



Friday Flyer

17th January 2025

Headteachers update

I think Belsay must be magical because you literally blink and the week has gone! A warmer week in school which has helped but nevertheless the productivity is as high as ever. I've been walking around the classes this week and it is so wonderful to see enthusiastic teaching and learning. I only have to walk into Reception or Maple Class and I am surrounded by the children, excited to show me their beautiful work or tell me about what they are learning. Then on the other side of school there is such a buzz as the children go about their work and become fully engrossed in their learning. We really are very lucky to have such highly motivated teachers - Belsay is in a very strong position!

At the heart of all that we do are the six core values and this month we are discussing our value of Curiosity. Such an important quality in life because why should you not be able to ask questions and find out even more?

Can you say...	
Hello -	Jambo
Please -	Tafadhali
Thank you -	Asante

In addition to our core value, we have also introduced our Language of Month once again. This month our language is linked to our International School Award and Kirambo Primary School in Kenya that we are establishing links with. Therefore our language this month will be Swahili. I am certainly no expert but with the help of Alder Class (and Google Translate), we are encouraging the children to use hello, please and thank you. Can you help us also?

Further to a letter you received from Mr Bell, Pele Trust Catering Manager, can I please stress the importance of ordering your child's lunch each week. We are spending a long time sorting lunch orders each day and we would much rather be getting on with our classwork. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Finally, this week we welcome back our Celebration Assemblies and Hot Chocolate Rewards. Well done to all the children who have been nominated this week and it was great to see so many Outstanding Achievement Awards being given out. Great work everyone - keep it up!

I hope you have a super weekend, whatever your plans and I look forward to seeing you on Monday morning.

Mr Shaw



Friday Flyer

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**.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISNEY+

The Walt Disney Company's streaming service, Disney+ combines entertainment from the famous animation studio itself with Pixar, Star and National Geographic, plus the Marvel and Star Wars franchises. With access to the latest releases, Disney classics and original series, there's plenty of content to explore. While parents may have noted that adverts have now been introduced on some versions of the service, the platform is – unsurprisingly for a Disney product – designed to be appropriate for the whole family.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

While Disney+ is predominantly family friendly, there are some movies and shows in its library which are aimed at an older audience: these may scare younger ones or contain themes or language that you'd rather your child wasn't exposed to. You could avoid such situations by enabling Junior Mode (see 'Adjust content settings', below) or specifying a content age rating for your child's profile.

LESS SUITABLE CONTENT

With the option to view content on any internet-enabled device and a growing catalogue of movies, cartoons and documentaries, Disney+ can make managing screen time difficult. This could result in children binge watching content, distracting them from activities like homework or socialising. Too much screen time has also been shown to negatively impact mood, sleep patterns and weight.

ENCROACHING ADVERTS

Disney+ has introduced a new subscription package – Disney+ Standard with Ads – which plays commercials before movies and during shows (like many TV channels). There are no adverts in Junior Mode, but profiles with a content rating of 6+ years will see ads appropriate for that age category. Adults who give consent will see personalised adverts based on their location and viewing history.

ACCESSING ADULTS' PROFILES

If adults don't set a PIN for their profile, children could access it and encounter content which isn't age appropriate. In the settings, Junior Mode has a toggle titled 'Kid-Proof Exit' which requires the user to read four words (numbers, spelled out) and enter them to switch profiles. For older children who can read, though, this isn't secure enough – so using a PIN for adult profiles is recommended.

PHISHING EMAILS

Be especially cautious if you receive emails or text messages purporting to be from Disney+. There have been numerous reports of online scammers impersonating Disney+ staff in an attempt to gain access to subscribers' personal information. Disney+ states it will never email or call customers asking for their payment details, their private information or their password.

ADJUST CONTENT SETTINGS

When setting up an account, there's an option to create profiles in what's called Junior Mode. This generally covers material that's suitable for children up to age 6 and is therefore fairly limited. You can give older children a wider choice of viewing by building a standard profile, then going into the settings and choosing a content rating from one of the pre-set alternatives: 6+, 9+, 12+ or 14+.

ADD PIN PROTECTION

Disney+ enables you to effectively lock profiles behind a four-digit PIN. In particular, some of the shows on the platform's Star content hub are for more oriented to adults (including several hard-hitting dramas from US networks), so protecting parents' or older siblings' profiles with a PIN will help to prevent younger children stumbling across material which isn't intended for them.

TURN OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a cartoon, show or movie finishes, Disney+ uses algorithms to identify content with similar themes, which it thinks your child will also enjoy. This suggestion will then automatically begin to play by default. There's an option to turn off this auto-play function in the profile settings, which will encourage your child to take a break from the screen and move on to a different activity.

