



**27th September 2024**

## Headteachers update

Welcome to the end of Week 4 everyone! Week 4...can you believe we have reached that point already. The weather has certainly been very different this week but the temperature in school is still hot, as the children are absolutely smashing each and every day.



This week saw our first Reading Cafe of the year and it was Willow Class that got us off to a fine start. It was lovely to walk through the hall on Wednesday and see it so full. The children were clearly proud to show their loved ones what we do at Belsay so a big thank you to all that attended. Over the course of the academic year all of our classes will host an event like this, which is a great informal way to come into school.

At school we are always trying to think of ways to immerse the parents into our curriculum and allow you to get a really good sense of what the children do on a regular basis. Therefore a new event this year will be Come Dine with Us, starting with Willow Class in November. This will be rolled out to all of our classes so please keep an eye on the calendar as it would be wonderful if you could come and sample the culinary delights.

In other news this week we were very fortunate to have 100 hi viz jackets donated to school from Thompsons of Prudhoe Demolition Contractors. We would like to thank Miss Cook for organising this donation but also to Thompsons for their generosity. These are going to be very useful on our school trips.



Finally, congratulations to all of our Outstanding Achievement Winners this week and to the eight children selected for Hot Chocolate. It is always a pleasure to celebrate the hard work of our children.

Have a lovely weekend, hopefully you have something nice planned.  
Mr Shaw



## 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](mailto: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**.

## Safeguarding Update

Have you carefully considered what your child should be doing online? At Internet Matters there is a great section that you can click on, breaking down age grades so you can find some good advice and support.

If you click [here](#) you should be able to find information relevant for your child's age.

## 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.

## Before School

Please can we kindly request that the children do not play on the fields before school, particularly in the coming weeks as the weather starts to change. Can we also stress the importance that an adult comes into school and stays in the playground with their child until the doors are open, this is for safeguarding reasons.



## Attendance

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	90%	97.57%
Maple	91.3%	94.83%
Alder	96.49%	95.90%
Oak	96%	97.41%

**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



## Classroom updates - Willow Class

A very busy week for Willow class this week. We have been responsible for the chickens, attended our first reading cafe, shown a lot of collaboration when making a marble run, had fun in the mud and rain and even had time to learn some more letters in Phonics.

It was great seeing the children so willing to take care of the chickens. They have been brilliant at making sure they have had enough food and water and even helped to clean their coup. As a treat we are looking forward to trying scrambled egg on toast next week. The children have asked if we can use the eggs to make cakes next time we are responsible for the chickens.

I enjoyed welcoming you all into school this week for the Reading Cafe. Although we are a small team we managed to fill the hall and there was a real buzz in the room. I hope you enjoyed seeing some of the ways we encourage reading and developing a love of reading in school.

This week we have enjoyed making a colour monster. We made links with the story and thought about which emotion our new colour monster would represent.



It has been another busy but enjoyable week and the children have made me feel very proud of them. I hope everyone has a lovely weekend and finds time to do something they enjoy.

Miss Houghton



# Friday Flyer

## Classroom updates - Maple Class

Maple Class had a brilliant week in school learning more about fire. In PSHE we learnt rules for fire safety and had lots of fun making fire engines in class. In English we wrote fire senses poems and worked hard to include alliteration and onomatopoeia. Our poems were very creative and it was wonderful to listen to each other perform them. In History we worked in teams to order the events of the Great Fire of London. We used our new knowledge to create timelines independently. Due to the wet weather, we didn't manage to go outside for Forest School but instead had a Commando Joes session indoors with Mr Atkinson. We developed our teamwork skills by working collaboratively in groups to make shelters that could provide comfort and cover from the rain.



Miss Dixon



## Classroom updates - Alder Class

Alder Class has had a truly fantastic week, filled with engaging, practical work and an array of challenges that have sparked everyone's curiosity and excitement!

In our English lessons, we have been immersing ourselves in the daily life of Ancient Egypt through our new text, which the children are thoroughly enjoying. We have also been sharpening our foundational English skills, focusing on alphabetical order and the past and present tense. The highlight of this was certainly our mini-challenge of arranging words alphabetically, culminating in the ultimate test of arranging ourselves by name! As we prepared to craft our own diary entries from the perspective of an Ancient Egyptian child next week, we explored the various features of a diary. The children are eagerly looking forward to this creative writing opportunity, and I am excited to see their imaginations come to life!

