



Friday Flyer

19 July 2024

Headteacher Update

This week has been filled with treats! On Monday we enjoyed ice creams together as a special end of year treat for all of the children and staff. I was lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time to enjoy one as well. It really was delicious! Thank you to Tony's ices for making this event possible.

Also on Monday the Year 6 children hosted their own leavers assembly. The children have been working very hard over the last few weeks to remember their favourite memory from Belsay and it was lovely to hear from the children that over the last 7 years they have made memories that will last a lifetime. Seeing how much they have grown and developed in the short amount of time I have known them has been remarkable and I know some of the staff have been a part of their whole Belsay school journey. I would like to thank Mr McLeod and Mr Atkinson for ensuring the leavers assembly was all about the children. Although I didn't manage to attend it myself, I have been told that it was the best leavers assembly Belsay has had!

On Tuesday the hall was filled with families and children to put on a Belsay showcase performance. The children have worked closely with Miss Cruse and Miss Wigham to put on a fabulous musical for everyone to enjoy. We have such a range of talent at Belsay and it was lovely that every child who wanted to be a part of the show could showcase their talent.

The children have told me all about their trip to Belsay Hall and Castle, which is at the heart of the community. We are very fortunate to have such an important local part of history so close to school. The children had a lovely time visiting the Hall, gardens and Castle as part of the trip and the photos on Class Dojo made me wish I had been a part of it. A special thank you must go to Mrs Hayes in the kitchen for all of her hard work to prepare packed lunches for the children. This was the highlight of the trip for some children and staff!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the last few weeks while I have been in school. I have loved being a part of the Belsay community again and it is great to see the school continuing to progress. I know I can speak on behalf of Mr Shaw when I say we are both incredibly proud of both the children and staff for their hard work and commitment this year. I hope everyone has a wonderful summer break.

L Blain

Value of the Month - Gratitude

Language of the Month - Polish

Belsay School



Dates for the diary...

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

Summer Term 2024

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 ENCOURAGING HEALTHY FRIENDSHIPS

Navigating the complexities of childhood and adolescent friendships can be challenging – but with the right guidance, children and young people can cultivate meaningful, supportive relationships, some of which may last for many years. These top tips provide a comprehensive approach to fostering healthy friendships among children and young people. It's important to remember, however, that each child is different, and will require an individual approach to relationship support.

1 GRANT FRIENDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Encouraging children and young people to participate in activities can foster healthy friendships by providing shared interests and common ground. Engaging in these activities offers a platform for interaction, sometimes alleviating the social pressure of knowing what to say, and helps children develop meaningful connections.

2 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

The children and young people in our lives see how we behave, the connections that we make and the interactions between us and others. When we model healthy friendships, we set an example and help youngsters to understand what healthy friendships look like and how to navigate them.

3 HELP THEM LOVE THEMSELVES

Healthy friendships don't just exist in tandem with ourselves. For overall wellbeing, it's important for a child to have the space to build their self-esteem and a positive self-image, as these factors can have a positive influence on the friendships they form throughout life.

4 MONITOR SCREEN TIME

Too much screen time can affect some children's wellbeing in general, but it can specifically impact friendships if it results in fewer positive social interactions. In some cases, reducing screen time and encouraging children and young people to find ways to interact face-to-face can have positive results. It's also important to remember that young people can make positive friendships online, but they will require support to do this safely.

5 TEACH PROBLEM-SOLVING

Inevitably, friendships can run into problems. However, this is also an opportunity to support children and young people to work through any difficulties that may arise. It can be tempting to intervene and try to fix these issues for those involved, but helping them consider ways of resolving conflict or managing difficult situations for themselves can help them create stronger friendships.



6 EMPOWER THE CHILD

When we give children and young people the confidence to choose their friends, navigate interpersonal boundaries and consider how they want to interact with the different people around them, we empower them to take control of the friendships they have. When young people feel in control of these things, they're more likely to make positive choices and remain aware of the signs of a negative relationship.

