



**29th November 2024**

## Headteachers update

Happy Friday! We are creeping ever so close to December now and the excitement is definitely increasing in school. You should have now received our letter that outlines all of the key dates for your diary and provides some extra information - I honestly can't believe just how much we have going on but I can guarantee it will be great fun!

One key part of the letter to remember, as it will need some preparation, is our Shoebox appeal for the charity Action for Children. The deadline to receive these boxes will be Thursday 12th December so please ensure they are in school by this date. Last year I was overwhelmed with your kindness and generosity with our Shoeboxes so I am reaminging optimistic that this year we can once again provide children in the North East, less fortunate than ourselves, with a special Christmas gift. Thank you in advance for your support.



Last Friday, you may remember we went with the children to Belsay Hall to welcome the charity riders of Cycle4Caroline. What a truly wonderful event it proved to be and the amount of adults that approached me to comment on the impeccable behaviour and attitudes of the children was amazing. I could not be more proud taking our children to events as they are always true ambassadors of Belsay and show our school values in bright lights! The children who remained in school were also highly praised by the staff as they worked well together on an Art task - well done everyone.

Today we have had our weekly celebration, which as always is one of most favourite times of the week. Well done to our Outstanding Achievement nominations this week and of course our Hot Chocolate winners! Remember, if your child manages to achieve something special out of school please send a picture so we can celebrate it as a school.

Have a wonderful weekend and see you on the first Monday of December... 26 days until Christmas!!

**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**.



### County Lines

Information for parents and carers of primary school-aged children

**What is County Lines?**  
County Lines is a form of criminal exploitation involving the transport and sale of drugs. It can involve moving drugs and money from one street to the next, or from one end of the country to the other, and the people who do the 'running' are often children who have been targeted and groomed into doing so by criminal gangs. Drugs are advertised by text message on dedicated 'deal lines' and on social media.

**Why do I need to know about this? My child is so young**  
Unfortunately, children as young as 7 have been known to be recruited by gangs who are involved in drug dealing and other criminal activity. Awareness is key, as is early intervention, and knowing how to seek help if you are concerned is important, too. Be particularly aware if your child has older siblings or spends a lot of time with older children when you're not present.

**How do criminals exploit children?**

<b>TARGET</b> Criminals will watch an area - e.g. children coming and going from school or hanging around a park - to see if they can spot a particularly vulnerable child. They will then strike up a friendship and get to know them before moving to the 'test' stage.	<b>TEST</b> The criminal will offer gifts such as money, expensive trainers, a phone, and will aim to make the child feel special and part of the gang. They will then test the child's loyalty by asking them to run small errands or hold onto items for them, whilst rewarding this loyalty with more gifts.	<b>TRAP</b> The criminal will now control the child by isolating them from their friends and family, making threats against them if the child tells anyone about what the gang does. They will demand payback for all the gifts previously given, which could include moving and selling drugs, and sexual exploitation. The child will now feel indebted and trapped.
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**This video illustrates the process.**

**How do I protect my child, and what are the signs that a child could be being criminally exploited?**  
Be curious about their friendship groups and where they are when they're not at school or with you. Make sure they know they can come to you if they are approached by new 'friends' when they are out and about, especially older people. Remind them about [Childline](#) as a source of support, too. If you have concerns, share them with family members and the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at your child's school.

There are many signs that a child may be being groomed and/or exploited, including a change in their behaviour. Be conscious of any changes in presentation; they may begin to take more interest in their appearance and in the clothes they wear. Visit this [NSPCC website](#) for more information.

**Report**  
You can report any information to the police: 999 in an emergency, or otherwise via 101 or [our website](#).  
Visit [Crimestoppers](#) for advice on how to report County Lines-related information anonymously.  
[Fearless](#) (part of Crimestoppers) is available for young people to make anonymous reports.

**Support**  
[Unseen's County Lines campaign](#) - Request an information guide to learn more about County Lines.  
Unseen also runs a [free helpline](#) offering advice and support.  
[SafeCall - Missing People](#) - A free and confidential anonymous helpline for children and their families affected by County Lines.  
[NSPCC Helpline](#) - Help and advice if you have concerns about a child's welfare.








www.northumbria.police.uk



## Attendance

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	92.22	96.78
Maple	92.27	95.01
Alder	95.56	95.02
Oak	92.89	95.55

**Did you know?** Each pupil has 175 non-school days a year to spend however they like. The table below shows the significant impact of absence over time.

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.

