



Friday Flyer

5 July 2024

Headteacher Update

There has been a national focus on sport this week with the start of Wimbledon and the continuation of the Euros in Germany. However we haven't had to look that far to see sporting excellence this week as we witnessed it at our very own Belsay Sports Day. It was wonderful to see the children working together and participating in a range of events. The collaboration between year groups is always something to be celebrated at Belsay and there was plenty of evidence of it on Wednesday for everyone to see. The morning began with the children being split into teams with each team being linked to a country remaining in The Euros. They then spent the morning learning about their country. Each team looked at the culture, famous landmarks and the history of the country and even got to try some national food. There was a range of delicious dishes from Dutch pancakes to Spanish omelette which provided a great selection of food from around the world for the children to try. Then came the main event. I enjoyed watching the full range of activities on offer. It was great to see the school value of resilience in action. Every single child gave it 110% and it really was a special afternoon which was so well supported by parents. Well done to the winners who were Germany! A big thank you to Mr Smith and to all of the staff for their dedication and hard work in making the full day a success.



I was fortunate to be in school yesterday to see the children spending time in their new classes for next year as part of our transition day. I visited each class and was impressed by how well the children had moved up, some to new buildings and new classrooms. It was

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particularly pleasing to see how well the older children in each class were supporting the new younger year group. The staff have reported that they are very much looking forward to the new classes that will be formed in September.

I hope that the Year 6 children have enjoyed their experience at Ponteland High School over the last two days. I am sure that they will have lots to feed back to us next week when they return to school.

The climax of the week for everyone will undoubtedly be the Night at the Museum. I know there has been a lot of preparation behind the scenes to make sure that the event is a success. A big thank you to Miss Whitehouse who has worked very hard to make sure all of the orders are correct. Unfortunately, due to prior commitments I will not be there myself, however I know there are activities planned and the children who are attending are really looking forward to camping. I look forward to hearing all about it when I am in school next week.

The amazing PTA is holding the annual Summer fair on Tuesday 9th July. This looks set to be another great event and we look forward to seeing you there.

Have a lovely weekend and happy camping to those of you attending the Night at the Museum. I am sure that it will be a night to remember!

Best wishes

L Blain

Value of the Month - Gratitude

Language of the Month - Polish



Dates for the diary...

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

Summer Term 2024		
Monday 8th July	All Day	Alder Class Ancient Greek Day
Tuesday 9th July	3.15pm	PTA Summer Fair
Friday 12th July	Afternoon	All of KS2 Party
Monday 15th July	9am	Year 6 Leavers Service
Tuesday 16th July	9.15am - 10.15am	Belsay Showcase
Wednesday 17th July	All day	Belsay Hall Visit - Whole School
Thursday 18th July		Willow class party
Friday 19th July	1.15pm	School Closes for Summer
Monday 2nd September		Training Day
Tuesday 3rd September		School resumes
All dates may be subject to change		



Keeping children safe online

All 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. Formally delivered by National Crime Agency, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, facts and tips, please visit nationalcollege.gov.uk

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ONLINE TROLLING

The term "trolling" refers to sending harmful or provocative comments – often done anonymously online – to provoke a reaction or cause emotional distress. Anonymity can embolden people into saying things they wouldn't dare say in person. Euro 2024 and other tournaments tend to put an emphasis on this, with the abuse of both players and fans often increasing during such events.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ESCALATION

Many trolls begin with silly, banal comments before moving on to abusive patterns of offensive messages and posts. They can also turn their attention very quickly to a new target if they get involved with an existing one, which makes engaging with an abusive troll – and potentially dangerous at times.

HIDING BEHIND A SCREEN

Because trolls tend to use anonymous profiles, they enjoy a sense of accountability. This also means they'll often have multiple profiles, potentially switching between them regularly or posting across several of them at the same time, making it tough to tell who they really are. After all, once you block one account, what's to stop them reappearing elsewhere?

24/7 CONTACT

The internet has given us the ability to remain in contact at any time, from almost anywhere in the world. A troll having the ability to reach you whenever they want can leave you feeling like their abuse is constant, even when they aren't as you'd expect. They can message you at any time, reach out to your game online and even try to discover your personal information to scare you.

HATE SPEECH

Lately, many trolls resort to sending racial slurs, homophobic attacks and sexist stereotypes, as these often stand the best chance of making emotional harm. This can add a hefty degree of weight to their attacks, moving from what might otherwise be described as "trolling" into a genuine hate crime. After Euro 2024, these types of incidents were readily observed, resulting in several police seizures.

