



Friday Flyer

27 October 2023

Headteacher Update

As we reach the end of our 8 week half term I want to congratulate all the children for the way in which they have settled back into school. There feels like a constant positive buzz around school and as one pupil described in pupil voice today 'we are like one big family at Belsay' - what a beautiful expression.

We have had lots of fun this week in school and super excited children, primarily because of our Halloween Disco and Pumpkin Competition. I honestly don't think I have seen so many creative designs carved into pumpkins of all shapes and sizes. Thank you for your kind donations and the amazing work of our PTA, the disco made £141.08 profit once all costs were paid. One of the main aims of Belsay is that all children, from all classes, feel included and this was definitely the case for this event. It was brilliant to see so many happy, smiley and some really quite scary faces joining in the fun on Tuesday night.



Today we have had our Harvest Festival and what an amazing event that was. The children have worked so hard over the last few months to learn the songs and their lines. I am so proud of each and every one of them. I would also like to say a big well done to our marvellous musicians who performed in the Festival and finally I would like to say thank you to Mrs Wigham, as without her enthusiasm and expertise the whole event would not be possible.

The staff and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and we wish each and every one of you a restful half term. We already have lots of exciting plans for the next 7 weeks of Autumn Term, including parent evenings so we look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 8th November at 8.45am.

Craig Shaw



Pumpkin competition

It was wonderful to see so many entries in the pumpkin competition this week. Everyone had clearly put a lot of effort into decorating them, well done everyone who took part.

The winners were:

1st place: Lucy (Year 6)

2nd place: Miles (Year 3)

3rd place: Ralph (Year 1)



Miss Houghton was the judge and it was really difficult to choose the overall winners. Well done to everyone who took part they really were spooktacular!



Class	Attendance
Willow	97.69
Maple	97.39
Alder	100
Oak	93.87

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
90- 91.9%	Cause for concern
89.9 or below	Persistent Absence Serious Concern

Did you know?

A child who is absent from school for one day a week misses the equivalent of two years of their school life.

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](#).


Dates for the diary...

Autumn Term 2023		
Monday 6th November		Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 7th November		School Re-opens after Half Term
Friday 10th November		Remembrance Day Assembly
Monday 13th November		Odd Sock Day
Monday 13th & Tuesday 14th November	3.15-5.30pm	Parents' Evenings
Thursday 7th December		Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 7th December	1.45pm	Joint Christmas Performance (Parents/Carers Welcome) <i>Venue TBC</i>
Friday 15th December	AM	(TBC) Whole School Christmas Performance
Tuesday 19th December	10.00am	Christmas Pantomime at Tyne Theatre
Wednesday 20th December	Afternoon	KS2 Christmas Party
Thursday 21st December	Afternoon	Reception/KS1 Christmas Party
Friday 22nd December		School Closes for Christmas
All dates may be subject to change		

Remember you can track our key school events through our website by clicking on the News and Events tab and then School Calendar.

***Please take note that the first day back after half term is a Teacher Training Day so the children will come back on Tuesday 7th November.**



Extra-Curricular Clubs:

We are looking to start these from next week. Please click [here](#) to sign up.

Day	Activity	Time	Age
Monday	Dance	3.20 - 4.15pm	Reception - Y2
Tuesday	NUF Multi-Sport	3.20 - 4.20pm	Years 1 - 3
Wednesday	Pele Trust Multi-Sport	3.20 - 4.20pm	Years 4 - 6
Wednesday	Spanish Club	3.15 - 4.15pm	Years 3-6
Thursday	Badminton	3.15 - 4.00pm starts 21st September	Years 5 - 6 (cost)
Friday	Band	8.30 - 9.00am	All band members from last year and children who can play an entire scale are welcome
Friday	Choir	11.45 - 12.15pm	KS2

Would you or someone you know like to run a club? If so please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

School Uniform...

We are seeing an increased number of misplaced uniforms which, as we all know, is frustrating as it costs a lot of money to replace items. Therefore can you please ensure names are added to all items so they can be returned to the right owners.

It may also be a good time to check the uniform, particular jumpers and hoodies that are at home, to make sure you have the correct items for your child and not an item belonging to another child.

Thank you in advance for your support with this.



Keeping Children Safe Online

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

ONLINE CONTENT

10 tips to keep your children safe online

The internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.



1 MONITOR VIEWING HABITS

Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.



