



Friday Flyer

21 June 2024

Headteacher Update

It has been lovely to be back in Belsay over the last couple of weeks and to spend time with the children, both in the classroom and outside. I have always said that there is no better lunch duty than on the Belsay field on a sunny day and I have been fortunate to share that experience with the children today. We have been recreating the competition of The Euros alongside den building, gymnastic displays, hill rolling and tree climbing.

This week we have certainly been in tune with nature. Not only have the swallows been seen with their chicks above the entrance to the hall but Years 5 and 6 have been learning all about bees in their annual Bee Week.



Mary has represented Belsay School on her visits to Wylam Apiary this week. Not only did she get a hands-on experience working with the hives but she also identified the Queen eggs which then enabled the bee keepers to separate them off to create a new bee colony. Very well done Mary!





Finally , the Reception children in Willow Class have made my day by presenting me with a beautiful bouquet of flowers which they have grown here in the Belsay grounds. They really are very special.



Enjoy the beautiful weather, and have a great weekend..... This could be summer!
We hope that the Year 6 children enjoy their trip to France next week after their early start on Sunday morning!

Best wishes

L Blain



Jane McCracken from Drawing for the Planet came into school to present us with a framed collaborative piece of artwork that children contributed to last year. We are proud of our school contribution to the Chimpanzee Rescue and Protection Project.

*Value of the Month - Resilience
Language of the Month - Finnish*



Dates for the diary...

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

Spring Term 2024		
Monday 1st July	9am - 12pm	Alder Class Football Tournament
Wednesday 3rd July	Afternoon	Sports Day
Thursday 4th July	All day	Transition Day Y6 Transition to PHS
Friday 5th July	All day 5:30pm	Y6 Transition to PHS Night at the Museum
Monday 8th July	All Day	Alder Class Ancient Greek Day
Tuesday 9th July	3.15pm	PTA Summer Fair
Tuesday 16th July	9.15am - 10.15am	Belsay Showcase
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
Monday 2nd September		Training Day
Tuesday 3rd September		School resumes
All dates may be subject to change		

Belsay School



Night at the Museum

With just 2 weeks to go until our 'Night at the Museum' event we are asking that all orders for the BBQ and breakfast are placed by the 28th of June. Please complete both forms below if you haven't already done so.

[BBQ order](#) - You are more than welcome to bring additional food but unfortunately we can not cook anything extra on the BBQ

[Breakfast order](#)

Thank you

Miss Whitehouse

Belsay Closet

We are looking for donations of pre-loved uniforms for our second-hand stand at the Summer Fair. If anyone has any items that no longer fit but still have plenty of life left in them please drop them into the School Office.

Many thanks in advance

Miss Whitehouse





Keeping children safe online



There's a very good chance you've heard of Fortnite, but what exactly is it? And why is it so popular amongst young people? Fortnite is an online multiplayer "battle royale" game developed by Epic Games, and is playable on Playstation 4, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch, PC and mobiles. It gained popularity in late 2017 and has since become the biggest game in the world, thanks to its rapid and engaging gameplay. As with most games, Fortnite itself is a highly enjoyable and safe experience, but it pays to be vigilant, as the safety is not water tight.



What parents need to know about FORTNITE BATTLE ROYALE



BATTLE ROYALE

Battle Royale games have become very popular over the last couple of years, and most tend to follow a very similar pattern. Taking Fortnite as an example, 100 players drop into a map, free to build as for weapons and armour and attempt to beat all the other players to be crowned victor at the end. If you've ever seen the Hunger Games movies, you'll have an idea of what the game is like. Each game can take up to an hour, depending on you get to the end and can be replayed. Additionally, you can play with up to 100 live players from around the world.

IS FORTNITE ADDICTIVE?

Fortnite is at the forefront of gaming addiction, and it's important to be aware of this. Signs of addiction include: loss of interest in other activities, spending more time playing, and neglecting school or work. It's important to be aware of these signs and to talk to your child about them. If you're concerned, it's best to talk to a professional. There are also some things you can do to help, such as setting limits on play time and encouraging your child to spend time with friends and family.

FREE TO PLAY... OR IS IT?

While Fortnite is technically free to play, in that you can download and play it without paying, it does come with the caveat that spending money on things like skins and emotes in-game is heavily pushed to players. The currency used in-game is called V-Bucks and can be bought with real money through the game's online store. It's worth remembering that these purchases are absolutely not necessary, and can be earned in-game with enough play time.

SEASONAL UPDATES

Every 10 weeks or so, Fortnite is updated with a new season. This usually adds new things like skins and weapons to the game, while also sometimes changing up the game map in interesting ways. These seasons can be free to everybody and don't require additional money to play, though some skins for each season can be bought with V-Bucks. A bonus game will feature a skin a player to earn experience, items and gain fun in-game items by completing a host of daily challenges.