### What are the risks of missing a day of school?

'Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing and wider development. Pupils with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE results. The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments.' The Education Hub - Department for Education



# Friday Flyer

## Classroom updates - Willow Class

It has been a great week for Willow class. We are growing in confidence all of the time and that was shown this week when we have been practising our song for the Christmas performance. In the classroom we are able to use a big voice however in the hall it can sometimes be a little daunting, but not for Willow class. I was so proud of how they all performed and I know you are all in for a treat next Friday morning. Thank you to everyone who has sent in their costume, we are looking forward to a dress rehearsal next week.

This week we have also been in charge of looking after the chickens. I have set the children a challenge to think about what they would like to make with the eggs. Please send me your suggestions on Class Dojo and we will put the entries into a pot and choose which one we will make this time. It can be a sweet or savoury treat, as long as it is simple enough for us all to follow.

Christmas has well and truly begun in Willow class today. We have worked in collaboration with each other to set up the Christmas tree in our classroom. We had to think carefully about where we would put it and then work together to put it together. It was lovely to hear the children thinking carefully about which piece they needed next. The tree looks amazing and we are now ready to start the countdown to Christmas! We are looking forward to helping to set up the Christmas tree in the hall next week and our decorations are drying as we speak.



I hope everyone has a lovely weekend and finds time to switch off from school and have a lovely family weekend. Please don't forget to send over your entry for what we can use the eggs for in class next week. I am excited to see what the children come up with.

**Miss Houghton**



## Classroom updates - Maple Class

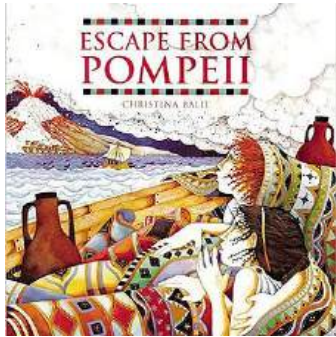
Maple Class have been brilliant geographers this week and worked with partners to create a map of the UK. We labelled the four countries of the United Kingdom, the capital cities of each and their surrounding seas. We also matched each flag to the correct country and identified a landmark from each capital. In Science we have been learning about the importance of hand washing. We carried out an enquiry to find out what is the most effective way to wash our hands. We discussed how germs are invisible and how they are spread easily from one person to another. We used paint as pretend germs and washed our hands with cold water, warm water, then warm water with soap to see which method removed the most 'germs'. We worked hard to write conclusions and discussed other ways to be hygienic.



Miss Dixon



## Classroom updates - Alder Class



Task 2:  
(Complete the comparison table about Pompeii and Stranish).

Similarities between our schools	Differences between our schools
<p>(We live in a U)</p> <p>(FKS) . we both have envirogn trail</p> <p>. we both are primary schools</p>	<p>• field</p> <p>• we live in buildings</p> <p>• laptops</p> <p>• we live in a Urban place and they live in a rural place</p>



After a snowy and exciting weekend, we started the week with some visitors. It was just wonderful to welcome our Year 3 friends from St Joseph's Catholic School in Benwell. This project centered around the differences between life in a rural school compared to life in an urban school. Part of the morning had teams of five (two from Belsay and three from St Joseph's) work their way around an orienteering course. Belsay students were the leaders and taught their new friends what they needed to do in the challenge. The Newcastle children thought this was amazing! At the end of our time together the children asked each other questions. One of the questions asked, where do you most like to visit? The child answered this question with 'Belsay School', how lovely it was to hear this. I was incredibly proud of the way Alder Class conducted themselves with confidence, good manners

**Belsay Primary School**

# Friday Flyer

Belsay School



and kindness. Mr Shaw made a point to come and see us to tell us how proud he was! We ended the morning discussing just how grateful we are to have such a lovely school with amazing grounds.

Maths this week has focussed around multiplication. We had fun representing multiplication questions with our counters. Please continue to encourage Times Tables Rock Stars at home. This week's homework will focus on times tables.

In English we looked at a new text titled Escape from Pompeii. We have been preparing to write a newspaper article linked to the events explored in the book. We have also used the book in our Art lessons and look forward to creating collaborative lava art next week.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

**Mrs Aynsley**



## Classroom updates - Oak Class

There has been a massive range of activities this week in Oak Class and it really has been a week to celebrate some of the progress we have made since the start of the year.

In English, we have been able to tick another end of unit "Big Write" off the list as we put together all of the elements of our balanced argument, addressing the question: "Should Christmas be Banned?". The skills and tolerance that the children have shown to consider both sides of this argument has demonstrated a real maturity and a real sense of empathy for those less fortunate than ourselves. The independence that the children have shown in applying features from their SPaG lessons has been another thing that we can (literally!) write home about.

