



Friday Flyer

12 July 2024

Headteacher Update

What a busy week it has been in Belsay. The week began with the children having a visit from Julienne from La Petite Creperie. He was very impressed with the children's knowledge of France and their ability to use simple phrases to order a crepe. The children tell me that the crepes were delicious!



It takes more than British weather to stop our PTA! They were certainly challenged on Tuesday however it was great to see that the hall was full for the annual Belsay Summer Fair. A big thank you to the PTA who have demonstrated resilience in abundance and still managed to organise a fantastic event for all of our families to enjoy. Despite the disappointment of having to cancel the football they have raised over £650, which is phenomenal for a small school. Thank you to all of the dedicated PTA members and to the wider community for your support.

We are very lucky at Belsay to have a talented staff team and it is wonderful when staff have the opportunity to share their talents and passion with the children. On Wednesday all children took part in a Musical Theatre workshop with Miss Cruse. The children all experienced a dance, drama and singing workshop linked to the musical Matilda. They were challenged to learn a new routine, make up their own routines and then perform to a small audience. The children were so inspired that some have expressed a wish to develop this interest further outside of school. Please speak to Miss Cruse for further information if required.

Belsay School



We are also lucky to share the skill, passion and enthusiasm of Mrs Wigham as she teaches music across our school each week. On Thursday the talents of our choir and musicians were showcased in the Pele Trust Primaries Summer Concert in St Mary's Church.



Mrs Wigham is very proud that Belsay has the largest number of musicians even though it is the smallest school in the Trust and we worked collaboratively with the other schools to put on a top quality performance of music and songs. We shared in the joy of making music together and the audience experienced the joy of listening to such a talented ensemble and choir. It really was an afternoon to remember. Thank you to Mrs Wigham for all of the wonderful opportunities that she gives us through music.

Congratulations to our Year 6 children who have all been very pleased with their SATs results this week. This is testament to their hard work and to the support that they have received from Mr Mcleod, Mr Shaw and their families. Well done! We look forward to celebrating their time at Belsay School in their leavers assembly on Monday morning. We hope that all Year 6 families can join us for what looks set to be a wonderful event.

Finally this is going to be a memorable weekend of anticipation. Not only are we leading up to the last week of term but there is also a certain football match that as a nation we need to get through! I am sure that you will join me in wishing Gareth Southgate and the England team all of the very best for Sunday's Euros Final and their opportunity to bring joy to the nation. The children have been role playing the final over many weeks on the Belsay field and I just hope the England team plays with as much passion and enthusiasm for winning as our children have shown!



Regardless of the outcome we will see you bright and early on Monday morning!

Enjoy your weekend.
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 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 Maple 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

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators FAIR PLAY AND FRIENDLY COMPETITION

In school sports, fair play and friendly competition are important for character development. Fair play embodies respect and integrity while good-natured competition balances rivalry with camaraderie. This guide addresses potential challenges – like the pressure to win – and offers practical tips on instilling values of fair play and cultivating a positive sporting environment for young athletes.

1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Parents, coaches and teachers should try to exemplify the play development model for openness, coaches and officials. Children frequently learn by observing adult behaviour, so displaying a sense of fair play sets a powerful precedent for them to follow in their own actions on and off the field.

2 EFFORT OVER OUTCOME

Encourage children to focus on giving their all, rather than being too worried about performance or whether they win or not. This fosters a growth mindset, where the journey and the process of improvement are valued just as much as the end result. It also reduces the pressure to 'win at all costs', which can be a harmful outcome in some situations.

3 SET CLEAR EXPECTATIONS

Establish clear guidelines and expectations for behaviour before, during and after sporting events. Ensuring that children understand what is considered an ethical conduct, helps prevent misunderstandings and promotes a positive, respectful atmosphere.

4 HIGHLIGHT COOPERATION

Underline the value of teamwork and cooperation in achieving success. Encourage kids to talk about individual achievements, but about how well the team cooperates, encourages each other and works together towards a common goal. A strong focus on cooperative leaders camaraderie and mutual support among players.

