



# Friday Flyer

10 May 2024

## Headteacher Update

What a great week! Not only was it a 4 day week but the sun is shining and it definitely puts an extra spring in the step. I may be biased but there is no better school setting than Belsay on a sunny day - it's stunning! It's not too shabby in the winter but this is what it is all about.

School as always has been buzzing this week with an unbelievable amount of hard work going on in every classroom. As I walk around the children take so much pride in showing me their work and how they are trying their best to achieve the Gold Standard expectation in all that they do. All books now start a new topic with a Topic Information sheet so try and ask your child what they are learning about. The more we question children about their subjects and the content the more familiar the learning will become. Ultimately the learning journey of a child is to know more and remember more so as parents and carers you can help us massively with this. Staff will share some of the current topic sheets on Class Dojo so please talk to your children about them - they may even teach you something new!



Last Friday afternoon it was wonderful to welcome Mr McElwee, Head of Ponteland High School, to Belsay to speak to the Year 6 children about transition. The children asked some brilliant questions and seemed very happy by the end. Transition is very strong within the Trust so this is just another small example that supports the bigger picture.



Today is a VERY exciting day as our new residents have arrived. Our chickens will no doubt become a firm favourite with the children and we will be talking to the children about how to be sensible and safe around them.

Please do support us by not allowing the children to feed the chickens as we will set up class rotas for this each week.



Following my letter about our 'Night at the Museum' we have had a great initial response so if you have not yet signed up please [click here](#) to find the sign up sheet. If the weather is as good as this it will be a blast!

Finally, as tradition now stands, we ended with our celebration assembly and hot chocolate winners. It is great to see how many children are now receiving certificates for 180 bookworm points - get to 200 and you'll be in the prize draw at the end of the year.

Well done to everyone this week for a superb attitude to learning. At this time I would also like to wish our Year 6 pupils the very best of luck as they participate in their SATs tests next week. They have all worked so incredibly hard and I have every confidence that they will be superstars next week!

I hope you have a brilliant weekend in the sunshine and see you all ready to go again on Monday.

**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 13th May	All week	Year 6 SATs
Monday 20th May	Morning	School Photographer
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
Friday 24th May	3.15pm	School closes for half term
Monday 17th June	9.00am	Maple Class Reading Cafe
Wednesday 3rd July	Afternoon	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
Friday 19th July		School Closes for Summer

**All dates may be subject to change**

## Keeping children safe online...

**What Parents & Carers Need to Know about TIKTOK**

**THE RESTRICTION 13+**  
(Parents/Carers can restrict to enable 13+)

TIKTOK is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 30 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity memes and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. However, available in 70 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-18 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for eating content, particularly among young people aged 16 to 17.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**  
While TikTok's "For You" feed only displays videos from users similar to them, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previous watched content. Most videos are a couple "For You" feed and therefore are recommended and something that is not subject to a parental control. TikTok's algorithm is designed to be "personalized" by default, but the app's algorithm can be changed to "For You" or "Following" content, but the app will still show "related" videos they aren't necessarily recommended and content.

**18**  
CONTENT

**DANGEROUS CHALLENGES**  
Due to TikTok's immense popularity, various young people have taken challenges based on harmful, harmful or even deadly acts. One extreme example is the "Ice Bucket" trend, which encouraged users to hold their heads under ice for 30 seconds or less or watch until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. In fact, a 16-year-old girl died as a result of doing TikTok and the tragic deaths of other children.

**CONTACT WITH STRANGERS**  
With around 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is quite high. While the app has a reporting system for inappropriate content, the ease of using the app to contact strangers is a concern. It is possible to communicate with strangers on the app, and this can be used to arrange to meet in person or to contact them on other social media.

**IN-APP SPENDING**  
TIKTOK is free, but users have the option to buy TIKTOK coins, which can be used to purchase virtual gifts in the app. These coins are then used as rewards (including their secondary nature) to allow users to make their avatars look more attractive and more fun. It is an easy way to spend money on the app, but it is possible to spend this with a few minutes.

**ADDICTIVE NATURE**  
TIKTOK can be addictive, especially for young people. The app's algorithm is designed to be addictive with its own system and a distraction from other activities. The platform recently introduced a feature to limit the amount of time users spend on the app, but this is only available to users under 18. In the UK, children with TikTok accounts are required to pay for the app, and these features can only be removed in the settings.

**TIKTOK NOW**  
Introduced in late 2019, the TIKTOK app has become one of the most popular apps on their phones. Users receive a daily challenge notification at a certain time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or challenge. This notification can only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them being contacted by strangers, private content such as their location.

