



Friday Flyer

22 March 2024

Headteacher Update

I am sure you know by now that the week's here in little Belsay are far from quiet and this week has been no exception to the rule. We have been celebrating our local context this week as each class has been taking part in their Made in the North East Projects.

It is the first time I have been involved in a project like this and I am amazed with how much the children know but also the enthusiasm they have to explore and find out more - our value of curiosity at its best! Our amazing teachers have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to plan and deliver all the educational material in school but they have also gone above and beyond to organise trips. I would also like to thank Mrs Hayes for her patience this week, making a large amount of packed lunches each day, as well as continuing to produce hot food for the children not on a trip. Team! Team! Team!



Our Book Fair has been in school this week and it was lovely to see children from pre-school and lots of our children visiting and making purchases. Thank you for your support with this because we know how important reading is for our children - it is the gateway to everything (so I am told by our English Lead, Miss Houghton!)

Following on from last week's Red Nose Day/Australian Day, I can confirm that I have just about thawed out but it was very much worth the frostbite as we raised just short of £200. This is an amazing amount of money so thank you as always for getting behind the event and giving so generously.



Furthermore, last week you may remember that we had visitors from the Pele Trust in school. Mr Balkwill, Deputy CEO, was looking at our Behaviour & Attitudes and the report that came back was fantastic. Within the report Mr Balkwill commented that "All classrooms from Reception to Year 5/6 were visited during the review. The behaviour in all classes was excellent; the pupils were polite, focused and engaged in their tasks in all the classes. The pupils listened attentively to their teachers and teaching assistants and worked well with the other pupils on their tables and in the class as a whole." I have always said how proud of the children we are at Belsay and this just cements that we really are blessed to be part of a fantastic school.

As we look ahead to next week please remember firstly that we break up for our Easter holidays on Thursday afternoon. To celebrate the end of term the PTA would like to invite the children to create an Easter Bonnet or decorate an Easter Egg. The children can bring this to school in the morning and then at 3pm, we will open the gates early so parents and carers can watch the children parade their creations around the playground.

Finally, this week concluded with our celebratory Hot Chocolate and Outstanding Achievement assembly. As always, I am super proud of each and every winner so well done!

I hope you have a wonderful weekend, rest up, recharge and then lets get ready for the final 4 days of the Spring Term!

Craig Shaw

Value of the Month - Curiosity
Language of the Month - Italian

Dates for the diary...

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

Spring Term 2024		
Wednesday 27th March	PM	Oak Class Shakespeare Production
Thursday 28th March	3.15pm	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.





Keeping children safe online...

At The National College, our **WakeUpWednesday** guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, tips and tips, please visit [thenationalcollege.com](https://www.thenationalcollege.com).

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TEKKEN 8

Thirty years after its debut on the original PlayStation, the Tekken franchise is back with its eighth mainstream instalment. A one-on-one fighting game series in the same vein as Street Fighter and Mortal Kombat, Tekken 8 can be commended for its relative lack of in-game purchases – but there's still plenty to consider in keeping young players safe from potential hazards.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

FUTURE SPENDING?

Tekken 8 carries a PEGI 16 rating, with the developers rating its violence, occasional sexuality and in-game purchase options. The latter issue, however, is a little different to what you may expect from a modern game: unlike many high-profile releases, Tekken 8's content is all accessible without spending any extra money. The exceptions are new characters, which will become available to purchase separately in the future.

COPYCAT RISK

With characters flying across the screen using a mixture of authentic and fantastical fighting styles, younger children and impressionable teens may find themselves tempted to copy their favourite characters or act out their epic fights in real life. This could simply represent a harmless fun – but could also easily lead to accidents, injury and distress if young gamers start actually treating blows.

VIOLENT GAMEPLAY

As a fighting game, Tekken 8's gameplay is heavily based on punching, kicking and throwing opponents around – while some characters' attacks occasionally involve weapons. Most of the game's comparatively cartoonish in its execution and looking in pain, but the real concern is that the action will revolve entirely around intense combat and inflicting damage on an opponent.

FAMILY CONFLICT

Tekken 8's story mode, 'The Dark Resurrection', focuses on two of the series' most important characters – Paul Phoenix and Jin, a father and son who have been warring for years. The fight of two family members physically fighting each other may be hard to understand (and difficult to deal with for some children) – causing confusion and concern over why relatives would want to hurt one another.