CROSSPLAY IS AVAILABLE

One of the wonderful things about Fortnite is that it can be played cross-platform. This means that on mobile, you can play with friends who play on PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One and they can play with friends who own the game on a different platform. To do this, an Epic Games account must first be created on the platform to use, and then linked with your platform account. Doing this means that you can play with your friends on any platform, which is a great feature. It's worth noting that you can't play with friends on a console who are playing on a different console.

IS FORTNITE VIOLENT?

Fortnite has been rated by the ESRB (Entertainment Software Rating Board) as E10+, as it contains cartoonish violence and the weapons and acts depicted in the game are purely cosmetic. There have been some reports of children who have been scared or upset by the violence, but this is not the intention of the game and is rare. The game is designed to be fun and exciting, and the violence is purely cosmetic.



Top Tips for Parents

BUYING V-BUCKS

As mentioned, Fortnite does contain in-game purchases and virtual currencies in the form of V-Bucks which can be bought with real money. If you do decide to let your child use real money in the game, be sure to check your card information statements as it can be very easy to purchase more items at the price of a few pounds. It's important to set a limit on any real money you allow your child to spend, and to be clear that you don't have to worry about who they're playing with. It can also help out expectations on spending money in Fortnite, and to be clear if you wish to play together.

GAMING WITH STRANGERS

Fortnite Battle Royale is an online game, and as such, there is a chance that young children could come into contact with strangers who are completely unknown to them. It's important to be aware of this and to talk to your child about it. There are some things you can do to help, such as setting limits on play time and encouraging your child to spend time with friends and family. It's also important to be aware of the risks of gaming with strangers, and to be clear that you don't have to worry about who they're playing with.

LIMIT TIME, BUT BE FLEXIBLE

A game of Fortnite can last up to 20 minutes, so the flexibility when it comes to play it is great. The amount of time you spend in the game can be as little as 10 minutes, or as long as 20 minutes. It's important to be aware of this and to talk to your child about it. There are some things you can do to help, such as setting limits on play time and encouraging your child to spend time with friends and family. It's also important to be aware of the risks of gaming with strangers, and to be clear that you don't have to worry about who they're playing with.

TALK TO OTHER PARENTS / CARERS

If you're concerned about play time or spending money in the game, talk to other parents and carers of your child's friends. If you approach it as a collective, it will be easier to know where there are any issues and you don't have to worry about who they're playing with. It can also help out expectations on spending money in Fortnite, and to be clear if you wish to play together.

CAN DEVELOP SOME IMPORTANT SKILLS

It's often overlooked, but there are some important skills that can be developed through gaming. For example, strategic thinking, problem solving, and teamwork are all skills that can be developed through gaming. It's important to be aware of this and to talk to your child about it. There are some things you can do to help, such as setting limits on play time and encouraging your child to spend time with friends and family. It's also important to be aware of the risks of gaming with strangers, and to be clear that you don't have to worry about who they're playing with.

PLAY THE GAME YOURSELF

There's no substitute for sitting down and playing the game yourself to learn all about it. Fortnite is available for free on almost anything you can imagine, from your smartphone, to your PC, to your console. It's important to be aware of this and to talk to your child about it. There are some things you can do to help, such as setting limits on play time and encouraging your child to spend time with friends and family. It's also important to be aware of the risks of gaming with strangers, and to be clear that you don't have to worry about who they're playing with.

Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 3 years as a writer, editor and producer. He is the current gaming editor of one of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UKGAD Gaming and GAMINGOBS. Having spent time in a gaming shop with his children, he has a passion for understanding how games affect our work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.





Class	Attendance
Willow	99.15
Maple	98.07
Alder	100
Oak	98.52

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

Another fantastic week for Willow class. They say time flies when you are having fun and that is certainly true at the moment.

We have enjoyed spending time with our friends in Year 1 this week, and it was lovely to see the school value of collaboration in action. The children worked together to connect the chains together to see if they could fit them around all of the poles in the outdoor area. There was a lot of communication between each other, and some very loud cheers when they were finished. A great team effort from everyone! The children are becoming a really strong group already and I know the time they have spent together so far will prepare them for being a great team in September.



We have started our Design Technology project of making a dinosaur mask using paper mache. We have been so busy that we haven't made the mask yet. We have spent time researching different types of masks, learning how to use paper mache and designing the mask we want to make. All of which are really important skills. We will make our mask next week, we are very excited to do this.

Our friends from preschool joined us again this week, to take part in their second transition morning. Team Willow was amazing at helping the children again, but so were the whole school. It was lovely to see the older children supporting the younger children at lunchtime and break time. We are looking forward to spending the full day with them next week!

