



# Friday Flyer

17 May 2024

## Headteacher Update

We have done it! Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls it gives me great pleasure to announce that the Year 6 children have completed their SATs. Following 4 challenging days of English and Maths tests, myself and Mr McLeod could not be more proud of the hard work and resilience shown by all the children. Well done to each and everyone of you and we now need to wait until July to find out our results.

In other news this week, our chickens are just simply the best! They are dropping out eggs all over the place, it's hard to keep up. If only they were golden we could have all retired but for now we will keep collecting, ready for Reception to cook up a storm! In order to keep our chickens fed and watered we are going to be running a naming competition. Over the weekend, can you think of 3 potential names for our friends? Then, if you want to take part, on Monday please send your child to school with £1 and the 3 names written on a piece of paper. The names will then be individually placed into the hat and chosen at random.



The Horse Trials are now in full swing at Belsay as we are seeing a number of children coming to school to show their rosettes. I absolutely love being able to celebrate achievements out of school so please do drop me a Class Dojo message if your child has anything to celebrate out of school.



Remember that our Belsay International Horse Trials are running from 29th May to 2nd June, so if you are able to go and support the event it would be much appreciated (see below for discount codes).

Finally, we end our week of hard work with celebration and hot chocolates, topped with whipped cream and marshmallows. Another top week at Belsay from all our children and staff so thank you for being awesome!

We hope you have an enjoyable weekend no matter what you have planned and it is hard to believe that next week is our final week of the half term.

**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.

<b>Spring Term 2024</b>		
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
Thursday 23rd May	Morning	Year 5 Quad Kids Athletics
Friday 24th May	All day	Alder Class Great North Museum
Friday 24th May	3.15pm	School closes for half term
Tuesday 4th June	3:15pm	PTA AGM
Wednesday 12th June	Morning	Year 6 Basketball Tournament
Thursday 13th June	Morning	Year 4 Quad Kids Athletics
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
Thursday 18th July		Willow class party
Friday 19th July	1.15pm	School Closes for Summer
<b>All dates may be subject to change</b>		



## Keeping children safe online...

### What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# NETFLIX

Netflix is a subscription-based streaming service that allows users to watch TV shows and movies on any internet-enabled device that supports the software, such as smart TVs, phones and tablets. The pandemic saw a surge in children consuming on-demand content as many families relaxed their screen-time rules. Netflix's diverse range of programming caters for all age groups – so it's important for parents to recognise the potential risks of children using the service and the measures to help their child enjoy a safe streaming experience.

#### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Netflix produces and curates an extensive catalogue of content that can provide hours of entertainment. If they share the same user account as an adult, this can potentially lead to children accidentally viewing all manner of inappropriate content, including nudity, profanity and extreme violence. This can happen easily on shared accounts, as Netflix cannot establish who's watching.

#### BINGE-WATCHING

Netflix allows users to view shows and movies quickly and easily without adverts or interruptions, making excessive screen time a concern. Binge-watching has become more common during the pandemic, due to Netflix's regularly updated content and algorithms which recommend content very similar to what's previously been enjoyed. Marathon viewing sessions can lead to children staying up too late, affecting their mood and concentration the next day.

#### SCREEN ADDICTION

From TVs and phones to consoles and tablets, Netflix is available on almost any device with an internet connection – making it extremely difficult to manage children's screen time. The service is now adding games to its mobile app, tempting users to spend even more time on the platform. Screen addiction can distract children from important activities like schoolwork and socialising, and can impact their health by reducing their exercise and sleep.

#### HACKING ATTEMPTS

With millions of users worldwide, Netflix is often targeted by hackers who try to steal usernames and passwords to gain access to people's accounts. If successful, they can then steal payment details or try to sell stolen personal data on the dark web, providing other criminals with a profitable opportunity. Netflix also doesn't provide two-factor authentication, making the hackers' task that little bit easier.

#### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Netflix's Teleparty feature became popular during lockdown periods as it allows users from different households (friends and relatives, for example) to synchronise when they watch content. It requires an access link to be sent to the people you wish to invite: the link, however, can also be distributed to people you don't know. A text chat feature enables interaction with the other users in real-time: this represents a risk to children if a stranger gains access to the Teleparty.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

#### KEEP ACCOUNTS SECURE

Netflix doesn't use two-factor authentication, so a strong password is vital. Your child's Netflix password should be unique (not one they've used elsewhere) and a minimum of eight characters with a mix of letters, numbers and symbols. Emphasise not to share their login details with anyone and remind them to always log out after using the app – so their account remains inaccessible, even if their device is lost or stolen.



