



**20th December 2024**

## Headteachers update

We have done it! Finally, we have arrived at the end of term and what an incredible term it has been so far. We have achieved so much since September it is quite hard to believe and that is down to hard work and resilient attitude of the children so well done to all of you, surely this means you're on the Good List!



A fabulous fun week has occurred to round off the term starting with our annual trip to the Tyne Theatre to watch Snow White. I love seeing the joy and excitement on the children's faces as they get so involved in the production, even though the wicked queen was a little scary, it never deterred the heckling and customary 'boo'. Even Mr McLeod got more than he bargained for when Dame Dotty took a shine to him! Overall a really good trip and the children were an absolute credit to you and the school with their impeccable manners and behaviour at all times.

On Wednesday this week we started the day with a visit from a very special guest, all the way from the North Pole. Santa very kindly dropped by to deliver selection boxes to all the children which brought a smile to everyone. I think even Miss Dixon was a little star struck but she was assured she was on the good list - phew! This was then followed by the KS2 Christmas Party was 'lively' but all great fun so thank you for the kind food donations (extra sugar) that went down a treat.



After school on Wednesday we had our wonderful PTA once again take centre stage and provide a magnificent Christmas Fair. As always this was really well attended so thank you so much for coming and spending money as it all comes back into school and is a huge positive difference to us all!

The PTA have reported that we made over £900 on just this one event - that is quite an unbelievable amount of money for a small school like ours.

Thursday was a little quieter in school, except for the KS1 and Reception party. It looked great fun and if I had not been in meetings all day I would have loved to have gone and joined in. Thank you once again for the donations of food and treats which I know the children thoroughly enjoyed.

# Friday Flyer



Finally, today we have rounded off our term with a celebration assembly. It was lovely being able to reflect on all the positives of the year so far and once again taking time to congratulate our Outstanding Achievement Winners. You have all done so incredibly well this term and I am really proud of each and every one of you!

I feel that as we conclude this term, we are all ready for a rest and relaxation, even if that just means we are not having to get up super early and rush to school. This time of year is magical in so many ways and I hope you have a lovely time over the next few weeks celebrating with loved ones.

On behalf of the staff may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Look forward to seeing you all in 2025.

**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**.

### Top Tips for

## SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

#### IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

#### NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

#### ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

#### WINDOWS 11 PCS

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

#### PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a Playstation before it's even unwrapped. At my account.sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings at the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

#### CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

#### IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (Under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

#### MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the snag here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account. Then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

#### XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

#### SMART TVS

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.



## 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 approximately 92%.** Whilst we appreciate that we have been rocked by a wide range of sickness bugs, it is imperative that additional holidays and time off school is not taken during the term.

Please help me, our staff and ultimately your children to really work together and focus on this as we move into Spring. **Let's challenge ourselves to get it to over 96%!**

If any parents or carers wish to speak to me about attendance please feel free to contact the school office. Thank you for your support on this!

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	100	96.57
Maple	99.52	95.59
Alder	97.22	95.59
Oak	92.00	95.30

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

A very busy final week for Team Willow! We loved going to the pantomime to see Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. The children were brilliant at joining in with the booing and cheering and made me feel very proud of them.



On Wednesday we heard some bells ringing and we couldn't believe it when SANTA came into our classroom! We were so excited to see him and tell him about how good Elfie has been. We loved having the chance to listen to how hard Mrs Claus and the elves have been working to prepare our presents.

We had a day full of fun and excitement on Thursday as we all arrived at school in our party clothes! We loved joining Maple class to have a Christmas party. There was a lot of singing and dancing in the hall and we all had a great time. Thank you to everyone who was able to bring in party food. The children really enjoyed choosing their own food.

A big thank you to everyone for this term. It has been a long one, but thanks to everyone it has been a very successful one for Team Willow! I hope everyone has a lovely Christmas and New Year. I know the children are very excited for Christmas day and I can't wait to hear all about it when we return to school. Have a wonderful time together and make lots of memories with your family.

**Miss Houghton**



# Friday Flyer

## Classroom updates - Maple Class

Maple Class had a wonderful last week in school before Christmas! We started our week with a Christmas computing project. We answered the question 'what is technology?' and learnt that technology is anything designed by humans to help us do something. We then talked about the meaning of 'information technology' and discussed different examples of information technology that we have in our classroom. We learnt how to login to the class Chromebooks and how to be respectful and safe when using them. We practised our mouse and typing skills then worked independently to design creative Christmas cards for our families.

We had a fabulous time on our annual trip to the pantomime on Tuesday to see Snow White. It was very exciting to visit the theatre and there were lots of giggles to be had! On Wednesday we had a surprise visit from Santa Claus and he was very pleased to see us all working hard on our Christmas calendars. We gave him the letters we wrote to him last week in English and he gave us a special gift each.

It has been a wonderfully festive few weeks in school building up to our well earned Christmas holiday. Maple Class have worked very hard this term and it has been lovely to see their skills progress. Thank you for all of your hard work Maple Class! Have a magical Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in January.



Miss Dixon



## Classroom updates - Alder Class

Another fantastic week full of hard work and fun! We have completed some amazing pieces of Newspaper Report Writing about our topic of Pompeii. The children worked really hard to include a range of success criteria and I was so proud of them all. This week has also allowed us to get more arty and we had a fun time creating special wooden decorations and beautiful seasonal scenes for our calendars. In maths we have continued to work on our times tables and made some help cards for the numbers we were not as confident on. The children can use these at home to keep their brains active!

Finally, we have had the Pantomime, class parties and lots of fun and throughout it all the behaviour and attitudes of the children was amazing. They are such a lovely class and I have loved to get to know them all so well over this last term. I hope they have a wonderful Christmas and New Year but please make sure they get some rest as they have worked so incredibly hard this term. I look forward to hearing about all their exciting stories in January.



Mrs Aynsley.



## Classroom updates - Oak Class

You may remember our previous classroom update, when I said that this week would be even more crazy than last week. It turns out I was right. However, what a week it has been! On top of all the fun festive activities, we have also had many opportunities to reflect on just how far we have come since September and it really is worth celebrating.

Monday saw us polish off our Maths and Science units of work. Our School Improvement Partner was so complimentary of our children's work around formal methods of multiplication. Even though it was the Monday morning of the last week of a long term, they were so focussed and keen to demonstrate their learning. Following this, the presentations that the children put together for the end of our life cycles unit were excellent. I've QR coded them in our Science Books, so come the end of the year, we can all watch them back!

Obviously, we are always immensely proud of our children, but it must be acknowledged the superb standard of behaviour that was on show at our Pantomime visit on Tuesday and our Christmas Party on Wednesday. We all had a great couple of days and it is such a pleasure to see everybody having so much fun. Our special guest also complimented our exemplary behaviour.

Finally from me, I would just like to thank you all for all of your support this first term. Naturally, at Belsay we are blessed to work with wonderful children, but a supportive parental community such as yourselves is a blessing itself. May you have the most wonderful Christmas with your loved ones and I can't wait to see you all again in January. God bless.





# Friday Flyer

Mr. McLeod

## Dates for your Diary

Date	Time	
6th January	8:45am	School Reopens

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



**Happy Birthday to all those celebrating this week**

**Flynn (Willow)**

**Charlotte (Oak)**