



# Friday Flyer

3 May 2024

## Headteacher Update

What a fantastic week! This has been a very exciting week at Belsay for a number of reasons. I would like to start this week by congratulating the children for the effort they put into 'Break the Rules Day' on Wednesday. As always the children got very much involved in being able to wear what they wanted but it was all for a good cause - Cash4Kids charity.



In the afternoon the children were challenged to run laps of the field, with approximately 5 full laps being equal to 1 mile. The effort from all our children from Reception to Year 6 was unbelievable, along with the laughter and support they all showed each other along the way.



We only have 83 children in our school but so far we have raised over £1,800!! That is simply incredible so thank you so much for all your support with this event - we even got a shout out on the radio. The ice lollies were certainly a welcome treat at half-time.

Also this week we have had a new arrival to the Belsay Team - Congratulations to Mr McLeod as his partner has given birth to a little boy, Joe, who was born on Tuesday evening. I know the children were very excited to know once the baby had arrived. Mr McLeod will be in school until the SATs are completed before taking some well deserved time off with his family.

In other news, you will see that our Chicken Coop is nearing completion so hopefully not long now. You should have also received a letter on Wednesday about the next 'social' event we have planned for the school community at Belsay Hall. I really do hope that you are able to make it to the event as I have no doubt it will be great fun.

As always, the children have been working so hard this week and I am seeing an increase in standards all the time. Once again we had a wide number of children receive Outstanding Achievement Awards, as well as some now hitting our 180 Bookworm points. Last but not least, the week finished with our Hot Chocolate celebration so well done to every child in school, including our winners - you are all little stars!



As we enter our Bank Holiday weekend, the weather is looking favourable, so I hope you have some fun plans and quality family time. I look forward to seeing all the children back in school on Tuesday morning.

Have fun!

**Craig Shaw**

*Value of the Month - Honesty*

*Language of the Month - Danish*

### Dates for the diary...

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

Spring Term 2024		
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
Tuesday 21st May	All day	Maple Class Laing Art Gallery trip
Friday 24th May	All day	Alder Class Great North Museum trip
Friday 24th May	3.15pm	School closes for half term
Monday 10th June	9.00am	Maple Class Reading Cafe
Wednesday 3rd July	All day	Sports Day
Thursday 4th July	All day	Transition Day
Friday 5th July	5:30pm	Night at the Museum
Tuesday 9th July	3.15pm	PTA Summer Fair
Wednesday 17th July	All day	Belsay Hall Visit - Whole School
Thursday 18th July	9am	Year 6 Leavers Service
<b>All dates may be subject to change</b>		



## Keeping children safe online...

All The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the evidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health, and wellbeing, and identify where help is needed. Formerly endorsed by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, MEds and Dps, please visit [nationalcollege.co.uk](http://nationalcollege.co.uk).

# What Parents & Educators Can Learn from the OFCOM MEDIA REPORT 2024

Each year, Ofcom – the UK's regulatory body for communications – produces an overview of children and parents' media experiences over the course of the previous year. At the time of writing, the latest of these reports, 'Children and parents: media use and attitudes 2024' has just been published, and we've plucked out some of its most thought-provoking findings regarding online safety.

### ONLINE LIVES

- 99%** of 8-17s had regular access to the internet
- 65%** of 13-17s prefer short videos to films and TV
- 34%** experienced harassment or bullying online
- 11-18s** felt more confident communicating online (71%) than in person (52%)
- 87%** of 8-17s felt pressure to be popular on social media

### SCREEN TIME

By children's age group, the percentage of parents who felt less able to manage their child's screen time was...

Age Group	Percentage
3-4	34%
5-7	32%
8-10	37%
11-13	49%
14-16	46%

### POPULAR PLATFORMS

Most used by children...

Platform	Under-13s	Over-13s
YouTube	89%	88%
WhatsApp	37%	82%
TikTok	35%	78%
Snapchat	27%	73%
Instagram	22%	69%

### ONLINE GAMING

- 58%** of children played video games online
- Who did these children most commonly play with?
  - 74%** played with someone they knew
  - 32%** played with strangers

### PARENTAL CONCERNS

The things that most commonly worry parents and carers about their child being online include...

