

# Friday Flyer

17 November 2023

## Headteacher Update

Can you believe it? We have already done 2 weeks of this half term which means we only have 5 to go until that very special time of the year, which I am trying to say too early!

Since returning to school we have had a very busy 2 weeks with lots going on and the children getting fully immersed into our new topics. Last week we had our Remembrance Service on Friday, led by Pam Walker MBE, who shared a very simple but poignant message about Remembrance. We also talked about Belsay Hall during the War and paid tribute to the soldiers of Belsay who lost their lives and have their names on our Golden Plaque in the Hall. The children were fantastic and so respectful - well done to them all.

This week we have taken part in Anti-Bullying week and this started with Odd Sock Day on Monday to raise awareness. A big thank you to Miss Cruse who led an assembly on this and to all the class teachers who also discussed the importance of this message through their PSHE lessons.



Also this week we have continued our Theme lunches for Diwali which allowed the children to try Chana Masala, Vegetable Korma along with a tasty Kheer pudding. Some mixed reviews but great to see so many children try our world cuisines. A special thank you also to Mrs Malak in the kitchen who served the children wearing her traditional Sari.



Our KS2 children took part in a Rugby Festival at Ponteland High School this week. It was fantastic to see their enthusiasm and teamwork. All children got fully engaged and Mrs Moffat was so proud of their efforts.



The busy week has continued today as we have had the Dogs Trust in School. The main purpose for this was to work with all classes to promote the importance of dog safety and children being able to build loving relationships. The charitable organisation went round each class and we had an informative assembly about it also.

To end this week we took part in Children in Need, where we asked children if they could come to school wearing clothing with spots. All the money raised from this non-uniform event, together with the money raised at the Bake Sale will go towards the charity so thank you for your kind donations.

Finally, we had time for our weekly Hot Chocolate and Celebration Assembly so well done and congratulations to all this week's winners. No matter how busy the week is, it is so important to find time to celebrate the hard work by all of our amazing children!

So as you can, life is never dull at Belsay and we try to fit as much as possible into our curriculum time.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend and remember... only 38 days until Christmas Day!

**Craig Shaw**



Class	Attendance
Willow	95.38
Maple	96.96
Alder	97.50
Oak	89.68

**We need to get this higher Oak Class come on!**

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?**

90% attendance sounds good but means that your child misses on average:

**One half day every week.**

**Nearly four weeks every school year.**

**Over one school year in a school career.**

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 16th November	Morning	KS2 Rugby Festival
Friday 17th November		Children in Need Dogs Trust Workshop
Monday 20th November		Road Safety Week
Tuesday 21st November		Reception and KS1 Bikeability
		Oak Class Trip to Newcastle University
Tuesday 28th November		Maple Class trip to Seven Stories
Friday 30th November	2.30pm	Pam Walker Christingle Assembly
Thursday 7th December		Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 7th December	1.45pm	Joint Christmas Performance (Parents/Carers Welcome)
Thursday 14th December		Christmas Lunch
Friday 15th December	AM	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
Monday 8th January		School Reopens for Spring Term

**All dates may be subject to change**



Remember you can track our key school events through our website by clicking on the News and Events tab and then School Calendar.

**Extra-Curricular Clubs:**

Contact the office if you wish to join a club and check availability.

Day	Activity	Time	Age
Monday	Dance	3.20 - 4.15pm	Reception - Y2
Monday	Rugby	3.20 - 4.15pm	Year 5 - 6
Tuesday	NUF Multi-Sport	3.20 - 4.20pm	Years 1 - 3
Wednesday	Pele Trust Multi-Sport	3.20 - 4.20pm	Years 4 - 6
Thursday	Badminton	3.15 - 4.00pm	Years 5 - 6 (cost)
Thursday	Art	3.15 - 4.00pm	Years 1 - 2
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.

### Geordie Banger...

You may remember that Pele Trust were running a competition to design a new sausage for the Geordie Banger Competition which would go into production at their local factory.

