



13th September 2024

Headteachers update

Happy Friday! Week 2 is done and dusted and if the year continues in the way this term has started I am very excited to see the end results. The children (and staff) are absolutely flying with the lessons in full flow and the volume of work being produced is brilliant.

This was evident on Wednesday this week when we lost all power for a period of time. Many schools may panic, extend play times and ultimately grind to a halt...not at Belsay! Lessons were still of the highest quality, showing the adaptability of staff and the resilience of the children to be able to carry on. Alder Class optimised this with their innovative maths lesson - well done to everyone!



One of the many benefits of being part of the Pele Trust is that we can benefit from specialist teachers in school. Now we have completed our first full week it is great to welcome Mr Smith (Primary PE Lead), Mrs Humes (Primary Modern Foreign Language Lead) and Mrs Wigham (Primary Music Lead) into Belsay every week. All of our children benefit from these members of staff which is a real speciality compared to other Primary Schools. Remember to ask your child what they have learnt in French or Music for example because I am sure they'll surprise you!

This week has also seen our first football match of the season for our boys in Oak Class. The pitch was beautifully marked out and Heddon Primary School were our guests. It was a fantastic match I am told and all of the boys gave 100%. Our last minute referee, Mr McLeod, looked like the smartest referee in the history of football as he stood in his 3-piece suit and brown brogues with a whistle in his mouth (only at Belsay!) The final score was not reflective of the skill and immeasurable team effort, so a massive congratulations to everyone involved and thank you to those parents who were able to come and support.

Finally, we have returned this week with our Hot Chocolate and Outstanding Achievement awards so well done to all of the children who were nominated, a truly fantastic start to the year!

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend and look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Mr Shaw



Friday Flyer

Class Dojo

Following the successful launch of Class Dojo last year we will continue to be using this platform to safely share updates and messages about your children. Can I please politely ask parents/carers that the messaging service is only used to provide a quick update eg. 'My child is being collected by Uncle Simon'. If you have concerns or issues with your child or the school please could this be sent via email to admin@belsay-school.uk where it can be forwarded to the relevant members of staff.

Safeguarding

Belsay Primary School is committed to keeping all children safe. Our staff regularly participate in safeguarding training and are fully aware of how to keep our pupils safe and what signs to look out for. Our pupils know they can share any concerns and we have robust policies and procedures in place which underpin safeguarding. It is our paramount priority to keep all children healthy and safe.




Remember our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) in school are **Mr Shaw and Miss Dixon**.

Parking

Linked to safeguarding please could I politely ask that no parents or carers are using the school car park for drop off and pick up purposes. Whilst I know parking is not ideal at these times the main car park is used for bus and taxi drops off only. Thank you for your cooperation.

Safeguarding Update

Have you heard of the ABC Safety Check for parents? It stands for Activate, Balance and Check and has been developed by a website called Internet Matters who are renowned for providing excellent advice and guidance.

 <p>Activate</p>	 <p>Balance</p>	 <p>Check</p>
<p>Activate parental controls</p> <p>Use the controls and tools available from broadband providers, online platforms and apps to install safe search settings, block inappropriate content and prevent contact from strangers.</p> <p>FIND A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE</p>	<p>Balance screen time</p> <p>Agree a good balance for your children's screen time, taking education and leisure content into account. Encourage active screen time over passive and consider setting limits for the total hours spent online each day.</p> <p>LEARN ABOUT BALANCE</p>	<p>Check and chat</p> <p>Check which apps your children use and the relevant age limits for each platform. And talk regularly about online safety and what they might come across so you can work together to manage any risks and keep online experiences positive.</p> <p>GET ADVICE BY AGE</p>

Click the link [here](#) to find out more about.



Attendance

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	100%	100%
Maple	95.17%	93.86%
Alder	95%	95%
Oak	97.33%	98.59%

Did you know? Each pupil has 175 non-school days a year to spend however they like. The table below shows the significant impact of absence over time.

Days of school add up to lost learning						
Days in school	190	186	180	175	171	170
Percentage attendance	100%	98%	95%	92%	90%	<90%
	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Caution	Cause for concern	Serious concern

Absence Procedures if your child is ill, please keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school. Please notify us by phone call or email before 9.15am if your child is to be absent, and continue to inform us on a daily basis if they continue to be ill.

We have a continual focus on attendance and punctuality and this is of the utmost importance in your child's education. Please remember that our school gate closes at 8.55am as this is when our lessons begin. Anyone arriving after this time is classed as late and will miss valuable learning opportunities which take place immediately after registration, such as phonics.

What are the risks of missing a day of school?

'Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing and wider development. Pupils with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE results. The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments.' The Education Hub - Department for Education



Friday Flyer

Classroom updates - Willow Class

Our first full week of school is complete and what a week it has been! The children have enjoyed learning lots of new things for the first time. We really enjoyed our PE lessons with Jamie and Mr Smith this week and we are already looking forward to this again next week. We also started Phonics this week and learning the routines for this has been brilliant. The children have made me feel very proud of them. We enjoyed having a tour of the school to see where all of the classes are and to find Miss Whitehouse and Mr Shaw's offices. We had some children wanting to take over and be the new Headteacher already! We had a great time with Maple class in Forest school and it was lovely to see the two classes working together to help each other.



Have a lovely weekend and please send any photos on Tapestry so we can share these together next week. You will also see additional photos from the week on Tapestry.

