



Friday Flyer

8 December 2023

Headteacher Update

I can not believe how quiet it has been at Belsay this week... Only kidding, I can't imagine any week is quiet at this marvellous school!

Well I am sure you are aware that this week has been that little bit busier than usual, due to our special guests. The staff and I are so grateful to all our amazing parents and carers who took the time to complete the questionnaires and help showcase our fabulous school. Our children were impeccable and as always made me so proud, I am very lucky to have them in our school.

The final findings will be reported next term so please be patient and once we have more information we will notify you as soon as possible.

Thursday was our annual Christmas Jumper Day to support Save the Children UK. Thank you for the donations, we are proud to report that we have raised £65. Also on Thursday some of our children, who take part in the choir and band, joined other children from Pele Trust schools to perform the annual Pele Trust Christmas Concert at St. Mary's Church in Ponteland. Wow, the children were unbelievable and so confident in their roles. It was also wonderful to see so many Belsay children in the band, a great way to start the festivities.





Friday was a non-uniform day in order to gather items for our Christmas Jingle Tombola on Wednesday 20 December. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this, we have so many brilliant prizes on offer!

I would like to thank everyone for getting behind the Action for Children appeal that we are supporting this Christmas. We have received so many boxed items, I am overwhelmed and I know for certain that we will play a big part in making some children very happy on Christmas morning as they are now able to open a present.



As always, the week ended with our Celebration Assembly and our infamous Hot Chocolate with the Head. Well done to all our winners, you fully deserve it for being awesome!

I hope you have a wonderful weekend and the children find time to rest up this weekend before we go again for another busy Belsay week at school!

Only 17 days until Christmas Day...

Craig Shaw

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.

Important Update...

We are having our playground resurfaced next week so there will be changes to the school drop off and pick up. The playground is out of bounds ALL week so please carefully walk down the drive and behind the cars parked along the fence lining.

Willow Class & Maple Class will enter/be collected from school round the rear of the Hall, next to pre-school.

Alder & Oak will enter/be collected via the middle door, usual Alder entrance.

Please ensure your child has full waterproofs and wellies next week as playtime may need to be on the field, if it is not waterlogged.



Class	Attendance
Willow	96.92
Maple	93.48
Alder	95.63
Oak	94.84

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 (below national)
90- 91.9%	Cause for concern
89.9 or below	Persistent Absence Serious Concern

Did you know?

A child who misses school just twice per month will lose out on 18 days' education across the school year – that's nearly four weeks.

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](#).



Thank you...

We have the most amazing community spirit at Belsay and the PTA are at the heart of many fun things that happen in school. On behalf of the school I would like to thank the PTA for purchasing our truly remarkable History Timeline that now holds pride of place on the playground walk. This is a substantial investment of approximately £1,000. Already this week I have some wonderful feedback from parents and the children as their genuine interest and curiosity ask questions around History. We love the fact that our local history is featured on the timeline - see if you can find it all.



The PTA have also kindly funded the £250 for the Christmas Crafts that the children took part in on Monday. Each child has created their own wooden decoration that is hanging on our tree, this will be returned to them in the final few days of term to then add to the family tree.

Finally, the PTA have agreed to a very kind donation of £850 towards the whole school pantomime trip. This has covered half the costs which is therefore a huge benefit to the school and also means that when asking for donations this is now considerably less for everyone.

Thank you on behalf of the school, it really does prove to be an invaluable source of support throughout the years.


Dates for the diary...

Autumn Term 2023		
Thursday 7th December		Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 7th December	1.45pm	Joint Choir Concert Performance @ St Mary's Church, Ponteland (Parents/Carers Welcome)
Friday 8th December		Non-Uniform (Donate a prize for the PTA Christmas Jingle)
Wednesday 13th December	AM	Y6 @ Ponteland High School for Footloose Production and Lunch
Thursday 14th December		Christmas Lunch
Friday 15th December	AM	Whole School Christmas Nativity Performance (Parents/Carers Welcome)
Tuesday 19th December	10.00am	Christmas Pantomime at Tyne Theatre
Wednesday 20th December	Afternoon	KS2/UKS2 Joint Christmas Party
Thursday 21st December	Afternoon	Reception/KS1 Christmas Party
Friday 22nd December		School Closes for Christmas at 1.15pm
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.