#### CHECK MATURITY RATING

Netflix warns about content that includes violence, sex, profanity and nudity. These warnings form part of the show or movie's maturity rating. Users can restrict age ratings to avoid children viewing age-inappropriate content. On their profile, open the Profile and Parental Control settings and choose the maturity level for the shows and movies you want to allow.



#### CREATE A KIDS' PROFILE

Setting up a Netflix Kids experience profile means your child can only access content which is suitable for children aged up to 12 years. All other content is automatically blocked. This rating can be further restricted via the child's profile settings. Setting up a Netflix Kids experience profile will help to prevent your child from viewing age-inappropriate content.



#### SET UP PROFILE PINS

Netflix account holders can lock profiles using a four-digit PIN. Doing this can prevent your child from accessing the wrong account and viewing content that isn't appropriate for their age. Try setting a PIN for each account on your Netflix app – ideally avoiding numbers that would be easily guessed, such as dates of birth. Remember not to share these PINs with anyone, including family.



#### SWITCH OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a show or movie concludes, Netflix's algorithms select content with similar themes that it thinks your child will enjoy next. This new content starts automatically after a 10-second countdown. Disabling this auto-play feature reduces the possibility of your child being shown something inappropriate and provides a natural break to help prevent them becoming too immersed in Netflix.



#### CHECK VIEWING HABITS

Netflix has tools which enable parents and carers to monitor what their child has been watching. Selecting 'Viewing Activity' in each profile's account settings displays a list of what content has been viewed (and when). This can reassure parents that their child is watching age-appropriate content and can open avenues for discussing your child's favourite shows and movies, and why they like them.





Class	Attendance
Willow	92.31
Maple	96.62
Alder	84.31
Oak	99.63

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 a fantastic week in Willow class. This week we have been responsible for seeing to the chickens. We have checked on them each morning to make sure they have enough food and water, collected the eggs, spent time talking to them and making sure they are okay. It is lovely to see the children growing in confidence around them all of the time. We have been able to hold them this week and have been looking for signs when they are ready for us to let them down, to have space. We have linked us going into the chicken house as being like Goldilocks as we are in the chicken's house. Unlike Goldilocks we have been very respectful and not stayed too long or broken anything. We will hand over chicken duty to KS1 next week, although we will still make time to go and check on the chickens. Well done Team Willow for rising to the challenge.

This week our focus story has been Jack and the Beanstalk. We read the story in English and listened to the story in Polish and French. It is lovely to link the traditional tales with other languages as the children know the story so well they can still follow along, while also hearing a different language being spoken. We have started to plan our own stories this week. We enjoyed changing the characters in the traditional tales, some examples we used were The Three Little Chickens, Goldilocks and the Three Penguins and a favourite Jack and the Sunflower. We found this a very funny activity but it provided us with great inspiration to plan our own stories. We have used a story map to plan the story, then we have written the story thinking about the beginning, middle and end. Next week we will start to write the story in a book and add illustrations to it. We might have some authors of the future among us!

We have really enjoyed Rainbow challenges this week. This is when we are set independent challenges that we can complete. The aim is to complete four across the week to receive 5 dojo points. The children have really enjoyed these activities. This week the children were challenged to match the magic beans to the correct number, cut and stick the pictures in order to complete the story map, write about the story of Jack and the Beanstalk and draw a picture of what would be at the top of their beanstalk. All of the children completed at least 1 of these activities which is fantastic!



Have a lovely weekend!

**Miss Houghton**



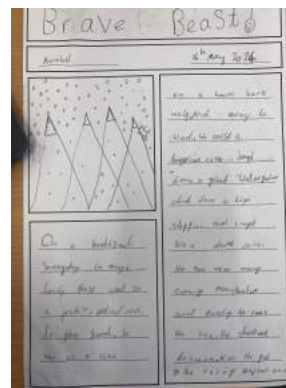
## This week in Maple Class

Maple class carried out a research enquiry in Science to find out if they could complete three different activities without their sense of sight- a yard walk, food identification and tower building. We talked about the five senses and which part of the body they were linked to. We worked in pairs to make predictions as to whether or not we would be able to complete the activities without our sight and explained which other senses we would need to rely on.