7 TEACH EMPATHY

Healthy friendships doesn't always mean perfect – sometimes, disagreements do happen. When we teach children and young people to listen empathetically, we help them to see both sides of a relationship, to be mindful of the challenges a friend might be facing or whatever else might be going on. This can help children and young people to build stronger friendships.

8 BE OPEN TO QUESTIONS

Talking to young people about their friendships, who they spend time with and who they interact with can open the door to questions if they have concerns. Ideally, these queries may be straightforward, but if we are receptive to discussion from the outset, young people are more likely to come to us for help when they are older or well.

9 UNDERSTAND BOUNDARIES

One of the keys to a healthy friendship is honoring boundaries. This can include anything from respecting personal space and belongings to avoiding able language and behavior. Understanding the importance of setting these limits and upholding these set by others can help children stay safe. If young people figure out their boundaries and feel comfortable enforcing them, they're more likely to call someone out if they go too far.

10 SPOT THE SIGNS

We can't always supervise young people; sometimes, we need to step back and give them some space. However, it's important to consider key indicators that they may be struggling in their friendships. Are they becoming increasingly withdrawn? Does their behavior differ when they're being with their friends? Are they becoming withdrawn or reluctant to take part in certain activities? These could all be signs that they're finding things difficult, and we should remain alert to such changes.

Meet Our Expert

Becky Dawson is an experienced educator who has worked in primary and secondary schools for 28 years. She is a facilitator, consultant and coach working with young people and the adults who work with them, with a focus on developing understanding and skills around mental health, wellbeing and safeguarding.





Class	Attendance
Willow	91.21
Maple	95.03
Alder	96.64
Oak	92.86

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 phenomenal final week in Willow class! The children have had a great time and it has been lovely to celebrate the year with them. What a team of children and parents we have! To start the celebrations we had a special ice cream treat from Tony. A great way to cool down in the warm weather. We were very polite when ordering the ice cream and it was lovely to hear the children using their manners.



We had a great time visiting Belsay Hall and Castle on Wednesday. The children really showed the community the best of themselves and made us all feel very proud of them. They loved learning about the history of the castle and learning about what they used to keep in the cupboards inside the hall. We enjoyed a special picnic lunch and are very thankful to Mrs Hayes for always providing us with a delicious meal. The children really worked hard to show the school value of resilience and everyone was determined not to give up walking, even though it was such a long way to go. We all had a great day and lots of us would like to visit Belsay Hall and Castle again.

On Thursday we joined together with preschool for some partying. The children loved watching the Magic Andrew show and lots of them remembered him from when they were in preschool. It was the first time Reception have been invited to this and shows the strength and togetherness of the Early Years team across preschool and Reception. In the afternoon we enjoyed some party games, music and some snacks. The children had a great time and it was a really lovely way to end the school year.

Thank you to all families in Willow class for their support this year. Without you all this year would not have been as successful as it has been and I really couldn't have done it without you. I will still be at Belsay in September and I am looking forward to seeing the next part of the children's school journey. I hope everyone has a lovely summer and finds time to spend some quality time together as a family. I know I will be enjoying a rest before the fun begins again in September. Thank you to you all from myself and Mrs Moffat. You really have been the best team!

Miss Houghton



This week in Maple Class

We've had a brilliant end to the year celebrating our last week of school! The week has been filled with exciting performances and activities throughout. We started our week with a celebration for the Year 6 Leavers and spent the afternoon with Reception and KS2 playing rounders and football matches on the field. We then had a surprise visit from Tony and his ice cream van, the ice cream was delicious and definitely cooled us down after a sporty afternoon! In Tuesday's DT lesson we made tasty egg and cress tortillas from eggs we collected from our Belsay hens and cress that we grew in Science. We worked collaboratively to peel, chop, slice, mash and mix our recipe! On Wednesday we went for our annual trip to Belsay castle and spent a wonderful day exploring the hall, castle and grounds. We enjoyed studying the hall discussing how homes have changed over time, decorative features and what the rooms were used for in the past. At the castle we talked about the different parts used for defence and spent time playing in the fantastic new play park! Finally, we ended our week with a well earned class party, playing games, dancing and eating ice lollies!



