



7th February 2025

Headteachers update

The end of another week which means there are only two more to go until our well deserved half term break! The children are churning out work like absolute superstars and it is always nice as we approach the end of a half term as our topics start to conclude. In school we are starting to focus this term on 'Make a Fuss!' which is symbolised by a lightbulb. The idea behind this is so that when the children see the image on the screen, this is the most vital piece of information that they must remember from that lesson. So far it is having a fabulous impact as our children are not only knowing more but remembering far more about the topics they have been learning. Why not challenge your child to explain what the lightbulb means and if they can tell you any cool facts about recent topics?



As we move into February, our new value for this month is going to be confidence which I think is poignant, given the fact that next week in school we are holding our Mock SAT week for the Year 6 cohort. Confidence is about self belief and if we can ensure that the children believe in themselves and they know the staff believe in them, they can achieve anything their hearts desire. One young person in Reception told me this week they wanted to be a Unicorn Ballerina when they grow up. My response to that was, 'You can be anything you want if you work hard at it', children need confidence to chase their dreams!

On Friday this week, we welcomed a representative from Northumberland Council into school who worked with all our classes around Friendships linked to our PSHE topics. The workshops were thought provoking and the children seemed to really enjoy them.

Finally this week, we had our celebration assembly and Hot Chocolate winners. Hot Chocolate really is a great opportunity to speak to the children and find out what they like about school but also how we can improve it, pupil voice always makes me smile with some of the conversations. A number of them are still waiting for me to build a swimming pool on the field! Well done as always to all our fabulous winners this week.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend and have some fun things planned, see you Monday morning for week 6!

Mr Shaw



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**.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators
SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO MANAGE CONFLICT EFFECTIVELY

Disagreement is a natural part of human interaction. This can seem particularly true when dealing with the sensitive issues that concern secondary-aged pupils. This guide brings you 10 top tips which can help prevent conflicts arising or mitigate their impacts when they do.

- 1 INSPIRE RESPONSIBILITY**
The best responses to conflict resolution are proactive. This means that rather than waiting for things to go wrong, you should be looking for ways to prevent them. Encourage your children to take responsibility for their actions and to think about how they can prevent things from going wrong in the first place. Encourage them to think about how they can prevent things from going wrong in the first place.
- 2 ACTIVELY LISTEN**
Encourage your children to give others a chance to speak and to listen actively. Encourage them to listen to what others have to say without interrupting. Encourage them to listen to what others have to say without interrupting.
- 3 BE CURIOUS**
Encourage your children to be curious about the views of others. Encourage them to ask questions and to listen to what others have to say without interrupting.
- 4 PROMOTE DIFFERENCES**
Encourage your children to appreciate differences. Encourage them to listen to what others have to say without interrupting.
- 5 BE SUPPORTIVE**
Encourage your children to be supportive of others. Encourage them to listen to what others have to say without interrupting.
- 6 MENTALLY PREPARE**
Encourage your children to be mentally prepared for conflict. Encourage them to listen to what others have to say without interrupting.
- 7 GET YOUR FACTS STRAIGHT**
Encourage your children to get their facts straight. Encourage them to listen to what others have to say without interrupting.
- 8 STICK TO THE POINT**
Encourage your children to stick to the point. Encourage them to listen to what others have to say without interrupting.
- 9 BE SOLUTION FOCUSED**
Encourage your children to be solution focused. Encourage them to listen to what others have to say without interrupting.
- 10 DON'T IGNORE OR AVOID CONFLICT**
Encourage your children to not ignore or avoid conflict. Encourage them to listen to what others have to say without interrupting.

Meet Our Expert
 Catherine is a professional business coach and delivery leader. She has worked with many schools, colleges and businesses providing consultancy, training and coaching for over 10 years. She is passionate about helping schools and colleges to improve their performance and to provide a high quality education for all their pupils.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College



Attendance

As parents and carers we want to share our attendance figures because it is you who can make the big difference. Our children are entitled to a full and balanced education and at Belsay we feel we provide one of the best experiences possible.

Current Whole School attendance is 96.08% Our **NEW** target for Whole School Attendance is 97%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	87.78%	95.89%
Maple	100%	96.04%
Alder	94.18%	96.27%
Oak	98.67%	96.02%

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.