- 77%** seeing age-inappropriate content
- 70%** being harassed or bullied
- 68%** seeing pro-social-harm content
- 62%** having their data gathered by companies
- 59%** being influenced by extreme views
- 55%** having their reputation damaged
- 51%** being pressured to spend money

### ONLINE SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

- 93%** 8-17s had at least one lesson about online safety
- 93%** of children are aware of at least one thing they can do to stay safe online
- 91%** children found these lessons useful
- 78%** of 8-17s were aware of age restrictions for apps
- 40%** admitted to faking their age to bypass these limits

### DEVICES MOST USED TO GO ONLINE

Age Group	Percentage
3-4s	67%
5-7s	77%
8-10s	73%
11-13s	95%
14-16s	97%



Class	Attendance
Willow	96.58
Maple	98.07
Alder	100
Oak	98.15

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

No week is ever quiet in Willow class and this week has certainly shown that. We started our new story The Three Billy Goats Gruff and the children have been amazing at retelling the story and remembering the characters. I was particularly impressed with their troll voices, they were incredible! We used our special story maps to retell the story using only pictures. A tricky task for some children, but not for Team Willow!

This leads us nicely on to our reading cafe. What a great success this was. It was wonderful to see so many of you there and we really are thankful for all of the continued support you give us. The children really appreciated having you in school and having the opportunity to show you their reading journey in action. I am sure you will agree they have all made exceptional progress with their reading since September and this will lead them throughout the rest of their life. All of this is only possible with your support and the children really have enjoyed collecting the book worm points. Keep pushing on with this and collecting as many as possible. I want as many children as possible from Team Willow to be in the 200 points draw at the end of the year.



I am sure you will all have been greeted by a very tired child on Wednesday afternoon when you collected them from school. What a fantastic effort from all of the children and our youngest children were incredible. It was lovely to see them with their older friends. After a lot of running we even had Grace, Henri and Philippa as cheerleaders. Cheering on the whole school. A real team effort! A big thank you to everyone for the donations that were sent in and a big well done to Laurie's family for the amount you raised.

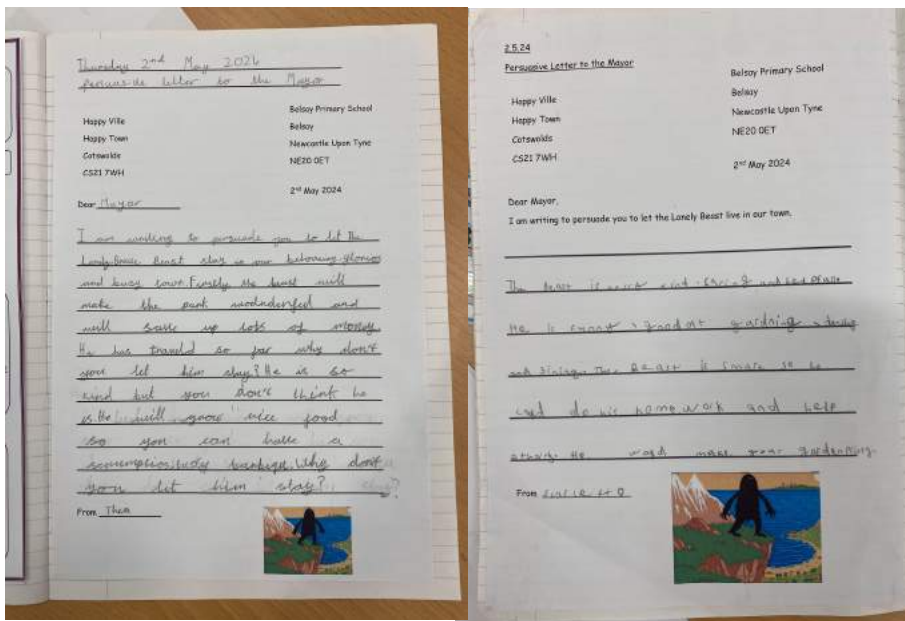
Thank you as always for your continued support. I hope you all have a lovely long weekend.

**Miss Houghton**



## This week in Maple Class

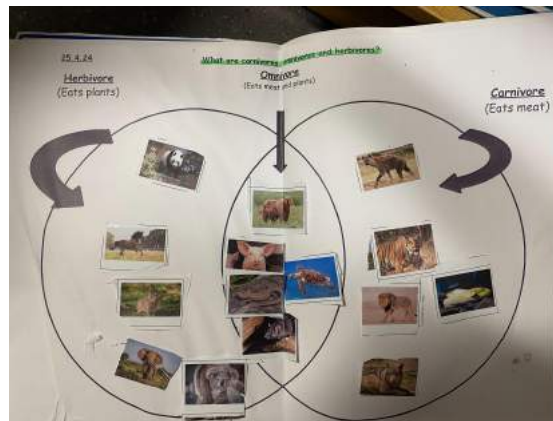
Maple Class have had a busy but brilliant week in class! In English, we each wrote a letter to the Mayor to persuade them to let the Lonely Beast stay in the town. We used persuasive writing techniques and punctuation to convince the Mayor that the Beast would be an excellent member of the community. We thought of lots of creative reasons and ideas to add to our letters to make our arguments strong.



