

Friday Flyer

20 October 2023

Headteacher Update

It is 'scary' just how fast the days are going at Belsay Primary and every day is a 'thriller'. This week has once again brought so much joy and learning because in my opinion if we have fun at school, learning comes easily. Not only have there been high energy, fully engaging lessons being taught in our classrooms but we have also had visitors in school working with Oak Class. In addition to this we have had some of our Year 6 children at an event, learning how to be Young Sport Leaders, so I am excited to see what skills they learn and how we can use this at Belsay.

We are working hard to be creative with our break and lunches, especially when the field is out of use. Currently we have reading areas, creative stations and each week we are having 'Wonderful Wednesday' which consists of whole school dancing and certainly got everyone, including staff involved this week. Once our Young Leaders are trained and confident we will then be looking to how to utilise their skills to teach others and run small games.

Already next week is looking super busy so please make sure you clear the diaries as firstly the Belsay children want to 'put a spell on you' as the 'season of the witch' is upon us. Please support our school and the PTA by bringing your children to our 'Monster Mash' Halloween Disco on Tuesday afternoon. Dressing up is optional but it would be great to see some 'wolves' or 'zombies' showing us their best dance moves!

Also next week we have our annual Harvest Festival on Friday morning at 9.15am. It would be amazing if we could have as many parents and carers as possible to support the event. Come down a little earlier and have a tea or coffee and then watch our performance, I'm sure you won't be disappointed. We will once again be gathering food for the People's Kitchen so if you are able to, please send your child into school next week with some non-perishable food items and these I know will be greatly received.

Finally this week, some exciting news to tell everyone. As you may be aware I was involved in interviews earlier this month as we look for a new teacher in Year 5 and 6. After completing a rigorous process, I am delighted to announce that we have appointed Mr Peter McLeod as our new teacher and he will be starting with us in January 2024. I will ensure that Mr McLeod has time in our school before the Christmas break and I know you will provide a warm Belsay welcome, as you have done with me.

Hope to see as many parents and carers as possible next week.

Stay safe and have a wonderful weekend.

Craig Shaw



Check this out...

Have you been on our website recently? If not please do check it out as we have lots of really useful information on there such as who to contact with queries, school menus, what your child will be learning this year and all our policies eg. safeguarding.

Our exciting new edition is our school calendar. If you click on the tab 'News and Events' and then 'School Calendar' you will now be able to see all of our events up until Christmas. This new feature should keep you up to date with everything you need to know so be sure to check it regularly as events are being added all the time!



Class	Attendance
Willow	98.46
Maple	99.13
Alder	98.13
Oak	91.61

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

Did you know?

A child who is absent from school for one day a week misses the equivalent of two years of their school life.

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		
Monday 23rd October		Flu Immunisations
Tuesday 24th October	3.15-5.00pm	Halloween Disco
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.

School Uniform...

We are seeing an increased number of misplaced uniforms which, as we all know, is frustrating as it costs a lot of money to replace items. Therefore can you please ensure names are added to all items so they can be returned to the right owners.

It may also be a good time to check the uniform, particular jumpers and hoodies that are at home, to make sure you have the correct items for your child and not an item belonging to another child.

Thank you in advance for your support with this.



Keeping Children Safe Online



#WakeUpWednesday

14 WAYS TO BE KIND ONLINE

Showing kindness online can mean so much to someone else. It is a choice we can all make that helps others, puts people's needs before our own and which can generate feelings of empathy and compassion. Small gestures can have a large impact and often one act of kindness can lead to more, making the world a happier and more positive place. That's why we've created this guide to suggest a few simple 'acts of kindness online' that can benefit people's mental health, support their wellbeing and encourage a more positive approach to engaging online.



1. BE POSITIVE

Post about things that make you happy and that you're thankful for. It could brighten up someone else's day.



2. OFFER TO HELP

Sometimes a friend or family member might post a question online or ask for help with something they can't do themselves. If you know the answer or are able to offer help, provide support and send a response. Something that may be easy for you might be difficult for someone else.