ENJOY AS A FAMILY

When your child watches a movie or show on Disney+ for the first time, you may want to sit with them to ensure it's suitable. You could do the same when introducing them to older films that you haven't seen for years: your perception of what's appropriate has very probably changed, and some of the language and attitudes in movies from your own childhood may seem quite shocking today.

Advice for Parents & Carers



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.

Our current Whole School attendance is 95.94%. Our target for Whole School Attendance is 96%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	90	96.31
Maple	99.52	95.99
Alder	98.41	96.04
Oak	97.78	95.66

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

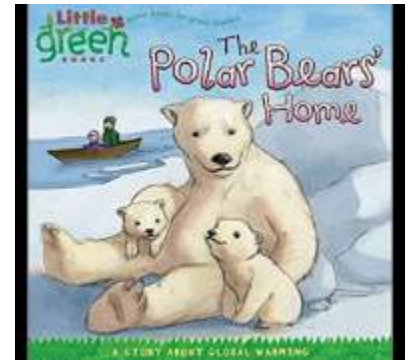
Absence Procedures if your child is ill, please keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school. Please notify us by phone call or email before 9.15am if your child is to be absent, and continue to inform us on a daily basis if they continue to be ill.

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 introduced our new class book *The Polar Bears' Home*. This is a story that focuses on global warming and encourages us to think about how we can make a difference to our lives in order to help the polar bears and other animals. We have enjoyed discussing animals that live in the Arctic and animals that do not live in the Arctic. We compared the differences between both lots of animals. It has been lovely hearing the children so enthusiastic about our Make a fuss knowledge. This week we have focused on the words habitat, environment and survive. All of these words are relevant to our story focus and we have been working hard to remember them. .



We have all been very busy in the home corner this week as we decided to transform it. We have added in some real food resources and some food packaging. We have really enjoyed making our own labels for different tins and making lots of delicious meals for each other. It has been great to see the children so eager to play in the home corner and think carefully about the food they wanted to make. The children have enjoyed writing their own menus as well.

We had a great time in Forest school this week making bird feeders to encourage the birds to return to the wildlife area. We used pipe cleaners and cereal to make a bird feeder, a great way to help animals while also using our fine motor skills.



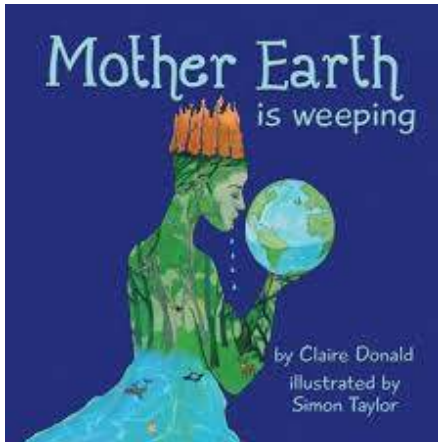
Have a lovely weekend and don't forget to share any photos on Tapestry as we love seeing what you have been up to.

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

We've had another brilliant week in Maple Class, having lots of engaging discussions about all of our new class topics! In History we learnt about three significant inventors from the North East and the inventions they designed and created in the Victorian period. Philippa was our star of the lesson, remembering the name of each key inventor and what they invented! We talked about each invention and how it changed society at the time. In PSHE, Miss Oliver read *Mother Earth is Weeping* and discussed the importance of looking after our world. We worked collaboratively as a class to suggest ways that we can help to take care of our environment.



Miss Dixon



Classroom updates - Alder Class



Another lovely week in Alder Class that has seen the start of some interesting new topics. It has been lovely to sing happy birthday to four different people. I hope everyone has had a lovely time celebrating at home.

English has seen the continuation of reading our class text *The One and Only Ivan*. We are really getting into this and are already getting to know the key characters well. At the start of the week our work focussed around reading comprehension. This is something you can continue at home. After you have read to them, or indeed they have read to you, ask them about the book. Who was their favourite character? What do we think will happen to Ivan next in the story? Why do they think Mack chose to do that? We have also explored how we change tenses in our writing and the different pronouns used when writing in first person or third person.

In Maths we have returned to multiplication and division. Please do continue times tables practice at home, it really does make a difference and one of the best things you can do to help your child with their Maths. We have been very impressed with the times tables knowledge this week, well done Alder Class.

Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



Science has seen the start of a new topic all about forces. I wonder how many actions you can see at home that require a push or pull force? We welcomed a hug of teddies into the classroom for our art lesson and shone lights on their faces. It was interesting to see where we needed to draw darker areas and where we needed to highlight other areas.

