

Friday Flyer

9th June

Head of School Update

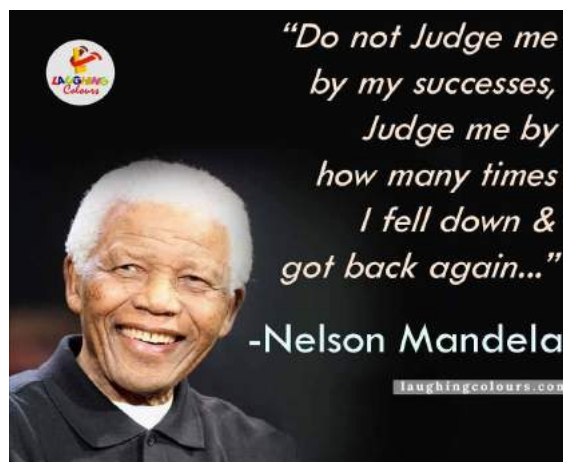
I have loved being back in school this week and received the most gorgeous welcome from the children. I have missed them so much and it was so lovely to hear all their news and catch up with them. They really are the most fantastic group of children and I'm already feeling rather emotional at the thought of saying goodbye to them in July. I've missed being able to be out on the playground both at break times and the start and end of the day this week. Unfortunately, the x-rays show my arm is still broken so I need to make sure I'm being careful and keeping away from balls etc. I'm also still unable to drive so I am reliant on Mrs Blain and other colleagues driving me to and from Belsay which means I'm unable to greet families as you arrive and leave like I usually would. I mention this so you're aware of why I'm not on the yard but also so you know I'm back at school and you're welcome to contact me or arrange a meeting if there's anything you'd like to discuss that you'd normally catch me on the yard to mention.

The half term has started as it means to go on - very busily! We have an enormous amount of activities and events packed in before we break up with lots of exciting experiences for the children to look forward to from trips, to sporting events, to an outdoor theatre performance! This week saw KS1 participating in Bikeability and our Reception children are excited for their course next week.

This half term we have not one but two international visits planned! The first has taken place this week with a small number of our Y5 pupils visiting Paris alongside peers from Ponteland Primary. This was an incredible opportunity to make new friends and experience life in a Parisian school, take in all the sights on a boat trip on the River Seine and practise their French when ordering crepes! I'm sure they will have made many special memories that they won't forget and hopefully it has whetted their appetite for future foreign travel and language learning. Huge thanks to Mr Atkinson and Madame Magee who stepped in to take the children when Mrs Wright and I both had to withdraw due to our injuries.



Our value of the month for June is resilience: bouncing back from difficulties and keeping on going. In thinking about resilience, our children in KS1 and Y3/4 will be able to draw on their learning from the Young Leaders Award which has helped them develop perseverance. The bikeability courses we have booked for every class will give all children a very practical opportunity to practise resilience as they master riding a bike.



We have a lot to look forward to over the next 6 weeks!

