



12th December 2024

Headteachers update

We only have one more week to go everybody and what a week we have in store for you all! We have just completed a fabulous week in school which included some fun, some assessments, some challenging lessons and some Design and Technology - not sure how we have managed to do it all in only 4 days.



Tuesday was our wonderful Christmas Dinner day and I would like to start by having a huge shout out to Mrs Hayes, our legendary chef, who once again provided a spectacular feast. Mrs Hayes made it look easy as she cooked and served over 85 children and staff. Outstanding once again and I don't know how she does it on her own - I stress about cooking for 8 people!

Wednesday afternoon we held the first, of hopefully many, Orienteering competitions for the Trust Schools. This competition was for Year 4 and it was wonderful to have so many children in school, exploring our marvellous outdoor area, even if it was a little wet on the field. Well done to everyone who took part and a massive congratulations as we were crowned WINNERS!!

Thursday was Christmas Jumper Day which always brings a smile to my face, seeing the vast array of designs and colours on offer. There was also a Year 5/6 trip to Ponteland High to watch the school production We Will Rock You. It was great to hear all about it and I have no doubt it could be one to watch in a few years and see our future stars on the stage.

Thank you so much to those families who have brought in a shoebox for the Action for Children Charity, this is such a beautiful way of bringing joy to children of North East of all ages. I have had confirmation that these will be collected Monday, 16th December so there is still time to get them into school. Last year we had over 50 boxes so I would love to beat that this year as it can make a real difference.

Finally, we had our whole school Celebration Assembly and customary Hot Chocolate. Well done as always to all of our nominations and winners for the awards this week, it is great to see that no matter how tired we are, the effort is still there and thoroughly deserved!

Have a wonderful weekend and see you on Monday for our final week... 13 days until Christmas!

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**.

SMARTPHONE SAFETY TIPS for young people

You may have been lucky enough to have unwrapped a smartphone at Christmas, or you might be eagerly anticipating getting a new one at some point during this year. Whether it'll be your first ever phone or an upgrade on your old model, it's always useful to have a refresher about how to set it up and adjust the settings to keep yourself – and your valuable personal info – safe and secure. We've collected some expert tips to help you enjoy your smartphone in the healthiest way possible.

NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSCODE

Alongside face or fingerprint recognition, your passcode is crucial to unlocking your phone and accessing your apps and personal information. You shouldn't give it out even to close friends – after all, you wouldn't hand them a key to your house and let them go in for a noisy snooze if a friend wants to use your phone, ask them why and make sure you can see what they're doing with it.

RESPECT PARENTAL CONTROLS

If you're allowed to have a smartphone, it's because your parents or carers feel that you're mature and responsible enough to use it safely. They might set controls and boundaries on your device – not to spend your fun but to help you avoid hazards like too much screen time or costly in-app purchases. Following these rules means you can enjoy using your phone while respecting their wishes.

TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT

Whether it's to listen to music, play games, create content or chat with friends, using a smartphone should be fun. If you're ever feeling anxious, worried or scared about going on your phone, then something isn't right. It's important not to ignore those feelings. Instead, talk to a trusted adult about what's happening and how it's making you feel.

STAY ALERT

Two-waste look up. It might sound obvious, but it's so easy to get immersed in what we're looking at or listening to on our phones that we can become unaware of our surroundings – or who might be around us. People often walk with their heads down, focusing on their phone, and forget to check for obstacles in their path, cars or other pedestrians coming towards them, which is a really dangerous.

ONLY USE AGE-APPROPRIATE APPS

Before downloading a new app or game, check what age rating it has. Don't feel pressured into getting a particular game or app just because your friends are using it. If it's intended for older people, there's a definite risk that it could include content (which is violent or frightening for instance) or language which isn't suitable and may leave you feeling upset or disturbed.

REMOVE TEMPTATION

A good night's sleep is so important for concentration, mood and overall health. Limiting property before going to bed – which means not staring at a screen late at night – can often improve sleep quality. Put your phone on charge overnight, but not in your room. This means you'll have a lot less temptation to check any notifications, reply to messages or get caught up scrolling on social media.