It's the time of year where I am busy writing reports and reflecting on the school year. I have started to complete the final assessments of the children and it has been wonderful to see just how far everyone has come in a year. Every child in the class can read, write and recognise numbers. However, more importantly every child in the class has secure friendships, enjoys coming to school and is the best version of themselves every single day. This is all I could ask for from Willow class and I couldn't be more proud of them if I tried. None of this is possible without the fantastic support we receive from home so thank you to you all!

A big well done to Willow class who rose to my challenge of aiming for 100 percent attendance this week. We were so close, let's try again next week!

Miss Houghton



This week in Maple Class

Maple Class had yet another busy but brilliant week! On Monday we hosted our first ever Year 1 and 2 Reading Cafe. It was wonderful to see so many parents attend the event making it a great success, the children enjoyed taking part in a range of reading and writing activities with their families.



In afternoon lessons, we started an exciting DT project all about vehicles! We have been learning about what wheels and axles are, experimenting to see how they turn to make a vehicle move. We took on the job role of a mechanic and looked at four broken vehicles, identified why the wheels wouldn't turn on each and wrote repair tickets for them. We also discussed how vehicles have changed over time and learnt about past famous engineer Henry Ford. We worked hard to construct designs for our vehicles based on the resources we have gathered and are looking forward to following our plans to produce the final product!





This week in Alder Class

As always I am very proud I am of the children this week. Their efforts and hard work have truly shone through, and it has been a pleasure to witness their dedication.

In our English lessons, we delved into the realm of Newspaper features, culminating in the children writing their very own newspaper articles about the Trojan War. Working with a partner on the computer added an extra layer of challenge, which the children tackled with enthusiasm and creativity to produce some beautiful, high quality work.

Over in Maths, we wrapped up our focus on time, prompting discussions on the use of different units and the significance of choosing the right unit for a given task. It was wonderful to see the children engage with this and deepen their understanding.

In Science, our exploration centred around sound, with the children forming predictions before conducting an experiment on soundproofing materials. They then analysed their findings, leading to insightful discussions and the drafting of their conclusions.





While enjoying the sunny weather, we took the opportunity to discuss sun safety, preparing ourselves for the upcoming forecast. It's essential that the children are equipped with the knowledge to look after themselves in the sun and they are excited for the sunny weather to finally arrive in Belsay.

I'm continually impressed by the beautiful and in-depth discussions that arise during our lessons, showcasing not only academic growth but also strong character development. The children's resilience, drive for excellence, and unwavering support for one another is amazing to see.

Keep up the fantastic work and momentum as we go into the weeks ahead. Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement from home as always and I hope everyone has a brilliant weekend.

Miss Cruse and Miss Cook



This week in Oak Class

It has “bee-n” a pretty awesome week in Oak Class and we are “buzzing” to share all of our achievements with you!

Despite being a teacher for nearly a million years, I have never taken part in a week so unique as the PELE Trust Bee Week, and it has been tremendous. Amongst our KS2 guys, you really get a sense of ownership and pride over the activities that we took part in this week. The prior knowledge that we have encountered has been exemplary and it has been so impressive to see how this has been applied across a number of tasks this week.

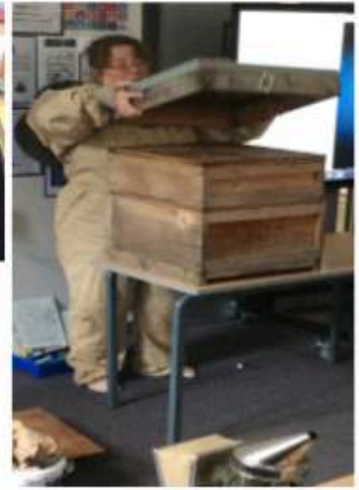
Monday started with some background research, looking at “facts and fiction” with regard to bee behaviour and what it indicates. We did a great job of matching up appropriate factual texts to the correct images before identifying where the “fake news” was in each of the articles.

Tuesday saw us create some brilliant information texts, investigating the similarities and differences between honeybees, bumblebees and wasps and using some great vocabulary along the way. The real jewel in the crown on this day however, was the brilliantly informative visit from Mrs. Rutherford, a Science teacher at Ponteland High School and a highly experienced beekeeper. Her knowledge and expertise were received brilliantly by the children and the opportunity she gave us to explore some of her equipment, twinned with the insight into her day-to-day life as a beekeeper was an absolutely priceless experience for us.

Wednesday and Thursday gave us the opportunity to get out and about and begin to analyse Belsay Primary School as a suitable home for bees. This was helped hugely by our Zoom call with Jilly, another beekeeper who gave us so much more information to consider when assessing the compatibility of a site fit for bees.

