



22nd November 2024

Headteachers update

Welcome to the end of week 3! With the weather as cold as this, surely it must be time to get the decorations up? I have certainly already seen tinsel bobbles this week so it's all getting very exciting!

Firstly, it was lovely to see so many of you this week in school for Parents Evening. I hope you found the meeting time with your class teacher useful and you enjoyed browsing some of the books, showcasing the work that the children have produced.

A slightly quieter week in school which sometimes is not always a bad thing at Belsay as it has allowed us to really focus on our amazing curriculum and completing some outstanding pieces of work. As you know, on a Friday I always have a Celebration Assembly which provides a fantastic opportunity to look back over the work produced by the children for the week. It is absolutely amazing how the children talk with pride as they speak in front of the rest of school around the topics of the week. Great confidence and Responsibility - two of our school values!

This afternoon we have had the opportunity to visit Belsay Hall, invited by Laura De Wesslow, to support a community event, Cycle 4 Caroline. Due to the timing of the day we were not able to take all our children but the vast majority went up to welcome the riders as part of their 1,000km challenge. The charity is aiming to raise £500,000 for Spinal Research and the British Eventing Support Trust. The Challenge is undertaken in memory of Caroline March who passed away in March 2024, following life changing injuries suffered in a fall whilst competing. The children are very much looking forward to supporting this event so thank you for your support around pick up. I will be sure to add some photos to Class Dojo. Should you wish to make a donations to the charity, please follow the link: <https://www.givewheel.com/fundraising/5546/cycle4caroline/>

Finally this week, sticking with tradition, a big well done to all of the children for their outstanding achievement awards for a wide variety of reasons. Also a congratulations to our Hot Chocolate winners, who certainly enjoyed it this week, given how cold it is outside!

Whatever your plans this weekend, wrap up and stay warm but have fun.

See you Monday and remember... 33 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**.

Monitoring your child

Life 360, a popular location-sharing app for families, has over 42 million [downloads](#) worldwide. This nod towards child surveillance is just one example of thousands of tools available to parents who (understandably) want to monitor their young person's activity.

Please click this [link](#) to find out more about how you can monitor your child

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING HEALTHY FRIENDSHIPS

Monitoring the completion of children's and adolescent friendships can be challenging – but with the right guidance, children and young people can cultivate meaningful, supportive relationships, some of which may last for many years. These top tips provide a comprehensive overview of factors that healthy friendships among children and young people, it is important to remember, however, that each child is different, and so these are only suggestions for discussion and support.

- 1 GRANT FRIENDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**
Encourage children and young people to join school clubs and activities where they can meet new friends. Encourage them to participate in group activities and projects. Encourage them to be open to new people and to be kind to others. Encourage them to be inclusive and to help others who are struggling.
- 2 LEAD BY EXAMPLE**
The children and young people in your class are watching you. Encourage them to be kind, helpful and to be open to new people. Encourage them to be inclusive and to help others who are struggling. Encourage them to be kind to others and to be helpful to those who are struggling.
- 3 HELP THEM LOVE THEMSELVES**
Healthy friendships can't just blossom overnight. Children need to feel confident in themselves and their abilities. Encourage them to be kind to themselves and to be helpful to others. Encourage them to be inclusive and to help others who are struggling.
- 4 MONITOR SCREEN TIME**
The amount of screen time that children and young people spend on their devices is increasing. Encourage them to be kind to themselves and to be helpful to others. Encourage them to be inclusive and to help others who are struggling.
- 5 TEACH PROBLEM-SOLVING**
Healthy friendships can't just blossom overnight. Children need to feel confident in themselves and their abilities. Encourage them to be kind to themselves and to be helpful to others. Encourage them to be inclusive and to help others who are struggling.
- 6 EMPOWER THE CHILD**
Children and young people should be encouraged to be kind to themselves and to be helpful to others. Encourage them to be inclusive and to help others who are struggling.
- 7 TEACH EMPATHY**
Healthy friendships can't just blossom overnight. Children need to feel confident in themselves and their abilities. Encourage them to be kind to themselves and to be helpful to others. Encourage them to be inclusive and to help others who are struggling.
- 8 BE OPEN TO QUESTIONS**
Children and young people should be encouraged to be kind to themselves and to be helpful to others. Encourage them to be inclusive and to help others who are struggling.
- 9 UNDERSTAND BOUNDARIES**
Healthy friendships can't just blossom overnight. Children need to feel confident in themselves and their abilities. Encourage them to be kind to themselves and to be helpful to others. Encourage them to be inclusive and to help others who are struggling.
- 10 SPOT THE SIGNS**
Healthy friendships can't just blossom overnight. Children need to feel confident in themselves and their abilities. Encourage them to be kind to themselves and to be helpful to others. Encourage them to be inclusive and to help others who are struggling.

