

Friday Flyer

22nd September

Headteacher Update

As we come to the end of week 3 in school it seems like the summer holidays are a distant memory. The children have already covered so much in class and produced some unbelievably talented pieces of work.

The atmosphere of the school is fantastic with all the children and staff working hard which allows the children to have excellent experiences. The children are focused and determined to succeed which is a brilliant trait and will ensure they flourish as the year continues.

As I move around school it is great to see that Phonics is well underway in Reception and Key Stage 1 so for those children who are beginning to read, it is an exciting time. I always think there's something very special as you hear the children blend sounds together to read a word for the very first time. Of course, as vital as phonics is, it is not enough alone to create fully accomplished readers; hearing stories read aloud is an equally important aspect of our strategy around teaching children to read. All classes have the opportunities each day to listen to an adult read as we allowed for this to be timetabled. To further support this, please do ensure you find time to read at home with your children.

In addition to phonics our Reading Plus programme is in full flow and we have children from Year 2 to Year 6 now online. Our staff have worked very hard to get this up and running so please encourage your children to spend some time on this at home as it's a wonderful programme and needs very little parental input.

As a school we are proud to say that we are in the top 10 on the National Leaderboard for schools with the most active members so let's keep going!

Our value this month is 'Respect' and I am proud to say that as a school I think we show this in abundance. A perfect example of this is from our children in Year 6, who earlier this week went to Belsay Hall to complete a 'special job'. Their behaviour and attitudes were outstanding and the level of respect they showed to the staff at Belsay Hall and members of the public was exemplary - well done Year 6!

Finally, congratulations to all the children who have had the Hot Chocolate reward and to all those children nominated for the Outstanding Achievement Awards. Presenting these awards makes me proud of such awesome work, you superstars!

Have a wonderful weekend!
Craig Shaw



| Class | Attendance |
|-----------|------------|
| Reception | 96.15 |
| Y1/2 | 97.27 |
| Y3/4 | 97.50 |
| Y5/6 | 97.67 |

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

| Attendance | Description |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| 98 -100% | Excellent |
| 95-97.9% | Good |
| 92-94.9% | Caution |
| 90- 91.9% | Cause for concern |
| 89.9 or below | Persistent Absence Serious Concern |

Every child has the right to a good education. We want our children to thrive, and to be healthy and happy. For this to happen the majority of young people need to be attending school, seeing their friends, and learning in the classroom. Most children in England agree with this assessment. The Children's Commissioner for England's 'Big Ask' survey from March 2022 gathered over 550 000 responses from children and demonstrated during the pandemic how much they had missed face-to-face teaching, spending time with their friends, and the extra-curricular activities that brought joy and excitement to their lives.

The benefits of school are many. It offers positive adult role models and gives children a strong foundation for their interactions in society. School helps young people build confidence, which is crucial to healthy self-esteem. It encourages independent critical thinking and self-expression. These skills translate to every area of life, whether it is in academia, the workplace, or relationships. School widens a child's horizons and influences their aspirations. Schools are more than just classrooms, they are communities.

The NHS has recently published a really useful document to refer to when your child has a suspected illness and you are not sure if they could come to school. It can be found [here](#).

Dates for the diary...

| Autumn Term 2023 | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|---|
| Thursday 5th October | 6.00-8.00pm | Year 6 Prospective Parents' Evening at Ponteland High School |
| Tuesday 10th October | | Individual School Photographs |
| Monday 23rd October | | Flu Immunisations |
| Friday 27th October | 9.15am | Harvest Festival (Parents/Carers Welcome) |
| Friday 27th October | | School Closes for Half Term |
| Monday 6th November | | Teacher Training Day |
| Tuesday 7th November | | School Re-opens after Half Term |
| Friday 10th November | | Remembrance Day Assembly |
| Monday 13th November | | Odd Sock Day |
| Monday 13th & Tuesday 14th November | 3.15-5.30pm | Parents' Evenings |
| Thursday 7th December | | Christmas Jumper Day |
| Thursday 7th December | 1.45pm | Joint Christmas Performance (Parents/Carers Welcome) <i>Venue TBC</i> |
| Friday 15th December | AM | (TBC) Whole School Christmas Performance |
| Tuesday 19th December | 10.00am | Christmas Pantomime at Tyne Theatre |
| Wednesday 20th December | Afternoon | KS2 Christmas Party |
| Thursday 21st December | Afternoon | Reception/KS1 Christmas Party |
| Friday 22nd December | | School Closes for Christmas |
| All dates may be subject to change | | |

Apologies about the confusion on clubs in the past few weeks. Please note SLUK has been removed for now due to numbers but may be added back later in the year.