We concluded that most of the class were able to complete all three activities by relying on senses other than sight. However, we found that if somebody hadn't smelt a particular food in the past, they weren't able to identify it. We also learned that some people have stronger senses than others and that some people may have glasses or a hearing aid to improve their senses.

In English, we have been writing Newspaper Reports about *The Lonely Beast* using alliterative headlines and exciting language to engage the reader. We remembered to answer the key questions- who, what, when, where and why within our sentences to ensure our articles were informative to the reader.



Miss Dixon and Miss McNickle



## This week in Alder Class

Wow! What a busy week in Alder Class and it has been great to continue our outdoor learning.

We have started our new Maths topic 'money' and we have loved being able to take our learning outside when doing practical work. We started off the week by identifying different amounts of money and understanding the value before converting between pounds and pence. Year 3 have spent the rest of the week adding and subtracting money and this has been a great way to revisit our addition and subtraction written methods whilst also using money to make it more practical and help us understand money outside of school. Year 4 have been applying all their decimal knowledge to compare and estimate different amounts of money and converting between pounds and pence which they have been amazing at.

English this week has been very exciting as we started the week writing our own Greek Myth and it was great to see everyone explore their creativity whilst also producing gorgeous work using all our English skills. Everyone has challenged themselves to use speech, similes and metaphors, fronted adverbials and also begin thinking about different sentence structures to make a greater impact. We then spent the rest of the week understanding the different features of a persuasive text and then we completed a research task around Greece. Next week we will be creating our own brochure to persuade people to go to Greece and I am excited to see how we get on.

Lots of outdoor learning this week and making the most of the beautiful weather. Starting off with Cricket and Rounders in PE. We have been focusing on our fielding skills this week and our over arm throw before applying all our skills from the last few weeks to play a game of rounders. It has been amazing to see the progress since week one and how we are starting to work more as a team to support each other. We also took Art outside this week as we were creating a collage that represents us as individuals. We considered what we enjoy, what our personality is like as well as what makes us unique to collect different images to create ourselves. We were also able to take Science outside as we have begun learning about sound and we went outside to understand what impacts our hearing before learning about the different parts of the ear.



Belsay School



Well done on a brilliant week in Alder Class. It has been an amazing week of being creative, challenging ourselves and deepening our learning. I hope you all have a brilliant weekend before a very exciting week next week. Please don't forget we have our Reading Cafe on Monday and our class trip on Friday.

**Miss Cruse**

## This week in Oak Class

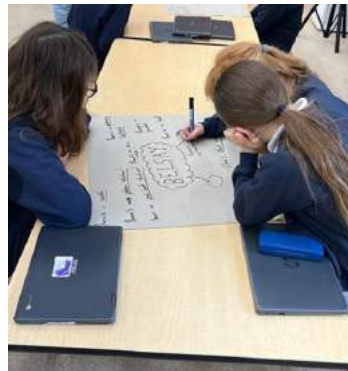
Well, there's been no hiding what we have been up to this week up here in Upper Key Stage 2, especially in Year 6. SATs week is always a week that divides opinion, but all I can say from a teaching (and personal) point of view is how unbelievably proud Mr. Shaw and I are of the attitudes of every single one of our Year 6 children. Their working attitude has been absolutely exemplary but to be totally honest, I don't want to dwell on these tests too much. For the rest of the year, I'd much rather we focussed on the wonderful artists, musicians, sportsmen and women, creative writers, budding engineers, gymnasts, dancers, equestrians, farmers, environmentalists, comedians, friends and countless other priceless people and skills that we have going on in Oak Class. No SATs paper will ever tell me, or anyone else for that matter, any of that.

The Year 5s have been no strangers to hard work this week either. They have worked in small groups to complete some really thorough and brilliantly researched presentations on the history of Belsay Village. Aside from their brilliant research and computing skills, it's also been brilliant to hear from Mr. Atkinson, that feedback and peer support has played a huge part in this week's learning. So Year 5, I know this week has been a funny one, but by just being your normal awesome selves, you have made this week not just an enjoyable one for yourselves, you have made this high pressure week a lovely one for our entire Oak Class community, so thank you very much!