3. SHOW APPRECIATION TO OTHERS

If somebody you know has done something good or shown kindness themselves, thank them for it. It costs nothing and showing them that you appreciate it means so much.

4. SHARE FUNNY VIDEOS OR IMAGES WITH FRIENDS & FAMILY

We often come across funny videos or images online that make us laugh and then we move on. If you found it funny, your friends and family might too. It could help someone smile who may be having a bad day.



5. LIKE, LOVE & CELEBRATE

If somebody posts something that you like on social media, like it, love it or celebrate it. It's a small gesture but could mean a lot.



6. VIDEO CALL YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY

It can be easy to be consumed by daily routine. Using apps like Zoom, FaceTime or WhatsApp are great for connecting with others far away and shows you're thinking of them even though you can't physically meet them in person.



7. TELL SOMEONE YOU'RE THINKING OF THEM

We can't always tell how people are feeling online and just dropping somebody a message to ask if they're ok or that you're thinking of them could literally make their day.

8. SHARE POSITIVE POSTS

If you see something online that inspires you, share it with people you know. An inspirational quote, a beautiful photo or a motivational video can lift spirits, improve self-esteem and help make people feel better about themselves.



9. HOST AN ONLINE QUIZ

Video conferencing apps are a great way to get friends and family together. If you know someone who is feeling lonely, host an online quiz and invite them to join in. It could really cheer them up.



10. THINK BEFORE YOU COMMENT

Sometimes thinking before you act can be just as significant as acting in the first place. Showing thought before you comment could stop you posting something hurtful, offensive or negative. It's always better to post positively or post nothing at all.



11. BE COMPASSIONATE & UNDERSTANDING

Being empathetic towards others and their situation is often an act of kindness and selflessness that gets overlooked. If you notice someone who is upset, drop them a message and offer to listen.



12. CONNECT FRIENDS & FAMILY WITH SIMILAR INTERESTS

You may know two people amongst your friends and family who you trust and know well who have similar interests and likes. Introducing them can be a great way for them to make new friends but remember to always ask their permission first.



13. RECOMMEND SOMETHING YOU ENJOY DOING TO OTHERS

If you enjoy doing something online, such as playing a game, or if you've found a great learning resource, share it with others. Even if you've watched a good film, letting others know can be an act of generosity that brings them excitement or pleasure at a time when they might need it the most.



Meet our expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



14. PRAISE OTHERS FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

Sometimes your friends or family might post something online that they're proud to have done. It might be an exam they've passed, learning a new skill or just completing a task. Either way, it's always kind to recognise hard work and effort through praise and celebration.





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!

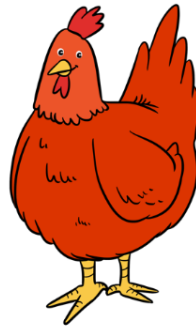
Richard Bell | Area Catering Manager
Vin & David McDonad | Geordie Bangers



The week in Willow Class

Willow class have worked very hard this week and it has been lovely to see this reflected in the work we have produced. The children have loved focusing on the story of The Little Red Hen. They have made stick puppets to help with retelling the story, completed a story map to show the story using pictures and then enjoyed making their own bread. Everyone agreed it was delicious.

The Little Red Hen



This week our children have had two keywords that we have focused on. These have been 'kindness' and 'teamwork'. It has been lovely seeing the children showing kindness to each other and being able to identify when they have done this. Everyday me and Mrs Moffat see the children showing amazing team work whether this is during tidy up time, when they are playing games and even when we are keeping the cloakroom tidy. We really are amazing. It would be great if you could send some photos on Tapestry of when your child has shown kindness or has worked as part of a team, then we will share these together in class.

In Maths we have been thinking about the numbers 1,2 and 3. This week we have been working on 'subitising' this is when we recognise an amount without needing to count them. We have used a musical instrument to help with recognising how many beats, we realised it was really hard not to count out loud when listening to the beats, but we did manage it. I was really impressed with the children when we did this!