IMPACT ON VICTIMS

It's not uncommon for the victims of trolls to shut down their accounts, disappear from public life, and try to stay out of the spotlight for a time – with some even leaving social media forever. This can have a severe impact on children and young people's connections to friends and the world at large, and may not even actually stop the troll. The victim's friends, for example, may have online profiles that trolls can still access.

NORMALISATION OF TROLLING

It's regrettably true that some people will go so far as their vitriolic or abusive, both online and in the real world. This can lead to many people seeing trolls and their abuse as just an aspect of social media – an inherent risk of interacting with others online. This doesn't mean, however, that it should be considered "normal" or even tolerated.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media platforms (before most trolling tends to happen) aren't always helpful when responding to abusive behaviour, parents can set up screen time limits, so children only get to see certain apps at certain times. There's always the potential for trolling to occur anyway – such as friends sharing screenshots to one another – but this would minimise the likelihood of children seeing it.

DON'T ENGAGE WITH ABUSE

A troll's worst strategy on social media is "don't feed the troll". If a child identifies a potential troll online, it's best not to engage with that individual directly, instead, consider setting up a log to gather evidence for reporting them later on, including screenshots and other where possible.

ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

While every professional athlete applies to incredible high standards, it's important to separate the player from the person. A player's performance doesn't define their worth as a person, and that can often be forgotten by younger children who simply see the colour of the shirt without considering the person wearing it. For all the rivalry between teams, it's essential children understand that players are still human beings, with families and lives outside of sport.

BLOCK AND REPORT

While anonymous accounts make it difficult to block trolls permanently – or even for very long – it's still good practice to help children learn to control who can engage with their online. It's not worth "feeding the troll", and it's more helpful to block them, report them, and try to move on. Blocking and reporting is an anonymous process, too, so there'll be no indication of who specifically blew the whistle.

Meet Our Expert

Stuart Coombes is the former in-charge of esports, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A long-time fan of Arsenal, he's a parent who understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer whose work has been published on sites including iFT, TechRadar and many more.



To find the full reference list on guide pages or visit nationalcollege.gov.uk/policies/online-safety



Class	Attendance
Willow	94.02
Maple	94.20
Alder	91.50
Oak	99.26

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](#).



This week in Willow Class

What another fantastic week for Willow class! We have had such a busy week, and have all shown the school value of resilience.

This week we have been reflecting on the year we have had and appreciating just how much we have achieved in a short amount of time. We have been thinking about the best memory we have made this year, there are lots to choose from. The children have really enjoyed looking back at their amazing work books to see their starting points. Lots of the children couldn't believe that they could only make marks at the beginning of Reception and now they can write sentences. We have also enjoyed looking at our drawings and how they looked in September to how they look now. It really is incredible what we have achieved. The children also enjoyed looking back at old photos of themselves and seeing how much they have changed since September. They really have grown so much this year!

All week we have been talking about transition time and what it will be like in Year 1. Some of the children were feeling a little bit unsure about what it would be like and if they would enjoy it. I am pleased to say every child came back into the classroom this morning wanting to tell me about all of the fun they had with Miss Dixon in Year 1 yesterday. They enjoyed getting to know their new friends, looking around their classroom and even having time to make some crafts. I feel like the children are really well prepared for the next part of their journey at Belsay, however I am going to enjoy the next few weeks with them, as we still have lots more memories to make.

There was a real buzz around school on Wednesday morning in anticipation of sports day. Everyone from Willow class got to work with different teachers to take part in some activities linked to their country. It was great to see everyone having such a good time and learning facts about their country. Then in the afternoon it was full steam ahead as we took part in the sports day games. I was so proud of how hard everyone tried with all of the activities and it really does show what a great team we are!



There really is never a quiet week in Belsay! Whatever you choose to do this weekend, I hope it is a great one! I am looking forward to seeing some of you at the Night at the Museum. Here's hoping the weather holds out for us, but either way I am sure we will have a great time!

Miss Houghton



This week in Maple Class

We're one week closer to the summer holidays and have had a wonderful time completing end of year activities. We had lots of fun on Sports day splitting into mixed age teams with our siblings to represent a European country. It was brilliant to spend the morning in our teams learning about the history and culture of our given country. We all showed resilience, determination and good sportsmanship throughout the afternoon when completing traditional sporting events.



We also had transition day this week and it was lovely for Reception to join Maple Class as Year 1 children for the day. We had a wonderful day learning about the classroom and discussing what we will learn about in September. During the morning, we read *Incredible You* and iced incredible biscuits, we also helped Mrs Hayes and Mrs Moffat with artwork for our future class gallery display. In the afternoon we went on a minibeast hunt and collected natural materials to create our own minibeasts in the classroom. The current Year 1 pupils did an excellent job of helping the younger children during their transition. We can't wait to begin all of our new projects in September!