It has been a fantastic year teaching Maple Class, watching each child grow and progress. We have all achieved so much over the past three terms and made memories to treasure. I hope all our children and families have a lovely Summer and I look forward to seeing you all again in September. Thank you for all your hard work Maple Class!

Miss Dixon



This week in Alder Class

It has been an unforgettable end of the year at Belsay, filled with lots of excitement and fun things. As always, we've been as busy as ever, ensuring we end the year on a high note. I want to say a massive thank you to all the children for their amazing hard work this year. Every single child should be so proud of the progress they've made, both as learners and as kind members of our community.

A big shoutout to all of you at home for your fantastic support. Whether it's reading with your child or creating lovely memories together, your efforts are truly appreciated.

This week has been jam-packed with mixed emotions. We bid a sad farewell to our fantastic Year 6's at their leavers assembly, but it was heartwarming to celebrate their hard work. We also enjoyed some delicious Tony's ice-cream on Monday afternoon!

On Tuesday, we showcased their talents and bravery in front of everyone and I am so proud of you all for proving just how amazing you are.

Wednesday was spent at Belsay Hall and Castle, soaking up our local history whilst enjoying time in the sun and spending time with all our friends.





As we wind down for the summer holidays and gear up for the next year, it's emotional seeing our older year groups move on. Year 4's transition to Year 5 and 6 fills us with mixed emotions as we have created amazing relationships throughout our time in Alder Class and we have all grown immensely into amazing little humans. However, we know every single one of you is ready to take on the new challenges and opportunities in Oak class and please remember we are all only next door. Year 3's, get ready for another exciting year and I know you will all be amazing role models and so welcoming to the new members of our class!

I hope you all have the best summer and enjoy your break and I can't wait to hear about your adventures when we reconvene in September. Here's to a fantastic summer!

Miss Cruse and Miss Cook

This week in Oak Class

There are so many different ways I could start this week's flyer. So many achievements, so many things to be proud of, so much to reflect upon. It would be near enough impossible to cover everything that we have done this week, let alone this year!

Since joining Belsay in January, what has become so obvious is the magical community spirit that exists, not just in Oak Class, but throughout the whole school. Without the unfaltering support of yourselves, days such as The Northern Stage, The Discovery Museum, Sports day (to name but a few) just simply wouldn't be possible.

Given how many changes these guys have had to go through this year, and big changes at that, they deserve every ounce of credit from all of their familiar adults. To be presented with a new teacher halfway through their school year is a huge thing to take on and I cannot even begin to tell you all how grateful I am for their resilience, their kindness and their acceptance, especially considering Mr. Harvey's unfathomable contribution to their Belsay journey. It should



not go unnoticed that without Mr. Harvey's time, care and precision in his handover to myself, it would have been impossible to have hit the ground running as we did in January.

This week, we have tried hard to celebrate all that we have achieved as a class. Our Leavers' Assembly, for the first time, also featured our Year 5 pupils as an incredible chorus of singers. Whilst this was going on, it was so wonderful to hear all of our outgoing Year 6 pupils talk about their favourite Belsay times. For myself, it was so heartwarming to hear of what these guys were like in their younger Belsay years, and I know it was incredibly emotional for all of the other staff to be reminded of the things that our leavers hold close to their heart from their time at this magical school.

As we say goodbye to our Year 6 pupils for the final time, we should all take a moment to remember what a wonderful cohort these guys have been. Ponteland High is so lucky to be taking on 16 such well rounded young learners and I can't wait to hear what they achieve. Parents, these guys will stay with me forever, they are an absolute credit to you and thank you for allowing me to teach your wonderful children.

Year 5 parents, shall we do it all again next year? I think we shall 😊

Have the very, very best of summer holidays and thank you, from the bottom of my heart, to everyone at Belsay for allowing me to become a part of this tremendous place.

Cheers everyone! #SchoolsOutForSummer



Mr McLeod

Belsay School



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 school, they will receive a certificate and a pack of Geordie Bangers to take home.