We have been practising our Harvest songs and in the classroom we are really confident however we know on the day of the performance we might feel a bit nervous. We have talked about how we just have to do our best and no matter what we do everyone will be very proud of us. We hope you can all make it, but please don't worry if you can't as I will record Willow class singing the songs in our class and share them on tapestry with everyone.

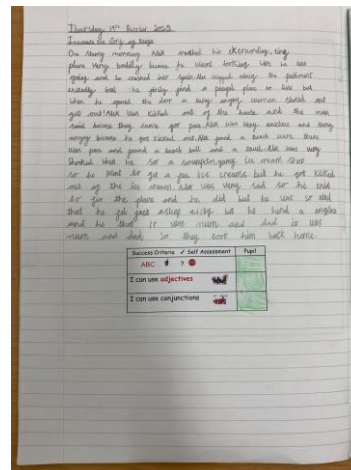
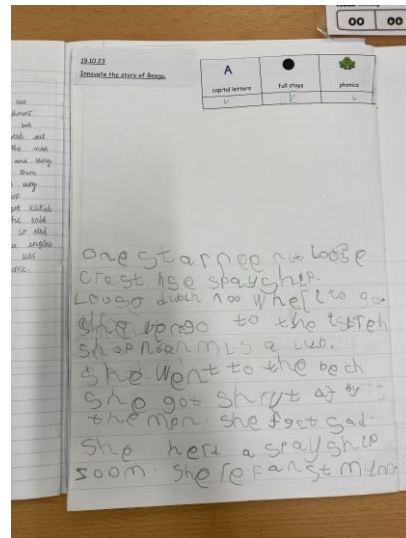
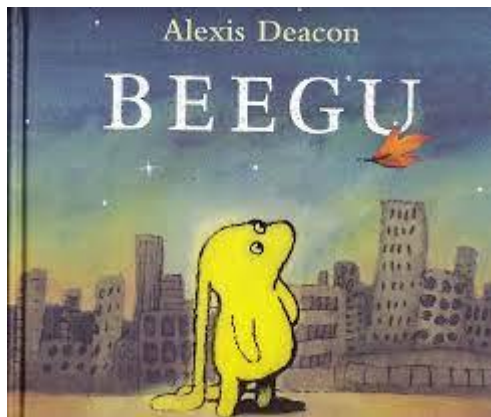
Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Miss Houghton



This week in Maple Class

Maple Class has been innovating the story of Beegu in English, using creative and imaginative ideas to invent new characters, settings and events. We used SPAG skills practised over the past weeks to write fantastic stories with accurate punctuation and impressive vocabulary. We enjoyed reading our stories aloud to one another and celebrating our brilliant work! We are very proud of our writing progress.



In Maths, Year 1 has been learning addition fact families using the part-whole model and using the representations to write matching number sentences. Year 2 has been using the same model to make amounts using different coins.