In Geography, we began our exploration of different countries in Europe using maps and atlases. We loved exploring the maps and atlas and expanding our knowledge. Our History lesson was equally engaging, as we undertook a scavenger hunt to discover facts about the lifestyles of Ancient Egyptians. I was incredibly impressed with the children's enthusiasm and their impressive memory skills as they shared what they had learned with their groups.

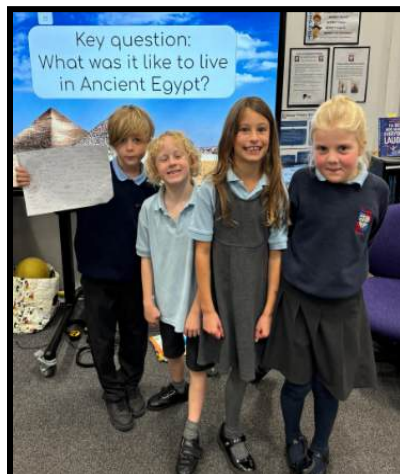
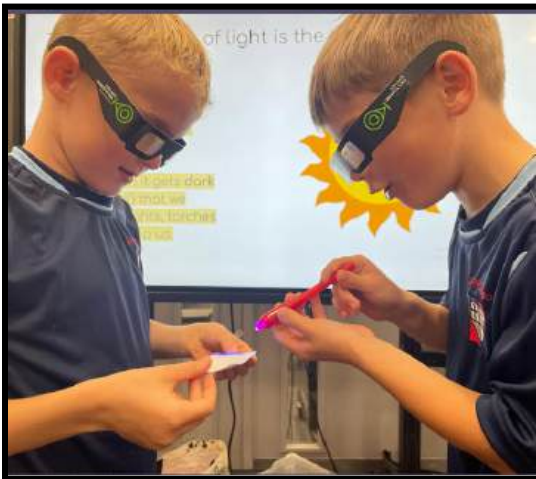
We also took time to focus on Science this week, discussing how to stay sun safe while learning about light. It was fantastic to bring out the torches and create secret messages, all while collaborating in various groups.

As always, well done everyone in Alder Class for their hard work and enthusiasm this week. We are tremendously proud of their achievements and cannot wait to see what next week holds!

Miss Cruse and Mrs Aynsley



# Friday Flyer





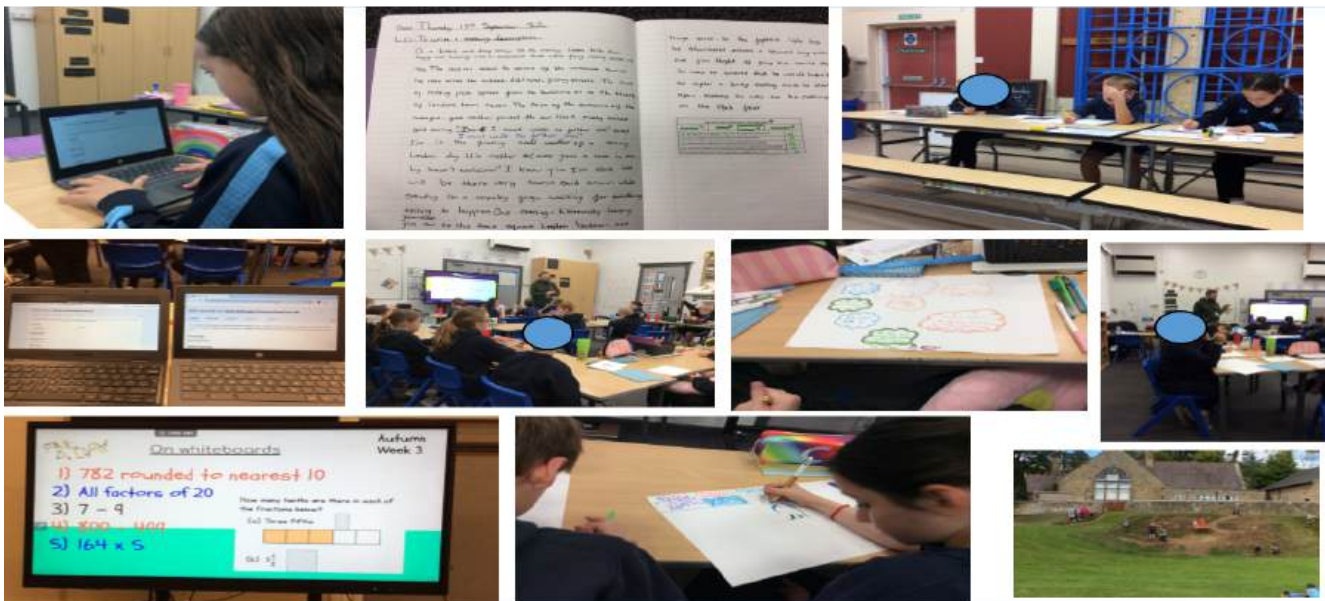
## Classroom updates - Oak Class

It has been full speed ahead across the whole curriculum up here in Upper Key Stage Two this week. English has seen us complete not one, but two end of unit writes. We have managed to cross reference some of the devices used in our setting descriptions to produce some equally brilliant character profiles. Our use of powerful noun phrases, adverbial phrases and direct speech with reporting clauses have made for some incredibly descriptive pieces of writing which paint a fantastic picture for their reader. Our writing culture continues to improve towards where we want it to be.

A multitude of skills on display across the two year groups in Maths too. Our Year 6s have really picked up the pace with their learning as they venture into their, progressively more challenging, work on the four functions. This week it has been addition as the main focus. Our Year 5s continue to explore a range of strategies for place value and representing numbers to 1,000,000.

In Computing, Miss Cook and Mr. Atkinson have been so impressed with the children's knowledge around websites and social media. A few reminders about how to use these platforms safely have given us some great insight into our children's digital literacy skills. Mr. A has also taken the reins for Art this week and has had a very absorbed class of budding artists working on the life and works of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, as they work towards producing their very own Mackintosh Rose.

As always, thank you all for your continued hard work, particularly in home learning. The standard so far this year has been impeccable and it's a massive help to all we do here in Oak Class. Have a great weekend Team Oak and we will go again on Monday!



Mr. McLeod





## Dates for your Diary


Date	Time	
30th September - 3rd October	10am - 11:30am	Open mornings for current Yr 6 Parents @ Ponteland High School
3rd October	5:30 - 7:30pm	Open Evening for current Yr 6 @ Ponteland High School
7th October	From 8:30am	School photos (individual+sibling) with Paul Gremmel
14th October	10:30am	Year 6 Sports Leader Training
15th October	10am	Yr 5/6 Pele Trust Girls Football at Darras Hall
22nd October	All day	Alder class Ancient Egypt Day
24th October	3:15pm	PTA Halloween Disco
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
13th November	11:30am	Come Dine With Us - Willow Class
18th - 19th November	Evening	Parents Evening
5th December	1:45pm	Pele Trust Christmas Music Concert @ St Mary's Church, Ponteland
6th December	TBC	Christmas School Performance
12th December	Evening	PTA Belsay Quiz and Chilli night - adult only
13th December	All day	Teacher training day
17th December	TBC	Whole school trip to Tyne Theatre
18th December	3:15pm	PTA Christmas Fair
20th December	Lunch	School closes for Christmas

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

Belsay Primary School

# Friday Flyer

Belsay School



Jude (Oak)  
Otis (Maple)

Wishing you both a very Happy Birthday



Ponteland High School

## Y6 OPEN EVENING

The Crescent  
Callerton Lane  
Ponteland  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE20 9EG



**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 5.30-7.30pm**

Listen to the Headteacher talk and take the opportunity to visit our fantastic curriculum areas

*Aiming for our students to be happy, feel safe and secure, and achieve exceptionally well*



# 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



UNIVERSITY

**FUNDING**

**GRANTS**

**FINANCIAL HELP**



VOCATIONAL TRAINING

**UNDER 25? NEED HELP WITH STUDY COST?**

**LIVE IN STAMFORDHAM, MATFEN, CAPHEATON OR BELSAY PARISH?**

**OR WENT TO SCHOOL THERE OR PARENTS LIVE THERE?**

**YOU CAN APPLY FOR HELP IN COMPLETE CONFIDENCE TO:**

**[chair@sirthomaswiddringtontrust.org](mailto:chair@sirthomaswiddringtontrust.org)**

COLLEGE



SCHOOLS



TRANSPORT



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**SIR THOMAS WIDDRINGTON (EDUCATIONAL) TRUST CHARITY NUMBER 505778**