**Advice for Parents & Carers**

**ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING**  
Family Pairing allows parents to link their TIKTOK account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can also, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the amount of adult-themed suggestions) and control their child's privacy settings, such as who they can send messages (and to whom). Children can't see these settings without parental approval.

**MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE**  
Although under-16s will have their TIKTOK account set to private by default, by using the setting to manually set it to private, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

**LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING**  
If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TIKTOK, you can limit the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person to spend money on the app. You'll also see they can only use their money on the app.

**DISCUSS THE DANGERS**  
If your child wants to see TIKTOK and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information and that their profile may not be shared to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TIKTOK can help children become generally more social media savvy.

**READ THE SIGNS**  
If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TIKTOK, or that they're being negatively affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to have a talk to them about the potential risks. Signs of concern include a lack of concentration and potential red flags, as well as taking in complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Only Sage is an expert in technology journalism with a background in research in the industry. She's been a writer at TechCrunch, The Guardian, and a number of other technology journals, editors and consultants.

**NOS National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

@nationalonline\_safety | #nationalonline\_safety | @nationalonline\_safety | #nationalonline\_safety

Version of this guide is on our main document, No Safe? is covered here. Contact us if the date of release is 14.11.2023



Class	Attendance
Willow	93.99
Maple	95.35
Alder	97
Oak	94.79

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

A shorter week but still a busy one for Willow class. We have all worked extremely hard this week. The children have loved the story Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We read the story together, made a story map and used this to tell the story to the group and we even had time to make porridge. Thankfully we didn't have a visit from Goldilocks. It was interesting to see how the children approached the task of trying to make porridge independently. Some realised they had made it too hot (like Daddy bear), some made it too cold and lumpy (just like Mummy bear) and some made it just right (like Baby bear). We all thought it was delicious. I wonder if anyone can try and make their own breakfast at home. It would be great to see the photos on Tapestry if you do.



We have been a great help with the chicken house this week. We have spent time making sure the food and water is set up and ready for them. We have also made sure we have found a secure box to store the food in. We have tested the safety of the house to ensure it is secure enough. We also enjoyed seeing where we will collect the eggs from and learning how to make sure the chickens stay safe at night. It has been a great team effort and we are very much looking forward to the arrival of the chickens.

In class we have started to grow cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers and strawberries. We have all been very surprised at how quickly the cucumbers have grown. They are now ready to move into the greenhouse. The peppers are slowly starting to germinate so we will need to plant them in a bigger pot next week. We are eagerly awaiting a change from the strawberries and tomatoes. Hopefully by the time the summer holidays are here we will be able to try some lovely fresh food.

Thank you to everyone who has been sharing photos on Tapestry. The children love sharing these with their friends.

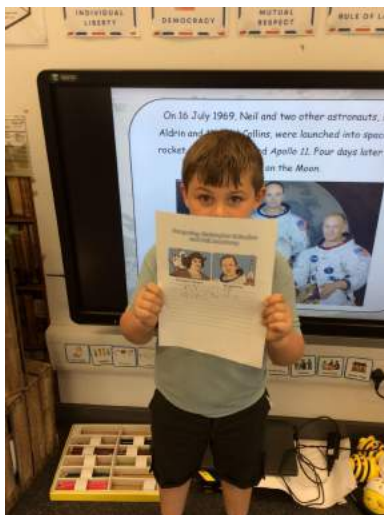
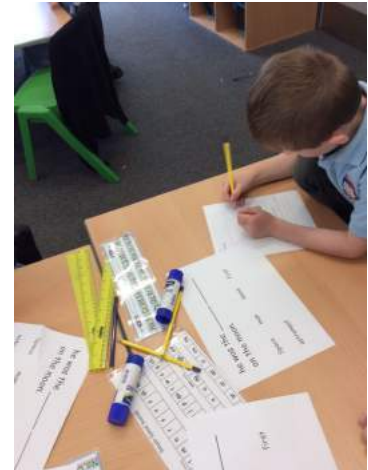
I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend. It seems to have become a theme to say I hope the weather stays nice so let's keep our fingers crossed it does!