Meet Our Expert
Betsy Thomson is an experienced educator who has worked in primary and secondary schools for 20 years. She is a Specialist Consultant and works with young people and their families who are struggling with mental health, wellbeing and self-harm.

Wake Up Wednesday
The National College



Attendance

| Class | Weekly attendance | Annual attendance |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Willow | 92.22 | 97.24 |
| Maple | 93.24 | 95.28 |
| Alder | 90 | 95.02 |
| Oak | 87.11 | 95.85 |

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

In Willow class this week, we have focused on the story A Superpower Like Mine. This story looks at superpowers we have within us. Being in Reception has meant the children are very familiar with superpowers such as Spiderman or the Hulk, so looking at ourselves to see what superpowers we have was tricky initially. After reading the story we realised that we all have unique superpowers that we use everyday without even realising. These are a few of my favourite superpowers the children identified within themselves:

Ronnie- "I am always very helpful,"

Lucy- "I am kind to people when they hurt themselves,"

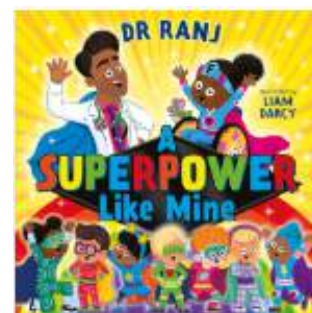
Grace-Mae- "I help my nana,"

Roxana- "I am kind,"

Sybbie- "I can remember lots of information about animals,"

Bradley- "I am kind and make sure other people are okay,"

William- "I am helpful like Henry,"



This week we have also taken part in Road Safety week. We got our high vis jackets on, wrapped up warm and headed to the top of the car park. We were mindful to stand right back and we watched all of the different vehicles that passed. We discovered that some people drive very slowly past school, while others appear to drive too fast. We all agreed to try and spread awareness by asking people we know to slow down when driving through Belsay. Hopefully together we can all make a big difference.



It was lovely to welcome you all back into school this week for Parents Evening. The night ran very smoothly and this is thanks to all of you sticking to your allocated time. I always enjoy this time of year as it is an opportunity to share how well everyone is doing, to discuss friendships and also to look ahead at the next steps in our school journey. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend. Have a wonderful weekend, please feel free to share any photos on Tapestry so that we can share them together next week.

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

In Science, Maple Class have been learning what animals need to survive. We discussed how animals need food, water, air and shelter to live. We have been taking care of the school chickens this week and linked this to our Science learning. We talked about our caring responsibilities when we visit the chickens and made information posters on how to look after them.



To commemorate UK Road Safety week, we celebrated our road safety heroes, discussing their job roles and responsibilities for keeping people safe on the road. We recalled the importance of the stop, look and listen rule when crossing the road and looked at different types of road crossings and where you would find them.

Miss Dixon



Classroom updates - Alder Class



It was wonderful to see so many of you this week for our parents meetings. I hope you found the time useful. I enjoyed meeting you all properly, thank you for coming.

I am very excited to tell you that we now have two link schools. As you know, we have been learning about our friends in Kenya. This week the children wrote letters to them, we all started with the greeting 'Jambo'. In addition to the fantastic Citizenship, Geography and English skills we used, this new connection will help us work towards our International Schools Award. It has been lovely for the children to spend time with Miss Dixon as part of this. Adding an extra dimension to this exciting project, we now have a link school in Newcastle. This will allow us to really explore how life in a rural school compares to life in an urban one. We look forward to welcoming them on Monday morning.

Maths this week has seen the start of a new topic, multiplication and division. If ever there was an ideal time to practise on Times Tables Rock Stars, this would be it. We have spent a lot of our lesson time visualising arrays and thinking about how we can show groups of numbers.

Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



In English we have been learning about biographies and even wrote our very own biography for Queen Boudicca.

We explored National Road Safety Week in Science and made connections with our investigations into which materials make the best reflectors. The children came up with some really interesting questions. My favourite was when someone asked if a photo of our new reflective stickers would be as reflective as the stickers themselves. There was only one way to answer the question... with an experiment.

