



6th December 2024

Headteachers update

You can tell it is December - I don't think we have stopped for breath all week with one activity or another. However, I absolutely love it and simply wouldn't have it any other way!

So we have had a great week in school with lots of curriculum activity and plenty of festive fun. All of which culminated today in our School Nativity 'Do you know the story?'. What an unbelievable performance and I would go as far to say as it is our best yet! It was so lovely to see the Hall filled with family members and I know the children take great pride in performing for you all. Thank you for helping to make it so special and a big thank you to Mrs Wigham for pulling it all together alongside our amazing Belsay staff!

Following on from our morning festivities we then had the opportunity after lunch to run around in order to complete our Santa Dash, in association with our PE department and the School Games. It was great to see the smiles and laughter on the children's faces as they carried out laps of the school listening to festive soundtracks.



Also this week, we had a large selection of children from Alder and Oak Class, joined by other children from the Pele Trust Primary Schools at St Mary's Church in Ponteland. This annual Christmas Choir Concert seems to grow in size every year and it really is a beautiful spectacle when you see so many talented children come together. Congratulations to all our children who took part. I thoroughly enjoyed myself and it certainly got me in the Christmas spirit.

Next week we have another busy week so please check your letters and the diary so you don't miss out. A big thank you for all of your donations for Tombola prizes, linked with our non-uniform day. If you have any other items you are able to donate please drop them off at the office or with the class teachers.

Finally, I always find time to have our Celebration and Hot Chocolate, no matter how busy it has been. Well done and a massive congratulations to everyone who was nominated this week. Another fine week at Belsay Primary School!

I hope you have a wonderful, festive weekend and remember ... 19 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**.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMAZON FIRE TABLETS

The Amazon Fire Tablet is a popular choice: not only are Amazon's own-brand devices more affordable than most other tablets on the market, but some models are designed specifically for youngsters. (The Fire 7 Kids, Fire 8 HD and Fire HD 10 are aimed at ages 3-7, for example, while the 'Pro' range is geared toward 8 to 12-year-olds). They come with access to a wealth of entertaining content, from child-friendly TV shows and videos to age-appropriate games and ebooks.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- STORAGE ISSUES**
Many parents have discovered that Amazon Fire tablets have a habit of overheating. Fire can get very hot and it's full of memory, so it can hold a lot of data, including books, games and videos. They'll quickly run out of room. The more heat in an old tablet for extra storage (especially if multiple youngsters are using the device), the more likely it is to overheat and brick.
- GETTING LOCKED OUT**
If your child is accidentally able to bypass your security, they may be able to access the Fire's parental controls settings for themselves. You may notice that your child is unable to access what you've blocked out of their account or that they're able to do so. If you're not sure, the Amazon support team will be able to help you regain access.
- POTENTIAL ADDICTION**
Like most digital technology, Amazon Fire tablets are incredibly easy to use. They might tempt your child to spend more time playing on the tablet, leading to a habit of being glued to the screen. It may be at this point in your child's life that you're likely to be being distracted by the device each day.
- 'ASSISTANCE' FROM ALEXA**
Though the Amazon Fire is powered solely by Amazon's own Alexa voice assistant, your child could use it to access content that you've blocked out of their account. Amazon's guidance is to always be recommended that you speak to their family safety department for help.
- FALTY OLDER MODELS**
Back in 2014, Amazon announced a product recall of the Amazon Fire 7 and Fire 7 Kids. Parents were advised to return their Fire 7s which received an incorrect type of electrical shock. This is no longer an issue, however, it may be the case that your child's device is still affected if you're thinking about getting up a second-hand device for your child.

Advice for Parents & Carers

- REGISTER ON YOUR ACCOUNT**
Before your child uses their Fire, you'll need to register it as an Amazon account. However, it's best to set up a dedicated Amazon account for your child. This way, you can keep track of their purchases and Amazon store access etc. and be able to adjust any settings on the account if you wish.
- CONSIDER A CODENAME**
When you add a child profile to an Amazon account, you can set up a codename for your child's profile. This way, you can keep track of their purchases and Amazon store access etc. and be able to adjust any settings on the account if you wish.
- FILTER SHARED CONTENT**
You'll be able to control during the setup process whether you want the Amazon Fire to be able to share any content with other devices on your network. You can also choose the type of content that is shared in your account. You can also choose to share any content that is shared in your account.
- SET A PASSWORD OR PIN**
You'll be able to set up a password or PIN for your child's Amazon account. This is recommended to prevent your child from accessing device settings, changing the parental controls settings, or deleting the account. You can also set up a password or PIN for each of their profiles. To this end, you should only access content that is appropriate for their age.
- USE PARENTAL CONTROLS**
The Fire's parental controls are very thorough and easy to use. They let you choose, for example, to restrict access to certain content, such as Amazon's own content, and to restrict access to certain apps. You can also set up a password or PIN for your child's Amazon account.

