

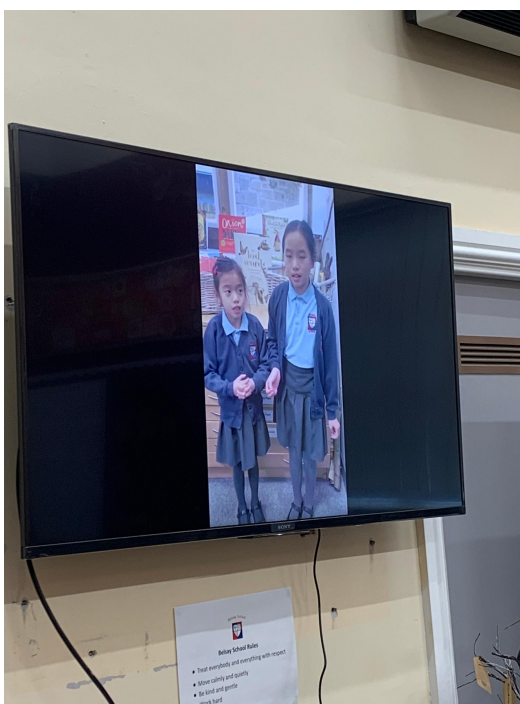


Friday Flyer

27th January 2023

Head of School Update

I felt both proud of and impressed by two of our pupils, Emily & Grace, this week as they stood at the front of the hall and addressed the whole school. This would have taken courage if they were doing it in English but they did it in Cantonese! They taught us all how to say happy new year - kung hei fat choi - as part of our Lunar New Year assembly. It took us a few attempts to get our pronunciation right but thanks to the girls we achieved it. The week before, I filmed Grace and Emily speaking at length in Cantonese and in the video they explained why it is important to them to speak another language; we felt very proud that this video was shared across the Pele Trust primaries. Language learning is an important part of our offer at Belsay School and children from reception to Y6 have weekly French lessons. While it is not statutory for children to learn a language until Key Stage 2, we believe strongly that building foundations and an interest in language learning from a young age is beneficial and can spark a lifelong enjoyment and skill which can forever be developed. Hearing Grace and Emily speak Cantonese inspired the other children and showed them the value of speaking another language. Well done to Grace and Emily for having the courage to speak in front of the entire school!





On Monday the PTA will be meeting straight after drop off and would like to invite any parents and carers who are interested in becoming involved to join them. The PTA is made up of a small number of parents who contribute significantly to school life and greatly enhance the experience of the children at Belsay. They are very keen to welcome new members and if you feel you have capacity to volunteer your time then I would urge you to join the group.



A huge thank you to everyone for sending your children into school in PE kits on Tuesday. It proved to be very successful and allowed us to enjoy more time in PE lessons. Please continue to send your child into school each Tuesday wearing **dark jogging bottoms or shorts, PE t-shirts and either the school hoody, jumper or cardigan**. It has also been helpful to have wellies in school as this means the children are able to play on the field at lunchtime. This is not without its challenges as the field is very muddy at the moment and this obviously has an impact on school when the children return inside. We are still hoping to purchase welly storage units to keep the wellies outside but finding somewhere to create the storage close to the entrances from the yard is proving a little tricky given our building is listed!

As you will be aware, members of the NEU teaching union have voted to take strike action on Wednesday 1st February. Following my letter last week, I wrote to you again yesterday with further information to allow you to plan for next week - please refer to the letter for more details. There are three further proposed strikes and I will write to you before each of them to clarify what arrangements will be for school.

Please also see the separate letter which has been sent out regarding NSPCC Number Day next Friday when all of the children (and staff!) are invited to come into school dressed as rockstars!

I hope everyone has an enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes,

Claire Johnson



Pele Trust Catering

The children thoroughly enjoyed the Chinese menu in school last week. Mrs Hayes along with Mr Bell and his team of cooks across the Pele Trust are continually looking for inspiration and we are very grateful that they bring us food from different cultures to experience and enjoy. There is more to come which we are looking forward to! Look out for a Valentine menu next month and a French inspired menu in March to tie in with what pupils learn in class too.

Pictures: Ukraine day at the High, cooking workshop at Belsay, Chinese menu across the Trust schools.

