter online (just as we would about real-world dangers), so it's important that we don't shy away from asking them about the complexities and their reactions.

Here are some suggestions for kicking off conversations with your child about their digital life.

MAKE YOUR INTEREST CLEAR
Showing a genuine interest when you listen to your child's world is important. It shows them that you care about their interests and that you are willing to learn from them. It also shows them that you are interested in their world, not just in their school work. This can help them feel more comfortable talking to you about their digital life.

DISCUSS THAT NOT EVERYTHING WE SEE ONLINE IS REAL
Help your child understand that not everything they see online is real. They may see someone who looks like a friend or someone who seems to be having a great time, but it could be someone who is pretending to be someone else. This can help them be more cautious about what they see and who they talk to online.

BE OPEN AND HONEST, APPROPRIATE TO THEIR AGE
Be open and honest about your own digital life. This can help your child feel more comfortable talking to you about theirs. It also shows them that you are not afraid to talk about your mistakes or struggles. This can help them feel more confident about their own digital life.

TRY TO REMAIN CALM
If your child tells you about something they've seen or done online, try to remain calm. This can help them feel more comfortable talking to you about it. It also shows them that you are not going to get angry or punish them for talking to you. This can help them feel more confident about their own digital life.

CREATE A FAMILY AGREEMENT
Creating a family agreement about digital life can help everyone understand the rules and expectations. This can help everyone feel more comfortable talking to each other about their digital life. It also shows everyone that you are all committed to staying safe online.

REMINDE YOUR CHILD THEY CAN ALWAYS TALK TO YOU
Remind your child that they can always talk to you about their digital life. This can help them feel more comfortable talking to you about it. It also shows them that you are always there for them. This can help them feel more confident about their own digital life.

KEEP TALKING!
The most valuable advice we can give is to keep talking with your child about their digital lives. This can help them feel more comfortable talking to you about it. It also shows them that you are always interested in their world. This can help them feel more confident about their own digital life.

Meet Our Expert
National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

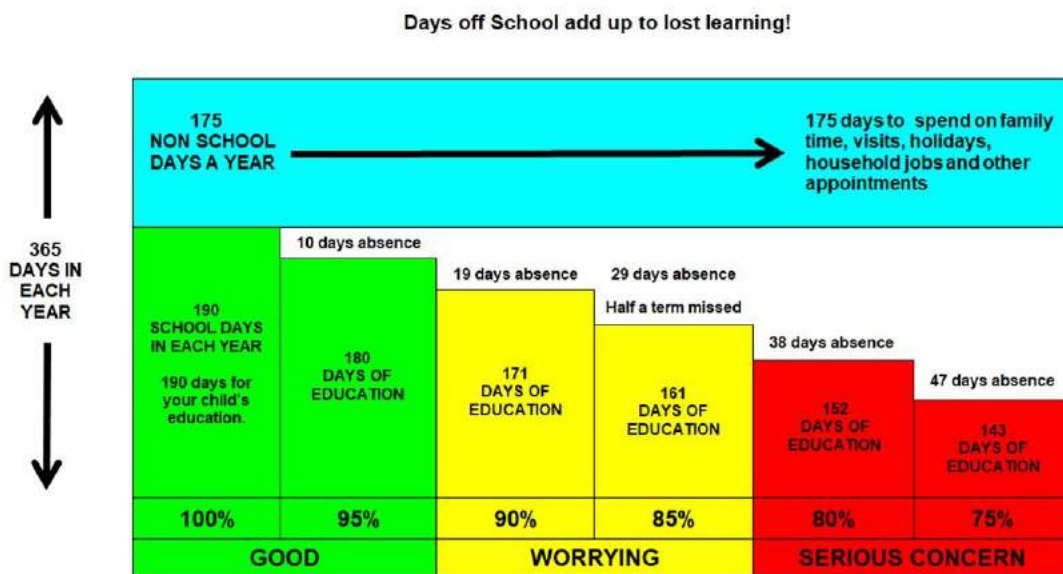
Version of this guide is no 01. This guide is based on the findings of the research conducted by National Online Safety in 2018.



Class by class Attendance

Class	Attendance
Reception	92.93
Y1/2	95.02
Y3/4	95.72
Y5/6	94.36

Please refer to the graphic below which shows the significant impact of absence over time.




Upcoming events:

6th February	Children's Mental Health Week
7th February	Safer Internet Day
17th February	Last day of the half term
27th February	Teacher training day (school closed to pupils)
28th February	Return to school
March TBC	Parent / carer consultations
Week beginning 27 March	Made In The North East Week Each class will study an aspect of local history/geography including a visit.
Friday 31 March	End of term
Monday 17 April	Summer term begins
Monday 1 May	Bank Holiday
Monday 8 May	Bank Holiday (King's Coronation)
Tuesday 9 May - Friday 12 May	Y6 Sats
Friday 26 May	End of summer 1
Monday 5 June	Summer 2 begins
Week beginning 12 June	Year 1 phonics screening
All dates may be subject to change.	