2 CHECK ONLINE CONTENT

Understand what's being shared or what seems to be 'trending' at the moment.



3 CHECK AGE-RATINGS

Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age limit.



4 CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.



5 SPEND TIME ON THE APP

Get used to how apps work, what content is available and what your child likes to watch.



6 LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE

Ensure they know that there is support and advice available to them if they need it.



7 ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.



8 LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK

Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.



9 KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

If a child sees distressing material online, listen to their concerns, empathise and offer reassurance.



10 SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT

If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Belsay School



Competition Time...



THE GREAT GEORDIE BANGER OFF

Get ready for some **sausage-tastic** fun as we've teamed up with our pals at the Geordie Bangers to create their next big flavour in a **Pele Trust wide competition.**

THE COMPETITION

Entrants will need to come up with the name, ingredients and drawing of their tasty creation to impress the judges.

THE PRIZES

The winning sausage will be made by Geordie Bangers and will appear in the next menu cycle for all schools within the trust. The winner will also receive 5 Kilos of their new sausage to take home and enjoy with their family.

There will also be runner up prizes for each primary school, with each finalist receiving a certificate, as well as their sausage being created and put into mini sausage sandwiches for the whole class to enjoy.

Entry forms will be available from w/c 23rd October 2023

We can't wait to see what wonderful creations you come up with!

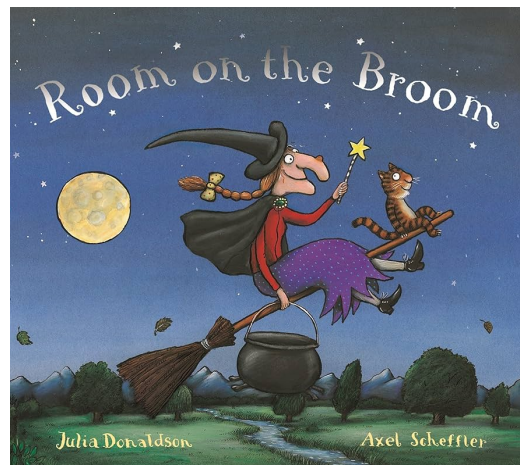
Richard Bell | Area Catering Manager
Vin & David McDonad | Geordie Bangers



The week in Willow Class

This week our class focus has been all about Halloween. We have discussed what we do for Halloween and some people have a party, some people go trick or treating and some people don't do anything for it. This discussion linked well with thinking about similarities and differences. The children were very excited on Tuesday and all day they were asking was it time for the Halloween disco, when they got changed they looked very scary! The children had a great time and managed really well for their first whole school event. Well done everyone!

In class we have been looking at the story *Room on the Broom*. Laurie was able to identify the author 'Julia Donaldson' and the illustrator 'Axel Scheffler'. Magnus said "just like my brother Axel". This is an area we will continue to work on in Willow class, remembering who has written the story and who has drawn the pictures. It would be great if you could practise this at home as well, when reading stories. We have loved reading this book lots of times and by Wednesday afternoon we could retell the story together. It was lovely to hear the children joining in. Our home corner has been transformed and the children have loved pretending to be witches and cooking lots of 'disgusting' meals for everyone.



This month we have been thinking about the value of 'Kindness' in Willow class. We see kindness being shown everyday. Our children are very good at remembering what kindness looks like and we can relate to it even in stories.

A big well done to everyone for completing the first half term of our Reception year. It has been a long one, but the children have shown great resilience to keep on going even when they were starting to feel tired. Everyone has told me that they have lots of exciting plans for over the half term break, please share these on Tapestry and the children love sharing these in class with their friends.

Well done everyone for the first half term

Have a lovely half term!

Miss Houghton



This week in Maple Class

Maple Class have had a brilliant week celebrating all the changes and special events that happen in Autumn! In Forest School, we learnt about seasonal change and what happens to the weather and climate during Autumn. We learnt why we have seasons and what changes happen within our environment as the weather gets colder. We celebrated seasonal change by collecting fallen leaves from deciduous trees within the school grounds and used them to make Autumn leaf crowns with Miss McNickle.



We also had a fang-tastic time at the Halloween Disco! We really enjoyed dressing up as spooky characters and doing lots of fabulous dancing. A big thank you to the school PTA for organising such a special occasion filled with fun!

Thank you Year 1 and 2 for all your hard work over the past eight weeks, have a lovely half term holiday!