**SCHOOL DINNERS,
COOKING WORKSHOPS,
THEMED MENUS & A
FRIENDLY FACE!**

**OUR CATERING TEAM AT
THE PELE TRUST.**



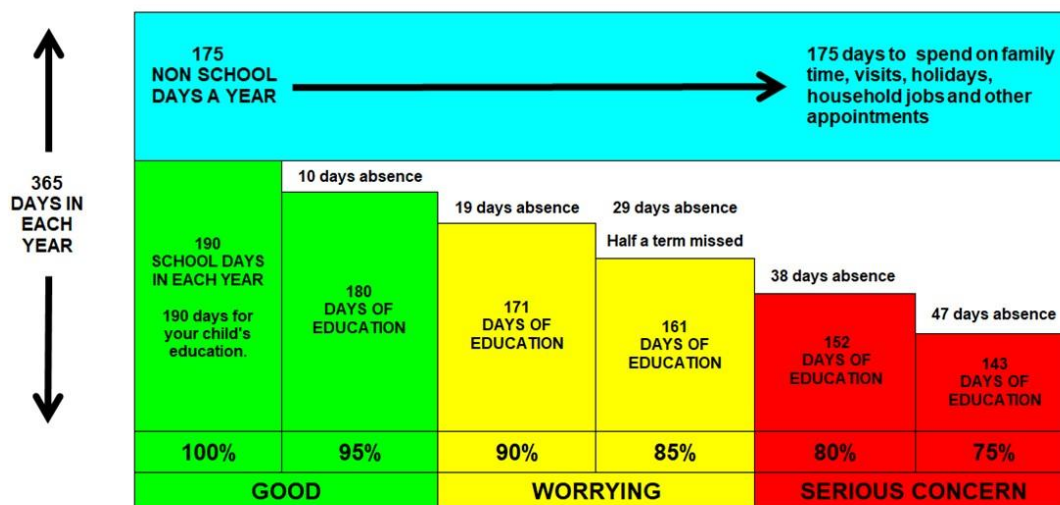


Class by class Attendance

Class	Attendance
Reception	92.73%
Y1/2	98.82%
Y3/4	99.20%
Y5/6	93.18%

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

Days off School add up to lost learning!




Upcoming events:

Monday 30th January	PTA meeting, 9am
Friday 3 February	NSPCC Number Day - come to school dressed as a rock star
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

We have thought about ways to make 5 this week. This has led us to use the language of 'add' and 'equals' when starting to make a number sentence. I was really impressed with how well the children managed this activity. We found there were lots of ways to represent 5.



As part of our work on the story 'The Polar Bear's Home' we painted our own polar bears. We have thought about what polar bears need to survive and what we can do to help them. Some of the ideas we had were: to recycle, to turn off the lights and TV when we aren't using it and to plant trees. This will help our planet which will also help not only animals but ourselves as well.



Miss Houghton



The week in Key Stage 1

Year 1 and 2 have been learning about algorithms in Computing and have practised programming our Beebots to travel a particular route. Important coding skills which they will no doubt need in the future job market!

We also had a very special treat when Jodie's pony came to visit! What a way to end the week!





The week in Year 3 and 4

What a fantastic week in Year 3 and 4. We have been continuing our work on gorillas and have spent our English lessons planning and writing a non-chronological report which allowed us to apply all our impressive knowledge as well as all the key features and topic language we have been learning. We developed our art project further around raising awareness for gorillas in captivity by creating abstract art to use for our background. We created our own posters in Science about how to keep safe under UV light and what we can do to protect ourselves and each other and the importance of this. In Geography we have been exploring what the world's climates are and using maps to support us through this. We have had an excellent week and produced fantastic work all week. Well done Year 3 and 4!

