



# Friday Flyer

1 March 2024

## Headteacher Update

Welcome to Spring Term 2 and well done to getting to the end of week one! It was great to see the children bounce back into school on Tuesday morning, their enthusiasm is infectious and always puts a smile on my face. It was lovely to hear of the various activities the children have been doing over the half term break.

It might only be a short half term but we have an awful lot to fit in, including Residential Trips, Made in the North East Week, Red Nose Day, World Book Day, Science Day, Easter Celebrations, School Reviews by the Pele Trust and then I am hoping we can try and squeeze some English and Maths in somewhere. Your class teachers will endeavour to keep you updated via Class Dojo so please keep an eye on this and the school calendar via the website.

The hard work has therefore started this week and the classes have certainly hit the ground running, producing some amazing pieces of work already. Week on week, I am amazed by the quality of work on show when I walk around the classes or I see the children who are given Outstanding Achievement Awards.

Following our success in December with Ofsted and our letter from the School Minister linked to our Phonics, we are delighted to announce that we have featured in the Pont News & Views, Morpeth Herald and Hexham Courant this month. The publications were keen to publish a piece in celebrations of all the amazing things occurring in school - so please make sure you give them a read and share our success stories.



Finally, we have continued our weekly celebrations including Hot Chocolate and Certificate Assembly. All the children have been fantastic and really have returned with a positive mindset ready to learn. Well done to all our winners who were recognised this week, you definitely deserve your rewards!

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend and rest up before a very busy week next week, which includes World Book Day and our Year 3-5 Residential to Ford Castle.

**Craig Shaw**

*Value of the Month - Responsibility*

*Language of the Month - Cantonese*



## Keeping children safe online...

Written and edited by Daisy, an online social networking parent, trained and accredited to work in the education sector. Daisy is a parent of two children and has worked with the police, youth charity and the council. This guide is for use in schools and homes where we believe it will be helpful to children and young people. It is not intended to be a replacement for professional advice. Please do not use this guide as a replacement for professional advice.

# 10 Ways You Can SHARE KINDNESS ONLINE

Last year, around one in five young people aged 10-16 in England and Wales admitted experiencing online bullying: most commonly being insulted or sworn at, or having hurtful messages sent about them. To someone who's being bullied, the world can seem like a bleak, negative place – but just one kind word can be a ray of hope: a turning point that brightens their day and refreshes their perspective. That's why 'One Kind Word' is the theme of Anti-Bullying Week 2021. We're supporting this year's event by bringing you ten top tips for beating online bullying by replacing it with kindness.

- 1 PRAISE WHERE IT'S DUE**  
Sometimes a friend or relative might post online about something they're proud to have achieved: maybe an exam they've passed, a new skill they've learned or a task they've completed. Celebrate their hard work and determination by being kind enough to praise them for it publicly.
- 2 REACH OUT**  
It's not always easy to tell what kind of mood someone is in just from what they post online. Simply dropping somebody a message to say 'hi', to ask if they're OK or to tell them that you're thinking of them could totally make their day.
- 3 RECOMMEND FUN THINGS**  
If there's something you enjoy doing online – perhaps you play a particular game, or you've found a really cool site – share it with someone you think will enjoy it. Even recommending a film or TV show you think they'll like can bring a little happiness to someone who really needs it.
- 4 OFFER TO HELP**  
Sometimes you might see a friend or family member posting a question online or asking for help with something they can't do themselves. Don't just ignore it – if you can help, get in touch. Something that's difficult for them might be no trouble for you!
- 5 POST POSITIVELY**  
Lots of people seem to go online purely to complain about things or be negative. Just because you're communicating online (and not face to face) doesn't mean you can't be positive, though! Post about things that make you happy and that you're thankful for. It could brighten someone else's day.
- 6 SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION**  
If somebody that you know has done something positive or shown kindness themselves, go online and thank them with a message or a post. Expressing your gratitude costs nothing and showing someone that you appreciate them will really make them feel good.
- 7 BE UNDERSTANDING**  
Showing empathy towards others is an act of online kindness which often gets overlooked. If you notice that someone you know is upset, drop them a message. Sometimes people just need someone else to listen to them and understand their situation.
- 8 SHARE INSPIRATIONAL POSTS**  
When you see something online that inspires you or makes you feel happy, share it with people you know. A spot-on quotation, a beautiful photo or an uplifting video can lift someone's spirits and help them to feel better about life.
- 9 THINK BEFORE COMMENTING**  
Thinking before we act can be just as important as acting in the first place. Taking a second to consider what you're saying in advance could stop you from posting something negative, hurtful or offensive – even if you don't mean to. It's better to post positively or not post at all.
- 10 LIKE, LOVE AND ENGAGE**  
If somebody posts something that you like on social media, don't just scroll past – take the time to like it, love it or leave an appreciative comment! Reacting positively to other people's posts might seem like a small gesture but could mean a lot to them.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Daisy Page is an experienced technology journalist with more than 12 years of experience in the industry. Previously the editor of the tech site The Register, Daisy is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and columnist.

