



8th November 2024

Headteachers update

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a wonderful half term and the children are refreshed and excited for the next 7 weeks of school. This is one of my favourite half terms as there is just so much going on and we have the added delight of Christmas at the end of it all. Over the coming weeks your child will be continuously challenged and supported in the classroom to produce their best possible work but we also have a number of fun activities planned. Please make sure that you keep an eye on Class Dojo and the School Diary so you don't miss any events.

The value for this month is Responsibility, a prominent one in my opinion as the nights get darker, we have just had Bonfire night and we have events such as Children in Need and Odd Socks Day coming up. The children at Belsay are amazing and they know how to be responsible, so I have no doubt they will show us all lots of examples for this value. We have also been linking Responsibility to our British Values and Protected Characteristics so challenge your child to tell you about them.

I would like to once again congratulate Belsay Day Care on their Outstanding recent Ofsted Inspection. For those who were able to attend the Harvest Festival, I talked about the symbiotic relationship between our school and day care, something we have developed further over the last 18 months and an invaluable resource for us as a school. The level of education and care they provide to our children is unbelievable and you only need to go into our Reception Class to see what fantastic children we benefit from, having been at Belsay Day Care. It is quite surreal that they have spaces available so please do spread the word far and wide because an amazing opportunity awaits!

Next week in school we will be noting two days of importance. On Tuesday 12th November we encourage the children to come into school in PE kit but wearing Odd Socks, as this is a way of celebrating our differences and uniqueness. Then on Friday 15th November we will be supporting Children in Need. Children are invited to wear non-uniform (spots would be great) and we ask for a donation of £1, which will be going to the charity.

Finally, this week it has been great to get back to our celebrations and we had a fab Hot Chocolate, well done to all the nominees this week. A further congratulations to all our Outstanding Achievement winners, one week in and already some amazing work throughout school - keep it up Team Belsay!

Have a great weekend and see you Monday.

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**.

Safeguarding Update

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about EA SPORTS-FC 24

After two decades of holding the official FIFA licence, EA sports' phenomenally successful football video game series has embarked on a new run of glory. This season's iteration marks the debut appearance of a new franchise – EA Sports FC 24 – and branding, but don't let those fool you – EA Sports FC 24 is still a very similar proposition to last year's FIFA 23. Popular features such as Ultimate Team remain a big focus, meaning that potentially costly in-game spending is still among the one-up-or-die's that parents and carers should be aware of.

AGE RESTRICTION PEGI 3

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

RECURRING RELEASES
EA Sports FC 24 effectively picks up the FIFA template – meaning that either a year, we can expect EA Sports FC 25 to hit the shelves. Updates, business ventures of the FIFA franchise tend to be minor, but every few of the game are almost certain to want the one we'll be around 12 months time, so they can keep playing with updated teams, kits, players and stadium info.

OFFENSIVE VOICE CHAT
FIFA 23 introduced cross-platform play, and EA Sports FC 24 takes this further with Clubs, Seasons and Ultimate Team cooperative modes across PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X and S, and PC. That's exciting news for youngsters who love to play with friends online – but connecting to match with strangers does potentially open lines of communication between children and far older online gamers.

IN-GAME PURCHASES
EA Sports FC 24 is not a free-to-play game, but it does offer in-game purchases for downloadable content (DLC), and it does feature in many of our other titles. Players spend in-game currency to unlock better capabilities for their clubs, but this process can take a frustratingly long time – so making items more readily available to be gifted by players real-world cash to unlock their coveted star players.

ULTIMATE TEAM SCAMMERS
Since the mode was introduced, Ultimate Team has been a target of scammers who attempt to trick players into buying or selling outside the terms of a game. EA and console manufacturers. This already provides our best accounts being targeted and in-game items being lost. In some cases, young gamers have also been hoodwinked into handing over their payment details to the fraudsters.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION
Just like real-life football, EA Sports FC 24 offers a thrilling, dynamic blend of tactical awareness and skill that has captivated millions of players. Among younger players, however, this could lead to indicators of a gaming disorder as they play for just one more game before bedtime or spend hours of their lives playing more matches to earn additional Ultimate Team packs.

CONTROL SPENDING
If your child enjoys Ultimate Team mode, make sure your payment details aren't linked to their account. EA provides an FC Points (the game's currency) limit of just £1, so multiple payments can easily add up over the course of the game. You could consider setting your child up in-game with a limit, perhaps through a prepaid card, which will help to ensure that any spending is controlled and within a limit.

DEFEND AGAINST SCAMMERS
EA Sports FC 24 offers a variety of ways to earn in-game currency, but it's important to be aware of the risks of trading with strangers. EA Sports FC 24 has a variety of in-game trading systems, but it's important to be aware of the risks of trading with strangers. EA Sports FC 24 has a variety of in-game trading systems, but it's important to be aware of the risks of trading with strangers.