Well I am proud to say that Belsay had a Runner Up to the whole competition! This person has not only made me very proud and lit Belsay up in lights but they have also won a Geordie Banger Breakfast delivered to their whole class along with a certificate.

Congratulations to..... **ARTHUR** in Maple Class who has created the 'Wild Wonder' containing Wild Mushrooms, Blackberrys, Maple Syrup.

Arthur loves to forage and knows these wild foods taste good together and would make a great Geordie Banger.





**HOT OFF THE PRESS!**

Thank you for all the responses about our proposed Residential Trip for Year 3 - 5.

After some research and discussions with various sites I am pleased to say that we have come up with our destination...

### **PGL Ford Castle, near Berwick upon Tweed**

**Wednesday 6 March - Friday 8 March**



PGL has an outstanding reputation throughout the country and abroad and Ford Castle is one of the newest locations. It is also the only Castle site that they have for the company. This is a very exciting opportunity and one in which I know that the children will thoroughly enjoy it in a supportive and caring environment.

PGL's state: 'We create life-enriching adventures for memories that last a lifetime and we've been doing so since 1957' so I know we are in safe hands!

More information will follow in the next week which will include final costs and payment dates, which will be broken down into instalments, unless you prefer to pay all at once. We will also be looking to hold a presentation night.

If you have any questions in the meantime please do not hesitate to contact **Miss Cruse or Mr Shaw**.



## Keeping Children Safe Online



# WhatsApp safety guide for parents

internet  
matters.org

**16+**

WhatsApp's  
minimum age  
in the UK

**58%**

Kids aged 3-17  
who use  
WhatsApp

**37%**

Kids under 13  
who use  
WhatsApp



## 5 tips to keep kids safe on WhatsApp



**1**

**Review privacy settings** WhatsApp has a range of privacy and security settings to keep users safe. Customise groups, app access, live location and more.



**2**

**Customise contacts** Show your child how to report and block unwanted contacts. Then, work with them to add their friends and family. Review and talk about their contacts regularly.



**3**

**Talk about personal information** Make sure your child understands what personal information is. Talk about the importance of keeping that information private on WhatsApp.



**4**

**Show them where to get support** If something goes wrong or they see something worrying on WhatsApp, make sure they know to come to you, and talk about other sources of support.



**5**

**Check in regularly** Once you've done all of the above, check in with them regularly to review settings and how they use WhatsApp.

internet  
matters.org

**f** [InternetMatters](#)

**X** [@IM\\_Org](#)

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**p** [@InternetMatters\\_org](#)

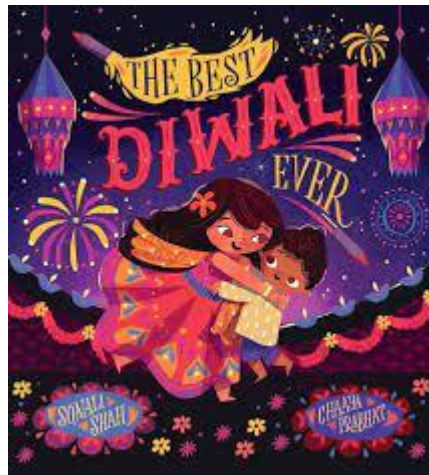
**in** [Internet Matters Ltd](#)





## The week in Willow Class

What a busy week! The children have been fantastic since we came back to school after half term and we have covered so many different events already. Last week we discussed bonfire night and talked about how the children had stayed safe and we were very respectful when thinking about Remembrance day. This week we have thought about Diwali and made comparisons to how it is the same and different to the other celebrations we know about. We loved making our own diva lamp. We have also been a big part of Children in Need day as Willow class made the cakes for the cake sale. The children loved this and it was a great way to raise money for those who need it most. Well done Willow class!



As lots of you will have seen and heard, we have two fish in our classroom. They are called Charlie and Cookie. The children have loved checking on them each day, remembering to feed them and thinking about how they might be feeling at different times of the day. It has been lovely to see.

A big thank you to everyone who was able to attend parents' evening. It was really enjoyable to spend time talking about how amazing your children are and it was good to meet some of you for the first time. I hope you all found it enjoyable and useful. Thank you to everyone who wrote a comment for the class book, this is appreciated.