THINK ABOUT OTHERS

Watching videos, listening to music or calling someone can all help to pass the time while waiting on the bus, waiting in a queue or walking down the street. It's important to remain mindful of other people, though. They might not want to hear your tunes or your conversations. Likewise, if you're calling them a police force then don't forget that anyone could overhear something personal about you.

DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS

Phones offer a vast amount of content and the chance to chat with friends wherever we feel like it, which can make it difficult to take time away from the screen. If that's something you struggle with, you could try setting time limits on certain apps. Putting our phones down for a while gives us more time to interact with others or do something physical that helps keep us fit and healthy.

IGNORE UNKNOWN NUMBERS

There are some scammers who might call or text asking you to share personal data or to click on a link and provide your details. Some may claim to be from a genuine company, but trustworthy businesses don't spontaneously call or message to ask for your information. It's best to ignore calls or texts from unknown numbers, and never give your personal details out over the phone.

SWITCH OFF GEOLOCATION

In your phone's settings, you'll be able to disable geolocation for individual apps and photos. This means that people online (including strangers) won't see information about where you are when you share or post a pic. On the subject of images, it's also important to ask for permission before taking or sharing a photo of someone – and don't share embarrassing images of your friends with others.

Meet Our Expert

For more information on how to stay safe online, visit www.nationalonlinesafety.org or www.peletrust.org. You can also contact our safety advisers for advice on how to stay safe online. For more information on how to stay safe online, visit www.nationalonlinesafety.org or www.peletrust.org.

The National College

NOS National Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday



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	96.32
Maple	98.14	95.33
Alder	97.86	95.52
Oak	99.43	95.52

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

Last week you all joined us as we retold the Christmas story with the whole school. A big thank you again to everyone who was able to attend this event. I hope you enjoyed the extra performance from the children after the main event. I know the children felt really proud of themselves for being able to perform to you all. This week we have focused on the story The Nativity to help us to remember the Christmas story. The children have enjoyed reading this book and it has been lovely to see them reenacting the story in Discovery time.

A big thank you to William for his fantastic idea to make pancakes with the eggs we collected from the chickens. William was the only one to send in his idea and so we worked together to enjoy a delicious pancake. Some children chose to have honey and some chose to have chocolate on their pancake. They all looked and smelled delicious.



As well as working hard with all things Christmas this week, we have also been working hard to make a house in Design Technology. A lot of planning went into this project. First we looked at different types of houses that the Three Little Pigs built, then we looked at a book called Homes around the world. We designed four different houses before deciding which one would be the best for us to attempt to make. Mrs Moffat was so impressed with the children's ideas. It was great to see everyone thinking carefully about matching their house to the design. The final part of the project was for the children to evaluate the house that they had made. We thought carefully about what we thought was positive about the house and what we would change if we were to make it again. There were some brilliant ideas from the children.

Well done Team Willow for another fantastic week. You are all working extremely hard even though I know you are all very ready for a Christmas break. Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Houghton



Friday Flyer

Classroom updates - Maple Class

Maple Class have had a brilliant time enjoying the festivities in school this week. To start the week, we made beautiful, glittery decorations for our school Christmas tree and went as a class to hang them on the branches. It was wonderful to see so many creative designs!

On Tuesday we had a fabulous Christmas lunch made by the wonderful Mrs Hayes. It was lovely to sit with our friends, pull crackers, tell jokes and listen to Christmas music in our festive jumpers.

On Wednesday we spent the afternoon outdoors with Miss Houghton for a Forest School treat! We made tasty s'mores and drank delicious hot chocolate to warm us up!



Miss Dixon



Classroom updates - Alder Class

This week in Alder Class we made a start on our Design and Technology project with Mrs Aynsley. We had to work with a partner and mark our wood to specific measurements ready for us to cut. We did an amazing job at measuring accurately and built on our collaboration.

Our PSHE this week was to focus on our 6 school values and create a jigsaw using illustrations. In computing with Miss Cook, our first task was to design a machine that uses inputs and that produces an output. We also had to describe how the process would work. The children produced some amazing designs and really thought about the process.

Another computing task was to draw an image on paper and then using a paint app we needed to create the same image and then compare them. Some of us preferred to use a non-digital tool for this activity rather than a digital tool.