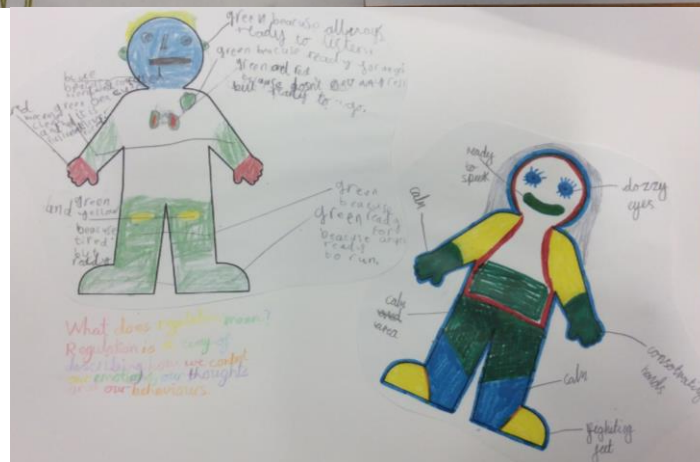
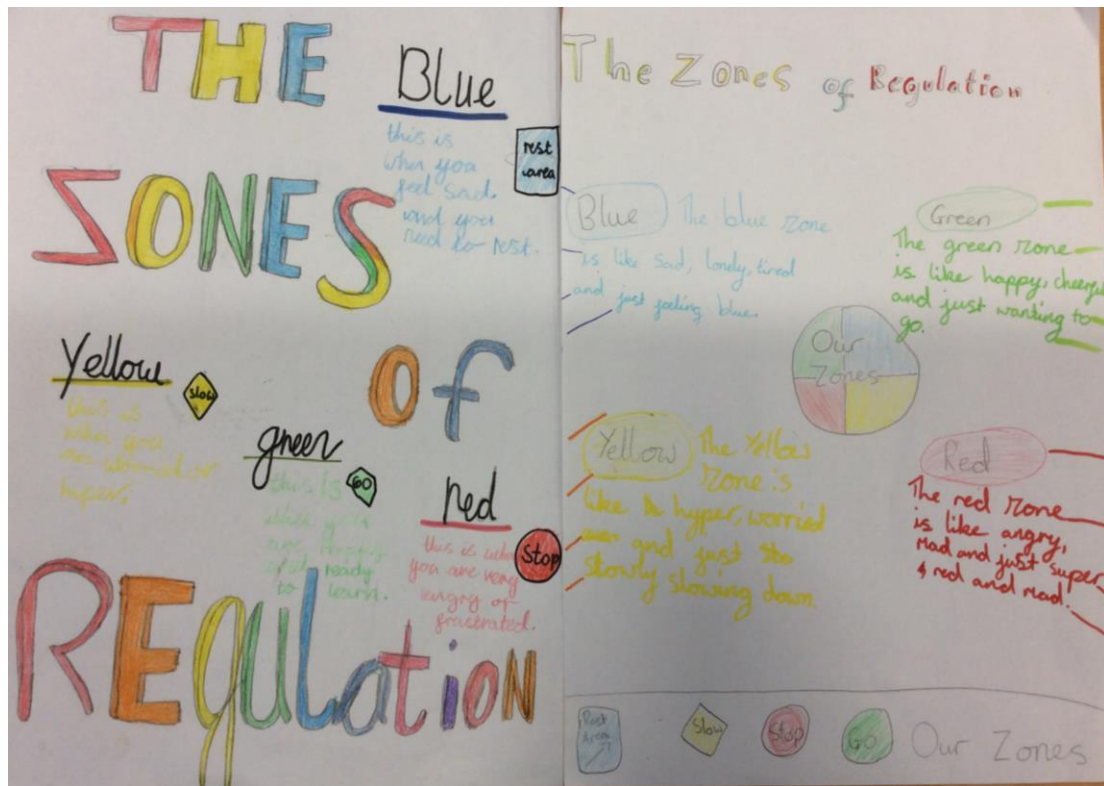
Miss Dixon