Extra-Curricular Clubs:

We are looking to start these from next week. Please click [here](#) to sign up.

| Day | Activity | Time | Age |
|------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Monday | SLUK Playmaker Award (10 weeks) | 3.20 - 4.20pm starts 25th September | Years 4 - 6 (cost) |
| Monday | Dance | 3.20 - 4.15pm | Reception - Y2 |
| Tuesday | NUF Multi-Sport | 3.20 - 4.20pm | Years 1 - 3 |
| Wednesday | Pele Trust Multi-Sport | 3.20 - 4.20pm | Years 4 - 6 |
| Wednesday | Spanish Club | 3.15 - 4.15pm | Years 3-6 |
| Thursday | Badminton | 3.15 - 4.00pm starts 21st September | Years 5 - 6 (cost) |
| Friday | Band | 8.30 - 9.00am | All band members from last year and children who can play an entire scale are welcome |
| Friday | Choir | 11.45 - 12.15pm | KS2 |

Would you or someone you know like to run a club? If so please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Remember...

As the weather changes and we move into colder, wetter times (not much different from our Summer), please remember to send your child to school with a waterproof coat and pair of wellies. We aim to try and get the pupils in the fresh air as much as possible during break and lunch!



Parking...

I know that parking at school is difficult and it has been an issue for a good number of years. Unfortunately I don't have any immediate solutions for this however, could I please ask that we have consideration for our immediate neighbours, particularly those at Belsay Bridge who have raised some concerns.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Competition Time...



THE GREAT GEORDIE BANGER OFF

Get ready for some **sausage-tastic** fun as we've teamed up with our pals at the Geordie Bangers to create their next big flavour in a **Pele Trust wide competition.**

THE COMPETITION

Entrants will need to come up with the name, ingredients and drawing of their tasty creation to impress the judges.

THE PRIZES

The winning sausage will be made by Geordie Bangers and will appear in the next menu cycle for all schools within the trust. The winner will also receive 5 Kilos of their new sausage to take home and enjoy with their family.

There will also be runner up prizes for each primary school, with each finalist receiving a certificate, as well as their sausage being created and put into mini sausage sandwiches for the whole class to enjoy.

Entry forms will be available from w/c 23rd October 2023

We can't wait to see what wonderful creations you come up with!

Richard Bell | Area Catering Manager
Vin & David McDonad | Geordie Bangers



94 days until Christmas...



Belsay School and Belsay Daycare Fundraiser

Wreath Making

Date: 28/11/2023

Time: 6.30 PM

- All Materials Provided
- Refreshments available at extra cost
- Don't forget to bring gardening gloves
- All monies raised will go to the PTA & Daycare

Place:
Belsay School Hall

£35 p/p with £5 deposit
to book your space

To book txt Diane: 0780 4482 856



The week in Reception

The children have been amazing again this week, and it is hard to believe they have only been in school for two and a half weeks.

This week we have been focused on exploring. Some of us have explored what happens when we mix colours. We found out that if we add white to colours it makes them lighter, if we mix two colours together it makes a new colour and if we mix every colour together at the same time it makes a brown colour. The children have loved this and we are trying hard to remember how to make different colours, by telling a friend how we have made them.



Another way we have been exploring has been with magnets. The children have enjoyed making a prediction as to whether something is magnetic or not. We tested lots of things both inside and outside of the classroom. We quickly realised that plastic and wood were not magnetic. However the children were surprised by some things that they thought looked like they would be magnetic, but they weren't.



A very busy week for everyone!

Please see Tapestry for more photos and a phonics video focused on pure sounds.

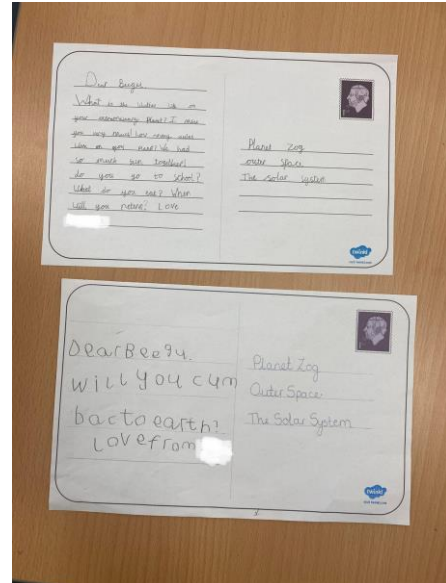
Miss Houghton



The week in Key Stage 1

Year 1 and 2 have been working hard In English to write postcards to Beegu using questions and adjectives. We thought carefully about letter formation, punctuation and vocabulary choices.

