



Friday Flyer

8 March 2024

Headteacher Update

What a fantastic week! Weeks like this are the reason you want to be involved in teaching. So much going on and the laughter and fun seen on the children's faces and memories that can always be cherished.

The week started in a normal way with a productive Monday ensuring the children were working hard and being challenged in all that they do. However, since then it has been far from normal.



On Tuesday we celebrated World Book Day based on the book *The Day the Crayons Quit*. Teachers don't need an excuse to get dressed up and fully immersed themselves in the theme. Some might say we looked like Garden Gnomes but I thought we looked fab! The children also wore their bright and beautiful colours, we had some black and whites, but a great effort by everyone. Please make sure you use the book tokens and encourage your children to select a book of their choice to

read. Remember these can be used for free books or towards some money off when our book fair comes to school in a few weeks.

We were also joined on Tuesday by Mr Balkwill, Deputy CEO for Pele Trust, as he wanted to see how fantastic our Behaviour and Attitudes were. Needless to say, despite the high levels of energy linked to WBD, the children were their usual awesome selves. Demonstrating exceptionally high levels of exemplary behaviour and doing Team Belsay proud - well done everyone.

Wednesday was the start of our Year 3 to 5 residential to Ford Castle. What an experience this was for the children (and staff) so firstly I would like to thank you for supporting the school and agreeing to send your child on the trip. I know there were some anxious children and parents before the trip started but I genuinely feel they have learnt so much in the last few days and will massively benefit from the experience.

I had the pleasure of joining the children on Thursday and it was a joy to watch the



interactions, teamwork and resilience as they moved from one activity to the next. I would also like to express my gratitude to the staff who went on the trip and left their loved ones at home to ensure the children had the best possible time.

Finally this week, we still went ahead with our Celebration Assembly and Hot Chocolate Rewards, so a big well done to all the children who were nominated.

If your child has been on the residential, I hope you don't have too much washing to catch up on but I do guarantee your child will sleep. For everyone else I hope you have a restful weekend and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday morning for another week of hard work, fun and most of all laughter!

Craig Shaw

Value of the Month - Curiosity

Language of the Month - Italian

Ford Castle

Wow! What an amazing few days spent at Ford Castle! The children have been absolutely amazing and we are all so proud of each and every one of them. So many of them have had to face their fears and have all overcome something, whether that be staying away from home, standing at the top of a very high bridge or even rifle shooting for the first time, every single one of them showed resilience and proved just how amazing they are.

Day 1 was spent travelling to Ford Castle and exploring the grounds before then getting straight into two activities before tea time. From the very first activity so many of them showed how strong minded they were and just how polite and respectful they all are and we are very proud that all the staff at PGL were able to recognise this. We then ended the night with a campfire, where we were able to sing campfire songs, make wishes and roast marshmallows. We were all exhausted by this point and we were so amazed by how quickly and quietly the children went to sleep (which meant even the teachers were able to get some sleep).

Day 2 was a bright and early start before a jam packed day. Everyone went to breakfast and then were able to make use of the amazing grounds and have half an hour free time playing football, rugby, frisbee and much more. We then all participated in 4 activities that day which pushed us to our limits whilst still having so much fun. These included bridge abseiling, laser tag, archery and trapeze (check out class dojo for all the pictures and videos) and everyone was so brave but also encouraging and supportive of their group to encourage them to believe in themselves. After this we were able to go and have our tea before getting glam for our silent disco. We all loved this silent disco and were extra lucky that Alfie brought some cake for us to celebrate his birthday. By this point we were beyond tired and were all asleep straight away and slept in a little bit later the following day. The children were also amazing at helping each other pack, get ready and supported each other with tasks that may have felt overwhelming.

The final day is bringing us lots more and is going to be such an exciting day. We are starting the day with a delicious breakfast before packing up and getting ready for home

