

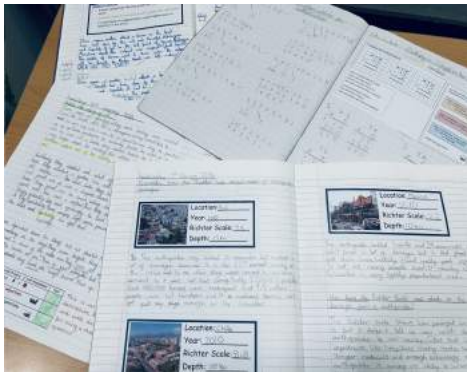


Friday Flyer

16 February 2024

Headteacher Update

We have done it! I am honestly not sure where the last 6 weeks have gone but we have arrived at Half Term and I know the children and staff are very much looking forward to the short break.



We have finished this half term in brilliant Belsay fashion, working hard and achieving so much in the process. Having introduced our Gold Standard for presentation a few weeks ago it is fantastic to see how the children are raising their expectations. I always talk to the children about how important their books are because this is the evidence of their daily hard work. Check out this range of books from KS1-KS2. I may sound biased but I think they are absolutely beautiful! Well done everyone.

This week was also special as we carried out our first Reading Cafe for Oak Class. It was unbelievable to see so many family members and I know the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves at the event. The next step is to now continue these Reading Cafes with all classes in school as we know that reading plays such an important part in preparing our children for the future. A big thank you to Mr McLeod for putting on a brilliant event.





Finally this week, I would like to say a huge congratulations to all of our amazing children here at Belsay. You have worked so hard and given 100% each and every day. Your resilience, efforts and good sense of humour make you a joy to teach and I hope you all have a relaxing and peaceful half term.

As a thank you from me and all the staff, for everything you have done since September but particularly during our special visit from Ofsted, I hope you all enjoy your special Friday afternoon treat....

We look forward to seeing you all back in school on Tuesday 27th February as please remember Monday is a Teacher Training Day.

I wish you all the very best,

Craig Shaw

Value of the Month - Responsibility

Language of the Month - Cantonese

Keeping children safe online...

Instagram is one of the most used platforms among young people and adults alike. Over the past decade, the platform has become ubiquitous and is an excellent source of entertainment and information for people globally. The global reach of the platform though, can be a cause for concern for those who have children or work with under-18s.



The programme is principally a digestion source focused on images and videos, with a private chat function which for many is the sole reason for its use. In today's image focused society, it can be an outlet for how people wish to be perceived physically or in regards to their personality.

As a result it actively encourages people to post about their personal life, in a way that would be detrimental should everyone have access to it. Privacy is optional on Instagram, and there is a wide spectrum of privacy options. To understand these options better the Southwest Grid for Learning has published resources aimed at achieving this goal.

Please click on the link below to find out more.

<https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/instagram/>



Class	Attendance
Willow	92.31
Maple	96.74
Alder	100
Oak	98.39

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 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.

Parking...

Please may I politely ask that we don't park on the road at the entrance to Belsay Bridge. This is a private road and the residents have asked that we could please not park here.

Your support on this would be very much appreciated.



The week in Willow Class

What a busy week to end the half term and mark the halfway point in the school year! We have had a great week together before everyone enjoys some family time.

A highlight from the week was working with Mr Bell to make pancakes. We had to tell him which ingredients we needed, then we worked together to weigh out the ingredients. Then it was time to mix it all together to make the pancake. Mr Bell was amazing at flipping the pancake and we were very impressed. We loved choosing which toppings we would like on our pancakes and then the most important part was eating them. Grace said "This is the best day ever," so I think that is a sign that they were delicious. Thank you to Mr Bell for giving up his time to make them with us.



This week we have worked hard to complete our phonics assessment. This takes place every half term and it is a great way to see the progress being made. Everyone has an update on Tapestry linked to this and explaining the next steps for your child.

After half term we will take part in the whole school's Made in the North East week. This is a week where we will look at farming from the past and present. Farming is such a vital part of our school community for many families and we are very much looking forward to learning about this. Thank you to everyone who has already completed the Google form, if you haven't done so already please could you check on Class Dojo and complete this as soon as you can.