The week in Alder Class

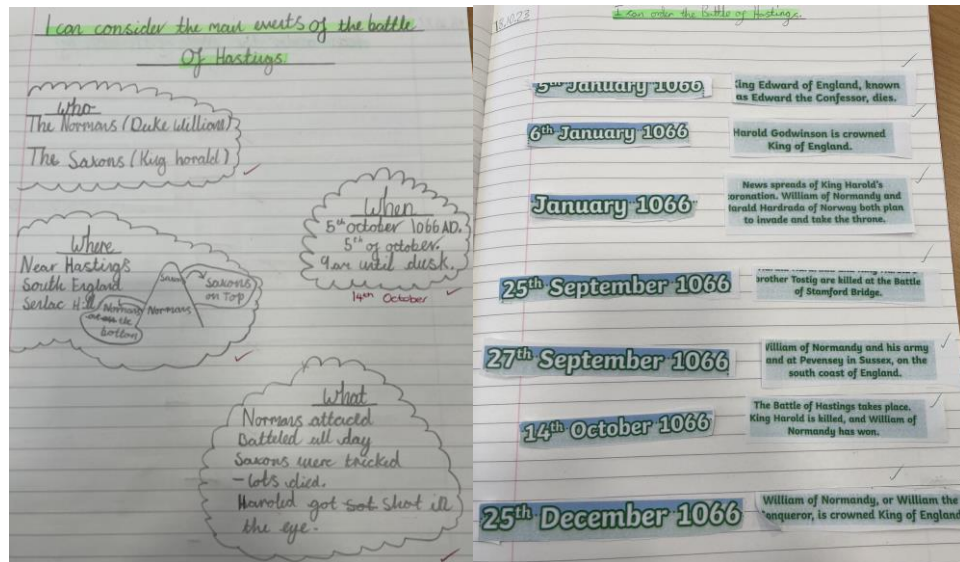
PSHE

In PSHE this week we have been learning about our zones of regulation. Have a look at our beautiful posters, these explore some of the emotions we can feel within each zone.



English

We continued our class text in English this week and focussed on the events leading up to and during the Battle of Hastings. We learnt how to identify the 5 Ws (who, what, where, when and why) in a newspaper article and used this to make important notes. We then created a human timeline. This involved our knowledge of chronological order. We also had to find clues within the details of a text to help us put each event in time order.



Maths

Maths this week has focussed on addition with more than one exchange. We are becoming experts. For an extra challenge, some of us have been using these skills to problem solve. We looked at the way someone else may have answered a question and thought about why we agreed or disagreed with them.

Mrs Aynsley



The week in Oak Class

English

In our English lessons this week, we have continued to read about the mysteries surrounding Sukie; where is she? Olive and Cliff have been kicked out by Queenie and are now setting up home in the lighthouse with Ephraim and his dog, Pixie. Somehow, we think the four of them are going to get on very well. We are so excited to continue reading the chapters to see what unfolds next.

Art

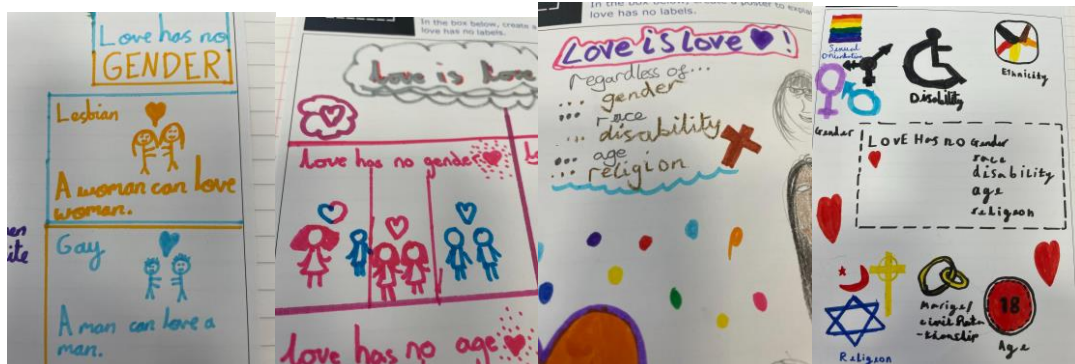
Over the past few weeks, our two artists, Ayza Obra and Ida O'Keefe have continued to inspire us to create our own unique lighthouse images. We have now started to bring all of our skills together this week to create a final masterpiece! Here are some of the wonderful examples below.





PSHE: Love Has No Labels

Inspired by the 'Love Has No Labels' campaign, we have looked at the importance of tolerating and accepting those who may be different to ourselves and that 'Love is Love'. We have had a lot of class discussions around the subject too and we have a mature set of young people in our class who are growing up to become good-rounded citizens.



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!