



Friday Flyer

9 February 2024

Headteacher Update

Nei Hou and welcome to the end of week 5. This week has been brilliant because there is so much going on in school and there is nothing better than walking around the classrooms and having a sense of excitement.

This week is Children's Mental Health week and in order to raise awareness Miss Cruse very kindly held an assembly on Monday to explain the benefits of remaining healthy and what it actually means to be healthy. Each class has also been learning more about this and reading a book together linked to Mindfulness. In school we already support the children in so many ways such as our zones of regulations and worry boxes but the most invaluable tool is that our staff know the children so well and the children are happy to approach staff at any time. The children have also been challenged around performing Random Acts of Kindness - have you noticed any at home?

On Tuesday, it was Safer Internet Day, which always brings with it some interesting conversations. Every week we have information about keeping safe online so please do take the time to read it. Can I please ask that you check the apps and websites your children go on regularly because many of them do have age restrictions or filters to protect them against inappropriate content. We recommend you check the content of the device regularly to ensure they are compliant and you are not putting your child at risk. Would you allow your child to go meet a stranger at the coffee shop? If you answer no, yet you are not checking the device, can you be sure they are not talking to strangers online?



Wednesday was a chance for our Year 5 footballers to shine in what can only be described as near zero temperatures!

Despite the cold, the teamwork and determination came out on top and they gave 100% in every game. Well done to everyone who took part, Mr Atkinson said he was super proud of you all.

On Thursday, we celebrated Chinese New Year, the year of the Dragon. At lunchtime we were served up a host of treats, courtesy of our fabulous kitchen and to acknowledge this festival we have also made Cantonese our language of

the month. A special thank you to Emily and Grace who taught the whole school how to say Hello, Please and Thank you.

Finally, on Friday afternoon, Maple Class are inviting their Grandparents into school for a tea party that includes fun games and food. At the time of writing this there is much excitement in Maple Class as they prepare for the feast!

As always, well done to all our hot chocolate winners this week, you have all worked incredibly hard and fully deserved it! This will be our last hot chocolate of the half term as next week I have a little treat lined up for the whole school... shhhhh don't tell them.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Craig Shaw

Value of the Month - Responsibility

Language of the Month - Cantonese

PTA Update...

As mentioned last week, the PTA have very kindly gifted over £1200 for us to purchase new sports equipment. This has now started to arrive so will be added into circulation over the coming weeks.

Following our Number Day last Friday I am pleased to say that we raised £83.05 and this has now been donated to the NSPCC charity that supports the day. Thank you as always for your support.

School Uniform...

Further to my comment last week about school uniforms I feel I should clarify a few questions. Moving forward, and more so with a focus on September, if not sooner, I would like the school uniform to be that of a pale blue polo shirt and a round neck school jumper.



Whilst I appreciate some people have school branded navy hoodies, these are suitable for now but I would prefer these to be worn on PE days only if possible.

I am just wishing to tell you as much information as possible before September so should you wish to speak to me further around this then please do not hesitate to get in contact.



Class	Attendance
Willow	90.77
Maple	96.09
Alder	96.84
Oak	92.86

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?

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](#).

Nut Allergies in School...

Please can I remind all parents and carers that we are aiming to try and be an allergy friendly school here at Belsay as we do have children with varied allergies.

To support school, if you send your child to school with a snack or pack lunch please ensure that the products do not contain nuts.

Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Dates for the diary...

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

Spring Term 2024		
Monday 12th February	3.30pm	Ford Castle meeting
Thursday 15th February	9.00-9.45am	Oak Class Reading Cafe (Parents/Carers welcome)
Thursday 15th February	12.45 - 4.30pm	Oak Class Shakespeare Workshop in School
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
Friday 15th March	All Day	Red Nose Day
Monday 19th March	All week	Scholastic book fair in the school hall
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.



Keeping children safe online...

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

"Inappropriate" means different things to different people. What's acceptable for one age group, for example, may be unsuitable for a slightly younger audience. Online, young people can chance upon inappropriate content in various ways – from pop-up ads to TikTok videos. The increasingly young age at which children become active in the digital world heightens the risk of them innocently running into something that they find upsetting or frightening. Trusted adults need to be able to help children be aware of what to do if they're exposed to age-inappropriate content.

WHERE IS IT FOUND?

SOCIAL MEDIA

Age-inappropriate content is easily accessible through many social media platforms. TikTok, for instance, is hugely popular with young people but is arguably best known for clips featuring sexualised dancing or profanity. Some social media users also express hate speech or promote eating disorders and self-harm, which could cause lasting damage to a child's emotional and mental health.