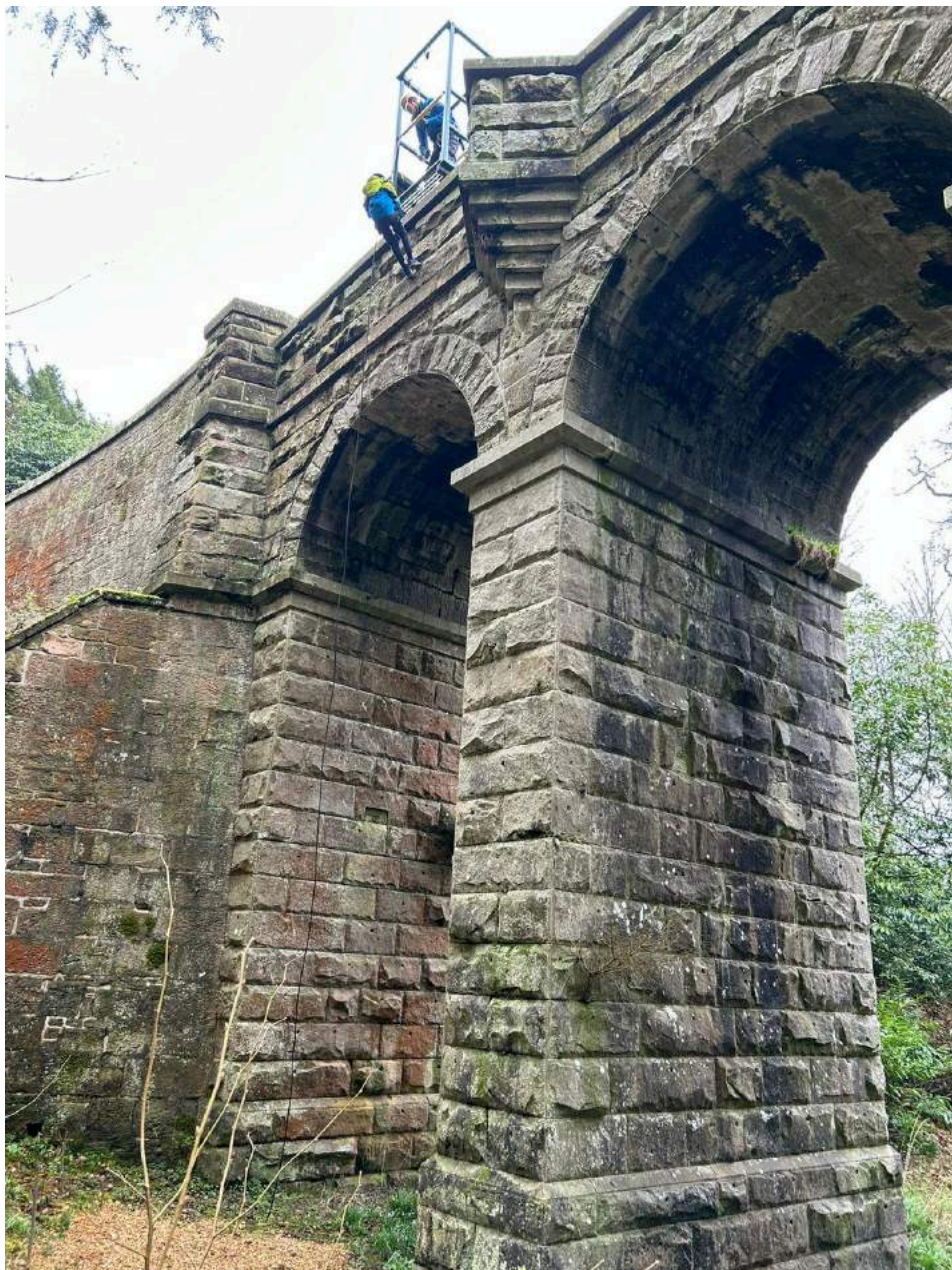


time later on. We all have two activities to do today which is very exciting before lunch and straight on the bus home.

The children have all had an amazing time and the teachers have enjoyed spending this time with the children and experiencing all this fun with them all and seeing just how amazing they are. I think the children are so so excited to come home and see our families and maybe have a break from Miss Cruse before another busy week next week! For pictures and videos please see class dojo.

Thank you for giving your children this amazing opportunity and for all your support.

Miss Cruse, Mr A and Miss Haughton.



Belsay School



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Insulting comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which an child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disapproval message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be pinged with an alert; potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day, not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If you can't see signs of a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely, warning them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel excluded or included in a group chat. Instead of responding to the person who's upset them, validate their own feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a chat's trust – for example, to gather information on them to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the user, sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Remind your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be helpful for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Turner leads an online safety compulsory course and researches online developments and implemented advice. Being well informed helps children to identify the risks within today's technology, protect and control their use of the internet in government-compliant, age-appropriate and safe ways, and to report any behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and abroad.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

Share of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is accepted for the date of release: 31.05.2023



| Class | Attendance |
|--------|------------|
| Willow | 100 |
| Maple | 91.79 |
| Alder | 100 |
| Oak | 97.85 |

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](#).

Dates for the diary...