Meet Our Expert
Our expert is a member of the National Online Safety team. She has worked with many schools and is available to provide advice and support. You can contact her via email or by phone.

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%!**

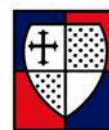
If any parents or carers wish to speak to me about attendance please feel free to contact the school office. Thank you for your support on this!

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	88.89	96.08
Maple	98.55	95.17
Alder	98.89	95.35
Oak	82.22	95.33

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.

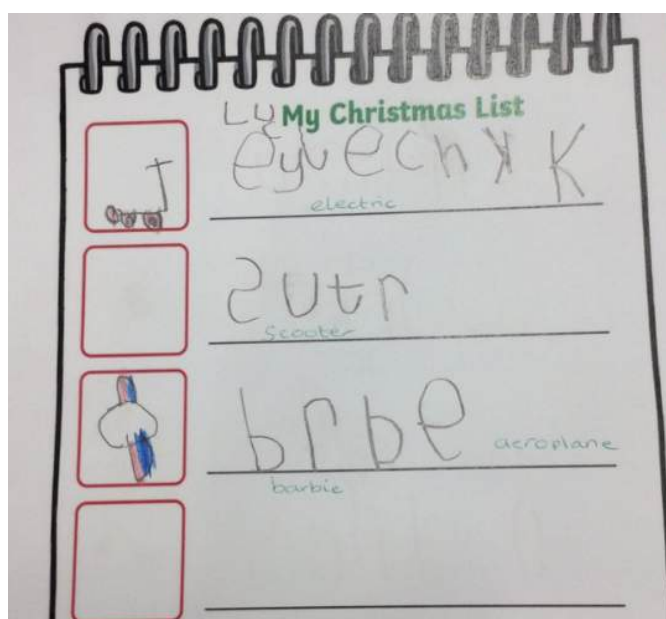
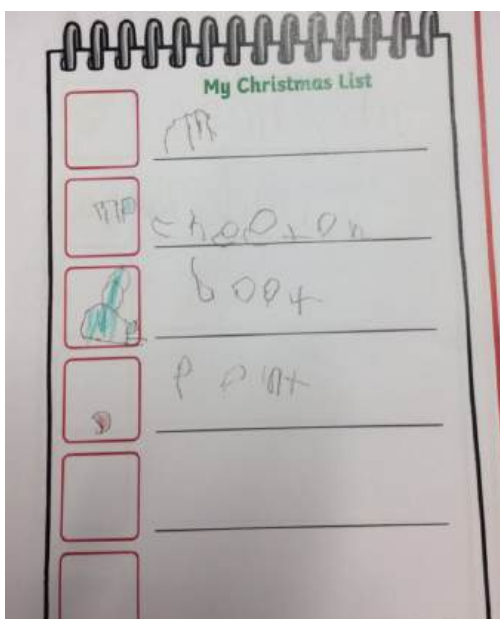


Friday Flyer

Classroom updates - Willow Class

Another busy week in Willow class. Imagine our surprise when Miss Whitehouse appeared with a special letter on Tuesday morning. We were all very intrigued to find out who it was from. Sybbie opened the letter for us and when we read it we realised it was from Santa who had visited our class the night before. He left behind one of his special elves called Elfie. Thankfully he is a helpful elf. He has been exploring different areas of the classroom this week, and we have been very excited to see where he has moved to each morning.

To continue with our theme of Christmas we have written a list to Santa to tell him the presents we would like for Christmas. We also took our time to decorate our own envelope. Then on Thursday we walked along to Belsay shop to post our letter in the postbox. I was so proud of the children for how sensible they were when walking near the busy main road. It was great to see them enjoying posting their letter in the postbox, before we returned to school. Well done Willow class! I am looking forward to seeing if we receive a reply from Santa or the elves.