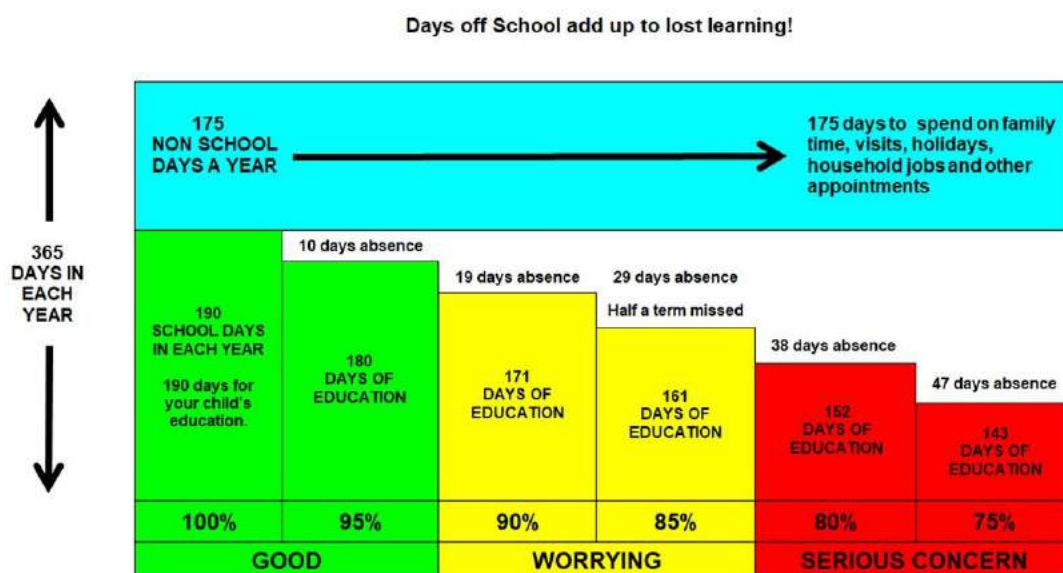
Best wishes

Claire Johnson



Class	Attendance
Reception	95.45
Y1/2	98.82
Y3/4	100
Y5/6	99.55

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



Upcoming events:

Week beginning 12 June	Year 1 phonics screening
Friday 16 June	Year 1 and 2 War Song Performance
Friday 16 June	Reception Bikeability
Week beginning 19 June	Bee Week (Y5/6) Stamfordham and Whalton to visit
Friday 23 June	Bikeability Y3/4
Week beginning 26 June	Y6 France trip to St Omer
27 June	Y5 Newcastle Eagles
Monday 3 July	Visit to Belsay Castle (whole school)
Wednesday 5 & Thursday 6 July	Year 6 transition days at Ponteland High School
Friday 7 July	Summer Fair
Week beginning 10 July	Flow Exhibition of Pele Trust primary schools creative arts work at Ponteland Leisure Centre
Mon 10 - Wed 12 July	Bikeability Y5/6
Thursday 13 July	Flow Music Concert at Ponteland High School -6pm
Monday 17 July	Sports Day
Wednesday 19 July	Year 6 leavers assembly
Thursday 20 July	Wilding Theatre Group - working with Year 1 to 3 plus a performance for the whole school
Friday 21 July	End of term - school closes at 1pm
All dates may be subject to change.	



Belsay School Tea Towel 2023



- 👑 Featuring a self-portrait of **EVERY** pupil, wearing their very own design of Coronation crown. Also includes every staff member.
- 👑 Beautiful soft natural coloured cotton.
- 👑 All money raised will go towards school support.
- 👑 A lovely keepsake for parents and children.
- 👑 A great gift for grandparents and other family (easy size for posting).

Please use the order form in your child's bag to order.



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

10 top tips for safely using SMARTWATCHES

Kids love gadgets, and smartwatches – available to buy from as little as £20 online – make a tempting gift. As with any type of mobile technology, though, smartwatches can pose risks to children unless they're used safely. Receiving unwanted calls, cyber-stalking and distracting a young person when they're crossing the road are all known risks associated with smartwatches. However, these devices can bring plenty of benefits for children and parents alike – so let's examine the pros and cons of smartwatches.

AVOID CHEAP OPTIONS

A quick search online yields a torrent of cheap smartwatches for kids, costing as little as £20. It's wise to avoid this bargain basement tech: it tends to deliver a poor experience with inferior battery life, and it's hard to have faith in the software's safety. There have been cases of smartwatches being hacked to track or contact children; stick to known brands who have a reputation to protect.

CONTROL CALLING

Many smartwatches have the facility to make or take calls. As with a phone, you may want to restrict who your child can call – or be called by. On Apple Watches, you can select trusted contacts who are allowed to ring your child, while other watches' controls vary hugely. Some need to connect to a linked phone for calls, so you may be able to block unknown contacts via that device instead.