I have had the pleasure of looking through all of the Maths learning in school and was absolutely delighted to see the big picture of what all of our KS2 children have produced in their books since the start of the year and the fluency that our big guys are developing across the four functions, and particularly multiplication and division, is another great victory for Team Oak and Team Belsay.

I know since last week's flyer, you will all be itching to know how our Geography lesson on Milton Keynes went. Unfortunately, we had to defer this lesson for one week as we looked at Iraq's fascinating capital city, Baghdad instead this week. One of our children even commented "How can a city which has had so many wars still be so beautiful?".

In PSHE, the careers drive still ticks away nicely. This week we were looking at the potential routes into some of our dream jobs...luckily, I'm already in mine!

Have an awesome weekend everyone!



Mr. McLeod

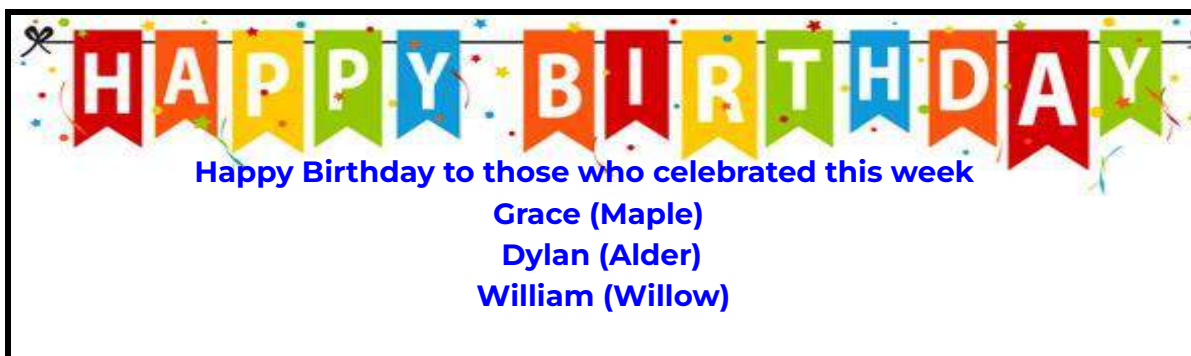


# Friday Flyer

## Dates for your Diary

Date	Time	
4th December	All day	Non Uniform Day in exchange for tombola items
5th December	1:45pm	Pele Trust Christmas Carol Concert @ St Mary's Church, Ponteland
6th December	9:00am	Christmas School Performance
6th December	Afternoon	Pele Trust Santa Dash
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
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
17th December	Afternoon	Alder and Oak class Christmas Party
18th December	3:15pm	PTA Christmas Fair
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*





# 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](mailto: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.



# Friday Flyer

**KIRKWHELPINGTON  
VILLAGE**

**STEP INTO  
CHRISTMAS**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**  
**1-4pm**

**Please bring cash!**

**Gifts**  
**Music**  
**Tombola**  
**Craft Stalls**  
**Workshops**  
**Children's Activities**

**Followed by**  
**Lighting of Christmas Tree**  
**on the Green**

 **RAY WIND FUNDS**



## Belsay Preschool wrap-around care

### Breakfast and After School Club

Week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> November

#### Breakfast Club

All children are welcome to enjoy a healthy breakfast

Daily yoga

Daily homework club - one less job to do at home!

#### After School Club

**Monday** - Treasure Hunt: Outside

**Tuesday**- Sewing Bee: Cross stitch

**Wednesday** - Craft night

**Thursday** - Baking night: Snowflake Cheese Scones

**Friday**- Laser engraving

Please book in and join the fun

01661 881 704

Email: [belsaydaycare@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:belsaydaycare@yahoo.co.uk)



# Friday Flyer

**Belsay Daycare & Purple Haze Flowers**  
**Wreath Making Workshop**  
**Thursday 5th December**  
**6:30pm - 8:30pm**  
**£35**

Get into the festive spirit with this fun two-hour wreath making session led by **Diane James**. All materials provided. Takes place in School Hall & refreshments will be available.



Please pay £5 deposit when booking  
Contact Laura on 07834 828524  
Or Joana at Belsay Daycare to book

**Raising funds for Belsay Daycare**



# Friday Flyer

# Christmas Market

December 01 2024 11AM-3PM

Ponteland Memorial Hall NE20 9NX

- Craft stalls
- Festive foods
- Santa's grotto

Entry by donation £1  
[www.rotaryponteland.org.uk](http://www.rotaryponteland.org.uk)