I hear from the children that they have lots of plans for the half term break (hopefully they have shared them with you). It would be great if you could share any photos you take on Tapestry as we really do enjoy seeing what everyone has been up to. Finally have a lovely half term together. Try and find time to rest and enjoy some quality family time. We will see the best class in the school back in school on Tuesday 27th February. Thank you as always for the amazing support from everyone, we really are a great team.

Miss Houghton



This week in Maple Class

Maple Class are enthusiastic and excited to be beginning their Linking Project with St. Lawrence's school in Byker. In PSHE, we discussed the similarities and differences between our two schools. We thought about the location of each school, the class sizes and the languages spoken within each. We then re-read one of our favourite class stories, *Incredible You* by Rhys Brisenden and were delighted to hear that our linking class were reading and discussing the same book as part of our project. The book helped us answer the linking question 'Who are we?' and inspired class discussion about interests, personal qualities and what makes us each special and unique. We each made an identity map to post to our new friends at St Lawrence's to tell them about ourselves.



We have been learning about the features of a letter in English this week and used our new knowledge to write thank you letters to the guests that attended our tea party last Friday afternoon. The tea party was a great success and it was wonderful to see different generations spending time together and learning from one another. Thank you to all grandparents, neighbours and friends that attended!



Miss Dixon



The week in Alder Class

What a brilliant week to end a very productive and fun half term! We have had lots of celebrations and produced amazing work as always!

This week we were extra lucky and were able to have a treat on pancake day and then learn all about Lent and Shrove Tuesday with Mr Bell. It was great to understand and recap why we have Shrove Tuesday and some of the children were even thinking about what they would give up for lent if they wanted to (however lots of them were not willing to give up chocolate). It was lovely to celebrate the children's brilliant behaviour and spend some time trying Mr Bell's delicious pancakes.



This week we have been working on poetry and planning, writing and performing shape poetry. We started off the week by exploring different shape poems and then worked in groups to perform them to understand the different features. We then worked with partners to plan our own shape poems around volcanoes. We considered what happens before, during and after an eruption and the children came up with some amazing vocabulary, similes and even used personification and onomatopoeia. We then spent the next day writing our poems independently before editing and performing them at the end of the week. It was great to see how proud everyone was of their work and how brave they all were to stand up and perform. It was a very proud moment for us all!



We spent the end of the week finishing off our amazing Art project. We were able to combine our marbling work with our pallet knife work to produce some gorgeous art around stormy water. It has been great to be so creative at the end of every week this half term and I am excited for our next project.



Well done once again on another brilliant half term Alder Class. I know I say it a lot but I really am lucky to teach such amazing, kind and creative children and I look forward to seeing you all again next half term for a super busy but exciting 5 weeks!

Have a restful week off and a brilliant half term.

Miss Cruse



This week in Oak Class

What an amazing week to end the first half term of 2024! From a classroom point of view, we have been drafting, editing and “publishing” our newspaper articles, all focussed around Mercutio and Tybalt’s fatal confrontation in Romeo and Juliet. It has been fantastic to see how much these guys have remembered from the text and how brilliantly they have been able to adapt their writing to suit their newspaper features.

Mr. Smith had the pleasure of observing some of our finished gymnastic routines that were absolutely fantastic. We have been able to round off some of our Evolution based work in Science and have enjoyed sharing some of our tremendous compositions with Mrs. Wigham in Music.

This week however has brought some amazing chances for our children to flourish in different ways. Our Shakespeare workshop, led by Emily, our outstanding workshop leader, allowed us to show off our amazing acting skills. She (as well as me and Mr. A!) were absolutely blown away by what a talented group of children we have here in our class.

It was an absolute delight to be able to host our first Reading Cafe. The attendance was absolutely phenomenal and it was so nice to meet and re-meet so many of you and I really hope that the experience was as beneficial to you as it was enjoyable for us!

Finally, I just really wanted to say thank you all for being beyond welcoming as a school community. These guys have gone through a lot of change recently, and change is really hard no matter how old you are! So for them to take everything in their stride, has been a real credit to them and to you as parents. Again, thank you so much and roll on next half term!



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 femalecathway@pontelandunitedfc.com or contact our Girls Phase Lead, Darren on 07837 379447