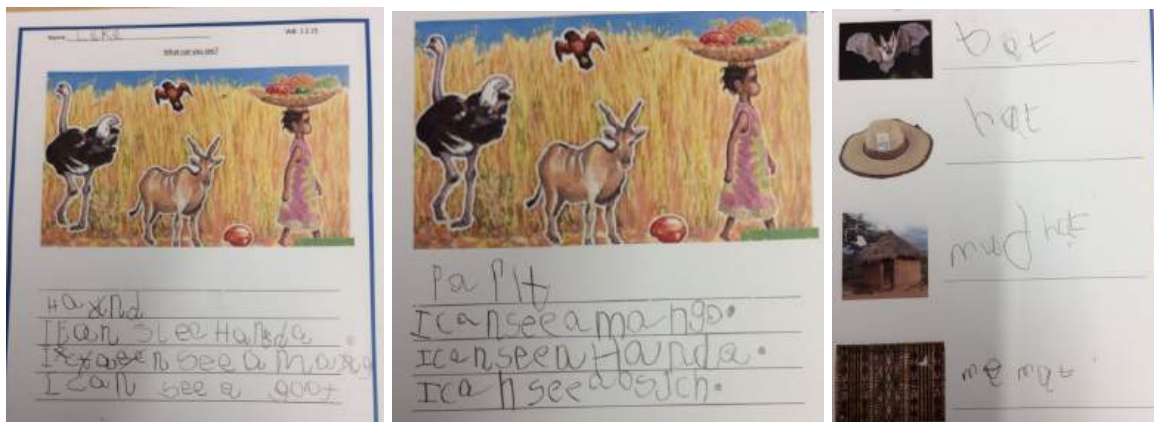


Classroom updates - Willow Class

This week we have focused on the story of Handa's surprise. A very different book in comparison to The Polar Bear's Home which has been the focus over the last few weeks. We have spent time reading the story, sequencing the story using just pictures, creating story maps which help us to tell the story without using any writing and we have even painted a sunset picture to show the setting of the story. Next week we will be thinking about how we can use different words to describe the fruit. Can you think of any way to describe the different fruits in the story? It would be great if you could start to think about this ahead of next week.



I have been very impressed with the writing that has taken place this week. We have been thinking about writing simple words and phrases linked to a picture. The children have been fantastic at looking closely at an image and then deciding what to write about it. I am looking forward to seeing how this continues to develop over the next few weeks.



We are very excited to be hosting a bake sale in a few weeks time. We have been working hard to plan a way to raise money to help with adopting a polar bear. We are excited to announce that we are going to use William's idea of having a bake sale in the last week of the half term. We are very much looking forward to making and selling the cakes. As Ronnie told me this week it will be a great way to show the school value of collaboration and I couldn't agree more with him. It is always busy in Willow class but the next few might just be the busiest yet!

Have a wonderful weekend and don't forget to share any photos on Tapestry as we love sharing these together.

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

On Monday afternoon we worked collaboratively in partners and small groups to finish our locomotives as part of the Primary Engineers project. We measured and tied string to the axles of the locomotives which acts as a brake to slow them to a stop. We then decorated the vehicles. We had all sorts of creative designs from unicorns to dragons and NUFC themed decor! A special thanks to our Year 5 and 6 helpers Tommy and Alfie!

To mark Children's Mental Health Week on Tuesday, we had a special whole school assembly in the morning and discussed how we can keep our minds healthy. In the afternoon during PSHE, we made trees with leaves representing all of the things that help each of us grow and make us happy.

In English, we have been working hard to write rules for taking care of the environment using bossy verbs and conjunctions! We are all working hard to improve our handwriting and the presentation of our work. We are very proud of our rules and hope to follow them as a school!



Miss Dixon and Miss Oliver



Friday Flyer

Classroom updates - Alder Class

National Storytelling Week has been a huge success in Alder Class this week. We have really enjoyed listening to Tolá Okogwu's ideas about how to create a character and story plot. The superheroes created by our Year 3 and 4s were imaginative and original. We can't wait to read their stories!

Maths this week has seen a continuation of our multiplication and division topic. We played around with lollipop sticks in year three when considering how to divide and used our place value charts in Year 4 to divide with exchange. Some extra time was spent on TTRS, please do continue to use this platform at home. Having a quick recall of times tables facts is really important, particularly for those in Year 4.

On Thursday, we became history detectives and explored where castles were located in the North East. We used maps, photographs and a newspaper article to find clues and then make our predictions. We really enjoyed thinking about why different sites were chosen and how the sites themselves helped to protect the castles!

Well done this week everyone. Enjoy your weekend.



Mrs Aynsley and Mrs Rutter



Classroom updates - Oak Class

Without a minute to spare all week, we look up and it is Friday! It's always great to be able to share what we have done with you at the end of a busy week and as always, this week, there is plenty to share.

In English, our Literacy and SPaG tasks have aligned nicely around the skill of punctuating direct speech. This is always a tricky one for everyone to get their heads around but it has been brilliant to see the progress and retention of vocabulary, as the week has gone on. Hopefully, we will be able to see the results of this as we engage in our Mock SATS week next week, and our Diary Entry Big Write, the following week.

