

Friday Flyer

12 January 2024

Headteacher Update

First of all I would like to start by wishing you all a Happy New Year. I trust that you all had a wonderful few weeks and it has been lovely coming back into school this week and speaking to the children about their holidays.

This week has been relatively calm and relaxed as the children have returned in impeccable fashion ready to learn. The start of term is always an exciting time for me. As I walk around the school there is a special wave of excitement as the children find out what their new topics are and areas of learning. Please make sure you take the time to ask your child about what their new topics are as I am sure they will be excited to share this information.

We have also seen our new teacher Mr McLeod start teaching in Oak Class this week and in the office we welcome Miss Whitehouse as our new Office Manager. Please do introduce yourself to them as I always refer to the fact that Belsay is like a big family so it is important we know each other.

On Wednesday this week, I was out of school meeting the various Headteachers from Pele Trust Schools. The exciting news is that we continue to grow as a Trust as we have been joined by John Spence Community High School, North Tyneside and The Duchess's High School, Alnwick. This shows we are part of a fantastic Trust as schools from outside our immediate vicinity are wanting to join and hopefully we can see more Primary Schools in the next year or two. Coming together to share knowledge and resources is an invaluable benefit of being part of a Trust so we have exciting times ahead!

Our value for this month is Positivity, we have talked about setting New Year Resolutions so maybe this could be a good starting point for a family discussion over dinner this weekend. Continuing with our cultural focus our language of the month is German. Can you help your child to say Hello, Please and Thank you - what other words could they learn?

Finally, the week ended with our usual celebrations of Outstanding Achievement Awards and Hot Chocolates. Well done to all of our children for a truly brilliant first week back in school and to all our nominated winners this week.

Craig Shaw

Value of the Month - Positivity

Language of the Month - German



| Class | Attendance |
|--------|------------|
| Willow | 100 |
| Maple | 94.69 |
| Alder | 99.31 |
| Oak | 98.57 |

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?

In the UK 7.5 million school days are missed each year through unauthorised absence.

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...

Dates will be added to this document as the term progresses.

| Spring Term 2024 | | |
|---|---------|--|
| Monday 8th January | 8.45am | School Reopens for Spring Term |
| Thursday 18th January | PM | British Sign Language Workshop KS1 & KS2 |
| Friday 3rd February | All Day | NSPCC Number Day |
| Tuesday 6th February | | Safer Internet Day |
| Friday 16th February | | School Closes for Half Term |
| Monday 26th February | All Day | Teacher Training Day |
| Tuesday 27th February | 8.45am | School Reopens after Half Term |
| Tuesday 5th March | All Day | World Book Day |
| Wednesday 6th March - Friday 8th March | | Year 3 - Year 5 Residential to Ford Castle |
| Monday 11th March - Tuesday 12th March | PM | Parent Evenings |
| Wednesday 27th March | PM | Oak Class Shakespeare Production |
| Thursday 28th March | | School Closes for Easter Holidays |
| Monday 15th April | 8.45am | School Reopens after the Easter Holidays |
| 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:

Please note that the new club list is below for Spring 1 - more clubs may be added once the term starts.

There have been some year group changes for some of the clubs and this is to allow the coaches to work with various age groups.

Click [here](#) to select your preference

| Day | Activity | Time | Age |
|-----------|------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Monday | Football | 3.20 - 4.00pm | Years 1 - 2 |
| Tuesday | NUF Multi-Sport | 3.20 - 4.20pm | Years 4 - 6 |
| Wednesday | Pele Trust Multi-Sport | 3.20 - 4.20pm | Years 1 - 3 |
| Thursday | Badminton | 3.15 - 4.00pm | Years 5 - 6 (cost) |
| Thursday | Art | 3.20 - 4.00pm | Years 3 - 4 |
| 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 |



Keeping children safe online...

This document, this guide focuses on one of today's issues which are better known issues should be addressed. Please visit www.nationalonline-safety.org for further guidance, facts and tips for schools.

Top Tips for... MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do! The main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Many of us are aware of how long you've been on your device for. Can drilling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – the social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break, do it as a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the timer goes off?

'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Get up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens. Finding other things to do, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that 'do not disturb' (DND) settings can help reduce distractions from work and home. Turn it on for your phone and laptop to help you stay focused.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those promises when you're about to go online.

TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Get aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Designate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anytime your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'phone-free' zone.

SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones. This on-screen tech, leaving company can be a little more fun if your attention isn't being split.

HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific moments when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to distance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, tablets, and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

Meet Our Expert

With knowledge and advice from only the best experts, we provide you with the best advice. We have a team of experts who are experts in their field. We have a team of experts who are experts in their field. We have a team of experts who are experts in their field.

DEVICE BOX

The National College

NOS

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Twitter: @nationalonline-safety
Facebook: /NationalOnlineSafety
Instagram: @nationalonline-safety
TikTok: @national_online_safety

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The week in Willow Class

Willow class has had a very positive start back after the Christmas break. It has been lovely to hear all about the wonderful family events that have taken place. The children were very excited to see each other on Monday when they returned to school and it has been lovely to hear them talking to each other and discussing how busy they have been.

This week the children have enjoyed putting their Design Technology skills to good use when we went on the yard. The children had a great time drawing their own hopscotch, designing a football pitch, creating a treasure hunt and even creating their own exercise course. It was brilliant to see so many ideas in one space. We loved it when Maple class came to join us and we could show them all of the different areas of the playground that we had created.



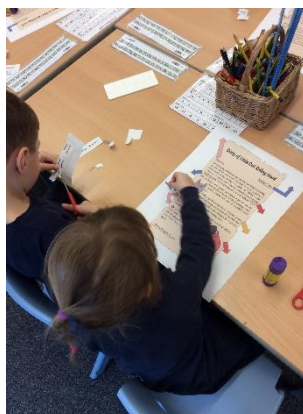
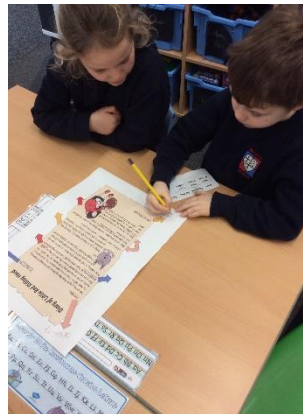
We have thought about the year ahead and discussed different hopes and wishes that we have for the year. Some of us want to learn to ride our bike without stabilisers, become better at trampolining, draw more pictures, help others, visit different places, attend school trips, but my favourite one of all was from Magnus who said he was going to keep trying even when things are hard. I think this is something we could all aim to do and it is certainly something I will remember this year. For this comment to come from one of the youngest children in school is wonderful and really shows the children we are raising. Well done Magnus!

Miss Houghton



This week in Maple Class

Maple class had a brilliant first week back at school to start the new year! We were all very excited to share all of the wonderful things we did over the holidays and our new year's resolutions. We have thought a lot about our new school value of positivity and are looking forward to all of the exciting experiences the new term will bring. This term, our class Global Theme is Social Justice and we will be considering care in the community and what we can do to help others. Our core text of study this term is the story adaptation of Disney's Up. In English, we made predictions about the text and clarified lots of interesting new vocabulary. We discussed and identified the features of a diary entry and wrote our own entries from the perspective of Russel, one of the main characters from the story.





The week in Alder Class

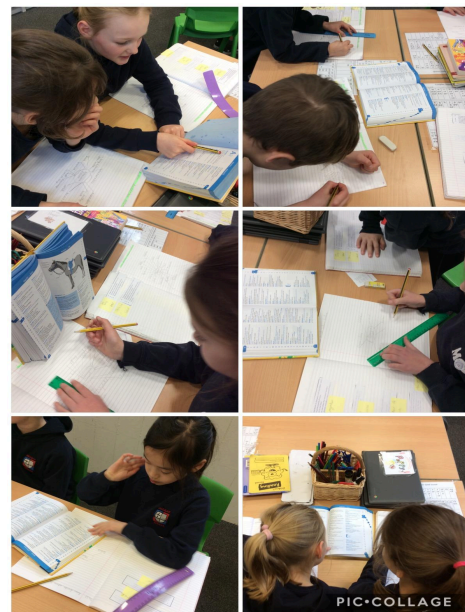
What a brilliant first week back and it has been so lovely to see the children again as well as hear all about their amazing time off. We jumped straight into our new topics and have produced some beautiful and creative work this week.