Entry forms will be available from w/c 23th sept 2024

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

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

Belsay School



West Northumberland Family Hubs Family Fun this Summer



Find us on Facebook & Instagram @WestFamilyHubs



For more information, or to become a member with the Family Hubs.



What's on in Ponteland and Albemarle

Free!

WEEK 1 in Ponteland:
Monday 22nd July Peep Baby Play (0-18 months)
1-2:00pm



WEEK 1 in Albemarle:
Wednesday 24th July
LTTP at Albemarle (all ages) 10-11:30am

WEEK 2 in Ponteland:
Monday 29th July Peep Baby Play (0-18 months)
1-2:00pm



WEEK 5 in Albemarle:
Wednesday 21st August
LTTP at Albemarle (all ages) 10-11:30am

WEEK 3 in Ponteland:
Monday 5th August Peep Baby Play (0-18 months)
1-2:00pm



WEEK 4 in Ponteland:
Monday 12th August Peep Baby Play (0-18 months)
1-2:00pm

WEEK 5 in Ponteland:
Monday 19th August Peep Baby Play (0-18 months)
1-2:00pm

Contact Prudhoe Family Hub
Broomhouse Lane, Prudhoe
Northumberland, NE42 5PT
01661 839350

For military families only At Ponteland Medical Centre

SUMMER SPORTS CAMP



PONTELAND COMMUNITY PRIMARY
NE20 9EG



With varied sports & fun activities, our Summer Sports Camps are the perfect place for kids to meet friends & stay active this summer!

SUMMER HOLIDAYS
WEEKS 2, 4 & 6

07885 379410 www.nextgensportscamps.co.uk



West Northumberland Family Hubs Family Fun this Summer



For more information, or to become a member with the Family Hubs.



What's on at Hexham Family Hub

WEEK 1:	<p>Monday 22nd July 1-2.30pm Family AND Chill Out (Additional Needs & Disabilities) <i>A quieter session (for all ages)</i> Tuesday 23rd July 10-11am Family Cafe (all ages) Wednesday 24th July 10-11.30am Family Fun (all ages) Friday 26th July 10-11am Peep Baby Play (0-18 months)</p> 	<p>WEEK 4: Tuesday 13th August 1-3pm Hexham Community Garden with Hexham Youth Initiative (all ages) Wednesday 14th August 10-11.30am Family Fun (all ages)</p> 
	<p>WEEK 2: Monday 29th July 1-2.30pm Family AND Chill Out (Additional Needs & Disabilities) <i>A quieter session (for all ages)</i> Tuesday 30th July 1-3pm Rocket Park with Hexham Youth Initiative (all ages) Wednesday 31st July 10-11.30am Family Fun (all ages) Friday 2nd August 10-11am Peep Baby Play (0-18 months)</p> 	
WEEK 3:	<p>Monday 5th August 1-2.30pm Family AND Chill Out (Additional Needs & Disabilities) <i>A quieter session (for all ages)</i> Tuesday 6th August 10-11am Family Cafe (all ages) 1-3pm Sele Park with Hexham Youth Initiative (all ages) Wednesday 7th August 10-11.30am Family Fun (all ages) Friday 9th August 10-11am PEEP Baby Play (0-18 months)</p> 	<p>WEEK 6: Tuesday 27th August 11am-3pm Family Hub working with Eden Project <i>On the school field - Mega Bus & Sports</i> <i>In the Family Hub - Activities for 0-18 months & usual facilities</i> Wednesday 28th August 11am-3pm Family Hub working with Eden Project <i>On the school field - Sensory Play & Crafts</i> <i>In the Family Hub - Activities for 0-18 months & usual facilities</i> Thursday 29th August 11am-3pm Family Hub working with Eden Project <i>On the school field - Bouncy Castle & Storytelling</i> <i>In the Family Hub - Activities for 0-18 months & usual facilities</i></p>
<p>Contact Hexham Family Hub, Beaufront Avenue, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 1JD 01434 601698</p>		