Mrs Aynsley.



Friday Flyer

Classroom updates - Oak Class

We often have wild weeks up here in Upper Key Stage 2 but I think we might have just topped it this week!

Another Big Write was completed as we put together all the elements of our persuasive letters. What was brilliant about this unit, was that the children did not all choose the same senders and recipients for their letters, so it was an added bonus to be able to read how much character knowledge we have acquired throughout the story of A Christmas Carol.

The ultimate height of the craziness this week however, has undoubtedly been the chaos of D&T week. As you can imagine, designing and carrying out festive soup recipes with 25x 9-11 year olds is a bit of a task! It has to be said though, the children absolutely pulled out all of the stops and produced some fantastic products. From cranberry to cinnamon, there was a huge breadth of festive flavours added to traditional soup ingredients to produce pans of real winter warmers. I am immensely proud of each and every one of our children for their contributions. Some shone in recipe design, some in preparation and some in cooking techniques, but every single one of them chipped into this project. Superb efforts all round.

It was a (Ponteland) High School Musical experience on Thursday morning. It was great to see some old, familiar faces in the crowd and on the stage of "We Will Rock" you. It was a really easy-come, easy-go experience and we all left wanting to do the fandango all the way back to Belsay.

Obviously, we will be trying to make next week even more festive and enjoyable than this week. A challenge indeed, but I reckon we're up to it. Have a great weekend everybody!



Mr. McLeod




Friday Flyer

Dates for your Diary

Date	Time	
13th December	All day	Teacher training day
17th December	8:45am departure	Whole school trip to Tyne Theatre for Christmas pantomime
18th December	Morning	Alder and Oak class Christmas Party
18th December	3:15pm	PTA Christmas Jingle
19th December	Afternoon	Willow and Maple class Christmas Party
20th December	Lunch	School closes for Christmas
6th January	8:45am	School Reopens

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



Happy Birthday to those who celebrated this week
Luke (Willow)
Magnus (Maple)
Phoebe (Oak)

Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



Belsay School



Christmas Jingle

WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2024
3.15PM

Cake stall, Tombola, Sweets,
Christmas Decorations, Glitter Tattoos,
Bottle Hoopla, School Closet
and more...



Friday Flyer

A decorative string of colorful Christmas lights (pink, yellow, white, red, blue) hanging against a green background.

Christmas Movie Night

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Children,

We are excited to announce that we will be having a cinema afternoon at Belsay Out of School Club! This special event will feature a fun film screening, along with some engaging activities to get everyone in the mood for a fantastic movie experience.

If you would like to join us, please let us know. We would love to see everyone there, and your participation will make this event even more enjoyable. A good opportunity, for parents to finish off Christmas shopping and wrapping.

Details of the event are as follows:

Date: 16-12-24
Time: 3.15-5pm

Price £8
Location: Belsay Out of School Club

Before we settle down to watch the film, we will have some exciting activities planned that will engage the children and foster a sense of community. It promises to be a wonderful afternoon filled with laughter and fun!

Please ensure your child is dressed comfortably and comes ready to enjoy the activities and the movie. Popcorn and refreshments will be provided, so everyone can truly indulge in the cinema experience!

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you all at the cinema afternoon!

Please ring 01661881704 or email belsaydaycare@yahoo.co.uk to book.



Friday Flyer

You're invited to a Christmas day out at Belsay Hall



* **When: Saturday 14th December 2024, 10am**

* **Where: Belsay Hall, Morpeth**

Gingerbread, in collaboration with Belsay Hall, are inviting single-parent families in the local area to a FREE Christmas event. This is the perfect opportunity to meet other single parents, and for you and your children to take part in a day of activities which includes:

- * Exploring the gardens.
- * Play park.
- * Christmas festivities.
- * Meet the toy makers in their workshop.
- * Christmas crafts.
- * Festive songs and stories with musicians.
- * Group lunch.*

**Spaces are limited, to book please register [here](#).
For any questions please contact
emily.marshall@gingerbread.org.uk.**

*Please bring a packed lunch or there is a café on-site.



Gingerbread, the charity for single parent families, is registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee, no. 402748, and a registered charity, no. 230750.