The week in Reception

Once again we have had a very busy week. The children have worked very hard and I am so impressed with their knowledge about polar bears. This week we have thought about what we can do to help polar bears. Some of the ideas we had were:

- Turn off the lights
- Recycle
- Turn off your car when you are not driving it
- Plant a tree
- Turn off the TV once you are finished watching it

These are all really useful tips that we can all work together and do.



We have also started to make our own polar bears using clay. This is a different material to what we would normally use and the children have been able to manipulate it very well. Lots of us realised we need to make sure we stick all of the joins together as we found it very funny when the legs fell off some of the polar bears. This is all part of the learning experience. Next week we will paint them white and bring them home!

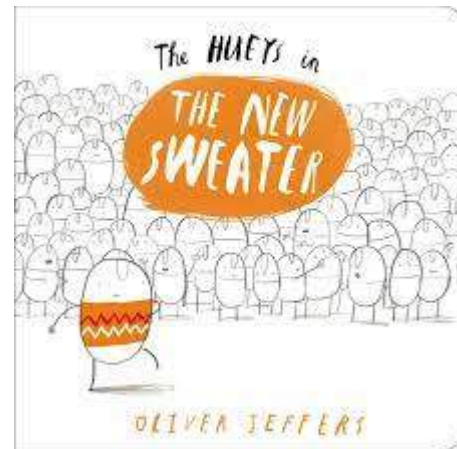
Miss Houghton



The week in Key Stage 1

Year 1 and 2 have been learning about weather and climate in Geography and recording the rainfall in Belsay. We did this by making recycled rain gauges from plastic bottles and placing them in the ground to catch the rain. Each day we measured and recorded the amount of rain collected in the gauges.

We had special visitor Victoria come into school from the Laing Art Gallery to deliver a Schools Linking assembly to us. Within the assembly, we read the story of *The Huey's in the New Jumper* and celebrated what makes us unique. It was lovely to listen to KS2 share their past linking experiences with us and we learnt a lot about the project we are beginning with St Lawrence's School. We worked hard to make beautiful bunting and identity maps to send to our link school and are looking forward to visiting the Laing Art Gallery in the summer to meet our new friends.





The week in Year 3 and 4

What a busy week in Year 3 and 4. We have had such a fun week with the highlight being our science lesson earlier on in the week where we were exploring reflection. We began by investigating which materials were the most reflective and then thinking about how a mirror works and what changes in our reflection. We explored the idea of reverse mirroring and worked in partners and groups to create our own reflections of our bodies and had even more fun writing messages backwards so that when they reflected in the mirror we could read the secret messages. Everyone managed to write their own name backwards and reflect it as well as being creative with imagery or text.

In English we have been exploring discussion texts around the advantages and disadvantages of zoos and we are beginning to make our own conclusions on this ready for next week. In Geography we have been exploring jungles further and why they are so wet whilst considering different habitats and what would happen if the climate changed.

Another excellent week Year 3 and 4, well done!



Miss Cruse

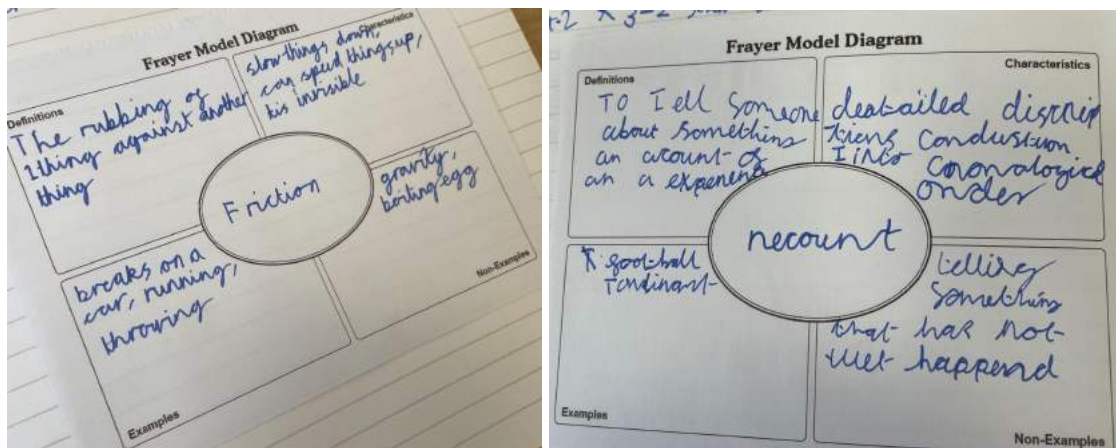


The week in Year 5 and 6

A wonderful week of exciting learning in Year 5 and 6 again this week. Children have been working extremely hard and the quality of the work has been superb.