The week in Willow Class

What a fantastic week we have had! We have loved reading different Christmas stories together and it has been lovely to start to hear some of the wonderful things the children have been doing at home to prepare for Christmas.

We have been very busy this week and the children have made me feel very proud of them. We have had lots of people in school and the children have worked so hard. Our new school value this month is 'collaboration' and it is great to hear the children remembering this word and what it means. A big well done to Laurie who was able to tell our visitors all about this.

The children loved writing their letter or list to Santa and then walking to Belsay shop to post it. We worked very hard with this activity and the children were amazing at walking to the shop and remembering our road safety rules we talked about a few weeks ago. Thankfully we all managed to post our letter and we are excited to hear from Santa or the elves very soon.



We have worked closely with pre-school again this week and it was wonderful to have them in Willow class to make a decoration. It was great for the children to be able to see their friends and it was lovely to have preschool in our class. We have made plans to go to preschool in a few weeks as well which we are very excited about. We loved making our Christmas decorations and then hanging them on our tree in the hall.

On Tuesday afternoon a rainbow appeared when we were outside and the children were amazed by it. I think that was a sign that we were going to have a great few weeks as we enjoy the build up to Christmas!



In Willow class we are out in all weathers (that are safe) so please remember to bring in hats, gloves, scarfs and big winter coats. It really is important that we wrap up warm when we are outside.

Have a lovely weekend everyone! There are more photos on Tapestry for you to see Christmas jumper day, letter and list writing and our visit to Belsay shop.

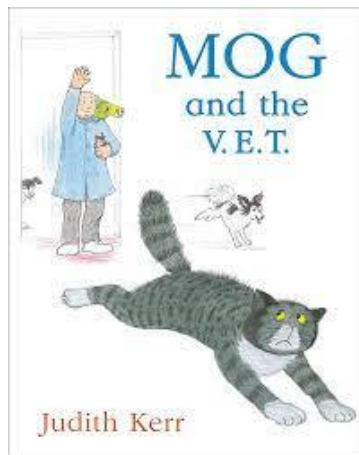
A big thank you to everyone for your support this week! It really does make a difference and I feel very lucky to be part of the best class in the school!

Miss Houghton

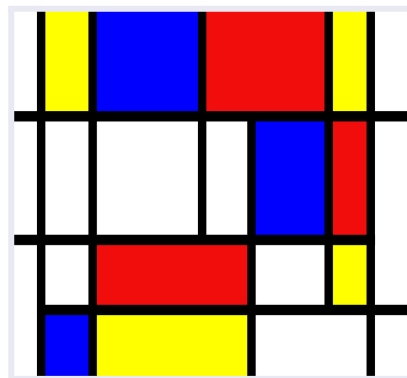


This week in Maple Class

As part of our PSHE study of jobs, Maple Class had a wonderful visit from Mrs Foxton this week who came into class to discuss her career as a vet. We learnt a lot about the role of a vet and discussed what skills are required for the job. We looked closely at x-rays and guessed what animals the x-rays had been taken from before identifying the problems. We learned about veterinary procedures and the importance of hygiene when operating. We now have some aspiring future vets in class!



In computing, we looked at artwork by Piet Mondrian and used shape and line tools on the chromebooks to recreate one of his abstract pieces.



Miss Dixon



The week in Alder Class

I am so so proud of Alder Class this week! The resilience, effort and determination they have shown has been incredible and they have also supported each other through showing kindness and respect. We have had a very busy week and produced lots of beautiful work and had lots of interesting discussions during lessons.

We were so excited to see our classroom decorated for Christmas and to find out who will get our advent calendar each day (a chocolate and a mini Tom Gates story). We had fun creating our own baubles to put on the whole school Christmas tree.

In English we have been planning and writing narratives about Ruby Bridges and I am so impressed with the children's ability to retain information and key dates. We challenged ourselves to include speech and ensure we were punctuating it correctly.