RANKED ONLINE PLAY

Tekken 8 features an array of online modes – most notably its 'Ranked' section, where players battle to reach the top spot of a worldwide leaderboard. Many players will dedicate significant amounts of time to practising and – while the challenge can be fun – some of these matches can get extremely competitive. Children could become obsessed with climbing the rankings and dedicate an unhealthy amount of time to the game or grow angry if they end up on a losing streak.

ONLINE CONTACT

Tekken 8 doesn't offer voice chat by default, but a player's profile ID is visible (even in their registration details), screen names or their gamertags. Vocal players can, therefore, reach out via messages if they wish. Given the game's already competitive nature, these communications can potentially put children at risk of online abuse if their opponent is particularly sore loser.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TRY IT OUT YOURSELF

As with many popular games, it's recommended checking it out for yourself in advance if you have any concerns. In the case of Tekken 8, there's a free demo version available (on all platforms) which lets you experience fights with a handful of the characters. A useful way of establishing first-hand whether some children might find the game's violence to be too intense.

MARTIAL ARTS MOTIVATION?

While characters' striking real-world fighting styles such as jujitsu, boxing and karate, Tekken could represent an opportunity to channel a child's fondness for the game into a beneficial interest in real-world martial arts. Classes can help to build young players' confidence and physical fitness, as well as providing avenues for making new friends.

EXERCISE YOUR JUDGEMENT

While Tekken 8 features a sort of 'spicy' impact effect when attacks land, it's not the kind of game that most children would describe as 'gory' (unlike, for instance, the Mortal Kombat franchise). Of course, any fighting game worthy of the name will involve a significant degree of violence – but the level of which the battles in Tekken are pitched may not be an issue for some children.

CONTROL COMMUNICATIONS

If a child plays Tekken online with anyone apart from their family, their parents and carers should consider monitoring communications – such as sharing all the facility to be managed by other players (although the child's profile name will still be displayed) – to reduce the chance of contact from strangers. This can be done via the console's account settings or through the child's device network (if playing on PC).

Meet Our Expert

Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site **Offbeats**, Lloyd Coleman has worked in the games media industry for five years. He's played every Tekken title since the series began and, as a parent, also values the importance of online safety, working closely about such and fitness. His articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 06.01.2024

Using second hand devices safely

Parents will often hand down out of contract devices to their children. This is great, it can save a lot of money, but there needs to be consideration before handing older devices to children. You can find lots of useful information, things to consider and guides to second-hand devices from Internet Matters [HERE](https://www.internetmatters.org/).



Class	Attendance
Willow	96.58
Maple	93.72
Alder	90.20
Oak	94.07

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?

Poor attendance suggests to colleges, universities and employers that these pupils are unreliable.

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](#).



The week in Willow Class

What a fantastic week! We have fully embraced Made In The North East week and made the most of every opportunity. We have loved learning about why farming is such an important part of our lives. Lots of our families come from farming backgrounds so it is vital that our children understand the importance of farming within the wider world. This week we have looked at the different types of farms, thought about changes to farming from the past to the present (thank you to Philippa's family for providing some very old photos), thought about farm safety and even had time to visit a farm.

Our trip to the farm was the highlight of the week and the children loved being able to feed the lambs, sit in the JCB, hold the chickens and collect their eggs, go on a scavenger hunt and meet a lamb that had been born only hours before we arrived. A big thank you to Emily and John Moffat who made this experience possible for our children and also thank you to Fiona our parent helper, it was great to have you as part of Team Willow for the morning. It was a very valuable experience that we will remember for a long time.



As if the week wasn't busy enough we even had time to make our own butter. Mrs Martin came into school to help us. She sourced local ingredients and we quickly got to work making the butter. It is a very long process but the result makes it very worthwhile. We enjoyed seeing the cream change from a solid to a liquid several times before we ended up with a block of butter. The children enjoyed wrapping some butter up to take home and I know one family had it on some crackers while another had it on pancakes. Both said it was delicious! Thank you to Mrs Martin for coming into school to do this with the children, I know this is a favourite memory you have of your time in Reception and hopefully the children will remember it when they are older too!

This week has shown what a fantastic team we are not just in Willow class but in the whole of Team Belsay!