AVOID EXTRA TIME
Many parents of young football-obsessed gamers worry about their child playing too much EA Sports FC 24. There's a few ways to control this, which can also help to provide a good indicator that a child is struggling to disengage from the game. The game includes a variety of features that can help to control playtime, such as the 'Playtime' feature, which allows parents to set a limit on how long their child can play for.

SHOW TOXIC CHAT THE RED CARD
Playing EA Sports FC 24 with friends is highly enjoyable, but if competitive types start to turn toxic and it's not fun anymore, it's important to listen to an in-game chat or voice chat for any warning signs that things may be about to fall over. This goes double when playing online with strangers, whose names can be turned off in the game's settings.

CELEBRATE THE VARIETY
Ultimate Team may be the game's star player, but there's plenty more to do in EA Sports FC 24 – including modes which allow access to all of the game's features. EA Sports FC 24 has a variety of in-game trading systems, but it's important to be aware of the risks of trading with strangers.

Meet Our Expert
NOS National Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday

NOS National Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday

@nationalonline_safety **/NationalOnlineSafety** **@nationalonline_safety** **@national_online_safety**

Memoirs of this guide by all of their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 10.11.2023



Attendance

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	91.43	97.65
Maple	96.27	94.73
Alder	89.29	93.94
Oak	92.57	95.72

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



Classroom updates - Willow Class

It has been lovely to see everyone this week and welcome everyone into school after what has been a busy half term break. We have enjoyed spending time looking at all of the photos on Tapestry during the week. The children have loved telling us all of the wonderful things they have been doing. The week started off full of excitement as we made our own fireworks using paint and glitter. It wouldn't be Autumn 2 without a bit of glitter already! The children were great at remembering how to stay safe around a bonfire and they talked positively about their experiences of seeing fireworks.



One of our favourite lessons in school is PE and this week Mr Smith was so impressed with everyone that he made everyone the PE superstar! The children showed great enthusiasm and their listening skills were excellent.

Next week looks set to be another busy one for Willow class. We have our Come Dine With Me experience on Wednesday, our class is focusing on Children In Need on Thursday and we have our first school trip on Friday. We are really looking forward to going on the bus with preschool! Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

Maple class had a fantastic first week back at school after the half term holiday! It was lovely to hear about the children's half term adventures, they enjoyed sharing their photographs and talking about their experiences with the class. In English we began the new class text, *The King Who Banned the Dark* by Emily Haworth Booth. We made predictions about the new story and looked closely at the illustrations of the book before we read it. We thought of lots of interesting questions to ask about the artwork in the book and looked for clues about the plot before we read it in story time. We also became illustrators and drew our own illustrations inspired by the language within a passage of the story. In Science, we started our new Biology unit Animals Including Humans and played a game of pairs to match animals to their offspring. We learnt that some animals look similar to their offspring but some look completely different!



Miss Dixon



Classroom updates - Alder Class



A fantastic start to our new half term. Alder Class continue to go above and beyond. I am incredibly proud of their efforts this week with regards to following our class expectations and working towards our class target of producing a gold standard of presentation in our books. They are the most wonderful class and a pleasure to teach.

We started our week in Maths with practice towards the International Bebras Challenge. This challenge focuses on logical thinking skills and problem solving. The students loved this task. I found many of them were saying the practice challenge questions were too easy and so moved on to looking at challenges set for older students. I look forward to joining in with the UK challenge next week and know the children are very excited too.

English has seen the introduction of a new class text 'Queen of Darkness' by Tony Bradman. We had a great discussion as to whether this is a non-fiction or fiction text. Having read the first chapter we find ourselves enthralled and eager to read on.

You will have seen our explosive pieces of Art on ClassDojo. I had to upload a picture of them all, Mr A and I were very impressed. What a fantastic topic this will be.

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend.

Miss Cruse and Mrs Aynsley



Classroom updates - Oak Class

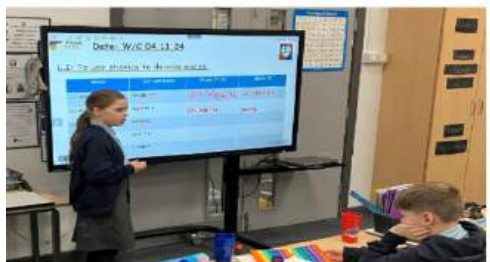
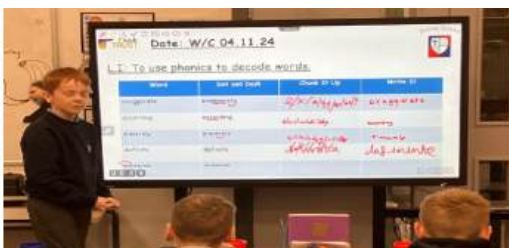
Welcome back Team Oak! With the half term holidays seeming like a distant memory, our oldest children up here in Year 5 and 6 have thrown themselves back into learning this week with the exemplary attitude that we have come to expect from them. Even though it is one of the busiest terms in the academic year, I know we have got a great set of young learners up here to absolutely smash the challenges set before them out of the park in the next seven weeks.