In Computing we identified and discussed technology in our classroom. We learnt that technology is anything made by people to help us.



We enjoyed taking our pencils for a walk in Art to create doodle pages. We thought carefully about space in our work, practised pencil control and shaded from light to dark.

Miss Dixon



The week in Year 3 and 4

Another brilliant week in Year 3 and 4. All of the children have settled into routines and learning so amazingly and it has been great to be part of such a kind, encouraging and positive learning environment where everyone is striving to become the best version of themselves.

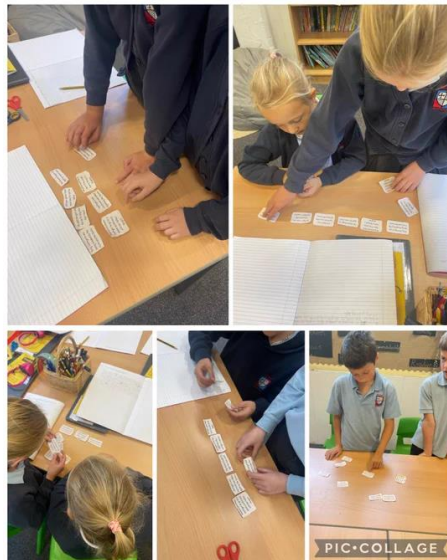
We have continued developing our place value knowledge this week by solidifying our knowledge on thousands, hundreds, tens and ones and have been challenging our Maths knowledge with flexible partitioning. It has been great to see everyone work in groups and support each other when using manipulatives and then apply this knowledge to reasoning questions independently. We have loved seeing everyone become so confident and challenge themselves further.



Now that we are confident with logging onto reading plus, it has been brilliant to watch everyone take responsibility and show independence with this programme. The children are enjoying having some quiet time everyday to get cosy and enjoy reading whilst also challenging themselves with comprehension and vocabulary skills. Everyone is enjoying having the time everyday to do this and I have seen lots of progress with fluency and confidence in their reading. Year 3 and 4 have also enjoyed mixing reading plus with a book from our reading area and the books they take home weekly.



In English, we have been learning about King Arthur and have slowly explored how he became King. It has been great for the children to act out the story, create storyboards in their own words before then retelling the story in their own words. Everyone worked super hard on this and produced some gorgeous work that they were all extremely proud of. It was great to see in a few days how every person in the class could confidently retell the story whilst also including similes, fronted adverbials and some amazing adjectives. They should all be very proud! We also started our new English text this week 'The Anglo-Saxon Boy' by Tony Bradman which the children are excited to continue.



Well done on a fabulous week Year 3 and 4! I am loving teaching you all and I am excited to be a small part in your amazing journey! Enjoy your weekend!

Miss Cruse



The week in Year 5 and 6



English

We have had another productive week in Year 5 and 6. We continue to study our new book in English and the writing we are creating from the story is superb! We are reminding ourselves of the building blocks for amazing English and how to extend our work into high-level sentences. Our book can be upsetting at times as the story unfolds and the devastation of London is described in detail. World War 2 was a time in history that we shouldn't forget and it's important that we

discuss the atrocities that occurred. We have had some sensible and mature discussions around what happened and the importance that these events from our past shouldn't be repeated.

We have produced some wonderful setting descriptions linked to a recent bombing raid and the destruction left behind.

'Firefighters were putting out fires; their charcoal-smudged faces grim with worry. The toxic smell of gas somehow wormed its way into my gas mask. A dog lay dead in the rubble; an innocent animal killed by Nazi greed' - Abigail.

Reading Comprehension

We are continuing to develop our reading comprehension skills through a variety of different ways, including our new Reading Plus programme online, small group reading with an adult in class and through answering questions using our VIPERS. Ask your child about how we use VIPERS and encourage them as much as possible to discuss what they have read.

Reading Vipers

Vocabulary
Infer
Predict
Explain
Retrieve
Sequence or Summarise



Belsay Hall and Castle



Our Year 6 children took part in an amazing 'behind-the-scenes' visit to Belsay Hall and Castle this week where they had the opportunity to be some of the first children to see the amazing new facilities that have been built for visitors. As the local school to the site, we were given the opportunity to take part in a photoshoot, with some of our children appearing in educational marketing materials! The staff at English Heritage were impressed with the children's maturity and enthusiasm for the new facilities.

Mr Harvey