What a way to prepare for France next week with the Year 6's! A great week carried out in the best of spirits. To keep up to date with photos please check the Class Dojo page we have made and we will also be posting on X. You can access the school page by clicking [here](#).

Have a great weekend Team Oak! (Year 6 parents, I'll see you at 6.40am on Sunday morning!)



Mr McLeod

Belsay School



Belsay School

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.

Belsay School



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

Belsay School

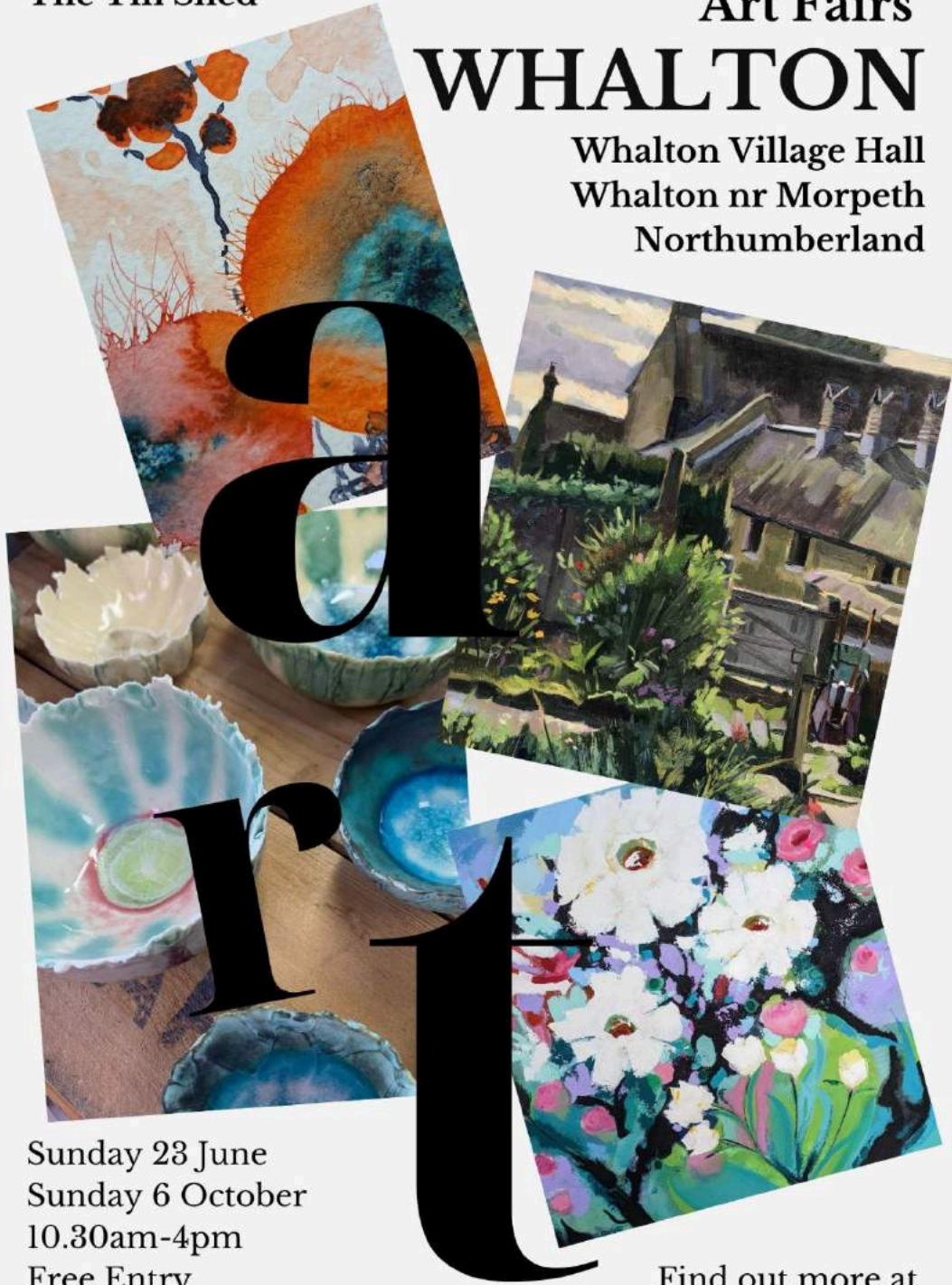


The Tin Shed

Art Fairs

WHALTON

Whalton Village Hall
Whalton nr Morpeth
Northumberland



Sunday 23 June
Sunday 6 October
10.30am-4pm
Free Entry
Teas & Cakes

Find out more at
www.thetinshed.co.uk

Belsay School