5 DISCUSS ACCEPTING DEFEAT

Help children to understand that they can't win every contest – that being unsuccessful is a natural part of both sport and life. In general, teaching them to accept defeat gracefully and learn from their mistakes promotes resilience, humility and the ability to bounce back stronger. Vice versa, taking a loss to heart is able to also an admirable trait and can help children and young people garner respect in their future life.

6 ENCOURAGE INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION

Promote an environment where all children feel welcome and valued, regardless of their skill level. Prioritize the importance of participation and enjoyment over winning, creating a supportive atmosphere where every child can thrive and develop their abilities without unnecessary pressure.

7 FOSTER CONFLICT RESOLUTION SKILLS

Teach children how to resolve conflicts peacefully and respectfully, both on and off the field. Providing them with strategies for effective communication and problem-solving helps build stronger relationships and enhances their ability to navigate challenges, which can be a huge boon to them throughout their adult lives.

8 TEACH RESPECT

Emphasize to children the importance of respecting everyone involved in the game, regardless of the outcome. Respect for your teammates, opponents, coaches and officials helps to create a positive, inclusive sports environment where everyone can feel valued and appreciated.

9 GIVE CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK

Offer feedback that focuses on areas for improvement rather than criticism. Praise what a child has done well and advise on how to improve. Help them identify positive and encouraging, encouraging a growth mindset and highlighting progress helps children to develop confidence, resilience and a desire to continue striving for excellence.

10 CELEBRATE GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

Try to avoid solely drawing attention to a child's physical performance on the field. Recognize and celebrate acts of sportsmanship, fair play and kindness, too. By spotlighting positive behaviour, you reinforce the importance of such conduct and inspire children to practise this in the future, creating a culture of respect and camaraderie within the sports community that does wonders for morale.

Meet Our Expert

Caroline Heider is a PE consultant based in Staffordshire. Having worked across all age ranges delivering PE in schools, she now trains teachers and works with schools to develop their provision and ensure it achieves maximum impact for pupils. She passionately believes in the impact that PE, sport, and activity can have on children.



Wake Up Wednesday

The National College



Class	Attendance
Willow	89.74
Maple	91.79
Alder	96.08
Oak	95.56

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

We have had another busy but very successful week in Willow class. We started the week by using the eggs we collected from the chickens to make cakes. The children were very sensible and worked hard to make the cakes. They showed great teamwork and resilience as they had to wait a full day before they could eat them. We thought it was only best to space out the sugar they would be consuming as they also had a crepe to enjoy on Monday.

We enjoyed the visit from Julienne on Monday afternoon and it was a great opportunity to use the simple phrases we have been learning with Madame Barton. Julienne was very impressed with our ability to use our French to order a crepe. All children enjoyed a special sweet treat. Thank you to all parents who allowed this to happen.



In order to help with burning off all of the sugar we consumed earlier in the week, we took part in a dance workshop organised by Miss Cruse. We had the opportunity to play some games and learn a new dance routine. The children were brilliant at trying their best and they enjoyed having the chance to express themselves through dance. I know lots of the children were very eager to continue their dancing outside of school.

We have also been very busy this week planning a special event that will take place next week. Our class party! We have thought about the games we would like to play, the food we will have and the music we will listen to (thank you Ruairidh for your help with the playlist). We are really excited to have our party and this year we have been invited to attend the preschool Magic Andrew show. It really will be a full day of partying! The children are welcome to come to school in their party clothes on Thursday 18th July. Despite what they might tell you we do not need any food to be brought into school as myself and Mrs Moffat will provide the food for them. We have chosen a selection of food from the lists they have created.

I hope everyone has a lovely weekend. I really cannot believe we are due to complete the final week of the Reception year. It has been a truly amazing year and one that I am very thankful for. We have a fantastic team of children and parents in Willow class and I am looking forward to celebrating with the children next week. Thank you for all of the support you continue to show, it really is appreciated!