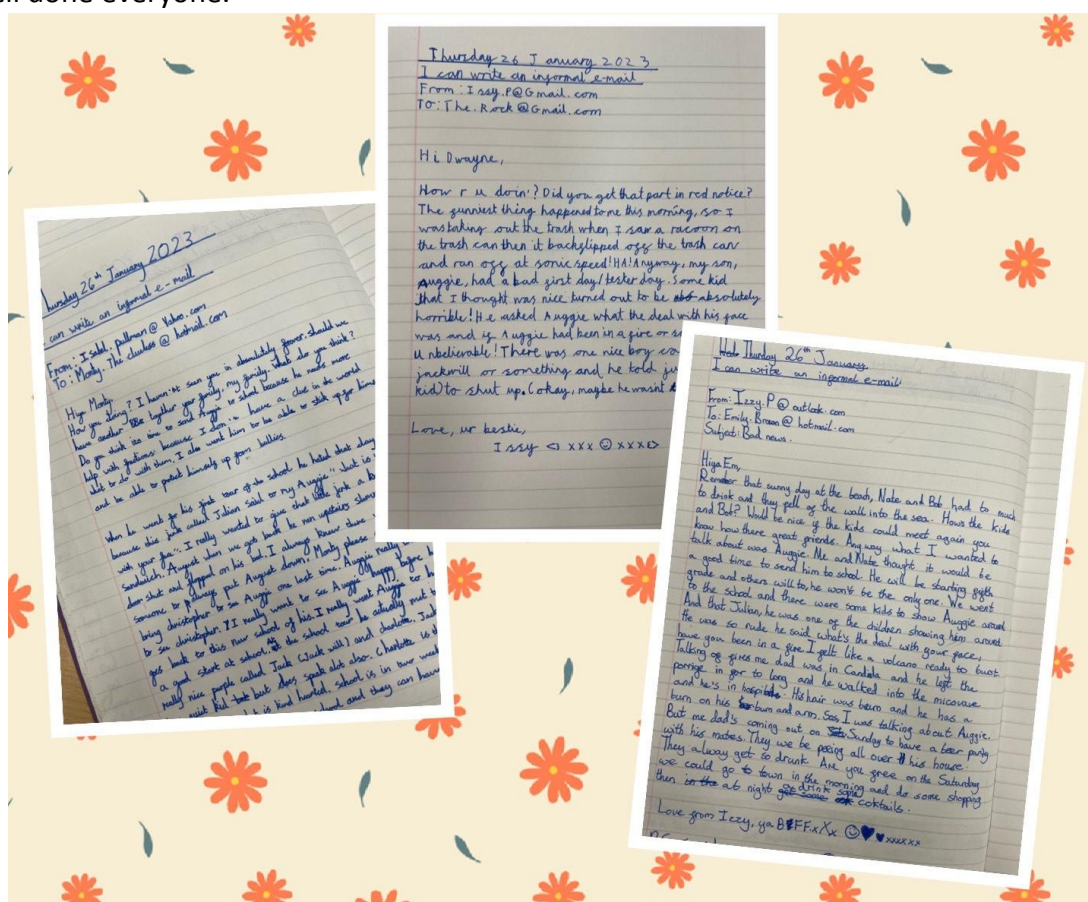


Miss Cruse

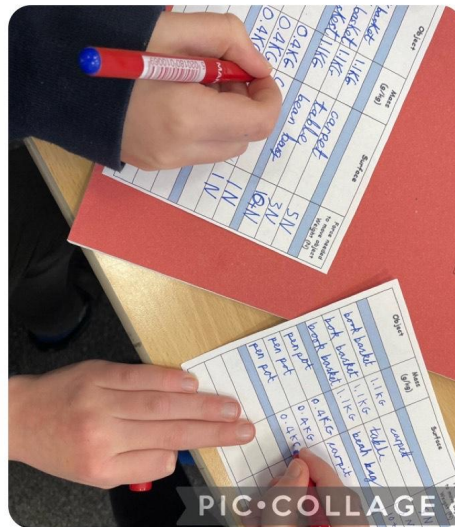


The week in Year 5 and 6

We have had another interesting week in Year 5 and 6. We have been studying the features of writing informal emails during our English lessons. We've recognised that using chatty language has a real purpose when emailing a good friend but that we use a different style of writing when emailing someone who is important or the situation is more formal. We've created some fantastic pieces of work. Here is a selection below - well done everyone.



In our science lessons, we've been asking 'What force is needed to move objects across different surfaces?'. We have also explored the difference between mass and weight.



Mr Harvey and Miss Thomas



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