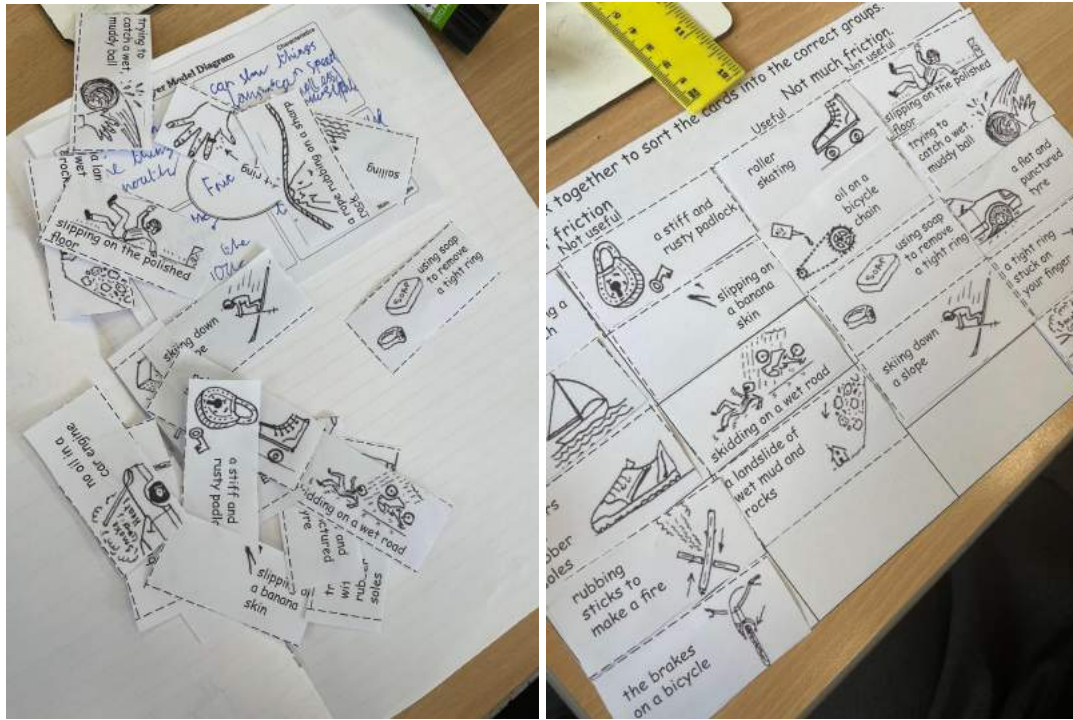
Miss Thomas has led the children through the process of writing a fabulous **recount**. First, we looked at what makes a great recount, we then planned our own (around a trip / event that we felt we could write a lot about) and then produced a final version. We then peer reviewed a friend's work and gave them great feedback and also identified areas to improve.

We have been using the **Frayer Model** which helps us to focus on key vocabulary across our curriculum and identify features relating to that word or phrase. Here are some good examples of it in use:



During science this week we have been studying **friction**. When is it good to have friction and when is it a nuisance? *Nuisance* was also one of our words from our SCODE spelling sessions and we have been using it across our lessons, in context.

We sorted cards out into 'useful' and 'not useful' friction and we were able to tell our friends why.



Mr Harvey and Miss Thomas



KIRKHARLE

Courtyard



JOIN US FOR
**Half Term
SUPPER & STARS**

MINIMUM AGE 6

with Si Rowland Astronomy

WEDNESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY

TWO COURSE SUPPER | 4.30 - 5.30PM

STARS | 6-8 PM





CALLING ALL FAMILIES
Bouncy Church Special
!! FACE PAINTING !!
Ponteland Methodist Church

breakfast

bouncy castle

Sunday February 5 at 9a.m.
"Colours of Day"

crafts

lots & lots
of fun

stories

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NYCGB
NATIONAL
YOUTH
CHOIR
GREAT BRITAIN

SING!



25 & 26 February
10am-4pm
Newcastle/Gateshead
(venue tbc)

“It was fun to work with other people who all love singing as much as I do.”

(Sing! 2022 participant)

Take part in a weekend of singing with young people from across the North East! Learn new songs with friendly staff from National Youth Choir, make new friends and develop your musical skills.

Follow up days in summer and autumn 2023.

For anyone who loves singing in Y6 to Y9. It's free to take part and support is available for travel costs. Whatever your musical interest, this is open to all.

Sign up here:

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Sing23

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Sing23>