Miss Houghton



This week in Maple Class

We had a fantastic week in Maple Class filled with exciting activities! We began our week with a lovely visit from Julienne and practised speaking French to order delicious crêpes. C'était fantastique!



On Thursday we joined forces with Willow Class and had a wonderful morning in Forest School preparing and cooking vegetable soup on the fire. We had so much fun playing in the woods and tasting our deliciously healthy soup! We also had a joint art lesson and learnt all about sunflowers, when they grow, their life cycle and what they symbolise. We then created our own sunflower art pieces inspired by the work of Vincent Van Gogh.





Miss Dixon



This week in Alder Class

A Fun and Busy Week in Alder Class! This week has been incredibly busy but also filled with lots of fun and exciting activities as we near the end of the school year in Alder Class.

On Monday, we immersed ourselves in Ancient Greek culture with our own mini Olympics, Greek Myths performances, Greek Salad making, and clay plate creations. It was a fantastic day, and I must commend all the children for their enthusiastic participation. Well done to everyone!

We were fortunate to have La Petite Creperie visit us on Monday afternoon. The children were able to use their French knowledge to order and enjoy delicious crepes. It was a delightful experience for all.

Wednesday was filled with musical theatre magic as James from Razzamataz led a workshop focusing on Matilda the musical. The children sang, danced, and acted with incredible talent and enthusiasm. James was thoroughly impressed, and the children had a fantastic time showcasing their abilities.

On Thursday, KS2 students engaged in a practical maths activity, collecting data on the number of different coloured cars passing the school in 15 minutes. They created tally charts and graphs to analyse the data, with older students supporting the younger ones.

To round off our eventful week, we celebrated with a KS2 end of year party. The children had a wonderful time letting loose and enjoying the company of their friends. It was heartwarming to see them having fun and unwinding after their hard work throughout the year.





As we approach the end of the school year, I would like to express my gratitude for your ongoing support and encouragement. The children have shown incredible dedication to their learning and have truly shone in all the activities this week.

Let's make the remaining days of the school year just as memorable as this week has been!

Miss Cruse and Miss Cook



This week in Oak Class

As usual, it is pretty much impossible to confine all of this week's Oak Class shenanigans to one side of A4, but once again, here we go!

Our Leavers' Assembly is really coming together nicely and we cannot wait to share this with you. It has been brilliant to hear how much practising at home has been going on and we are looking forward to giving our Year 6 guys the send off that they deserve. The singing contribution from our Year 5 pupils has been tremendous and have proved what a massive part of this class they are.

As a class, we had a huge presence at our School Fayre on Tuesday (despite the awful weather) and showed a real maturity, in a very busy hall, in exhibiting both excellent behaviour and a real care and awareness of our younger pupils and their families. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who made my own family feel so welcome at this brilliant event. As a family, we felt completely absorbed into the Belsay community with your kind words and well wishes and cannot wait for the next event that we can attend.

Although we have already proved ourselves as magnificent performers, we really benefited from Miss Cruse's workshop on Wednesday afternoon. Miss Cruse and her expertise made this session thoroughly enjoyable and with her being able to pass on so many of her skills to our already brilliant cohort of actors and performers, it fills me with great optimism for next year's performances.

Other notable events this week:

Julienne, the crepe chef, allowed us the opportunity not only to enjoy some delicious French cuisine, but to showcase our ever-developing language skills. Exhibiting the pride and high expectations that we have for ourselves and our presentations as we entered some magnificent pieces into the Margaret Moore handwriting competition. Awesome celebration of our musical talents at Mrs. Wigham's PELE Trust concert with some great individual performances by so many of our guys! Mrs. DeVere also gave us a taste of some instruments which are available for tuition in Key Stage 2 next year. It seems we are going to have a great uptake, judging by how amazed we were by her 100 year old trumpet.

So another busy one done, and another weekend well earned. Have a great one! Let's do it just one more time on Monday to round this awesome year off!

Belsay School



Mr McLeod