Fractions is always an incredibly popular unit in Maths amongst parents and children alike (well, sometimes anyway!) and we continue to battle through the world of numerators and denominators with great commitment and attitude.

Maths even found its way into our History lesson this week as we explored the Mayan number system before flipping back to Forces in Science and investigating the effects of water resistance.

Have a wonderful weekend Team Oak (but make sure you spend some of it reading your play scripts!!)



Mr. McLeod



Friday Flyer

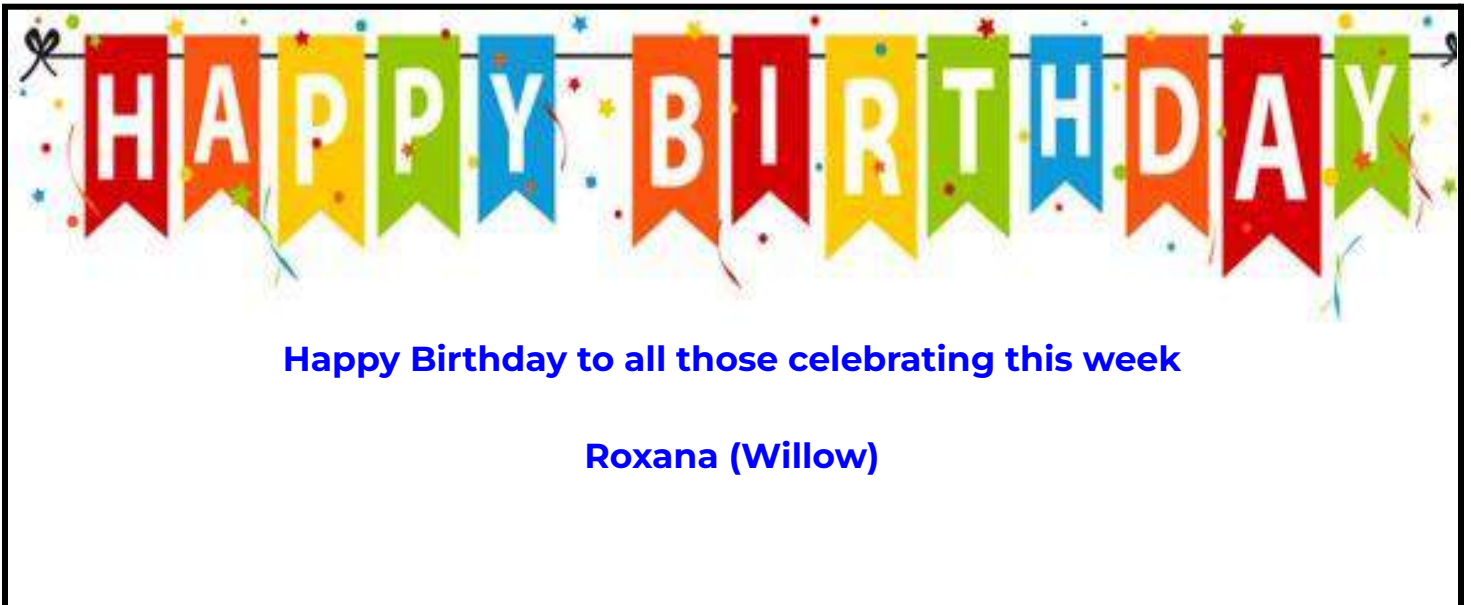
Dates for your Diary

Date	Time	
10th February	All week	Year 6 Mock SATS week
11th February	All day	Safer Internet Day
17th February	1pm	Dance Festival @ Heddon on the Wall
18th February	3:30pm	Ford Castle residential parent information evening
19th February	3:30pm	SATS Parents information evening (Year 6)
21st February	3.15PM	School closes for half term
3rd March	All day	Teacher training day
4th March	8.45am	School reopens for all children
6th March	All day	World Book Day and Holi Festival Colour Run
12th March	All day	Oak Class Shakespeare performance @ Northern Stage
13th March	4:30pm	Year 6 France residential parents information evening at Darras Hall Primary School
18th March	All day	Red Nose Day (non-uniform £1 donation)
19th-21st March	All day	Ford Castle residential for Year 3-5
24th-28th March	8.45-8.55am 3.15-3.45pm	Scholastic Book fair
24-28th March	All day	Made in the North East week
27th March	Morning	Willow class trip to a farm
27th March	All day	Maple Class trip to Cragside
27th March	All day	Oak Class Trip to The Mining Institute and Victoria Tunnels
28th March	All day	Alder Class trip to Alnwick Castle and Lilidorei
11th April	3.15PM	School closes for half term
28th April	8.45am	School reopens for all children