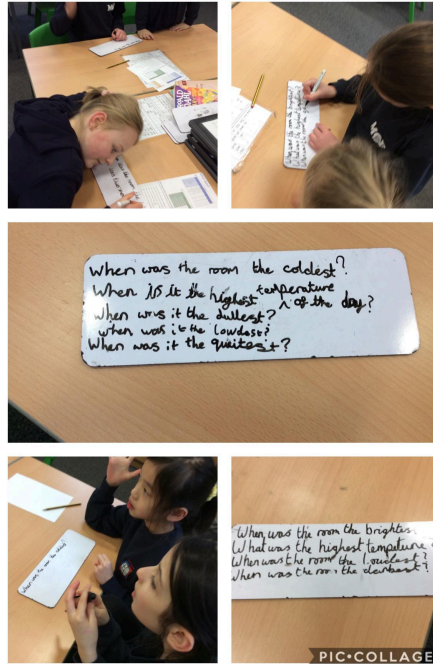
In English we have started to look at some extreme locations on Earth and what we mean by the word 'extreme'. We used fact sheets to match the locations to the descriptions before using the thesaurus to find synonyms for our amazing adjectives we created around these locations. This supported us to write a descriptive piece of writing about the Atacama Desert and I was blown away by some of the writing we created! We then started to look at the key features of a non-chronological report ahead of our writing for next week.

In Maths we have continued our work on multiplication and division and I have been so impressed with how well we have remembered our golden rules in Maths. We have used lots of manipulatives to help us solve calculations and reasoning questions. We have also started our big push on times tables this week, aiming to get a new high score every day on TTRS (thank you as well for all your work at home around this, it is really having an impact).

In Computing we began looking at collecting data and why we may need to do this. We had fun looking at different ways to collect data and even used tally charts to collect our own. We analysed different data to help us produce questions that we could answer using different graphs and tables.

We are loving our new Geography topic of 'How extreme events impact the environment' and loved learning all about tectonic plates. Mr Mcleod was blown away by our prior Geography knowledge and ability to retain key vocabulary.





Well done on an amazing first week back and I am really looking forward to this half term with you all!

Miss Cruse



This week in Oak Class

A tremendous start to our Spring term in Oak Class. It has been amazing to be welcomed by all of our wonderful young learners and see what a fantastic attitude they all have to their learning.

In English, we have begun to focus on our performance of William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, which will go live at the Northern Stage Theatre in March. Taking influence from modern adaptations of this classic tragedy, we have focussed our efforts in using our voices effectively to indicate our characters' emotive states as well as considering which other devices can be used to create drama (such as body language and gesture). From the outset, it is clear that this is going to be a truly memorable performance.

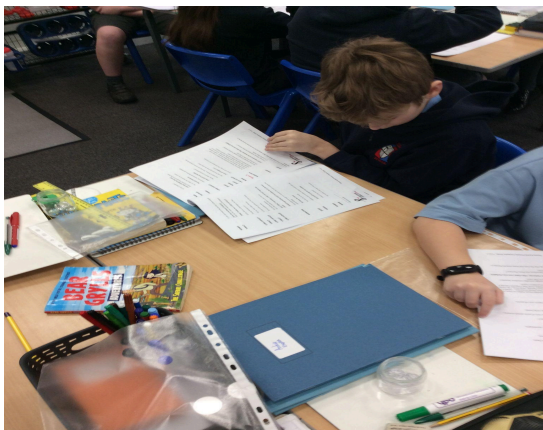
In Maths, our Year 6 pupils have worked with Mr. Shaw to multiply and divide decimals using formal written methods and have demonstrated knowledge of using inverse operations to check their answers.

Year 5 Maths with Mr. McLeod has been focussed on formal written methods of multiplication also and has moved from multiplying a four digit number by a one digit number, to the slightly more challenging concept of multiplying a two digit number by another two digit number. We have used the "box method" of multiplication this week with a view to move on more traditional methods next week.

We have been able to get to know each other a little bit better with some nice PSHE based sessions and have also got stuck into our new Science unit focussed around the study of genetics. What a week!

Finally, thank you all so much for making me feel so welcome at this wonderful school. I look forward to meeting and getting to know you all as the weeks go on.

Have a great weekend all!



Mr McLeod

Belsay School



JUNIOR TRIATHLON OPEN DAY

**14TH JANUARY 2024
15:30-17:00
PONTELAND LEISURE CENTRE**

Join us for a run, bike, or tri swim session – choose one, a combination of two, or go for all three! The sessions are free, but please bring your own equipment, including a bike, suitable running shoes, and swimming clothes.
Open for ages 8-14

REGISTER HERE:

🌐 Triathlon@pontelandrunners.org.uk