Miss Dixon

This week in Alder Class

An extra busy but successful week this week in Alder Class. We have had lots going on but have all made a conscious effort to show our school values and in particular our new value of gratitude. We have had lots to look forward to but it has also been great to look back and consider all the things we are grateful for and have accomplished this year.

Monday was a great day for developing our skills and also showing resilience. A fun, wet and brilliant morning spent at Ponteland High School participating in the Pele Trust 3 vs 3 football event. This event was all about developing our skills and working as a team. We had some amazing goals and showcased our footwork well. I was super impressed with the children's efforts to support each other through some of the tough games whilst also ensuring everyone was included. I was very proud of you all, especially in the cold, wet weather.

Our involvement in looking after the chickens has been such a rewarding experience. It's been wonderful to witness the children working together as a team to complete their tasks with care and maturity. The children's knowledge continues to impress me every time we interact with our feathered friends. Using the eggs to make scrambled eggs on toast was a delightful treat for everyone and a great way to end the week on a high note.

Sports Day was a fantastic success! The team spirit was truly uplifting, and I was thrilled to see the children engaging wholeheartedly in all the activities. Their commitment throughout the day was exemplary, and their behaviour was impeccable. It was heartwarming to witness Alder Class stepping up and taking on leadership roles to support their peers.

Transition Day was another significant event that showcased the incredible abilities and character of our students. The Year 4s had a memorable time, and it's bittersweet to see such a remarkable group move on to new adventures next year. I want to commend the Year 3s for being fantastic role models to Alder Class and for their supportive attitude towards the Year 2s.

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It's always heartening to see the older students nurturing and welcoming the younger ones.



As we wrap up this academic year, I am looking forward to the exciting events we have coming up in the last couple of weeks. Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication and I hope everyone has a brilliant weekend!

Miss Cruse and Miss Cook



This week in Oak Class

It has been so wonderful to be all back together this week, not that it has been a quiet one!

We are very much focussing on the future up here in Upper Key Stage 2 and we started the week by writing our Leavers' Assembly script. The joy of this process is the fact that nearly 100% of the content of the performance has been written by our Year 6s. Memories, achievements and beautiful singing. There will not be a dry eye in the house come Monday 15th (and that will just be the staff!)

Wednesday's Sports Day was a huge success across school and it was great to see so many of you, offering amazing support from Belsay Bank. It really dawned on me as I was looking over, what a brilliantly supported cohort we are and I cannot thank you enough for that. Trust me, it is not like this everywhere! It really is a little bit special here. On top of this, the children were fantastic. With our mixed groups, it was brilliant to see our guys act as fantastic mentors to our younger pupils. Again, this is what we have come to expect from our UKS2 children here at Belsay, but I can guarantee you that children are not always as wonderful as the children we have here.

Finally, good luck to the Year 6s who have been on transition to Ponteland High School these last couple of days. I know you may have had a few nerves floating around when you went in yesterday, but I know you will have made us all so proud, as you always do.

Have the very best of weekends everyone and I'll see you all very soon for our penultimate Monday of the year!

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Mr McLeod

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SUMMER

FAIR



Tuesday 9th July 3.15pm

Football Tournament

Tea/Coffee

Cake Stall

School Closet

Book Swap

Tombola

Hot Dogs

Name the Giant Teddy

Glitter Tattoos

Games ...and more!

All money raised will go towards buying new equipment and resources for the school.

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In-person Learning Workshops

Northumberland

Are you a parent or carer living in Northumberland?

As part of the Autism Central programme, Daisy Chain are providing free learning workshops across Northumberland. We will look at how sensory differences impact autistic people. This workshop is aimed at the parents and carers of school-aged children.

Our sessions are for parents and carers of children who display traits associated with, or have a diagnosis of, a neurodevelopmental condition including: autism, sensory processing, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), or Foetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD). A diagnosis is not needed.

Places must be booked: <https://daisychainproject.co.uk/product/in-person-learning-workshops-northumberland/>
support@daisychainproject.co.uk / 01642 378461

UPCOMING SESSIONS

June 2024

14th June 2024 / 10am-12pm / Blyth West Family Hub, Devonworth Place, Blyth, NE245AQ

21st June 2024 / 12pm-2pm / Berwick Family Hub, Ladywell Place, Tweedmouth, Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD152AE

July 2024

5th July 2024 / 10am-12pm / Hexham Family Hub, Beaufront Ave, Hexham, NE461JD

12th July 2024 / 10am-12pm / Ashington Family Hub, Alexandra Road, Ashington, NE639EF

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Here's your free copy of Family First

[CLICK HERE](#)



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