There was a lot of excitement about starting work on our new topic of Castles this week. We spent time learning a chant to help us remember key dates and explored the timeline outside to see what was happening during the medieval period. There was lots of engaging discussion around why so many castles were built and we are looking forward to learning more over the half term.

Mrs Aynsley and Mrs Rutter



Friday Flyer

Classroom updates - Oak Class

Much more ado about many things up in Oak Class this week. Between all of our script rehearsals, where we are really starting to get to grips with our lines and roles, we have squeezed so much into this week, it really is phenomenal!

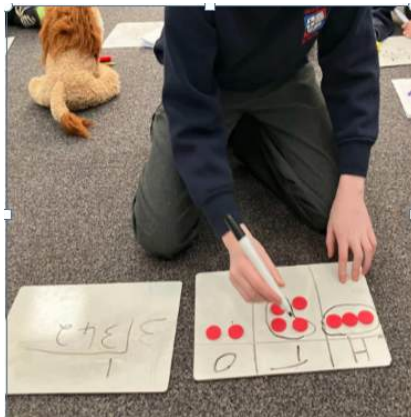
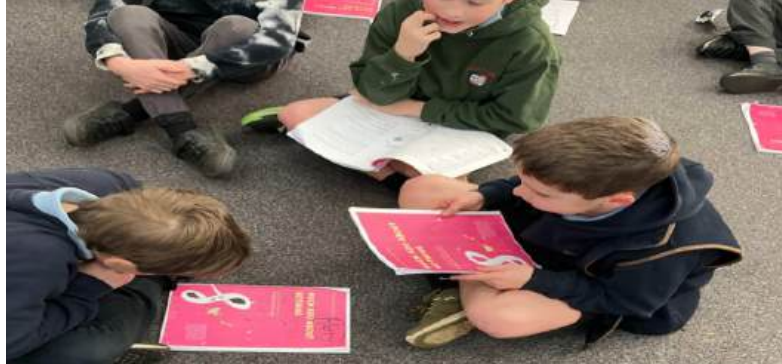
We have used our Much Ado About Nothing knowledge to structure our very own play script and have developed a really good handle on the necessary features of such a piece of writing. It was great to get a sense of our artistic flare, as we planned the plot and journey of our plays using scene summaries and assigned an accurate and descriptive cast list to match.

As Year 6 plough on with their fractions work with Mr. Shaw, Year 5 have had the concrete manipulative resources again as we begin to explore the formal written method for division of 3 and 4 digit numbers. Some of our guys even decided to challenge themselves in the abstract, with bigger numbers and remainders.

We kept our feet firmly on the ground in Science this week as we explored gravity and measuring gravitational forces in Newtons (N) and recorded our findings in tables and History took the prime time slot of Friday afternoon as we explored the daily life of the Ancient Maya and our Guided Reading sessions offered us the opportunity to read in a group.

Thanks as always for your amazing support at home. We can't thank you enough and we also can't wait to do it all again next week!





Mr. McLeod

School Council

This week some of the school council decided to do a litter pick around the school grounds. We found that there was a very small amount of litter on the school yard, but we found a variety of litter on the school field including sweet wrappers, food containers, pieces of rigid plastic and the biggest surprise of all was a dummy! Missing playground equipment was also retrieved from various places on the field. After some discussion we decided that we should do this regularly and encourage others to help out at break time or lunchtime to improve our school grounds further. School Council meetings are held every 2 weeks, if you have any fundraising ideas please let Miss Cook or Mrs Hayes know and we can discuss it when we meet.

School Council



Dates for your Diary

Date	Time	
24th January	All day	Kaleidoscope Workshop Day at Newcastle University for selected students
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	Dukeshouse Wood 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
12th March	All day	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	Dukeshouse 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
11th April	3.15PM	School closes for half term
28th April	8.45am	School reopens for all children

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



Friday Flyer



Happy Birthday to all those celebrating this week

Jack (Alder)

Lewis (Alder)

Charlie (Alder)

Ned (Oak)

Sebastian (Oak)

Safer Parking around our school

As a driver you have a responsibility to park in a safe and considerate manner.

Park with care and help make the area near and around our school a safer place for everyone.



Friday Flyer

Rocking & Reeling Around the World

It's FREE!

An Afternoon
of
Musical Workshops
Saturday 8th
March

At Chantry Middle School, Morpeth
12.30 to 6.30pm

Whatever instrument you play, or if you like to sing, there is a workshop for you. From traditional reels to rock music, and everything in between, will be taught and then performed to parents.

Come and join in the fun, make new friends and learn new music!

SIGN UP HERE Or Scan

Students **MUST** sign up in advance to attend the workshop



MUSIC PARTNERSHIP NORTH

mpn@northumberland.gov.uk

Northumberland County Council

Supported using public funding by
Department for Education
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND