

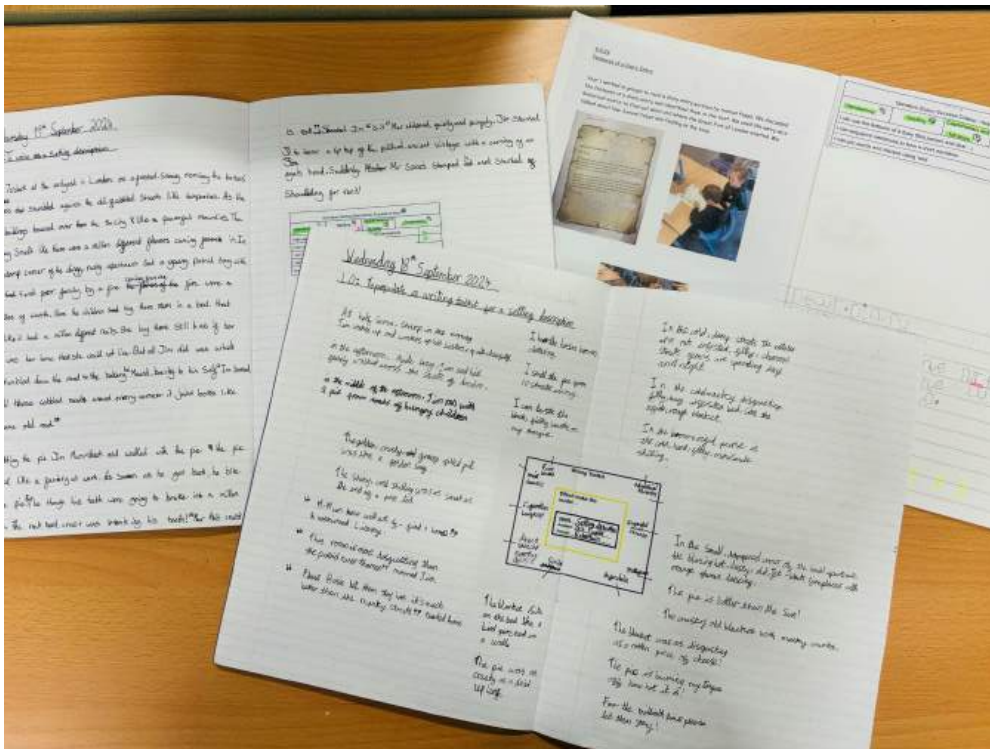


4th October 2024

Headteachers update

Happy Friday and more exciting I can now say happy October, the month of Halloween and Half Term. It's been another fun week in school with so much happening it is hard to know where to start. The amount of Outstanding Achievement awards are coming thick and fast which can only mean one thing... the children are constantly impressing our staff in school.

Every week in school, staff have a meeting to discuss school progress and this week it was focused on English. During this meeting we looked at a range of books from pupils and it was such a pleasure to see how far the children have come in the last 12 months. Not only the amount of work being produced but the clear sequences of learning, using writing toolkits to plan for big pieces of individual work and the beautiful pride in presentation that the children are taking. The Gold Standards really are starting to shine bright!



This week in assembly we introduced our new value of the month which will be 'Collaboration'. We discussed how teamwork is vital to everything that we do and how helping others also underpins



our main 'Respect' value. Over the next month I will be looking for examples of collaboration so please feel free to share any top examples that you find out of school. It is important the children know our values are important not just in school but the wider community.

Thank you to everyone who entered the Geordie Banger competition which ended this week. We have had some marvellous creations and I am keeping everything crossed that we can see a sizzling sensation crowned winner this year.

Please remember that next week we have our individual school photographs on Monday. Could I ask that children come into school wearing their light blue polos and school jumper and then they can wear PE shorts and trainers. Remember to keep a close eye on the diary dates as we have some fun events coming up that you won't want to miss eg. Harvest Festival and Halloween Disco.

As we say goodbye to week 5 of school, well done to all of our Hot Chocolate winners and Outstanding Achievement nominations this week - so proud of each and every one of you!

Have a lovely weekend and thank you as always for your continued support.

Mr Shaw

A message from Mr Smith

🏆🏀 What a fantastic game of football between Belsay and Ponteland! 🙌 Both teams showed incredible spirit and delivered some amazing finishes! 🌸👏 Huge congrats to Ponteland! 🎉 Keep up the great work! 🍌





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**.

Safeguarding Update

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators
USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

Phones and computers are essential parts of children's lives, but with unfettered internet access comes a multitude of risks. While not foolproof, parental controls can help with this; filtering out inappropriate content, limiting the ability to spend real money, copying screen time and generally making devices safer for young people.

- 1 KNOW THE TYPES**
While parental control software can apply to an entire device, it also pays to know about options on individual apps and websites. For example, has Restricted Mode for limiting search results, with Internet Safe for Kids an eye on who a child has been talking to. Check the settings of any apps your young users want and review your options.
- 2 COVER ALL DEVICES**
Knowing what parental controls cover is a key step in reviewing controls can not the risk of online activity on the device is a safety measure. Controls on a phone will apply whatever the child's online device, but remember that you'll need to ensure that parental controls are set and access any laptops, tablets and potentially other phones, too. Remember, trying to help someone find a device can be a more complex task.
- 3 DON'T NEGLECT SHARED TECH**
While children often have their own devices, if you're in a shared family computer or tablet, for example, you'll need to make sure that it's not a weak point in your safety measures. Restricted controls for your router, that cover everything connected to it, will, in one option, let you can just be brought with each device and device identifier. Also ensure that connected laptops, phones and tablets are password-protected.
- 4 CONSIDER TIME CONTROLS**
Even with internet content can be harmful if it's viewed in excess. Not only are certain apps addictive enough to distract from other duties, but late-night usage can badly disrupt sleep, which is vital for development from childhood. Many parental controls offer some kind of time limit - either blocking access to certain apps or capping the number of minutes it can be used per day - so be sure to consider these.
- 5 BLOCK APP SPENDING**
Technology's free apps can sometimes include micro-transaction purchases that can be made without any form of payment of developers. Implement these fairly, some companies offer a free trial period, but you'll need to pay for additional features or content, which can add up. Some parental controls can also block in-app purchases. Thankfully, iOS and Android's parental controls allow you to block in-app purchases, preventing any huge bills.
- 6 NO CONTROLS ARE PERFECT**
Parental controls can be very useful, but they're far from infallible. Some unpleasant content can and unfortunately will slip through the net, so remember that setting up these measures isn't a substitute for using an age-appropriate, young people's digital lives. Talk to them, and make sure they're aware of the risks of the internet as well as its benefits.
- 7 MIND THE GAPS**
There's undoubtedly be some gaps in parental controls, no matter how thorough you intend to be. For example, if you use mobile-level parental controls, it's likely that those won't cover what's outside the home. For that reason, it's important to keep an open dialogue with children about the many unpalatable aspects of social media and the web.
- 8 KEEP THINGS SECURE**
Some children can react poorly to parental controls and feel harassed by discovering them. It's important to ensure that the passwords to these settings remain unknown to children, otherwise they can easily modify the restrictions without you knowing. Similarly, make sure your phone isn't left unlocked and unattended.
- 9 REVIEW CONTROLS REGULARLY**
Parental controls shouldn't be a 'set and forget' deal, and only your parental software provides you with a frequent overview of a child's digital life - so be sure you're aware of any updates. Some companies offer add-on features, and some of these may be useful to consider. It's also important to regularly check in to ensure that if a child has found a way to bypass one of the controls, you'll be the first to know.
- 10 KNOW WHEN TO LET UP**
The parental controls you install on a computer for a 10-year-old are probably wouldn't be appropriate for a child of 16 - and as young people's digital lives develop, it's vital to adjust the level of parental controls as they grow up. Some parental controls can also be set up to manage the time of day when a child is online, so they can learn to manage the time of their internet themselves, without so many blocking alerts.

Meet Our Expert
Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website AList. Now freelance, he has contributed articles to publications including The New York Times, CNN, The Evening Standard, Wired, Black Paper, Shogun, Granada, Pocket Gamer, Stuff, IT, The Independent, TechRadar and Trusted Reviews.

#WakeUpWednesday **The National College**



Attendance

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	97.78	97.45
Maple	93.72	94.36
Alder	92.98	95.33
Oak	92.44	96.34

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

This week we have read the story *It's okay to be different* by Todd Parr. We have really enjoyed reading this story and we have tried hard to remember the role of the author and illustrator of a story. We have enjoyed thinking about what else it is okay to be, here are a few of the ones we discussed: "It's okay to have braces, it's okay to be scared, it's okay to live on a farm, it's okay to say no thank you and it's okay to stay at home but only on the weekend,"

What a lot of team work has been shown this week in Willow class. It has been lovely to see the children exploring the different areas. I really liked seeing Hallie, Grace-Mae and Luke exploring the art area. They mixed lots of different colours together to make new colours. There was a lot of paint spilled in the process but I was amazed at how quickly they were able to work together to tidy up after themselves. A great team effort!

As promised last week we tried the eggs from the chickens. We enjoyed eating the scrambled eggs and toast. Some mixed reviews from the children but what was lovely was that everyone tried it even if they weren't sure if they would like it.



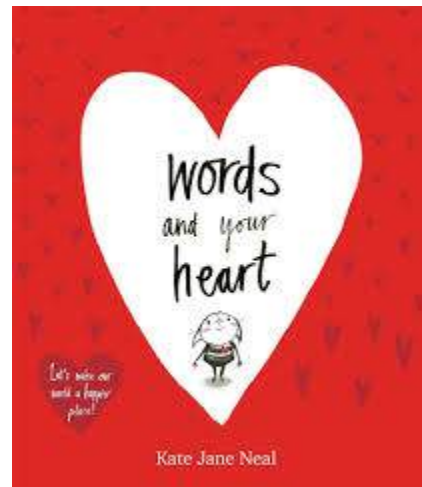
During story time this week we have loved reading different books each day. The children have chosen some of the traditional tale books we have. We know these stories really well so we have been experimenting with characters in the story. Sybbie became the troll, Ronnie became the big billy goat, Flynn was the middle sized goat and Roxana was the small billy goat. As we read the story they each played an important role in helping to retell the story as their character. The children are already very eager to know which character they will be next.