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

| Spring Term 2024 | | |
|---|----------|---|
| Monday 11th March- Tuesday 12th March | PM | Parents Evenings |
| Monday 11th March - Thursday 14th March | | Year 6 Mock SATs |
| Thursday 14th March | All Day | Science Day |
| 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

This week we have had a fantastic time. At the beginning of the week we made good use of the field and played the game 'What's the time Mr Wolf?' The children had a great time. We also spent some time on the trim trail and it was great to see the confidence levels the children now have on this. When I think back to September when we went on it, lots of the children didn't feel like they could complete certain parts of it, now they see they can do it! Well done Team Willow! There are photos on Tapestry of this.

World Book Day was a great success and it was lovely to see everyone in their own colours. I think the children enjoyed seeing the staff dressed up and it really brought the book to life. We spent time with the children from Alder class and we read stories with them. It was great to share some of our favourite books together and they were very impressed with our understanding of authors and illustrators.



Although I can't take any credit for the Mother's Day cards and crafts, I know the children have been working very hard with these. They thought very carefully about the different colours they used and made sure they tried their best with the writing in the card. It was lovely to hear that the children have started to think about plans and what they can do to help their Mum on Sunday. Lots of the children have planned to make a special breakfast, or have said they will read their Mum a book. However you choose to mark the day, I hope it is special for all families.

I am looking forward to seeing all families next week at parents evening. Please remember to stick to your chosen time and please do let me know if you can't make it, so that we can rearrange. Parents evening is always a lovely time as we get to share all of the positives and also look ahead to the next steps in our learning journey. Please come and knock on the door at your required time as I really could talk all night about each child.

Thank you as always for all of the support, it really does make a difference to the children.

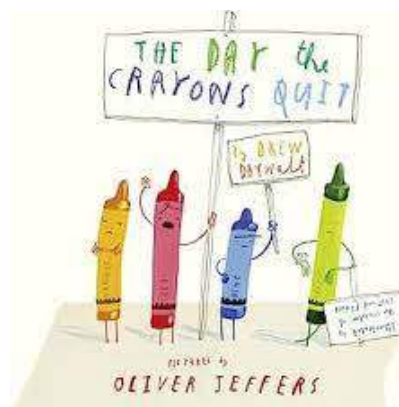
Miss Houghton



This week in Maple Class

Maple class had another exciting week. Our value this month is curiosity and the children have demonstrated this across numerous lessons, especially when they have been super Scientists! The children conducted an experiment to investigate which material was the most waterproof to make an umbrella for Ted. We made sensible predictions, learnt how to use equipment carefully, discussed fair testing and recorded our findings carefully.

In English, we continued to look at our class text to sequence the events of Grandad's Secret Giant by illustrating our own story map. This was followed by looking at the structure of a story, focusing on what is included in the beginning, middle and ending. For World Book Day it was wonderful to see the children dressed up as different coloured crayons. With this in mind, we enjoyed being imaginative and invented our own crayons, from crayons with springs on their feet to crayons with sparkly shoes! We then showcased our creativity and English skills by writing detailed descriptions using exciting adjectives and expanded noun phrases.



Miss Dixon and Miss McNickle



This week in Oak Class

Well, a week completely out of the ordinary, but a brilliant one it has been nonetheless!

Seeing how brilliant and supportive these guys were during World Book Day to our younger children was something we could all be proud of. We had a great range of fashion and colours in Oak Class too and as always, our attitude and attainments in reading this week have been excellent.

Needless to say, the Year 5s have been a huge miss as they have set themselves away on their residential to Ford Castle and we cannot wait to have them back today so we can hear their stories of how much they have undoubtedly loved it!

However, this time spent with the smaller group of Year 6s (and honorary Year 6s) has been absolutely priceless. Even though there have been fewer of us in the classroom, the energy has still been amazing as we have ploughed through some Shakespeare work. We have been studying Baz Luhrmann's modern adaptation of Romeo and Juliet and these guys have shown a real maturity in observing and understanding this, sometimes tricky, production as well as displaying a great curiosity to find their own characters in the play and compare them to their own portrayals. Great stuff.

We have also had time to focus on some Art activities around Mother's Day and produced some beautiful cards for our Mums. We really hope you like them.

As always, have a great weekend and thank you so much for your unfaltering support. I'm really looking forward to catching up with you all next week at Parents Evening!

Many thanks 😊



Mr. McLeod

Belsay School



Easter Activity Camp

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Activities

- Football
- Basketball
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- Capture the Flag
- Talent Shows
- Cricket
- Movies
- Parachute
- Free Play
- Disco
- Police Visit
- Fire brigade

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£18.00 per day
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