Next week we will take part in bikeability. The children are really excited about this and some have also expressed they are a little bit nervous about it too. We have talked about it and discussed that it is okay to not know how to ride a bike as we can learn together. Bikes can be brought into school on Monday if this would be a help to anyone. Anyone bringing their own bike in must have it in school on Tuesday. Children are also welcome to wear trainers on this day, to ensure they have secure footwear when riding their bike.

As always it would be lovely to see what everyone has been up to over the weekend. Please feel free to upload photos or comments to Tapestry.

**Miss Houghton**

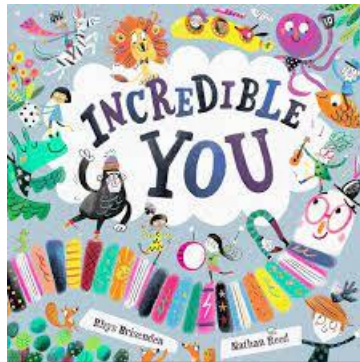


### **This week in Maple Class**

Maple Class have been enjoying their weekly dance sessions in PE with Mr Smith. They have worked hard to perfect their moves, keeping in time with the music and each other.



In Art, we designed and painted pebbles for a class rockery inspired by the story *Incredible You*. We discussed how each one of us is incredible and what makes us unique and special. Fine Art students Emma and Daisy from Newcastle University helped us express our individuality and interests in our designs.



**Miss Dixon**

## **The week in Alder Class**

What an amazing week in Alder Class. We have all worked so hard this week and lots of us have moved up reading bands or gained reading plus certificates.

In History we have been learning about slavery and what it is. The children enjoyed sharing their prior knowledge of this topic before looking at a sequence of images and thinking about what this tells us about slavery. We also focused on the Civil Rights Movements and when this happened we loved coming up with a song to help us remember key dates.

In Computing we have been focusing on digital images and how we can change them as well as consider how we can edit these in different ways. This week we focused on

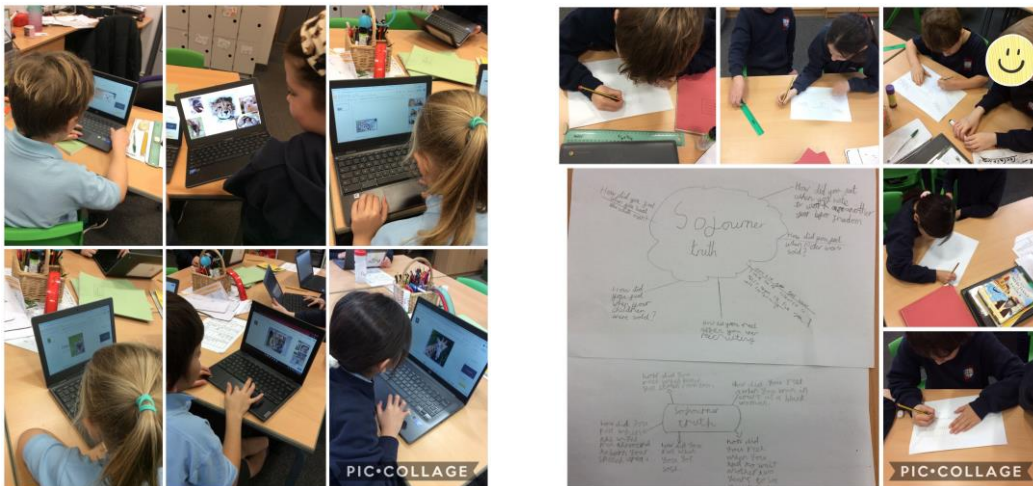
cropping images and the impact this may have.

In English we have been learning about Sojourner Truth and we have created plans for our narrative writing which had to include fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases and 3rd person pronouns. We all focused on using our neatest handwriting as well as considering the characters thoughts and feelings within different points. We had some lovely discussions around this after completing our hotseating tasks and it was great to see everyone put themselves in the characters shoes.