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

It has been another busy week in Maple Class! In English we have been learning SPAG skills in preparation for writing Fire Safety instructions next week. We have been learning all about command sentences, conjunctions and expanded noun phrases. In Maths, Year 1 have been using part whole models to recognise number bonds to 10 whilst Year 2 have been learning to count in 2s, 5s, 10s and 3s. In PSHE we read Katie Jane Neal's story *Words and your Heart* and discussed how kind words can have a positive effect on the people around us. In Art we practised our printing skills and used cling film to print fire using orange, yellow and red paint. We can't wait to begin our final Great Fire of London collaborative class piece!



Miss Dixon



Classroom updates - Alder Class

We have come to the end of our first Maths topic this week, finishing with rounding to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000 followed by Mrs Aynsley's favourite, roman numerals. Our new topic is all about addition and subtraction.

In English we have been building up to one of our big writes, a diary entry for the day in the life of an Egyptian child. When we came to write these the students showed brilliant focus and used their knowledge of what it was like to be a child in Ancient Egypt to write some wonderful recounts. I think we are pleased to be living in modern day times.

As part of our light topic in Science this week, we learnt about shadows. We had great fun exploring how they are made and how they can be changed. Finding that three different light sources made three different shadows was very interesting, especially when one of the light sources was red!

In Art we are working towards our final piece. A beautiful Egyptian sunset. Next week we will create silhouettes out of black paper to place on top of our sunsets.



Miss Cruse and Mrs Aynsley



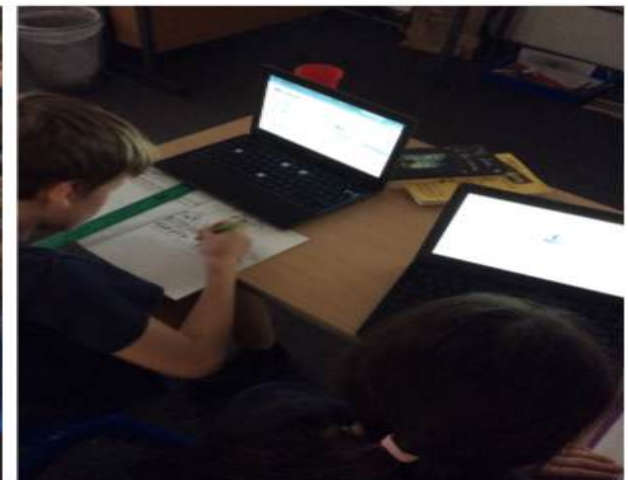
Classroom updates - Oak Class

It has been a week where we have really celebrated our growing independence in Oak Class. English, PSHE and Art have all recently given us the opportunity to show off our research skills. Whether it has been the life and works of Mackintosh or the day to day runnings of a Victorian Workhouse, our children have excelled in being able to conduct high quality research and making great discoveries along the way.

As we embark on non-chronological report writing in Literacy, it is great to see some of the “tenses” work that we have done in our SPaG sessions being put to good use. Changing from an “Entertain” focus to an “Inform” focus can be tricky, but judging by the language in our books, we have absolutely nailed it.

Our PSHE studies this week led us to sharing our achievements and how proud we are of ourselves for them. It was so nice to hear our oldest pupils talk about themselves in such a positive light, as this is actually a really tough thing to do when you are 9, 10 or 11!

Next week brings more big writing and more exciting Science. This term is absolutely flying, but luckily for us, so are our children! Have a great weekend team!



Mr. McLeod



Dates for your Diary

Date	Time	
7th October	From 8:30am	School photos (individual+sibling) with Paul Gremmel
22nd October	9:30am	Yr 5/6 Tag Rugby Festival at Morpeth RFC
22nd October	All day	Alder class Ancient Egypt Day
24th October	3:15pm	PTA Halloween Disco
25th October	9am	Harvest Festival
25th October	Afternoon	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
15th November	9:30am	Willow Class trip to Seven Stories
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

Belsay School



Friday Flyer

A colorful illustration for a Halloween event. It features a girl in a purple witch hat and red dress holding a basket of candy, a boy in a blue and white striped shirt and blue witch hat holding a bowl of candy, and a pink cat. They are surrounded by several glowing jack-o'-lanterns. In the background, there are silhouettes of haunted houses and flying bats. The text 'BELSAY OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB' is at the top, 'HALLOWEEN' is in large orange letters in the middle, and '3.15 until 4.30 £6.50' is below it. At the bottom, it says 'Join us for Fun' and 'GAMES . SPOOKY PIZZA , CRAFTS' followed by 'Monday 21st October from 3.15pm' and 'Call us 01661 881704'.

BELSAY OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB

HALLOWEEN

3.15 until 4.30 £6.50

Join us for Fun

GAMES . SPOOKY PIZZA , CRAFTS

Monday 21st October from 3.15pm

Call us 01661 881704



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You are not too young to make a Will,
especially if you have children. You do
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Nobody likes to think about it, but if
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