We had a fantastic afternoon on Wednesday taking part in Sam Thompson's 1 Million Steps School Challenge! We had lots of fun, persevered and raised lots of sponsorship money for Cash for Kids! Well done Team Maple!



In Science we have been studying Animals, Including Humans. We have been learning about the six main animal groups and classifying animals based on what they eat. We have begun to discuss the different structures of animals and why their bodies have particular features.



Miss Dixon and Miss McNickle



## This week in Alder Class

We have had such a productive week in Alder Class and I am bursting with pride at some of the amazing work we have produced this week.

This week in English we have been working on a longer piece of writing for a couple of days before editing our work. We continued looking at the Greek Myth about Perseus and Medusa which has allowed us to retell the myth in detail. Everyone challenged themselves this week with new language, similes, fronted adverbials, rhetorical questions and some even included speech and onomatopoeia which is amazing. Everyone produced work they were proud of and they were all eager to show off their brilliant work.

In History we have focused on what daily life was like in Ancient Greece. We compared this to different ancient civilizations and discussed how we know what daily life was like. We had some amazing discussions comparing this to our previous learning and it was great to make so many links and think like true historians.

Science this week was so much fun! We were concluding all our learning from our States of Matter topic and started to think about the water cycle. We began by recapping all our key vocabulary from the last few weeks and discussed how stage changes happen using our scientific language. We then went outside to work in groups and to create short performances that explain how the water cycle works. We then worked independently to write down what each stage of the water cycle means and pieced it together to understand the water cycle in different situations.



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Well done on a very productive and hard working week! I hope you all enjoy your long weekend (hopefully in the sun) and come back ready for another brilliant week of learning.

**Miss Cruse**



## This week in Oak Class

Happy Friday everyone and the end of another amazing week in Oak Class! However, I have missed quite a lot of this week due to the birth of my latest (and final!) son, Joe. Thank you so much from me; my partner Hayley; and our four boys Ethan, Jenson, Ollie and Joe, for all of your lovely well wishes. We were blown away by the kindness of this Belsay community. My absence has meant however, that I have had to hand the rest of this week's flyer over to my correspondents. Take it away team!

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## Our Friday Flyer

By Anthony, Emily, Abigail, Lucy and Thomas.

This week Years 5 & 6 we have had Mrs Aynsley for half of the week, due to Mr McLeod's partner having a baby. Break the Rules day was a success ( this was a memorable one, someone - who shall not be named - even broke a rule by taking off their sock at the gate). We have done the school challenge one million steps, thank you for all of your generous donations to Cash for Kids. We enjoyed the run and it was extremely tiring but everyone was encouraging each other which made us motivated to keep on running.

Mr McLeod has had a baby and it is a boy, called Joe. Joe McLeod was born on Tuesday, 30th April 2024. Joe was actually supposed to be born on the week of the SATs but he was born early. So if you see Mr McLeod, make sure to say a big congratulations to him! We all wish him good luck on the (tiring) journey ahead 😊!

In Science we have been studying our blood and how it circulates our body. We have learned that Plasma, White cells and Red blood cells make up our blood. Our blood is very important to our body, it carries oxygen and nutrients around the body to cells in need and our platelets heal our cuts.

For the one MILLION steps on Wednesday we raised £1,800 and we are STILL counting. Thank you, to everyone who donated, for all the help and the donations. While you parents were donating and helping, your children were raising money for Cash for Kids and so far, we think they will pass your ADULTS' total (if they haven't done so already!). Some of the children did 10 laps or 20 laps or even 40 laps! But the minimum was only 5 laps, which roughly equals a mile.

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Wow guys, thank you so much. Maybe I'll hand this over to you guys every week.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Belsay School



## Rockets Community Foundation Inclusive Rugby Sessions



Rockets Community Foundation are excited to offer free, inclusive Rugby League for young people across Cramlington and surrounding areas!

The session is open to all disabled and neurodivergent children and young people, their siblings, parents and carers.

You do not need to have any previous experience. Come and try rugby league in a safe, fun and inclusive environment!



**When:** Monday 6th May

**Time:** 6pm - 7pm

**Where:** Cramlington Rockets RFLC, Eastfields, Cramlington  
NE23 2UD


For more information contact Sarah at  
[Sarah.Jones@AccessSport.org.uk](mailto:Sarah.Jones@AccessSport.org.uk)



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