The children make me feel proud of them every single day however seeing them perform for you all this morning really was a special moment. To see how confident they were to stand up and sing Twinkle Twinkle Little Star for you was a moment I will never forget. Thank you to all parents and carers who were able to attend. We really appreciate your support.

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Houghton



Friday Flyer

Classroom updates - Maple Class



This week we launched our Schools Linking Project 2024-2025 in class. Victoria visited school from the Laing Learning team to deliver a special assembly all about the Schools Linking journey and what skills children will develop across the year. The project helps pupils to explore identity, become comfortable with difference and build connections within their local communities. Maple Class completed a class workshop and learnt all about their new link school Hawthorn Primary in Elswick, Newcastle. We made class bunting to send to our new friends to introduce ourselves and show them what makes each one of us special. In Art, we finally completed our collaborative class piece inspired by the Great Fire of London and have showcased our drawing, printing and painting skills in our class Art gallery. We're all very proud artists!

Miss Dixon



Classroom updates - Alder Class



Indian tiger population on the rise: Numbers up by one-third

30 July 2019 2 Comments



Another lovely week in Alder Class. I am very excited to say we have our class Christmas tree up. It looks beautiful. Mrs Cook and a group of eager elves helped to decorate it with lights and baubles. It has also been very exciting opening the advent calendar parcels Mrs Cook so kindly made as we start our countdown to Christmas.

In English this week we have been learning all about the features of a newspaper article. We read an interesting and positive article about the slow increase of the tiger population in India. Spotting the headline, subheading, picture, caption, main body and concluding paragraph helped us think about the features we will need to include next week. We also searched for the 5Ws (what, who, when, where and why). Using this knowledge, we began our planning and will report on the eruption of Mount Vesuvius next week.

In Maths we continued our multiplication and division topic. When the opportunity arose to listen to multiplication songs, the class couldn't keep still and had to get up and dance. It proved a fantastic movement break. Year 4 explored the 9 x tables on Wednesday, some were able to teach the class a handy trick they know. Hunter even taught the class about a pattern he'd spotted.

We made the most beautiful collaborative art on Tuesday. When it is all put together I will take a photo and put it on Dojo. It was wonderful to be a part of a larger piece that we all contributed to.

Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



This linked nicely into some work we did in PSHE. Splitting off into small groups, each team explored a way they could show one of our school's six values.

I cannot wait to see the photos and videos of the performance on Friday. The practices I've seen have been a pleasure to watch. Well done everyone for producing such a lovely show.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Aynsley.



Friday Flyer

Classroom updates - Oak Class

Well, it's all been a bit mad in Oak Class this week. But then again, when isn't it? We are feeling completely festive but have still been working incredibly hard to make progress towards the end points of our learning. Our persuasive letters are really taking shape. We have been using emotive language to really put our point across with regards to our views on Christmas. Whether we have been taking the role of Scrooge, his nephew or one of the spirits of Christmas, we all used some amazing time related sentence starters and well organised paragraphs.

We love using our concrete resources in Maths and since we have been together for our lessons this week, we got the Base 10 out and began to explore the grid method of multiplication. It has been brilliant to see the progress that we have made in Maths, particularly in the area of the four functions.

The National Foundation for Educational Research recently approached our school to carry out a trial for assessments in Maths and English. These were all completed on our Chromebooks, so a little bit different to what we are used to, but our children showed a technological competence that their teacher remains incredibly jealous of!

We have even had time to squeeze in a community art project. One of the local businesses in our neighbouring village of Whalton sent out a plea for some Christmas cards to form part of their public advent calendar. Obviously, we were more than happy to oblige!

May you all have a wonderfully festive first full weekend of Advent! See you all on Monday Team!



Mr. McLeod

Friday Flyer



Dates for your Diary

Date	Time	
10th December	Lunchtime	Whole School Christmas Dinner - Please ensure you have placed your order on SchoolGrid by Thursday 5th December.
11th December	Afternoon	Pele Trust Orienteering Event - Year 4
12th December	9:15am	Oak Class - We Will Rock You - Ponteland High School Performance
12th December	All day	Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children
13th December	All day	Teacher training day
17th December	8:45am departure	Whole school trip to Tyne Theatre for Christmas pantomime
18th December	Afternoon	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

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

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



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.