

# Friday Flyer

24 November 2023

## Headteacher Update

Happy Friday everyone and welcome to another edition of our Friday Flyer! We have had another fantastic week in school with various activities taking place and lots of fun had by all. The week started as always with our whole school assembly in which we continued to focus on our school value of 'Empathy'. See if your child can explain what empathy means.

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for supporting Children in Need last Friday, as we raised £138.80! Every little helps this charity each year so I am proud to be adding our amount to the grand total which stood at £33.5million on Friday night.

As well as all the wonderful curriculum lessons taking place this week, Oak class had a marvellous opportunity to visit Newcastle University. The class have been working closely with Professors from the University in Science over the last half term so as a thank you, the University funded a trip for our children to visit. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, so well done Oak Class!



Also this week we have had Bikeability in school for Reception and Year 1. We were joined by our friends in pre-school and it was lovely to see how they were all getting along and zooming around the yard on their bikes. The children showed a variety of skills on their bikes and the yard was full of smiles.

And if all this was not enough to keep us busy we have also been acknowledging Road Safety Week. I know that the road outside school is often a key talking point amongst the community so we know that following Road Safety Week is a must for our children. Each class has been identifying how to keep safe and some classes have also been outside to conduct traffic surveys.

Finally, we have ended our week with the celebration assembly and Hot Chocolate reward so well done to all our amazing winners this week.

Have a wonderful weekend and remember... only 31 days until Christmas!!

**Craig Shaw**

Class	Attendance
Willow	83.08
Maple	98.70
Alder	95.00
Oak	90.65

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?

GCSEs may seem a long way off for you and your child but all absence at any stage leads to gaps in your child's learning.

90% of young people with attendance rates below 85% fail to achieve five or more good grades of GCSE and around one third achieve no GCSEs at all

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		
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.

### Reception Admission Gateway...

For any parents, carers or friends that you know, who would like to apply for Reception places for September 2024, please note that the Northumberland portal is now open and is available [here](#). All applications must be received by the Local Authority by the closing date of Monday 15th January 2024.



### Ford Castle Residential...



Please make sure you read the letter that has been sent out about this trip. It includes the total cost and the breakdown of payments which we must adhere to. Please note that the deposit is non-refundable.

If you have any questions or concerns please do see Mr Shaw or Miss Cruse as soon as possible.

### 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.



## Keeping children safe online...

Each week we share some quick fact posters about keeping your children safe online and how to ensure they have secure settings. Online safety is paramount now in society the world of computers is evolving at such a rapid rate.

Please click on the following link to find out more about:

### For Parents - Using Google Family Link app.

The Google Family Link has come on in leaps and bounds over the years, allowing parents greater management of their child's Google accounts (e.g Youtube) and Android devices. This includes children under the age of 13.

Internet Matters have put together a great article explaining exactly what Google Family Link is plus detailed instructions on how to set it up and use it.

You can find the article [HERE](#).

**10 Top Tips for Respect Online:**  
**INSPIRING CHILDREN TO BUILD A BETTER DIGITAL WORLD**

Our ability to communicate with anyone in the world, at any time, via the internet has grown at breakneck speed. For teachers and parents, it can feel impossible to keep up. Worrying about our young people is understandable, and not unjustified. In 2020, for example, one in five 10- to 15-year-olds experienced bullying online. Our tips highlight ways that adults can support young people's positive online behaviour: by adopting and following 'netiquette' we can show them how to avoid getting into difficulty as they learn to negotiate the continually evolving digital landscape.

**WHAT IS NETIQUETTE?**  
Just like etiquette is a set of rules which guides and governs our interactions with others in everyday life, netiquette – etiquette on the net – is the framework which helps inform how we communicate with people online. The rules of engagement often aren't the same as a face-to-face meeting, so it's important that we can accurately 'read' situations in the digital world and know how to act appropriately.

**1 ACCEPT DIFFERENT RULES**  
A lot of our interaction with others is ruled by non-verbal signals like body language and facial expressions. Online, of course, many of these cues are missing, which is why it's so easy to misunderstand. It's important that we can accurately 'read' situations in the digital world and know how to act appropriately.

**2 PRESS 'PAUSE'**  
It's so easy to do things quickly online that most people (adults included) haven't learned to respond to messages without considering the consequences. Pausing the pause button, even a young person, means taking time to think about the potential impact of what you're about to do. It's a good idea to pause for a moment before you post or send a message.