Miss Houghton



Friday Flyer

Classroom updates - Maple Class

In English this week we have been studying diary entries. Together we read a diary entry written by Samuel Pepys during the Great Fire of London. We discussed the features of a diary entry and identified them in the text. We used the entry as a historical source to find out when and where the Great Fire of London started. We talked about how Samuel Pepys was feeling at the time of the fire.



In Science we began our Chemistry topic of everyday materials. We discussed what materials are and why they are used to make different objects. We then went on a material hunt around our classroom and identified objects made from wood, metal, plastic and glass.



Miss Dixon



Classroom updates - Alder Class

As always, a brilliant week in Alder Class filled with lots of hard work, kindness and also lots of fun!

Since the start of this year we have been setting goals both individually and as a whole class. Our class goal for the past week has been to always use our manners and this is something we definitely achieved and has made our classroom a positive environment filled with our school value of respect! Since we were able to achieve this, we worked together to create a fire in our firepit area and we were able to make our own s'mores. This was super fun and definitely required us all to work as a team as well as think about our fire safety skills and remember everything we have learnt in Forest School. We feel so lucky to be able to make these memories as a class and we are excited to set our new class goal for next week!

In English we started looking at our new class text 'So You Think You've Got It Bad? A Kid's Life in Ancient Egypt' and worked on creating our own predictions. We have then spent the week focusing on different features of an advert. We started by working in groups to look through different adverts and to understand and identify why these features are important and what their purpose is. We then broke these down further during the week to focus on headings and subheadings, conjunctions and also emotive language. We have produced some gorgeous work already this week and we are very excited to be planning and writing our own adverts all about Ancient Egypt next week.

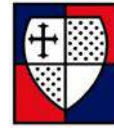
This week in Maths, we have continued looking at place value with a main focus being on partitioning. This has been a really fun way to challenge ourselves as we have pushed to understand flexible partitioning and come up with several different ways to partition one number. We have had a huge focus on understanding our thousands, hundreds, tens and ones as we have been partitioning numbers up to 10,000 which has been a huge challenge but one we are growing in confidence with. It was great to also take some of our learning outside on Wednesday due to the power cut and work with different partners to support each other.

Friday Flyer



Thank you for all your hard work and resilience this week Alder Class, we can't wait to delve deeper into our new topics over the next few weeks. Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to another amazing week with you.

Miss Cruse and Mrs Aynsley



Classroom updates - Oak Class

The levels of curiosity and responsibility from our pupils at the top end of our school remain exemplary. As we continue to dive further into our topics and key texts, we have been able to go back and revisit some of our previous learning around place value, empires, materials as well as adverbs and adjectives.

As our key text in Literacy, "Street Child" by Berlie Doherty continues into the dark void of life in Victorian industrial London, it has been a real pleasure to see how effective our use of creative language can be, and how brilliant we are at generating it. With some work around adverbial phrases, we have been building up towards our setting and character description writing tasks with some really promising results.

Due to our Maths learning now being split into individual year groups, Mr. Shaw and I have had the great pleasure of working with much smaller groups and it has been a real joy to explore our children's existing knowledge around place value. Year 5 have even had the opportunity to roll out the concrete resources and manipulatives to demonstrate their understanding on place value grids.

Mr. Smith has been incredibly impressed with our resilience and collaboration in PE which has resulted in him beginning the Sports Leader selection process this week and our thanks must go out to him and Mr. Atkinson for our fantastic "Thursday Night Football" fixture against our PELE Trust counterparts, Heddon on the Wall.

Great strides have been made this week in our understanding of the British Empire (History) and our knowledge of everyday materials (Science) continues to build as well. Miss Cook and Mr. Atkinson have got us stuck into some Online Safety (Computing) and it has also been a pleasure to meet Mme. Humes (French)

Just another quiet week at Belsay! We can't wait for another one next week!



Mr. McLeod



Friday Flyer

Dates for your Diary

Date	Time	
25th September	9:00am	Willow class reading cafe
7th October	From 8:30am	School photos (individual+sibling) with Paul Gremmel
22nd October	All day	Alder class Ancient Egypt Day
25th October	9am	Harvest Festival
25th October	TBC	Flu immunisations
25th October	3:15pm	School closes for half term
4th November	All day	Teacher training day
5th November	8:45am	School opens to all pupils
6th December	TBC	Christmas School Performance
13th December	All day	Teacher training day
17th December	TBC	Whole school trip to Tyne Theatre
20th December	Lunch	School closes for Christmas

Events could be subject to change and will be communicated if required.



Friday Flyer



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

Friday Flyer



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YOU CAN APPLY FOR HELP IN COMPLETE CONFIDENCE TO:

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Friday Flyer

WHALTON VILLAGE SHOW 2024

SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 11.00am - 4.30pm

MAKE, BAKE AND GROW CLASSES FOR TROPHIES AND PRIZES

All classes First Prize £3 Second Prize £2 Third Prize £1

Thomas Grieve Cup for the most prizes in Vegetable,
Fruit and Produce classes

Perpetual Whalton Maple Bowl for most points in Industrial Classes

Joan Goddard Cup for Class 37

To enter please bring your entries to Whalton Village Hall between 9am and 12 noon on the Saturday morning of the Show or between 5pm and 7pm on the Friday evening. There is no charge for entering although donations are welcome. There are no limits on how many items or classes you can enter, so have a go, enter something you have never tried before. You might be a 2024 winner!

WWW.WHALTONVILLAGESHOW.COM