Miss Dixon



The week in Alder Class

Although we have not had Miss Cruse again this week it has not stopped the hard work from everyone in Alder Class.

In English this week we have continued our spelling practice following our Scode scheme and we have been looking at spooky spells based on Macbeth's witches. We wrote some wonderful poems of our own replicating this style.

In Maths we have focused on exchanging numbers in subtraction from 0-1000 and we have also been practising our times tables with a focus on the 4, 5, 10 and 8s.

In French we have been practising greetings and we then went on to make a birthday card to send to a partner school in France.

In PE we are working on invasion games and looking at the principle of attacking and defending, as well as dribbling, passing and receiving.



We have continued our class story 'The Danger Gang' and we have also read and based work this week around our main English book 'Anglo-Saxon Boy'.

Finally, we have continued to take part in our Reading Plus and Times Table Rockstars so we can get better all the time.

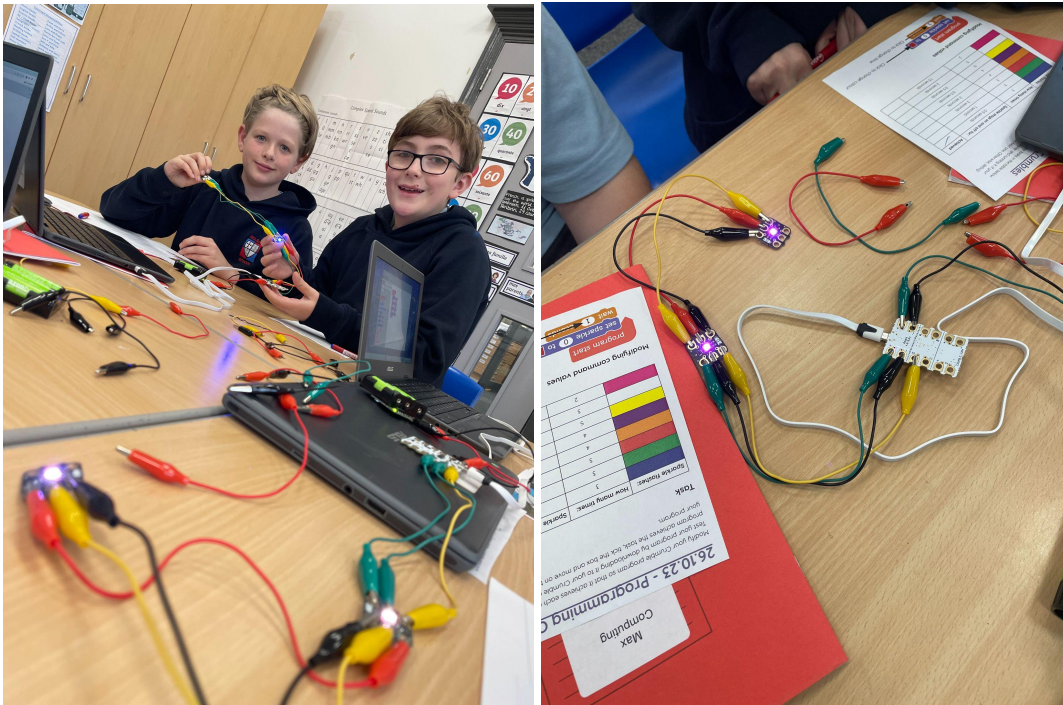
Well done everyone for your hard work this half term.

