

Friday Flyer

29 March 2024

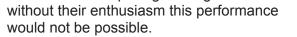
Headteacher Update

Happy Easter! We have hopped our way to the finish line so I hope you enjoy reading our final Friday Flyer, on Thursday, for the Spring Term.

What a fabulous way to end a short and ridiculously busy term at Belsay. As I look back over the last term it fills me with so much joy to see what a wonderful array of activities the children have at school, both academically and through the wider opportunities. I doubt there are any schools in the local area who can rival our offer over this last term!

This week has seen our children take part in some mini assessments but the key ingredient this week for most classes is that it is DT week. This is always a great time to walk around school as the children take delight in sharing their various stages of design, which ultimately culminates in their masterpiece.

The big event in school this week was our Year 5 & 6 Shakespeare Production of Romeo & Juliet, which took place at the Northern Stage in Newcastle. I was absolutely lost for words as I watched our children, many of whom have never taken part in drama, let alone been on a stage, stand in front of a huge audience and give it 100%. I am not even a parent or carer but the pride that I felt watching was just incredible - if I was not a big, tough, ex rugby player I may have cried! Ok I did shed a little tear but shhhh. I would like to thank Mr McLeod and Mr Atkinson for all their hard work pulling this together because





As we reach our final day of term it has been a real Belsay treat to see the amazing creations of Egg designs and Easter Bonnets. Choosing a winner from the entries is going to prove to be a very difficult task. Thank you to our PTA who very kindly supplied the school with a large amount of Creme Eggs - a definite hit with the children!

Our final act of the Spring Term was to have a celebration assembly and our hot chocolate reward. Well done to everyone who was nominated this week and to each and every member of school who has received an Outstanding Award or Hot Chocolate this term.



Each week I take a picture which is not only on social media but is also stuck up on my office wall - seeing 22 weeks worth of Hot Chocolate pictures, which celebrate hard work and dedication, tells me everything I need to know about our amazing children at Belsay!

As we start our two week holiday, I hope you have a wonderful time, whatever your plans. Holidays are a time for family so make sure you have quality time together and remember you could always share some pictures via Class Dojo if you're missing us!

See you all on Monday 15th April at 8.45am.

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			
Monday 15th April	8.45am	School reopens after the Easter Holidays	
Monday 22nd April		Dukeshouse Wood visit	
Thursday 25th April	11-30am - 4.05pm	Dance festival	
Thursday 2nd May	9.00am	Willow Class Reading Cafe	
Monday 6th May	School closed	May bank holiday	
Tuesday 7th May		Willow class vision screening	
Monday 13th May	All week	Year 6 SATs	
Monday 20th May	9.00am	Alder Class Reading Cafe	
Friday 24th May	3.15pm	School closes for half term	
Monday 10th June	9.00am	Maple Class Reading Cafe	

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.





Class	Attendance
Willow	100
Maple	97.52
Alder	98.32
Oak	94.76

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

The final week of this term has been as busy as the last few. What a lot of progress has been made this half term. A big thank you to everyone who has supported their child with this as it really does make a difference.

We have loved DT week this week and we were very eager to make our own minibeast house. We have very carefully placed them in the wildlife area and we are looking forward to checking them after half term. We spent the week researching where minibeasts like to live, drew a plan of the minibeast house we wanted to make, made our minibeast house and then evaluated what worked well and what was difficult. The evaluation is a very important step to help us improve, however the children always enjoy the making part the most.

We have had a great week making lots of Easter crafts and cakes. We have really enjoyed going on the egg hunt, which took place inside due to the amount of rain we have had. I don't think anyone would like a soggy chocolate egg. It was lovely to see the children working together to make the cakes and they really impressed me with this. Every child was able to make their own Easter basket which was big enough to put their cake in. We had a great time doing this and I know the children enjoyed eating them too!



Please enjoy the half term break. Two weeks seems to be just enough time to spend some time with your family, but also just long enough for parents to miss school. Please share anything that you do over the holidays on Tapestry and we will make sure we share this together when we return to school after the holidays. The children love "being the teacher" and sharing the wonderful things they get up to at home. Please also keep reading. Lots of the children are very eager to achieve their next book worm and reading as often as you can will be helpful to this.

Thank you to everyone for the support you give every day. Both me and Mrs Moffat are very thankful to work with so many brilliant families. Have a lovely half term!

