

Friday Flyer

6 October 2023

Headteacher Update

Good afternoon and welcome to another weekly update. The weeks are passing by very quickly but once again another week of hard work, fun and celebration. Walking around the school it is a true testament to the staff and the children for just how much is going on.

As we move into the month of October our new monthly value is around 'Kindness' and the week started with an assembly to cover what this means and looking at the Good Samaritan story as an example. We have also been talking about School Vision - I wonder if your child can tell you what it is?

Aiming High
Working Together
Achieving Excellence

This week in school there have been discussions amongst staff about the subject of sports equipment and in particular balls being used on the yard. In order to keep all children safe on the yard we have decided to ask that children not to bring balls into school. School will provide this equipment for the children at break and lunch. As the weather improves later in the year we will naturally readdress this once the field is back in use.

You may have also noticed today that we are having work done on the field. This is following a site survey on the trees and essential work is being carried out. Again, this is necessary to keep the site safe for our children.

Next week, on Tuesday 10 October, we have the photographer in school to take individual pictures. Due to the fact PE takes place on a Tuesday please can you send your children into school in their **PE uniform but wearing their light blue polo**. This will mean they still look smart for their headshot pictures but can also continue as normal with PE in the afternoon.

Finally, today I have been conducting the interviews for our new teacher to Oak Class. We have had a wide number of applicants which is down to the outstanding reputation of the school. Once the full process has been completed parents and carers will be notified.

I would like to thank you for your continued support of the school and I hope you have a fabulous weekend and find time to relax!

Craig Shaw

Class	Attendance
Reception	100
Y1/2	96.52
Y3/4	100
Y5/6	98.71

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		

Extra-Curricular Clubs:

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

Day	Activity	Time	Age
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!



Keeping Children Safe Online

At Belsay School, we believe in supporting parents, carers and school staff with the information to help in internet conversations about online safety with their children. We hope this guide focuses on some of the many apps that are out there and help to think about how to use them safely. For more information, please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com or the safety centre for parents, carers and school staff.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed on numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform, which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The 'poisonous' and 'ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Carers

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual themes) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from changing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.



TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.



CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.



CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.



MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.



LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some limited purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill.



Meet Our Expert

David Brown (aka a console) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2016, providing coverage, reviews and gaming guides. He is the owner of Unleash Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



@nationalonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

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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

The week in Willow class

The children have been fantastic and are really in the rhythm of school life and all that it brings. This week we have continued to read our stories 'All are welcome here' and 'it's okay to be different'. It is lovely to hear the children joining in with the stories now and picking out their favourite parts of the story. Philippa likes the part where it says 'it's okay to have wheels,' and Magnus likes the part where it says 'It's okay to eat macaroni cheese in the bathtub,' We talked about the story All are welcome here and it was lovely to know that all of our children feel very welcome in school. They all feel proud to be part of Team Belsay, and everyday we discuss how it feels to be in the best class in the school. We really do have an amazing team.

On Tapestry everyone will see a video of their child talking about why they are special. We have discussed what makes us special and the children chose friends, family, special toys and even special moments they have with their family as reasons that make them feel special. Please do login to see the videos as I am sure you will agree they are very special.

We have been very busy in discovery time this week, and it has been lovely to see the children accessing all areas. This week the children have enjoyed making pictures using chalk. They have explored the different techniques that they can use to change their pictures.



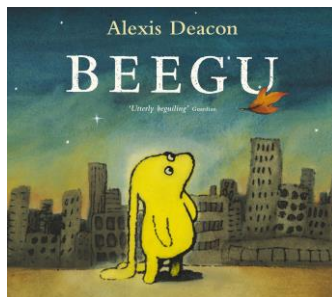
In Maths this week our focus has been on counting. We have discussed rules for counting and then applied this. The rules we discussed were only counting items once, take your time, find out how many altogether in a set by remembering that the last number we say when we count tells us how many. The children have enjoyed counting lots of different things this week such as themselves, dinosaurs and even conkers. A big thank you to Isobel's family for collecting lots of conkers and bringing them into school.

Miss Houghton



The week in Maple Class

Maple Class has been studying instructions in English, discussing what they are for and why they are important. We learnt that instructions use bossy verbs in command sentences so that the steps are clear to the reader in helping them achieve their goal. We considered the qualities a good friend should have and used our knowledge of verbs and time openers to write *How to be a Good Friend* instructions for Beegu.



In Geography, we identified the four countries of the United Kingdom and their capital cities. We enjoyed matching significant landmarks to their locations and discussed some of the places we have visited with our families.