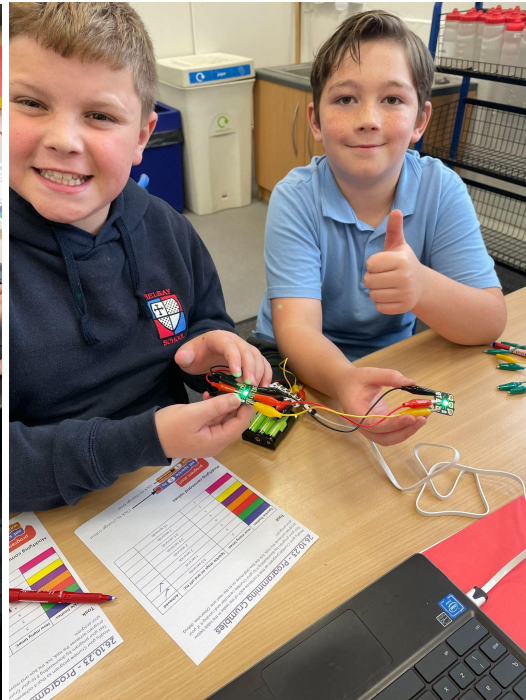
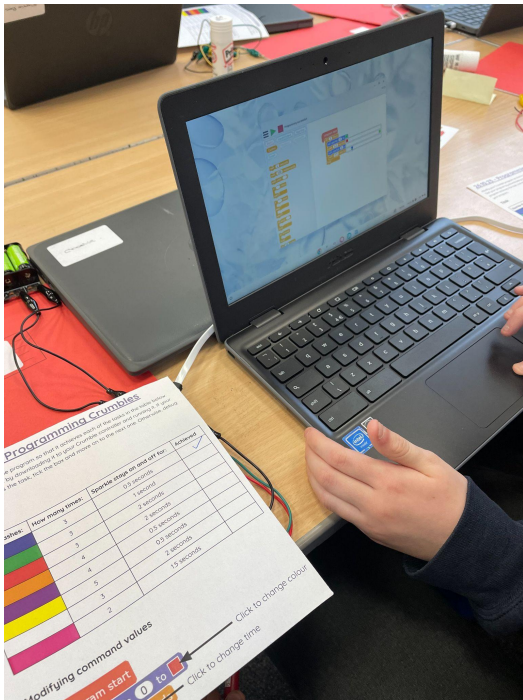


The week in Oak Class

Crumble kits

We were so excited on Thursday afternoon to explore further with our new Crumble Kits. We all now have the software on our laptops to be able to programme the various kits that we bought recently, thanks to the PTA. We have a very knowledgeable and curious set of children in Oak Class who picked up the programming skills with ease. I think there may be some requests for a home Crumble Kit as it was so much fun! This linked in to our Electricity topic that we are currently studying in science. The children explored how circuits are created and the important component parts that are required to make them work.





All About Me

Thank you so much to parents at home who have been sending lots of pictures to the class email account. We have each created an 'All About Me' poster, celebrating the wonderful and varied things that we all do both at school and in our free time. I didn't realise what a diverse range of talents and interests we have in our class.





Reading Plus

We are currently 8th across the whole country for the amount of books and activities we have engaged with in our Reading Plus programme. This has been a great success in our class and proven to be very popular with the children. It is a great way to embed the reading skills that all of us need and I have been impressed with the childrens' commitment. Let's see, with your continued support from home, if we can push Belsay further up the leaderboard. It would be great if the children could continue their reading activities over the half-term too.

Mr Harvey

Belsay School



TUESDAY 31ST OCTOBER
HARTBURN CHURCH
10AM TILL 3PM
POP ALONG ANYTIME

A DAY WITH THE VIKINGS



EVER WANTED TO BE A VIKING? COME ALONG AND LEARN ABOUT THE LIVES OF VIKINGS!
INTERACT WITH VIKING HISTORY WITH REAL VIKING CLOTHES AND WEAPONS AND ACTIVITIES
LEARN ABOUT THE STUFF OF VIKING NIGHTMARES AND THINGS TO MAKE YOU GO 'YUCK'

SUITABLE FOR ALL THE FAMILY
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE DAY
FREE EVENT!

IN ASSOCIATION WITH JOHN SADLER'S TIME BANDITS



Halloween Night Fact

Did you know...

There have been 70 road related injuries in Northumberland over the last 5 years!



Pedestrians and Cyclists

**Be Bright.
Be Seen.**



**STOP.
LOOK.
LISTEN.
THINK.**



Drivers: Beware when parking and driving

Between the hours of 4pm to midnight.

Belsay School



COMPETITION TIME!

We're giving away a pair of hospitality tickets to:

NEWCASTLE UNITED vs FULHAM

Sat 16th Dec 2023 - 3pm KO

St James' Park

BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

We'd like to invite pupils from your school to design us a Christmas card! The winner's design will be turned into a real card for us to send out this festive season and as a thank you, they'll win this amazing prize for themselves and a guardian!

- ⚽ See the match from the comfiest seats in the ground! ⚽
- ⚽ Entry to The Barracks 2.5hrs before kick off! ⚽
- ⚽ Food included! ⚽
- ⚽ A free programme and collectable pin badge! ⚽
- ⚽ Live music and guest speaker! ⚽
- ⚽ A truly memorable experience! ⚽

Deadline for entries is Friday 1st December.