**3 THE INTERNET IS ADDICTIVE**  
Apps and sites use sophisticated algorithms and data mining to keep us engaged, while notifications and alerts are designed to draw us back in. It's so easy to get lost in the digital world, sometimes spending long periods of time there. You and your child should take regular breaks from the screen to check in with reality and to ensure you're not spending too much time online.

**4 BEWARE THE DARK SIDE**  
Setting a harmful or insulting comment as a public post or a group post can make the recipient feel badly about themselves. It's a good idea to pause for a moment before you post or send a message. It's a good idea to pause for a moment before you post or send a message.

**5 HARMFUL INTERACTIONS**  
Unfortunately, it's very easy to send a harmful message or to spread gossip and rumors online. We all know that it's important to be kind and to treat others with respect. It's also important to be kind and to treat others with respect. It's also important to be kind and to treat others with respect.

**6 APPRECIATE DIFFERENCES**  
We're all built differently, some people are simply more emotionally sensitive than others. Young people can be particularly affected by negative online comments. It's important that we can accurately 'read' situations in the digital world and know how to act appropriately.

**7 ACCENTUATED ANXIETY**  
Young people's online lives create a lot of anxiety. Messages go from a 'like' to a 'dislike' in a matter of seconds. There are many reasons to be anxious online, but one of the most common is the fear of missing out (FOMO). It's important that we can accurately 'read' situations in the digital world and know how to act appropriately.

**8 PRO-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**  
A huge positive for the internet is how it helps people feel connected and allows them to get involved in their communities. It's important that we can accurately 'read' situations in the digital world and know how to act appropriately.

**9 BE A GOOD ROLE MODEL**  
One of the best things we can do as adults is to be a good role model. It's important that we can accurately 'read' situations in the digital world and know how to act appropriately.

**10 SHOW COMPASSION**  
Bullying can be a very serious problem. It's important that we can accurately 'read' situations in the digital world and know how to act appropriately.

**Meet Our Expert**  
We spoke to a leading expert in online safety to get their views on the latest trends in online safety. It's important that we can accurately 'read' situations in the digital world and know how to act appropriately.

**National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety





## The week in Willow Class

This week has been Road Safety week, the children have been fantastic at using actions to remember how to cross the road safely. We discussed this together and then we went to the top of our car park to observe the traffic. We were very surprised how fast some of the cars were going past school. We gave lots of cars a thumbs up because they were doing the right thing and driving slowly. The highlight of the survey was that we got to see lots of Army trucks that all gave us a wave. We have discussed what we can do to help and we thought we could tell everyone how to cross the road safely, tell them to slow down near schools and even recommend that the speed camera comes to Belsay more.



In Maths we have thought about the numbers 4 and 5. The children have loved using the counters to make 4 and 5 using the part part whole method. We have been working hard to recall how to make 4 and 5 using two numbers.

On Tuesday we took part in bike ability. The children loved using the balance bikes and their own bikes to work on their bike skills. I was really proud of all of the children for showing great resilience and not giving up even when it was hard or they were feeling a bit tired. It was also a great opportunity for the children to see their friends from preschool as they took part with us. We are looking forward to more transition activities.



Next week we will begin the countdown to Christmas and this will start on Friday with us working together to put up the Christmas tree. Miss Houghton and Mrs Moffat are very excited to share this special time with the children.

Tapestry now seems to be working again and I have managed to upload the posts from last week that didn't upload. Hopefully now it will work for everyone else as well, but if anyone is still having issues please let me know. The children really enjoy sharing their photos with their friends so any uploads over the weekend would be appreciated, and we will make sure we share them together in class.

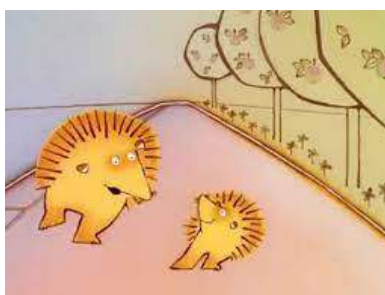
Have a lovely weekend. Lots of the children have said they are looking forward to putting their Christmas tree up this weekend.

**Miss Houghton**



## This week in Maple Class

Maple Class have had another busy but brilliant week! To develop our knowledge of Road Safety, we discussed roads away from home and how to recognise the safest places to cross the road in busy areas. We helped each other to remember the important rules when crossing- stop, look, listen and think.