**NOS National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @natonsafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

None of this guide is our sole source of information. It is intended to be used in conjunction with other resources.



Class	Attendance
Willow	97.85
Maple	95.65
Alder	100
Oak	96.77

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		
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	Parents Evenings
Friday 15th March	All Day	Red Nose Day
Monday 18th March	All Week	Scholastic Book fair in the school hall
Monday 18th March	All Week	Made in the North East week. All classes will take part in a school trip.
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 fantastic first week back after a lovely half term break. The children have all had a great time and it has been lovely to hear all of the lovely family time that has taken place. Thank you to everyone who has shared photos/posted on Tapestry. The children love sharing their photos with the class.

This week we have looked at artwork by Kandinsky and then created our own. We thought carefully about what we could see in the paintings by Kandinsky and then used this as inspiration to create our own artwork. We used one of Kandinsky's well known pieces of artwork to create our own work. Photos are on Tapestry where you will be able to see the children creating their artwork, and parents' evening will be a fantastic opportunity for you to see their work on display.



Our value this month has been responsibility and it has been great to see our youngest children in school showing this every day. We know we are responsible for being the best that we can be. The children have been fantastic this week at helping our new member of the class settle in and become familiar with our routines. It has been lovely to hear the children working together and explaining things clearly. Well done Team Willow! You are all amazing.

This half term looks set to be very busy but if we work together we will have a great time. Please keep checking Class Dojo and the school calendar for regular updates.

**Miss Houghton**



## This week in Maple Class

Maple Class had a fabulous first week back after half term! We had lots of fun in PE with Mr Smith, improving our coordination through playful balloon challenges! We had to think carefully about balance, changing direction and controlling our speed when moving around the hall. In English, we enjoyed partaking in reciprocal reading and made fantastic predictions about the plot of the new class text *Grandad's Secret Giant*. We clarified new vocabulary and talked about the digital illustrations of the story. The story is set in a town with an unfinished mural which inspired us to make our own school mural designs. We thought about what is special and unique about Belsay and how this could be celebrated and represented in a piece of art. We then wrote sentences using conjunctions to describe the murals, explaining reasons and meanings behind our drawings.



Miss Dixon



## The week in Alder Class

What a brilliant first week back! As always it has been extremely busy but we have loved starting our new topics and have some lovely discussions around this. Everyone has come back very excited about this half term and all the exciting things we have coming up so it has been great to see such positivity.

In English we have been looking at fairtrade and what a fairtrade premium is. They can all explain how this is getting a set amount of money and being able to help the community and the environment and talked about how this money could be spent. We also have been looking at where our different foods come from and how they travel across the world. A highlight of this week was definitely being able to play the negotiation game which helped us understand how farmers and large companies work alongside each other and highlighted the benefits of Fairtrade.

In Geography we have also been looking at Fairtrade and countries who are helped by Fairtrade because they are developing countries. We loved learning about the Fairtrade stickers and how we can spot these in shops. It was great to look at different products and prices and understand the choices we make. Lots of us wanted to pick the cheapest option or the most familiar, branded option but knew it was important to also consider the quality. We were able to look at which countries supported Fairtrade and understand which countries benefit from this.

In Computing we have started to look at programming and enjoyed learning about different commands and how these could support us in making numbers and different images. We had to use our knowledge of direction and angles to help us with this and it was great to see us helping each other. We had to follow set instructions to answer questions around our work before being able to experiment independently.

In Art we have been using natural products to think about sustainable fashion and how we could design something using inspiration from our forest school area. We spent part of the afternoon exploring our forest school area and sketching interesting materials that we found to help us next week when we think about our own designs. We also enjoyed hearing about the work Stella McCartney has done to make the fashion industry more sustainable and discussed the results of fast fashion.





Next week is a very exciting week as we have our Ford Castle residential and I know all



the children are very excited. We also have World Book Day on Tuesday which means we will have another exciting and busy day. Well done on all your hard work Alder Class.

**Miss Cruse**

## **This week in Oak Class**

Back to work with a bang for Oak Class this week and we have dived straight into our rehearsals for our quickly approaching performance of Romeo and Juliet. It has been really exciting this week to see how all of our performers' hard work has been paying off as we see everything start to click into place and come together. We even managed to take our drama outside this week too! We cannot wait to share this with you all at the end of this month!

We have managed to make a start on our new Geography unit around oceans of the world and have demonstrated some pretty formidable map skills in the process. The pride we are taking in our presentation of our work at the minute (particularly in our foundation books) is a real credit to these guys and Mr. Shaw and I have even been lucky enough to showcase some of our books to the "higher powers" within the trust.

There was a fantastic display of maturity and empathy on show on Tuesday afternoon when Miss Cook broached the tricky subject of "cyber-bullying" within our Computing lesson and it was so lovely to hear reports of how focussed and hard working the children were over the course of the afternoon.

It may feel like we have never been away, but thank you for a brilliant first week back and I hope you all have a great weekend.



**Mr. McLeod**