**Miss Houghton**



## This week in Maple Class

Maple Class have been busy planning a Newspaper Report about *The Lonely Beast!* We discussed the features of a newspaper article and practised writing descriptively in the third person. We look forward to using all our new knowledge and writing skills next week to structure our reports. In History we learnt about Neil Armstrong and his exploration of the moon. We talked about his journey, thinking how he felt throughout the mission and when he stepped on to the moon. We discussed the meaning behind his famous quote "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind". During Art, we enjoyed experimenting with colour mixing to make tints and shades in preparation for making a collaborative class river. We also spent some time sketching North East landmarks.



Miss Dixon and Miss McNickle



## **This week in Alder Class**

What a glorious week in Alder Class! It has been great to take our learning outside to enjoy the sunshine as well as getting creative and challenging ourselves.

This week in English we have been focusing on creating our own Greek Myth before writing it as a narrative next week. We have worked through the different features and elements of a Greek Myth and created our own hero, mythical creation, dilemma, quest and the journey. It has been great to apply all our knowledge and incorporate our English skills into this. We have also focused on inverted commas so we can all aim to use speech within our story.

Science was lots of fun this week as we were working on retrieving all our knowledge from our 'States of Matter' topic and were looking at our key vocabulary and questions. We started off by going outside and working in groups to 'brain dump' all our knowledge and to try and use as much scientific language as possible to support us. We then set ourselves the challenge to create our own 'Science wall' in the classroom that summed up all our learning!

In PE we have continued our Rounders topic and this week we were looking at our throwing skills as a bowler. We began with a warm up before splitting into teams and trying to throw the ball as close to a target as possible and competing with our friends. We then set ourselves a challenge in teams to throw and catch the ball all the way down the line without dropping it. This made sure we were all taking our time with our throwing but also using the correct technique for throwing and catching. We finished with the ultimate challenge to pass the ball around the whole class without dropping it and I was amazed because we managed this on our first try in less than 30 seconds.



Well done on a brilliant week! I hope you all have a lovely weekend in the sun and manage to get lots of rest.

**Miss Cruse**

## This week in Oak Class

The sun always shines in Belsay and so do our children apparently! Just because this week was limited to four school days, our guys up at the top end of KS2 did not get off lightly. They have worked harder than ever to produce some brilliant work across a range of subjects and I think it's fair to say, a lot of things have really started to click into place.

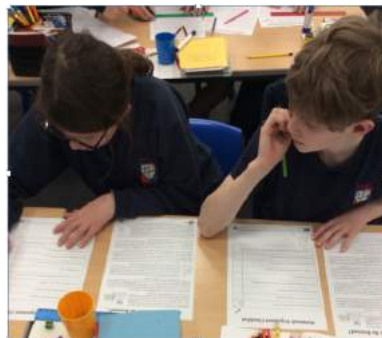
In English, we have been able to plan and publish an information text on the function of the Human heart. Our curriculum has allowed us to have a holistic look at this subject across English and Science, with our key text "Pig Heart Boy" at its core. This has been of massive benefit as the information texts contained a range of brilliant, high level technical language as well as maintaining an interesting and formal tone. Great stuff! We have begun to piece together the various parts of a balanced argument, based around the topic of Xenotransplantation...I doubt many schools can boast such expertise!

As the Year 5s have been smashing through some decimal work with Mr. A, Mr. Shaw and Mr Mc. have been focussed on some SATs work based around fractions and functions. It is clear from these sessions, just how hard some of you have been working at home to plug gaps, develop fluency and reassure your children at home and for this, we are hugely, HUGELY grateful.

As I say, it's been a heavy week for workload (not that this is ever a surprise!) but the sun on Thursday afternoon was just too good to resist. The subject of "Global Citizenship" may be a challenging one but the Belsay sunshine and talk of our fantastic community made it all seem a little bit easier to understand.

We'll take the elephant out of the room. Obviously, this is the last weekend before SATs for our Year 6s. Please don't spend this weekend stressing or cramming or having sleepless nights over it. We are not worried. These guys are awesome. They're going to be fine and we're incredibly proud of all of them.

Go forth and conquer your weekend merrily Team Oak and we will see you on Monday!




Mr. McLeod

Belsay School



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024



BELSAY  
DAYCARE

OPEN AFTERNOON  
TOMBOLA  
CRAFTS & GAMES  
CONNECT  
WITH STAFF  
& SHARE YOUR IDEAS  
AGM FROM 1PM.  
SNACKS & DRINKS  
OPEN TO ALL!

JOIN US ON  
SATURDAY  
11TH MAY  
12 NOON - 2PM

ALL CHILDREN  
& PARENTS,  
PROSPECTIVE  
FAMILIES & MEMBERS  
WELCOME!

Belsay School