Friday Flyer

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



Jane Lee McCracken: Artist Talk & Auction

Queens Hall, Hexham
Wednesday 19 February, 7pm
Tickets From £5
White Room



[Click here for more information and to book tickets](#)



Friday Flyer

WEST NORTHUMBERLAND FAMILY HUBS

What's on at Prudhoe Family Hub

Find us on Facebook & Instagram

@WestFamilyHubs

Family Hubs
Here for everyone

peep

A range of groups supporting parents and children to learn together

FREE

PEEP STAY & PLAY

Mondays (0-5 years) 1:30pm-2:30pm
at Richard Coates CE Primary School, Ponteland

Tuesdays (0-18months) 10am-11am at Prudhoe Family Hub

Wednesdays (0-5 years) 10am-11:30am at Albemarle (for military families only)

Thursdays (0-5 years) 10am-11:30am at Prudhoe Family Hub

PEEP FEEL GOOD FRIDAY (Running for 4 weeks) NEW!

Starting Friday 10th January 1pm-2pm (0-5 Years)

Our new Feel Good Friday sessions follows the Peep Learning Together Programme. Each week we will be exploring different themes to support learning through play.

PEEP AND (Additional needs and/or disabilities)

Friday 10am-11:30am

A group for families with a child under 5 with additional needs or waiting for assessment.

PEEP BABIES (0-6 months) & (6-12 months)

Explore hints & tips to help you in these first few months with your baby. These sessions create stimulating play experiences, encouraging communication with your baby and an understanding of each stage of their development.

PEEP TODDLERS (1-2 years +)

Connect with others and discuss key aspects of your child's development as they learn and grow, which will support you in helping your child make the most of the world around them.

PEEP EARLY COMMUNICATORS (15-36 months)

These sessions support young children in learning to express themselves and improves communication between parents and children. Help boost your little ones speech and language, social skills, routine and much more.

AND Chill Out

Fortnightly, starting Tuesday 14th January 3:30pm-4:30pm

A session for children aged 4-14 with additional and/or needs and disabilities and their family, and their family. Come along and meet other young people and families in a safe space.

Feeding Friends (Alongside Peep Stay and Play)

Tuesday 10am-11:30am

The Infant Feeding team offer support, whether you're getting started with breastfeeding, starting solids, returning to work and everything else in between. The groups are also a great place to chat with other parents about you and your new addition to the family.

Welcome Party

Monday 20th January 1pm-2pm

For expecting parents and babies up to 6 months. Come along and find out what the Family Hub has to offer. Join in with some fun activities for you, bump and baby too!

Family Panel (Contact your Family Hub)

Do you want to help make a difference to families like yours? Join the Northumberland Family Panel to get involved in future plans and share your thoughts and views, to help shape the support for families in your community.

Autism Family Support Drop-in

Tuesday 14th January 10am-12pm
At Hexham Family Hub

Come along for a cuppa and a chat. No diagnosis needed!
For parents of pupils aged 0-19 years.

First Aid Courses (Contact us to book your place)

Friday 7th February, 12:30pm-2:30pm

Babies and children first aid awareness, a free session for parents and carers.

Registrar

Thursday 30th January & 27th February

[Click here](#) to book an appointment and register a birth

Midwife & Health Visitor Appointments

You can arrange to see your Midwife or Health Visitor at the Family Hub.
Please contact them directly to book.

Health Visitor Appointments - 0300 373 2488 **Midwife Appointments - 0344 811 8118**

Get in touch with Prudhoe Family Hub

Phone - 01661 839350 Email - prudhoefamilyhub@northumberland.gov.uk



Friday Flyer

NATIONAL
YOUTH CHOIR

SING!

North East



Join us for SING! 2025, which includes three workshops throughout the year led by our friendly team of vocal leaders from National Youth Choir. Young singers will learn exciting new songs, make new friends and develop their musical skills.

What you need to know

- Open to all young singers in Years 5 to 8 at a state school or homeschooled in the North East
- Free for all taking part with flexible support for travel costs
- No prior preparation is needed - just bring your enthusiasm!
- Young singers will have the opportunity to take part in a supported audition for the National Youth Choir at the end of the year

Dates for your diary

Spring Weekend

Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 March, 10am-4pm
Newcastle Sixth Form College

Summer Vocal Day

Sunday 15 June, 10am-4pm
Newcastle University

Autumn Workshop Day

Sunday 12 October, 10am-4pm
Newcastle University

Sign up now

Register for events and sign up to our mailing list



www.nationalyouthchoir.org.uk