In Science we have been learning about Mrs Gren and the 7 life processes. We enjoyed starting our new Biology topic of living things and their habitats and compared how the life processes were different in animals, humans and plants.

As part of Anti-Bullying week, we have had lots of discussion around bullying and why it is important we 'make a noise' around this topic. We created our own poems around bullying in partners and tried to reflect on what we would do to help in different situations.

Well done on a brilliant week in Alder Class. I have been so impressed by your resilience, kindness and empathy so far this half term.



**Miss Cruse**

## The week in Oak Class

We have been working really hard this week in all subjects and as always learning lots of new skills.

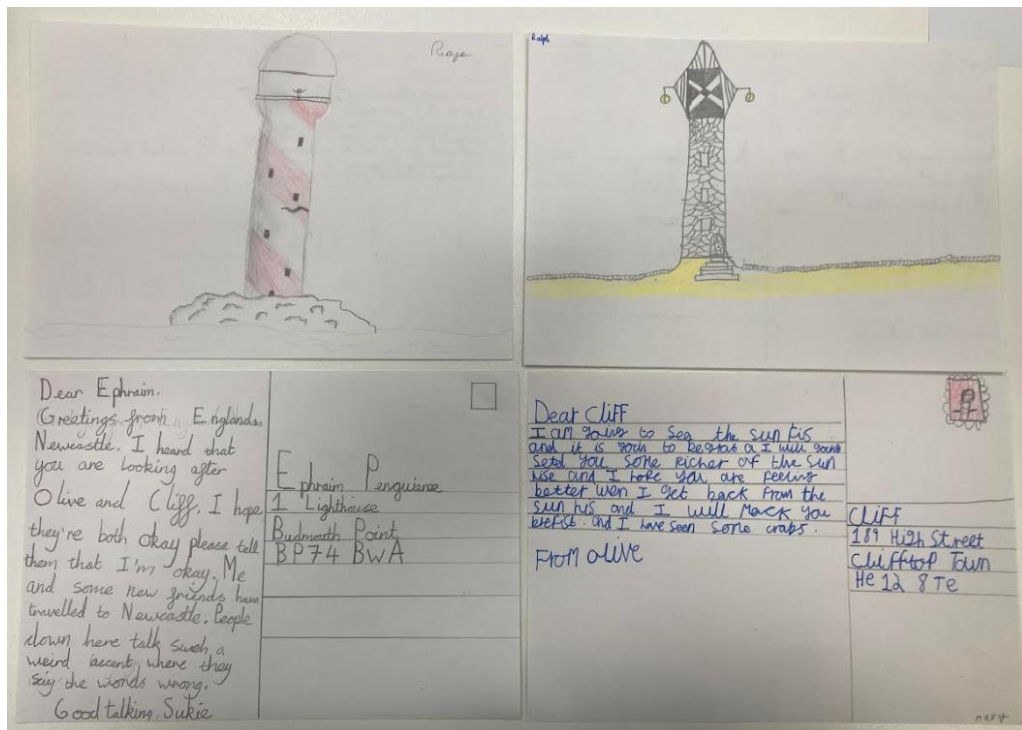
In Year 6 Maths this week we finished our topic around Multiplication and Division by learning the order of operations. To help us get this right we learnt BIDMAS. We have then moved on to start looking at Fractions and how to simplify and find equivalents.

In Year 5 Maths we have been also working through our Multiplication and Division and learning all about Multiples, Factors and Prime Numbers.





For English we have continued to look at our book 'Letters from a Lighthouse' and used our knowledge of this to create postcards to another character in the story. This was then used as a cross curricular lesson with Art as we worked with our teachers from Newcastle University to create a picture for the front. We were really pleased with the outcome of these.



In science we started our new topic which means we are not looking at Light. We looked at key questions such as What is light? How does light allow us to see? Can the path of light be altered? What shapes are shadows? We had lots of discussions, watch the timeline of what people thought about Light eg. the Greeks thought that light came out the eyes!