GAMING

Gaming is an enjoyable source of entertainment, but many popular titles can expose children to inappropriate material such as violence, horror, gambling or sexually explicit content. Playing games unsuitable for their age risks normalising to children what they are seeing. Some games also include in-game chat, where other (usually older) online players often use language that you probably wouldn't want your child to hear or repeat.

STREAMING

The range of video streaming services available online means that users can find almost anything they want to watch on demand. Children are therefore at risk of viewing TV shows and movies which contain nudity, drug and alcohol abuse, explicit language and extreme violence. Unfortunately, these streaming platforms can't always determine that it's not an adult who's watching.

ADVERTS

Online adverts frequently include age-inappropriate content; usually gambling and nudity or partial nudity, although adverts for alcohol or e-cigarettes are also common. Some search engines also feature adverts that are responsive to your search history: so if you've recently looked up a new horror movie, shopped for lingerie or ordered alcohol online, then the ads appearing on screen could reflect this the next time your child borrows your device.

18

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK IT THROUGH

Embarrassment or fear of getting into trouble can make it difficult for children to talk openly about age-inappropriate content they've watched. Remind your child they can always come to you if they're troubled by something they've seen online, without worrying about consequences. Before offering advice, discuss what they saw, how they felt and how they came to find the content in question.

CAN WE HAVE A CHAT?

CONNECT, DON'T CORRECT

If your child's been particularly distressed by exposure to content that wasn't suitable for their age, it's important to offer guidance to prevent them from repeating the same mistake – but it's equally vital to help them deal with the emotions that the situation has raised. You could tell them about any similar experiences you might have had at their age, and how you dealt with it.

BLOCK, REPORT, CONTROL

After discussing the problem, you and your child can take action together. This could include blocking any inappropriate sites and reporting any content which violates a platform's rules. To further safeguard your child online, set up parental controls on internet-enabled devices that they use. This will significantly reduce the chances of your child being exposed to age-inappropriate content in future.

GET SPECIALIST HELP

Age-inappropriate content can potentially have a negative impact on a child's mental health, which is sometimes displayed through changes in their behaviour. If the problem becomes more severe, you might consider reaching out to a mental health professional or an expert in this field who can provide you and your child with the proper support.

STAY CALM

Even though it is obviously difficult to stay rational in a situation where your child has been put at risk, it's essential to think before you react. Your child may well have hesitated to open up to you about watching inappropriate content for fear of the consequences, so being calm and supportive will reinforce the notion that it would be easy to talk to you about similar issues in the future.



The week in Willow Class

What a healthier week we have had! It has been great to have everyone feeling well again, even if the germs have now transferred to the grown ups!

We have had a very busy week in Willow class. We really enjoyed visiting our friends in Preschool to discuss Chinese New Year. We enjoyed listening to the story and then having the opportunity to make some Chinese New Year crafts. It was great to see the children working together with pre-school. We then completed a dragon dance, led by Ella (a video is on Tapestry). After all of this we even had time to try some chinese food, some of us tried a vegetable spring roll and all of us tried the prawn crackers. It was lovely to see the children who were initially unsure about trying the food, challenging themselves to try something new. Well done Team Willow! A big thank you to Lisa, Lesley and Jilly who made us feel so welcome, we are very lucky to have such a strong Early Years team to work with.



This week's story focus has been on The Gruffalo. This is one of our favourite stories to read and we can tell the story without needing to read the words in the book. We used this knowledge to make our own WANTED posters. We had to describe the Gruffalo so that other people would be able to recognise him. Please see Tapestry for your child's work.

As part of Mental Health week we have focused on different feelings. We have looked at things that make us feel a certain way and then thought about what we could do if we didn't like how it made us feel. It was lovely to hear the children being so considerate of each other and themselves. Within our classroom we have our calm area which allows the children to take a moment for themselves if they need it.

Next week we are lucky enough to be able to work with Mr Bell. We are very excited to be able to make, decorate and eat a pancake. Please ensure you have completed the Google form that has been shared on Class Dojo. Thank you!

Class Dojo has been a real success over the last few weeks and I have found it a much quicker way of communicating together. Thank you to everyone for continuing to use this platform to pass on messages and interact with what is happening in school.

Miss Houghton



This week in Maple Class

Maple Class had another busy but brilliant week preparing for the Grandparents Tea Party! We had lots of fun baking delicious cakes, learning how to combine and mix ingredients together and how the mixture turns from liquid to solid when heated in the oven. We also discussed the importance of hygiene when cooking, ensuring hands and surfaces were clean before baking to prevent germs.