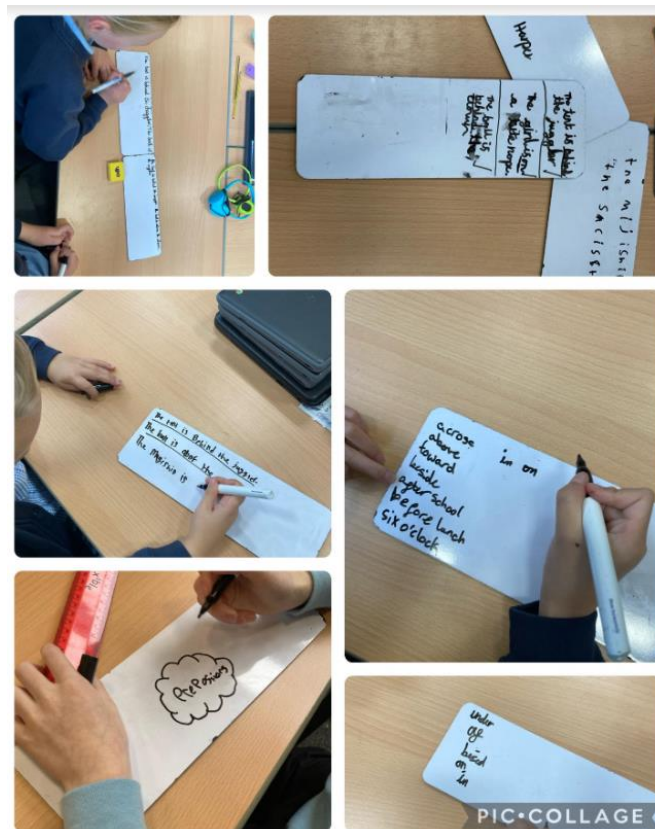
Miss Dixon

The week in Alder Class



This week in Alder class the children have shown amazing resilience and have had the opportunity to show off just how amazing they are!

In English, the children continued their work around our class text 'The Anglo-Saxon Boy' by considering the thoughts of different characters and in particular Magnus and King Harold. The children chose different events that have happened in our story and started to consider the characters thoughts as well as emotions and could give reasons for each one. We have also begun planning our diary entry that we are excited to write next week. Earlier on in the week we worked on prepositions with Mr Shaw and Miss Cook and they were amazed by the children's understanding and ability to work together.



In Science we continued our work on electricity and were all so excited to complete our experiment to investigate which materials are insulators and which are conductors. The children were then able to record their findings to help them with their scientific questioning.

In History we began to think about the Bayeux Tapestry and the Norman Conquest. The children used their knowledge to debate who they thought deserved to be King and had to back this up with a reason. We then began to discuss what we thought was happening in different images of the Bayeux Tapestry.

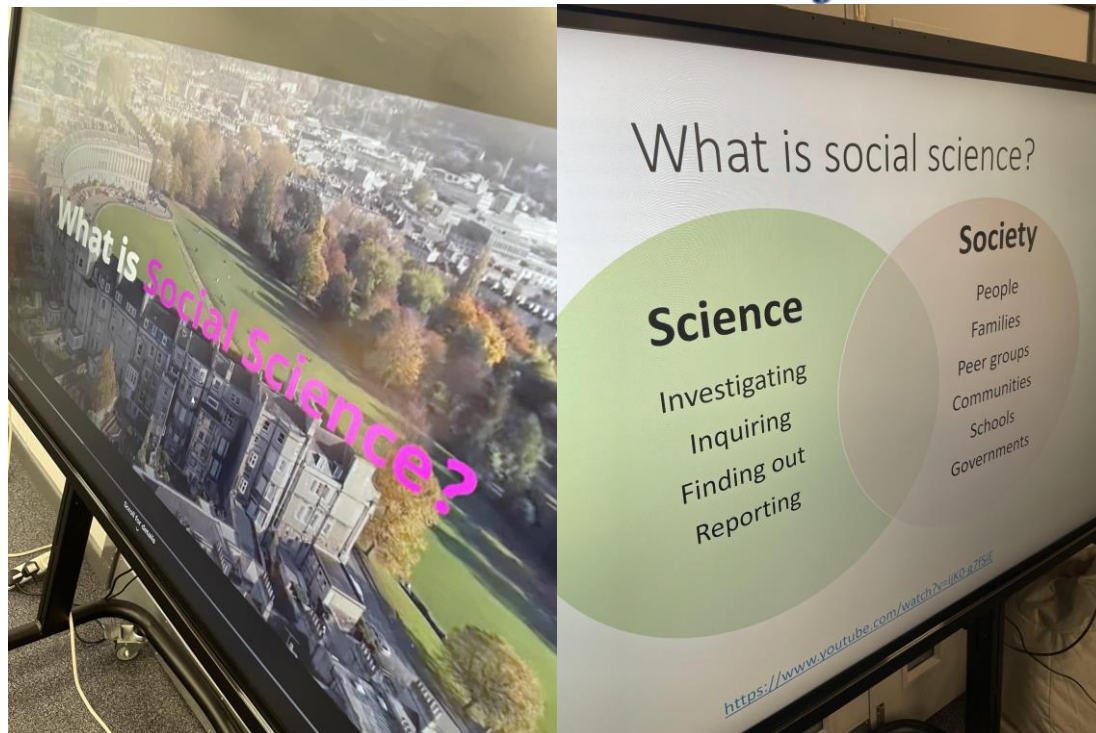
Well done on an amazing week in Alder Class! I am looking forward to seeing you all next week!