Year 1 enjoyed their Bikeability session, they learnt how to control their bikes to be able to avoid obstacles. They practised riding up and over ramps and had a team race. It was lots of fun!



Miss Dixon



## The week in Alder Class

What a brilliant week in Alder Class! We have created some gorgeous work and had lovely, detailed discussion in all lessons.

We started off the week by writing a narrative about Sojourner Truth. We were challenged with only writing a short section of her story and ensuring it was in third person and applying all the skills we have learnt so far. We included similes, fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases, inverted commas and lots more. We were all so proud of our work that we have been asking to continue our writing all week!

In History we continued our work around slavery and developed our understanding of the slave trade before exploring what it is like in Africa. We started off by illustrating what we knew or imagined Africa to be like and then had some super discussion around what it is actually like and why. We then worked with partners to use the atlas to identify different places in Africa.

In Science we were looking at how we can compare animals and we all had so many facts about different animals and creatures that we couldn't wait to share. We then organised animals on a table so that we could compare different animals and why they might need to be different or the same.

For Road Safety Week we completed some challenges to test our prior knowledge before going outside and watching our local traffic. We observed how many cars drive past, what different vehicles we may see and estimated what speed we think they were going. We all made some brilliant observations and this sparked our discussion around road safety and how we can keep ourselves and others safe.



Well done on an amazing week Alder Class and I can't wait to hear all about your weekend.

**Miss Cruse**





## This week in Oak Class

A highlight of this week was that we visited Newcastle University and studied social science with Professor Sue, Professor Ulrike and Professor Liz. We studied the different types of social media apps that children from Australia use. The professors are starting their own project in the UK and Belsay was one of the first schools to be invited.



In Australia, Youtube was the number 1 app and we are excited to find out if the U.K has the same or if it's different. Afterwards they gave us a lovely lunch.

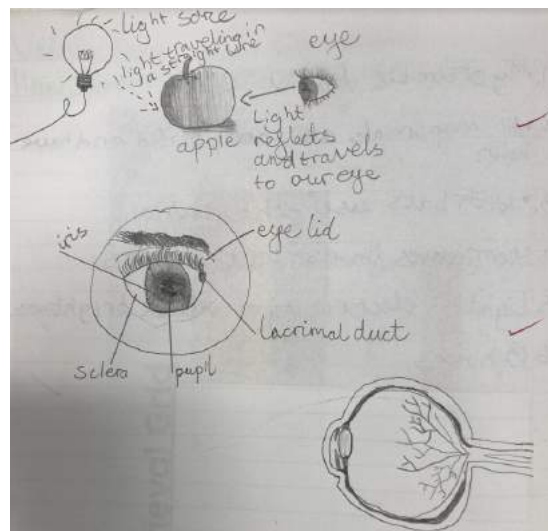
In maths this week Year 5 have begun learning cube numbers and Year 6 have been working hard on their new Fraction topics which includes Mixed Numbers, Improper Fractions, Equivalent and Simplifying fractions.

During our English we have been researching facts about the country Afghanistan and the Afghan people because we have started a new reading book in class called 'The Breadwinner' which is set in Afghanistan. We then used this research to create factfiles.

Did you know... it's 3,550 miles from Belsay to Kabul (capital of Afghanistan).

In Science we have continued our topic of light and how we use that to allow us to see.

Finally in PSHE this week we have focused on Road Safety and completed an activity based around this topic. We have deciphered key words such as speed, brakes and bikes all of which travel and can cause problems on our roads.



By Charlie and Ralph



Mr Smith, who is our Primary PE Lead, has been working hard behind the scenes to bring an exciting opportunity our way...



We are excited to share that Pele Trust have teamed up with Junior Park Run to organise a Festive Fun Run.

All Pele Trust Schools are welcome (age 4-14) along with family and friends to the Christmas themed event.

It is super inclusive as you can walk, run or go for a personal best time over the 2K route.

The event is free, and is a great opportunity for our community to come together and get into festive spirit while promoting healthy active lifestyles.

The location is the Town Moor which provides a beautiful and spacious setting for everyone to enjoy.

**To register and to get more information:**

[www.parkrun.org.uk/townmoor-juniors](https://www.parkrun.org.uk/townmoor-juniors)

Belsay School



Join us for a

# Christingle Service



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December

| 3 |

At 4 pm

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St. Andrew's Church, Bolam  
Family service, all welcome

Christingles will be  
provided



## 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