There are lots of photos on Tapestry of the week in action, please do login and see them. Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Houghton



This week in Maple Class

To celebrate Made in the North East Week, Maple Class had a fabulous trip to the Quayside and Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art on Thursday. We began the day by learning about the venue and what contemporary art is. We looked at an open submission exhibition of art that showcased 100 pieces by North East hobbyists and self-taught creatives alongside works from several established artists. We were surprised to hear that one piece of art in the exhibition was submitted by an artist aged just 11! We worked collaboratively inside the exhibition to create abstract art from different materials. Later, we went up to the Northumbria University Gallery; *Stepping Softly on the Earth*. We admired a peaceful sound sculpture in this exhibition and also sat around an indigenous inspired sculpture to listen to a story about a goddess and equality. We learnt that often artwork has a story behind it which gives it meaning. After, we went to the Baltic viewing platform to sketch the bridges over the River Tyne before walking across the millennium bridge. The views were fantastic!





Miss Dixon and Miss McNickle

This week in Alder Class

To celebrate Made In The North East Week, Alder Class had an amazing day exploring the different modes of transport around the North East and were thinking about how they could navigate different stations, know they are definitely on the correct train/bus/metro/plane and also started to think about how to keep ourselves and others safe. We were so lucky to be able to experience all of these and start to think about the history behind each mode of transport and link it back to our learning from this week.

We started the day by getting a coach to Newcastle Quayside and exploring all the different ways we could travel around the North East from there. It was so interesting to see how the different bridges have different purposes and we were amazed to know people use electric scooters and sometimes jet skis as well as more traditional ways of travelling. We then walked to Newcastle Central Station where we were challenged to navigate our way around the station in small groups in order to get to the right destination. Everyone loved this part as we were able to ask staff for help, double check we were confident it was our train and know what time our train would arrive. We also loved seeing the security guards and understanding how they are there to keep us safe. We discussed a lot about safety when in the station and how it was important to keep ourselves and others safe as well as comparing the station now to its history. After that we were able to take the Metro to Newcastle Airport. I think the Metro was most peoples favourite as it was a new experience for them and they knew where it was going and how many stops they had until we arrived. We did so well at reading the Metro maps and gaining a stronger understanding of how they work as well as learning some new facts about the Metro and how it is special to the North East. We then explored Newcastle Airport and discussed the different steps you would take before getting on the plane and discussed why all these steps were important before walking down Ponteland Old Railway tracks into Ponteland for lunch. We enjoyed seeing how the path had been transformed into a walking path now and this was also a great time to let loose and enjoy walking without the busy roads near us. After lunch we then walked to the bus stop in Ponteland and took the x74 bus back to Belsay.

We were all interested in knowing which mode of transport was our favourite of the day and understanding why it may be different for everyone. We have also been looking at the advantages and disadvantages this week of different modes of transport and exploring whether this would impact our decision to use them or not. Everyone was so well behaved the entire day and were also able to apply all their road safety knowledge and this showed just how mature and respectful Alder Class are.



Well done on another week of proving just how amazing you are Alder Class and I am looking forward to DT week with you all next week after a restful weekend.

Miss Cruse

This week in Oak Class

From ships to Shakespeare, it's been a pretty varied week up in Year 5 and 6! We kicked off our Made in the North East week by looking at the extensive industrial history of our region. The children showed superb knowledge to recognise features of Newcastle, even in pictures from nearly 100 years ago as we discussed the changes to the banks of the River Tyne.

Miss Cook and Mr. A were able to see how hooked our guys were on this topic as they produced some great PowerPoint presentations based on their own research.

The real shining point of the week though, was seeing how much knowledge we carried into our curricular trip to Newcastle. Starting at the Discovery Museum and walking all the way to Newcastle Quayside (not quite as far as our Y3/4 colleagues, but a fine effort nonetheless!), we explored gallery after gallery with a tremendous attitude and exemplary behaviour.

Our focus areas were "The Story of the Tyne" and "The Life of the Turbinia". Quite a tricky pair of subjects for Year 5 and 6, but the children absolutely threw themselves into their independent exploration with a clear love of learning. They have been totally gripped by the whole history of our industrious region (particularly the Turbinia and Swan Hunters Shipyard) and have been squeezing as many facts out of their teacher and the internet as they possibly can!

It's full steam ahead with Romeo and Juliet for the next few school days. Tied in with D&T week, we're in for another busy one but let's go for it!

Have an awesome weekend 😊



Mr. McLeod

Belsay School



Easter Activity Camp

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Belsay School



U10s (Y4 and Y5) BASKETBALL SESSION

5pm Thursdays, Ponteland Community Primary school Sports Hall

Open to boys and girls of all abilities.

Please register at nest.newcastle-eagles.com to book a free trial session

Coach will confirm the date of the trial

We cannot accept walk ups.

For further information contact Coach Chris Applewhite

chris@eaglescommunityfoundation.com