We celebrated Safer Internet Day with Miss McNickle and developed our understanding of using the internet mindfully and respectfully. We made eye-catching posters containing top tips for staying safe online.

As part of Children's Mental Health week, we enjoyed reading Rob Holmes' *Master Owl Meets Miss Bunny* and discussed mindful exercises we can practise at home. If we need a reminder to reflect or take the time to see things a different way, we each have a helpful bookmark gift with steps to a mindful moment to enjoy when we read at home.





Miss Dixon



The week in Alder Class

Wow! What a busy week in Alder Class. We have had lots going on in school this week but we have been so amazing at absorbing all this information and learning about lots of different things that help make our world so special.

At the start of the week, we began by looking at kindness and mindfulness due to it being Children's Mental Health week. We have started to read the story 'The mindful adventures of Master Owl' and then looked at different mindfulness techniques. We have also been challenged with showing random acts of kindness and I have been so impressed with the teamwork and encouragement towards each other.

We also had Safer Internet day on Tuesday and we looked at why it is important to keep safe and how we could do this. We discussed a lot around who we talk to and who else has access to our information when online or playing games and it was amazing to hear how everyone is already taking these steps to keep themselves and others safe online. The main point we took from this day is being able to understand how it is just as important to be kind online as it is offline as it can still have the same impact on people.

Later on in the week we explored Lunar New Year and how this was celebrated around the world and in different cultures. We took part in a number of activities such as creating fact files about Lunar New Year using our own research, trying to write our birthdays using the correct symbols and lots of other creative tasks around the year of the dragon. We are also very lucky to have Grace in our class who could teach us how to talk in Cantonese as well as explain how her family celebrates Lunar New Year. It would be great to see how you all celebrate Lunar New Year in your family

In Math's we continued our work on Length and Perimeter and we have been focusing on equivalent lengths and converting between mm, cm and m. We have also made sure that we have been measuring ourselves, others and objects around school to ensure we have our measuring skills solid before converting.

I have been so impressed with our Art work this half term. We worked really hard to produce some gorgeous marbling work and next week we will combine our marbling work with our pallet knife work to produce a finished product around natural disasters.





Well done on a brilliant week Alder Class. As always I am amazed by your resilience, positivity and hard work and you can all see the amazing impact it is having as you are producing some beautiful work and are having very mature discussions.

Have an amazing weekend and I can't wait to see you all again next week before half term!

Miss Cruse



This week in Oak Class

First of all, a huge thanks to the 10 footballers in our class who represented our school so brilliantly at Ponteland High the other day. We are so proud of your attitude, resilience and performance. Mr. A, you didn't do too bad either!

Our class of budding journalists have been expertly working their way through the features of a newspaper this week. We have focussed on how to include different facts and opinions and how these two features play a different role throughout the journey of the article. We have done a great job of relating this back to our SPaG work, by including quotes from witnesses as direct speech and have written some great reporting clauses to support them.

Year 6 have been applying their knowledge of ratio to a range of problem solving tasks and, once again, it has been great to have the Year 5s and Year 6s together for a couple of our Maths sessions this week and observe some of the fantastic peer mentoring that goes on every day! Year 5 have built on their previous fraction knowledge to work between improper fractions and mixed numbers, which has allowed them to show off their amazing fluency in their times tables.

Mary Anning was our focus in Science this week and it was great to get an insight on our view regarding equality. We really are so lucky to have children who are able to talk about such an important topic so maturely and empathetically.

Without giving too much away, it must be said that Romeo and Juliet rehearsals have gone exceptionally well this week. Be sure to get your tickets because you are in for an absolute treat.

As Mental Health Week is upon us, we have discussed Online Safety in Computing, producing some great posters and will finish with a reflective Friday afternoon PSHE session before we leave today.

Finally, 新年快乐 to you all and have a great weekend!



Mr. McLeod

Belsay School



**Ponteland United Football Club**

**ENGLAND FOOTBALL**



Have Fun!

LOL

The perfect way
for girls aged 5-11
to get involved
with football









**TIME AND DATE**
Every Saturday from 6th April to 31st August 2024 - 10.00am - 11.00am

**LOCATION**
Ponteland Community Primary School, Ponteland, NE20 9EY

**NEXT STEPS**
Email us at femalepathway@pontelandunitedfc.com or
contact our Girls Phase Lead, Darren on 07837 379447