Miss Cruse



The week in Oak Class

We have been really lucky to have been chosen by Newcastle University to deliver lessons linked to social sciences. A researcher has joined us all the way from Australia! Today, we discussed the meaning of social science and what it encompasses. We had some wonderful discussion opportunities with children thinking outside the box. Over the next few weeks, the team from the University will be asking children to design and deliver a real social science project in school and analyse the findings. We are really looking forward to seeing how this project develops over the rest of the term. Keep an eye out for consent forms coming home soon, asking for your child to take part in a research project.



In our English lessons this week, we have continued to read our story, Letters from a Lighthouse. Olive and Cliff have been evacuated from London to Devon and are trying to find their host but she hasn't arrived to collect them from the village hall. We have also spent some time looking at the features of writing persuasive texts. Our acronym will help us to remember the features:



A
lliteration
F
act
O
pinion
R
hetorical Question/Repetition
E
motive language
S
tatistics
T
hree (Rule of)

Mr Harvey



Back by Popular Demand,
Belsay PTA brings you the

Halloween Disco

Tuesday
24th October
3.15pm - 5pm

Open to all children at Belsay School.

Please feel free to send in a bag Halloween Costume or Party Clothes.

Hot dog, drink and a cake provided.

Tickets £3-£5 suggested donation per child.

Attendance/dietary requirements form to follow.

Staff supervision, parents collect at the end.

See you there!



UNIVERSITY

FUNDING

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**VOCATIONAL
TRAINING**

UNDER 25? NEED HELP WITH STUDY COST?

LIVE IN STAMFORDHAM, MATFEN, CAPHEATON OR BELSAY PARISH?

OR WENT TO SCHOOL THERE OR PARENTS LIVE THERE?

YOU CAN APPLY FOR HELP IN COMPLETE CONFIDENCE TO:

chair@sirthomaswiddringtontrust.org

COLLEGE



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TRANSPORT



MUSIC

ARTS & SPORTS



SIR THOMAS WIDDRINGTON (EDUCATIONAL) TRUST CHARITY NUMBER 505778



Taster Session



**NORTHUMBERLAND YOUTH
ENSEMBLE**

**SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER
10AM - 1.30PM
MORPETH 1ST SCHOOL**

**OPEN TO YR5
AND ABOVE**

DO YOU WANT TO:

**HAVE FUN WHILE LEARNING
NEW MUSIC** ?

**BUILD UP YOUR CONFIDENCE
PLAYING IN A GROUP**

LEARN LOADS OF NEW SKILLS

NEXT »

**BE AT MORPETH 1ST SCHOOL,
LOANSDEAN, NE61 2AP,
FOR 10AM
BRING YOUR INSTRUMENT
AND A PACKED LUNCH.**

IMPORTANT

**YOU MUST BRING A PARENT/CARER WITH YOU TO COMPLETE SOME
PAPERWORK REGARDING MEDICAL ISSUES AND EMERGENCY CONTACT
DETAILS.**

(PARENTS/CARERS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR THE LAST HALF AN HOUR FROM 1-1.30PM OR CAN JUST PICK UP THEIR CHILD AT 1.30PM)

CONTACT US

**WANT A BIT MORE INFO? CONTACT US VIA
ENSEMBLES@NORTHUMBERLAND.GOV.UK
01670 624045**

[HTTP://MUSIC.NORTHUMBERLAND.GOV.UK](http://MUSIC.NORTHUMBERLAND.GOV.UK)

**Northumberland
County Council**

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ENGLAND**



The Whistling Sheep presents



The Charity Ceilidh

Raising funds for the Disaster Emergency Committee

Ponteland High School, NE20 9EG

Buffet food included.

Bring your own non alcoholic drinks!

**Friday
13th Oct**

18.15 – 21.15

Adults	£15
High School Students	£10
Primary School Students	£5



Tickets can be bought **cash only** from High School reception
from September, or by on-line payment by emailing:

whistlingsheepceilidhband@gmail.com



Dancing!

Raffles!



Find out more about the band at
www.whistlingsheep.com