BEWARE HIDDEN COSTS

For a smartwatch to allow calls independently (that is, without being connected to a phone via Bluetooth), it will need its own mobile data plan. This might take the form of a tiny SIM card that you slot into the watch – or an eSIM, where the physical card is replaced by software settings. Either way, this will incur an additional monthly cost that you'll need to factor into any buying decision.

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Apple Watches aren't cheap, but they do offer superb safety features – allowing parents to control calls, messages and emails on the device, as well as a location tracking system that can send alerts if kids wander beyond pre-set boundaries. Their SOS function enables children to contact emergency services instantly if they're in trouble, which simultaneously also alerts parents and carers.

MAKE THEM COOL FOR SCHOOL

Some schools have banned smartwatches, as pupils have been using them as substitute phones. If your child's school does permit them, some devices can be set to prevent distractions in class. For example, Apple's Schooltime feature turns their watches into ordinary time-keeping devices during school hours. The display changes in this mode, showing teachers that it isn't being used for other purposes.

TRACK ITS LOCATION

Both Apple and Android devices have apps which allow you to track a smartwatch's location. They can also initiate an audio alert – avoiding those cushion-hurling panics when a treasured device can't be found at home. If you're planning to track your child's location via their watch, make them aware of that in advance. You could even make it a condition of them getting the watch in the first place.

THINK 'SAFETY FIRST'

Smartwatches are often worth hundreds of pounds, which can make young people wearing one a target for thieves. Advise your child to keep the watch hidden in public (when possible) and not to resist if muggers demand their watch. If you manage to track a stolen device, pass that information to the police; location data isn't always accurate, so you could end up wrongly accusing someone.

STORE MEDICAL INFO

Devices including the Samsung Galaxy Watch and Apple Watch can store the owner's medical details (such as their blood group and any pre-existing medical conditions), potentially giving emergency services access to vital information in a crisis. These devices also have 'hard fall' detection, which sends a text message to selected contacts along with a map showing the wearer's location.

USE THEM AS MOTIVATION

If you're worried your child's spending too much time slumped on the sofa staring at screens, smartwatches are great fitness trackers and can be a powerful incentive to get moving. Some devices will alert the wearer if they've been inactive for a long time and encourage them to do some exercise. Many watches record the user's daily step count and measure other health metrics.

BE MINDFUL OF BEDTIME

Many smartwatches offer sleep tracking, which some (usually older) children use to justify wearing them to bed. However, that also presents a temptation to message friends or check social media late at night, even if their phone is downstairs. Unless there's a valid reason not to, you could encourage your child to remove the watch in the evenings and ensure the charger stays in a different room.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 2 Live and the TV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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#WakeUpWednesday

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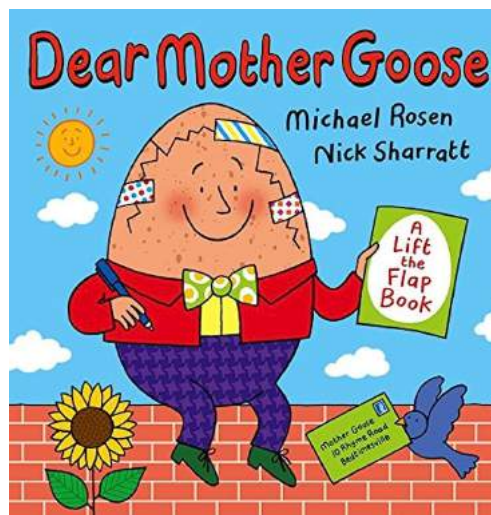
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The week in Reception

Reception have had a fantastic week. It has been lovely to be back together again and to hear all of the lovely things everyone has been up to over the holidays. A big thank you to anyone who uploaded photos to Tapestry. These were really beneficial for the children.