In English, we said goodbye to "Street Child" as our key quality text. Many of our Year 6s fed back that it was their favourite text of Upper Key Stage Two so far. A pretty high accolade, but given the pride that the children have taken in their work over this unit, not a surprising one at all. Moving forward, it is time to get festive (or not festive as the case may be) as we explore the classic "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens.

An exciting week for Maths at Belsay, especially up here as our School Improvement Partner gave us a massive thumbs up for some of our reasoning and problem solving around addition and subtraction. Year 5 will begin to catch up to Year 6 this week, as we begin our study of multiplication. Time to get the counters out again!

Finally, a massive thank you to Mr. Atkinson this week. At the drop of a hat, he has covered sessions in Spelling, Geography and Art and the work produced by the children in those lessons was of the very highest quality. He did have some help though as some of us decided to have a go at being the teacher too.

Have a great weekend everyone. Let's make a start on the road to Christmas!



Mr. McLeod

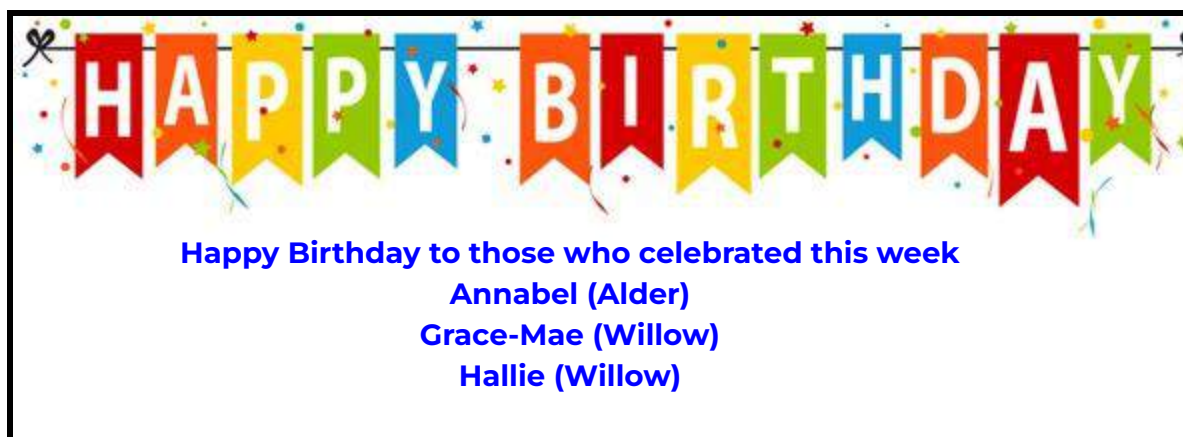


Friday Flyer

Dates for your Diary

Date	Time	
13th November	All day	Odd Sock Day - Wear odd socks if you wish
13th November	11:30am	Come Dine With Us - Willow Class
15th November	All day	Children in Need- Wear spots if you wish or non uniform with a donation of £1
15th November	9:30am	Willow Class trip to Seven Stories
18th - 19th November	Evening	Parents Evening
5th December	1:45pm	Pele Trust Christmas Carol Concert @ St Mary's Church, Ponteland
6th December	TBC	Christmas School Performance
10th December	Lunchtime	Whole School Christmas Dinner
12th December	Evening	PTA Belsay Quiz and Taco night - adult only
13th December	All day	Teacher training day
17th December	TBC	Whole school trip to Tyne Theatre
18th December	3:15pm	PTA Christmas Fair
20th December	Lunch	School closes for Christmas

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



Friday Flyer



CHIMPANZEE COMMUNITY EXHIBITION (featuring drawings from Belsay Primary School Children),
QUEEN'S HALL, HEXHAM
25 October - 23 November - Gallery One and Two



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Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



Belsay Quiz and Taco night. Please purchase tickets in advance by completing this [Google Form](#) and by paying the 'Friends of Belsay School' account, using 'Quiz' and your surname as reference for payment. This event starts at 6:30pm and takes place in the Sir Stephen Middleton Hall.

A festive flyer for a Quiz & Taco Night event. The background is white with snowflake patterns. At the top left is the Belsay School logo and the text 'Belsay School PRESENTS.....'. At the top right, it says 'THUR 12 DEC'. A large yellow ribbon with a bow is draped across the middle. In the center is a large red Christmas bauble with the text 'QUIZ & TACO NIGHT' in white. Surrounding the bauble are several red starburst shapes containing text: '6.30 - 9PM', 'FULLY STOCKED BAR WITH DRAFT BEER', 'CHILLI TACOS', and 'QUIZ MASTER IS OUR VERY OWN MR MCLEOD!!'. At the bottom, it says 'TICKETS £10 | DINNER INCLUDED'. At the very bottom, in red text, it says 'PLEASE EMAIL SCHOOL WITH TICKET ORDERS AND TRANSFER PAYMENT TO PTA ACCOUNT'.



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**



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