We have continued learning about Abraham Lincoln and were able to record key facts about his life and the impact he had on slavery. The children are engrossed in our current topic and are excited and eager to find out more.

On Thursday, while some of the class were performing as part of choir, the rest of us joined with Willow Class to read them their favourite story. Alder class were amazing role models for the younger students and Willow Class loved hearing their favourite stories. We enjoyed reading to them and using our expressions to bring the story to life.



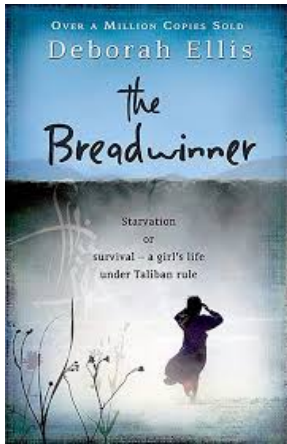
Well done on a brilliant week Alder Class. I am excited for DT week next week and to see how creative you all are. If you would like to bring in cardboard for your Viking longship that would be amazing and you can give it to me on Monday. Have a relaxing but festive weekend and I can't wait for another week with you all!

Miss Cruse



This week in Oak Class

This week has been a very busy time for everyone and the children in Oak Class have really impressed all adults who have been in school, with their maturity and friendly manner - well done to each and every one of you.



English

We have continued to follow the journey of Parvana and her family through our studies in English, reading more from our book, *The Breadwinner*. Life under Taliban rule has been a difficult and emotional time - father has been jailed and Parvana is trying to help her family survive. We have written some amazing diary entries, imagining that we are Parvana's father in his jail cell and we've discussed the awful conditions that he is living in. As we continue to read, we hope that the future for him and his family improves. We have had some thought-provoking discussions around war, conflict and peace and how we can empathise with those people across the world who are facing persecution.

Art

Linked to our story in English, we have been producing some wonderful war-torn sketches in Art and focussed on the images available to us as inspiration for our own designs. Over the next few weeks we will continue to edit and improve our work and begin using monotyping to enhance our masterpieces.



Parents' evenings

Due to my recent illness, my parents' evenings have been rearranged for next week (Tuesday and Wednesday) and can be booked using the link to SchoolComms that has been sent out from the school office.

Mr Harvey

Belsay School



Belsay School



Christmas Jingle



WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER

3.15PM



Cake stall, Tombola, Sweets,
Craft Decorations, Glitter Tattoos,
Coronation Tea Towels,
and more...





Belsay School Christmas Raffle 2023

1. A Google Chromebook laptop donated by the Gent family
2. £25 voucher for 'Frosty's' Mobile Fish and Chip Van
3. Voucher for 'Robson and Cowan' with a mug
4. Voucher for 'Jenny Fozard Photography'
5. A pair of Single vision glasses from 'Specsavers Hexham' worth £99
6. A beautiful door wreath, made and donated by 'Northumbrian Flowers'
7. A voucher for Afternoon Tea for 2 at 'Kirkharle Courtyard'
8. A bottle of Champagne donated by 'Ryder Geotechnical'
9. Lego Tractor and John Deere cap
10. A beautiful bouquet of flowers from 'Bou-Kays' in Ponteland
11. 2 adult tickets for Northumberland County Show donated by 'Tynedale Agricultural Society'
12. A festive bouquet donated by Diane from 'Purple Haze Flowers'
13. 1 family ticket to Northumberland Zoo
14. A voucher from 'Tropic' for a facial
15. Dog photography voucher donated by 'The Dog Log' worth £50
16. A hamper from 'Belsay Shop'
17. £20 taxi voucher from 'Broadway cabs'
18. A valet for a car or van from 'We Buy Cars For More'
19. A dog bath and blow dry from 'The Dog House' at Dobbies
20. Outside tap fitting donated by 'Sam Lennox Plumbing'
21. A visioning and goal setting session for a great 2024, donated by Julie-Ann Scott, R.A.W Coaching and Wellbeing
22. 3 nets of kindling donated by Will Coates
23. Alnwick Castle or Garden voucher



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