This week we have started our story of Dear Mother Goose by Michael Rosen and Nick Sharratt. It is a book that focuses on different nursery rhymes and the problems they present for the characters. We have loved reading the book and singing the nursery rhymes this week.



For our focus task we wrote a reply letter to the characters to help them with their problems. For Humpty Dumpty we told him to be careful so he doesn't fall off the wall, for Incy Wincy spider we recommended that he purchase some waterproofs and wellies (4 pairs) and for Jack and Jill we told them to work on taking their time when climbing hills. The children have really enjoyed this book! We will continue to work on it next week as well.

Next week we are looking forward to bikeability. We are very excited but also a little bit nervous as this is something new. We have discussed our new school value of resilience and how this will help us. Bikes can be brought in to school from Thursday morning and will be kept in the school hall ready to be used on Friday.

Miss Houghton



The week in Key Stage 1

Year 1 and 2 have been working hard in PSHE lessons as they complete their steps to achieving their Young Leaders Award. This week, we completed the challenge of perseverance. We learnt that to persevere, you need to keep trying at something in order to achieve success, even when faced with difficulties along the way. Year 1 and 2 aimed to teach Reception the value of perseverance with new activities that they planned and organised themselves. The younger children persevered with playing board games, making origami, learning new songs and the rules of football all with the help and encouragement of KS1. Well done team!



To remind ourselves to persevere in the future, we decorated sticks in class to remind ourselves to 'stick at it!'.

Miss Dixon



The week in Year 3 and 4

What an incredible start to the new half term! We began the week by making predictions about our new English text 'The boy at the back of the class'. Once we began exploring our book, we used our drama skills to think about how Ahmet could be feeling which supported us through our 'show not tell' writing. Everyone did such an amazing job at trying to embody how Ahmet was feeling and physicalized it which resulted in some excellent writing.

In Geography we then thought about why people move and learnt the difference between a migrant and a refugee and we had some very mature and respectful debates and discussions around this topic which again resulted in amazing work.

In Art and DT we have been exploring a new topic this week 'How Can we support refugee children?'. We worked on a design for a flag representing who we are as individuals. We are looking forward to learning new stitching techniques in DT next week to create our flags.

Well done on an amazing first week back Year 3 and 4, I am really looking forward to this exciting half term with you all!



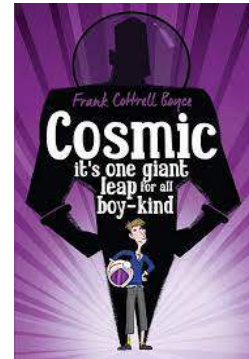
Miss Cruse



The week in Year 5 and 6

English

We have 'launched' our new book, *Cosmic - It's One Giant leap for Boy-kind* by Frank Cottrell-Boyce and it's been a 'blast' so far! Liam Digby wanted to see the world - but not quite like this... He's just an ordinary twelve-year-old. A very, very TALL ordinary twelve-year-old. Some people even think he's a grown-up! This is the incredible story of how Liam told some fibs, won a trip to a theme park, made some new friends and sort of, by accident, ended up in space - watch this space!



Newcastle University Research

Some of the children from Y4 - Y6 took part in a Newcastle University-led research project this week, gathering the views from the children; following their Shakespeare experience at Northern Stage. The researchers wanted to know all about the project and what it involved, which parts were the most exciting and whether or not they would recommend it to other children. We were part of an early pilot cohort that the University is working with and our participation will have an impact on how the wider research project is shaped for the future - well done everyone!



Paris

Mr Atkinson has accompanied some of our Year 5 pupils to Paris this week and they've had an incredible time. They got to see some of the famous landmarks of Paris, sample some of the amazing French cuisine and practised using their wonderful French language skills! We are all really looking forward to hearing about their adventure.

Art

Linked to our new book, we have been making some astronaut-themed artwork this week. We used all of our skills, knowledge and imagination to create our amazing pieces of work.

Mr Harvey and Miss Thomas