Finally in PSHE this week we have been learning about Anti-Bullying which linked in nicely to Odd Socks Day on Monday. We watched a song from Bars and Melody called 'Hopeful' which is about a boy who was a victim of bullying and had been on Britain's Got Talent with the song. After this we created our own poems. Each table then shared their ideas with the rest of the class.





## Make a Noise About Bullying Poem

Anti-Bullying Week 2023 Primary School Handout

As part of the Anti-Bullying Week 2023 lesson, we want you to write a 'Make a Noise About Bullying' poem with your classmates. Each of you will create your own sentence (or 2) that will contribute to the overall poem.

To do this, think about this year's theme 'Make a Noise About Bullying' and the messages shared in the 'Call to Action' and 'Anti-Bullying Week 2023 Primary Video'. You can also use the questions below to get you thinking.

- How can you speak up and make a stand about bullying?
- What would you say to someone engaging in bullying behaviour if you saw them in action?
- What would your message against bullying be?
- Who can help spread the message and how can we do it?

When you call people names you are a bully.

We don't want bullies in our school,

Please stop bullying it's not cool,

For YOU WILL NEVER RULE OUR SCHOOL!!!

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- What would you say to someone engaging in bullying behaviour if you saw them in action?
- What would your message against bullying be?
- Who can help spread the message and how can we do it?

Do you think I'm going to drop?

Well I'm not I'm gonna rise to the top,

You're the one that's going to stop!

I have to hide behind a mop,

While you drink your fizzy pop!

- What would your message against bullying be?
- Who can help spread the message and how can we do it?

you think I'm gonna hide but I'm really outside and when I rise you'll

be caught in surprise you will be surprised when I bigger

I will be the one where you

**By Ralph and Jamie**



**Rotary**  
Ponteland



Coming to a street near you.....

## SANTA'S SLEIGH

Friday December 1<sup>st</sup> - Ponteland

Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup> - Darras Hall

5pm - 7pm

Donate £5 TEXT SANTA to 70560  
£10 TEXT SNOWMAN to 70560  
£20 TEXT ROBIN to 70560

Sleigh tracker- Check web site for the URL 

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[www.rotaryponteland.org.uk](http://www.rotaryponteland.org.uk)

## Christmas Market

December 03 2023 11AM-3PM

Ponteland Memorial Hall NE20 9NX

- Craft stalls
- Festive foods
- Santa's grotto

Entry by donation £1  
[www.rotaryponteland.org.uk](http://www.rotaryponteland.org.uk)



**EDUCATION WORLD**  
[www.education-world.co.uk](http://www.education-world.co.uk)

## COMPETITION TIME!

We're giving away a pair of hospitality tickets to:

## NEWCASTLE UNITED vs FULHAM

Sat 16th Dec 2023 - 3pm KO

St James' Park

## BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

We'd like to invite pupils from your school to design us a Christmas card! The winner's design will be turned into a real card for us to send out this festive season and as a thank you, they'll win this amazing prize for themselves and a guardian!

- ⚽ See the match from the comfiest seats in the ground! ⚽
- ⚽ Entry to The Barracks 2.5hrs before kick off! ⚽
- ⚽ Food included! ⚽
- ⚽ A free programme and collectable pin badge! ⚽
- ⚽ Live music and guest speaker! ⚽
- ⚽ A truly memorable experience! ⚽

Deadline for entries is Friday 1st December.



Belsay School



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## Autism Family Drop In Sessions



Come along for a cuppa and chat. 0-19 years. No diagnosis needed!

Join us at:

Blyth Central Family Hub - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 9.30am-12pm

Hexham Family Hub - Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 1pm-3.30pm

Ashington Family Hub - Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 1pm-3.30pm

Berwick Family Hub - Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 1pm-3.30pm

Facilitator - [robyn.mcgregor@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:robyn.mcgregor@northumberland.gov.uk)

Inclusive Education Services

 Northumberland  
County Council

Our people. The heart of Northumberland



Our vision: One council that works for everyone

Our values: Residents first, Excellence and quality, Respect, Keeping our communities safe and well