Miss Houghton

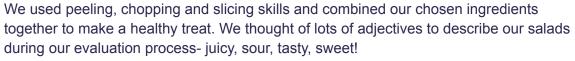


This week in Maple Class

Maple Class met St Lawrence's Year 2 class for the first time on a class Zoom call on Monday afternoon. Each pupil introduced themselves to their new friends using sign supported English and showed a piece of artwork that they are proud of to their link partner. It was wonderful to see the children interact with one another and discover what is similar about their link class and what is different. We're very excited to continue our linking journey after the Easter holidays and look forward to eventually meeting our new friends in person at the Laing Art Gallery in the Summer.



For DT week, we made delicious fruit salads on Wednesday afternoon. We learnt the difference between fruits and vegetables and where they grow before planning a recipe for the fruit salad.







It has been a short but very busy half term filled with exciting events and lots of learning. Thank you for all your hard work Maple Class! Have a lovely Easter holiday!

Miss Dixon and Miss McNickle



This week in Alder Class

What an amazing end to a brilliant, fun and very busy term. We have achieved so much over the last five weeks and as always I am beyond proud of the children's positivity, resilience and kindness. We have chased many fun challenges this half term whether that be at Ford Castle, during assessment week, our long day as part of Made In The North East Week or when it has been baking as part of DT week, everyone has shown just how amazing they are and also supported their friends along the way.

This week we finished off our assessments and I am so proud of how well everyone has done and I have been most impressed by how the children are starting to take their time with assessments to ensure accuracy instead of racing ahead. It is evident they are taking onboard feedback and are applying the skills to their work. I know everyone is very glad they are over but as I always remind them it is to make sure I can support them in the best way.

The main highlight of this week has been spending our afternoons completing our DT work. We started the week by researching Fairtrade products to ensure we could make our banana cakes Fairtrade and started to think about the cost difference when buying Fairtrade products compared to non-Fairtrade. We then went on to plan our recipe including writing the method, the ingredients and also predicting what we may need more support with and what we think we will enjoy the most. Wednesday was definitely the highlight as we were able to make our banana cupcakes and try them. The overall feedback was that they were 'delicious' and many are eager to take the recipe home. The final step was to evaluate our own work as well as evaluate our friends' work.









Well done on being such an amazing Alder Class! Make sure you have a very fun but well deserved rest over Easter and I am excited to introduce all our new topics and create some more amazing memories with you all.

Miss Cruse



This week in Oak Class

Although every week at Belsay is special, this one has been absolutely magical.

Where else can we start, but yesterday? Our Romeo & Juliet performance at the Coram Shakespeare School Festival at the magnificent Northern Stage in Newcastle. A long day, a VERY long day indeed but a day in which we have made so many memories that will last a lifetime. From the moment that we got on the bus at 8am, to the moment we sent our young performers home at 10pm, they were absolutely outstanding in terms of behaviour, attitude and performance.

Our performers were complimented for their professionalism and focus during our technical rehearsals (which are tricky things to get your head around as an adult, let alone as a Y5/6 pupil!) and showed great patience and curiosity as they managed a number of transitions between the theatre and the brilliant Great North Museum at the Hancock. The museum was another great experience in itself and the children showed a great deal of respect for this fantastic site and explored the fantastic exhibits with curiosity and independence.

From their return to the Northern Stage in the evening, if I'm honest, it's all still a bit of a blur! But what a wonderful blur. What a performance it was. What a day it was. And what an honour it is to have these children in our school.

Let's do it all again soon! Have an awesome Easter and thank you all so, so much for every ounce of support you have given us in this fun filled half term.

#TeamBelsay #WeAreBelsay





Mr. McLeod



Easter Activity Camp

To book head to www.SportsCampsNE.co.uk
If you are Eligible for free school meals they have 40 free places available, to enquire about this please contact Chris on 07741488604.

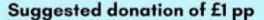




Easter Holiday Activities



Fun sports, activities and games for young people with SEND, aged 8 - 19 years. Siblings are welcome!





Week I: 2nd-5th April

Wednesday 3rd

10am-12nn Nelson Village Community Centre, Cramlington, **NE23 1HG**





Friday 5th

10am-12nn at The Venue, Community Centre, Stanley, DH9 6AH

Week 2: 8th-12th April

Monday 8th

1.45pm-3.45pm at The Pavilion, Peterlee, SR8 1ER

Tuesday 9th

10am-12nn at Tyneside Badminton Centre, Newcastle, NE5 2TA

Wednesday 10th

10am-12nn at Nelson Village Community Centre, Cramlington, **NE23 1HG**

Thursday 11th

10am-12nn at Jubilee Fields Community Centre, Shildon, DL4 2AL

Book now:

info@smilethroughsport.com 01670 457 757



@smilethroughsport



@smiletsport