UK Parliament Week was celebrated in PSHE. We learnt about what parliament is and who makes up the three different parts.

I hope you are all the proud owners of a pipe cleaner stick insect. Remember to keep them warm and feed them bramble. One or two children decided they wanted to keep their new pet at school with our class pets. Most decided to take theirs home.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Mrs Aynsley



Classroom updates - Oak Class

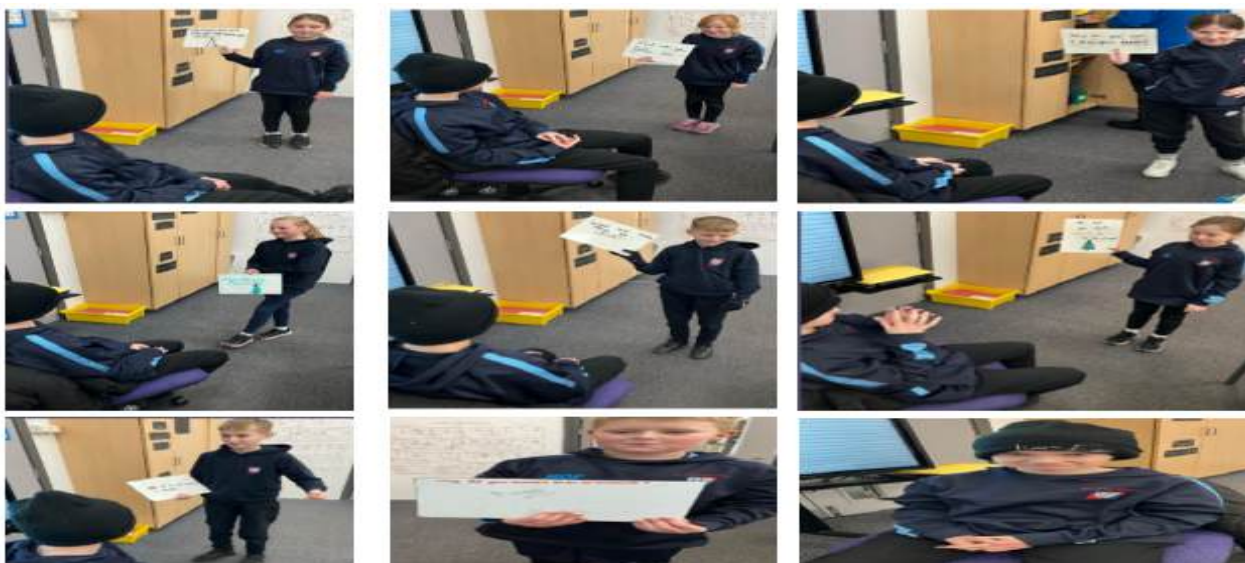
This week, in Oak Class, we have tried a few different strategies to really get to grips with our characters. In the “hot seat” was Ebenezer Scrooge and asking the questions were the ever inquisitive Oak Class. We didn't just prey on the obvious “Why do you hate Christmas?” style questions. We really grilled poor old Ebenezer on his character traits and why his life's journey has made him such a misery. And it must be said “Scrooge” himself was absolutely outstanding at staying in character and answering our questions thoroughly and accurately.

We have been let loose with the concrete resources again in Maths, this time using these manipulatives to identify and calculate with cube numbers. It has been awesome to see how all our knowledge and thinking is beginning to join up over this multiplication topic too.

Our study of Brasilia, its history and its human geography really had us all absorbed this week. From studying the statistics around the city's growth, to admiring some of its fantastically modern architecture, we have been able to apply so many of our skills to one of the most fascinating cities in the world. Next week, we will look at the equally fascinating and glamorous Milton Keynes.

A good response on homework this week (thank you all very much!) and just a gentle reminder that all homework is issued on a Monday morning so should make it home to you by Monday night. Keep up the awesome work on home learning. We are really seeing the benefit.

As always, Happy Friday and have a wonderful weekend, Team Oak!



Mr. McLeod



Friday Flyer

Dates for your Diary

| Date | Time | |
|---------------|------------------|--|
| 28th November | 9am | Reception and Year 6 National Child Measurement Programme |
| 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 |
| 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.**

*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 30th 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 25th 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



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

Rotary
Ponteland

Smile For Life