We have been squeezing out some brilliant planning and writing for our balanced arguments unit in the afternoons and because we have worked so brilliantly throughout these sessions, we have been able to spend some time out in the sunshine for the latter parts of the day. The love and respect these guys have for our wonderful outdoor space is absolute testament to their attitude and it's brilliant to see them using this space so well.

Weeks like these are challenging. However, when you have a school community as strong as supportive as ours, they don't seem half as bad. Thank you for all the reading, for all the time spent on homework, for your calm heads throughout the extra madness of these last few weeks and for your constant, ongoing and unfaltering support.

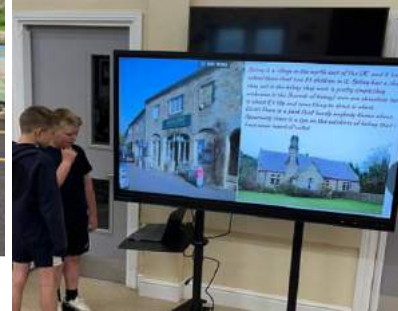
And now, the weekend...



Belsay School



That face you make when you finish your SATs 🙌



**Mr. McLeod**

# BELSAY INTERNATIONAL HORSE TRIALS

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## 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY - 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2024

Discounted tickets can put purchased: <https://belsayhorsetrials.ticketsrv.co.uk/tickets/>

Code is – **BELSCH24**

Buy 1 Adult, Any One Day (Fri-Sat or Sun) ticket get 1 Child (16 and under) Any One Day (Fri-Sat or Sun) free. Limit of 50 tickets available. Children of 6 and under are free.

Belsay School



**BOLAM CHURCH  
GROUNDS TIDY UP ,  
BONFIRE, SOCIAL,  
CHILDREN'S EVENT.**



The next date is Saturday May 18th All welcome from 2pm to help cut back, chop down, pull up and generally tidy our beautiful church yard. Bring your gloves and tools.

There will be a fun activity for children about 3pm for 45 minutes. The theme this time is "The air we breathe". This natural world experience has been developed for children aged 8 to 11, but younger people are welcome too!

Bring your favourite refreshments to share at the fire from about 4pm. Children welcome to help with their adults, as always. We usually finish by 6pm. Any questions to Jim Grant 01670 772302 or email [storiesfromjim@gmail.com](mailto:storiesfromjim@gmail.com)



## WHO WE ARE.....

Northumberland Parent Carer Forum (NPCF) is a group of parents carers of children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) who work with local authorities, education settings, health providers and other providers to make sure that the services they commission, plan and deliver meet the needs of disabled children and families.

The Forum works alongside Northumberland County Council (NCC) and the Integrated Care Board (ICB) as a strategic partner.

The Forum has built strong working relationships and have a trusted role as parent carers of children and young people with SEND aged 0-25 in Northumberland.

We are experts by experience and as such, have a unique understanding of how challenging life can be raising a child or young person with SEND.

We do this by giving parent carers the opportunity to participate in a number of ways such as coffee events, conferences, social media, surveys and focus groups. This feedback can then be used to co-produce and work at a strategic level with the Local Authorities and the ICB.

## WHAT CAN WE OFFER TO PARENT CARERS?

### A Listening Ear

Our steering group are always happy to listen, we're all experts by experience as parent carers ourselves.

### Parent Carer Conferences

We hold parent carer conferences which offer a range of workshops relating to a range of SEND specific subjects, lunch and refreshments are provided and of course the opportunity to meet and chat with other like minded parent carers

### Events & Workshops

We offer a range of events and workshops, such as SEND Law, Preparation for Adulthood, Coffee Mornings with Northumberland IASS

### Signposting & Information Hub

We have a network\* of organisations, charities, businesses and community groups who provide groups and services to children & young people with SEND and their families and we're only too happy to share their details and signpost our members to them. Sharing is caring!

\*If you run a community group and would like to know more, please get in touch

### REGISTER NOW.....

Our membership is free! you'll receive our newsletter and be first to hear about any upcoming projects, as well as having priority booking for our events and workshops.



[www.npcf.co.uk](http://www.npcf.co.uk)



[enquiries@npcf.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@npcf.co.uk)



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