



6th September 2024

Headteachers update

Well we need to start by saying 'Welcome Back!'

Being back in school this week has been amazing, there is already such positivity around the building and in the outdoor areas, nothing quite matches the children laughing and playing on a sunny day at Belsay. All the children have returned to school ready to learn and walking around the classrooms it is brilliant to see the high level of focus and attitude towards their learning. It is almost like we have never been away, although I am sure you as parents and carers will assure me they have, as you get back to some normality in the house.

I would like to welcome all of our new starters in Reception and in other classes. It is always good to get to know names and although I have a few quiet ones at the moment I am sure this will soon change as the term develops. All of the children have looked super smart this week and I loved seeing the children in their new PE uniform on Tuesday. Mr Smith, the Trust PE lead, was very impressed with how good we all looked!

This year we are looking to build on the successes of the last academic year and the children now understand why our vision is Aiming High, Working Together and Achieving Excellence. In school we will continue to have high expectations and Gold Standards because we want to be the best we can be at all times. Furthermore, at Belsay, we now have six values, with the main focus being on the value of Respect. The other values are: Responsibility, Resilience, Confidence, Curiosity and Collaboration. We will be discussing these through assemblies and in class so please do help your child to learn them.

As a school, we are always looking at our academic success but as I am sure you are all aware by now, I like to have fun out of the classroom because to me this helps to make school an extra special place. We already have lots of fun plans lined up for the year ahead, such as residentials, trips and celebrations but I am sure many more will be added between now and July, so rest assured your child is going to have a fun time this year.

Finally, we will continue to celebrate our amazing children on Friday's and due to popular demand, Hot Chocolate will continue along with outstanding achievement awards, starting next week.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend and well done again to everyone for a super week!

Mr Shaw



Class Dojo

Following the successful launch of Class Dojo last year we will continue to be using this platform to safely share updates and messages about your children. Can I please politely ask parents/carers that the messaging service is only used to provide a quick update eg. 'My child is being collected by Uncle Simon'. If you have concerns or issues with your child or the school please could this be sent via email to admin@belsay-school.uk where it can be forwarded to the relevant members of staff.

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.

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads Are



Mr Shaw



Miss Dixon

Safeguarding Update

Our children now live in a world full of technological devices and they are evolving all the time. Are you confident you know how to protect them? Below is access to a website that could be of use, helping to explain various apps and how to approach them safely. Also the YouTube video and blog post is good as it helps explain guidance for parents about sharing back to school photos on social media.

You can access the video on YouTube [HERE](#) and there's a blog post [HERE](#). If you go to this website there are quite a few good videos. You can get to the website [HERE](#).



Attendance

| Class | Weekly attendance | Annual attendance |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Willow | 100% | 100% |
| Maple | 91.93% | 91.93% |
| Alder | 95% | 95% |
| Oak | 100% | 100% |

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

A very busy first week of school for Team Willow. The children have enjoyed exploring different areas of the inside classroom, our outdoor area and also the gardening area. Everyone has settled into school life and they are becoming more familiar each day with our routines. It has been wonderful to see the children continuing to build strong friendships together and to even make new friends with the children in school.



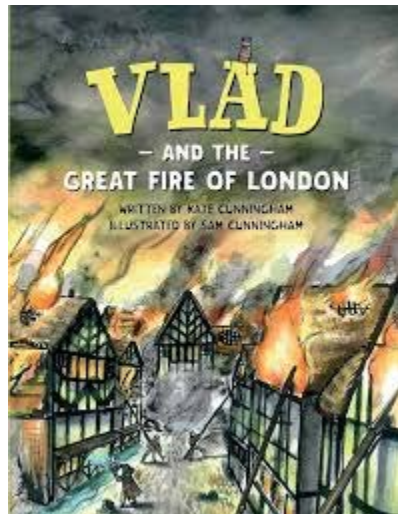
Next week we are already looking forward to our PE lessons with NUF and Mr Smith. Have a lovely restful weekend. Please share any photos on Tapestry so that we can share these together in class next week.

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

Maple Class had a fantastic beginning to the new school year! It has been wonderful to see the children enthusiastic and excited about their new class and learning topics. The first change to the classroom we noticed was the magnificent reading teepee! We have enjoyed exploring all of the interesting new books in our storytime collection. In English we made predictions about the new class text *Vlad and the Great Fire of London* and definitely exemplified the school value of curiosity in History as we compared London in 2024 to London in 1666. We also spotted 1666 outside on our school timeline. Next week we are looking forward to our first Science lesson of the new term!



Miss Dixon

Classroom updates - Alder Class

It has been a fantastic start to a new term for Alder Class. We enjoyed lots of team building games and heard all about everyone's highlights from the summer holidays. The children were very excited to meet their visiting class pets, we linked meeting these with our six key school values. Everyone had the **confidence** to hold one of the stick insects and ask questions about them. We were all **curious** to learn about the three different species. Working as a team to take it in turns required great **collaboration**. **Respect** was shown to the insects and each other. Some of us showed fantastic **resilience**, it was wonderful to see those who were unsure at the start, taking care and looking after our baby stick insects. Needless to say, we were all very **responsible**.

This week has had a huge focus around building relationships with each other and working as a team to support one another. On Wednesday we took part in several different challenges that involve teamwork and it was so lovely to see everyone helping and encouraging their classmates. On Thursday we were able to work with partners to understand Zones Of Regulation and how we can support ourselves and others and it was great to hear such mature and empathetic conversations. We have also been working towards our new class goal of always using our manners and this came so naturally to us all.

We have already started our new Maths topic of 'place value' and it has been amazing to see how much information we have all retained over the summer. We started off by recognising and understanding the value of numbers up to 1,000 as well as beginning to represent them in different ways. We have had the opportunity to work with our base tens and different manipulatives to represent numbers and have been setting our partners small challenges to push each other.

During our English lessons we have been writing letters to introduce ourselves. We started the week by mind mapping fun facts about us and thinking about our hobbies and interests. We then refreshed our basic punctuation to support our writing and we all have all worked really hard at remembering all of our writing tools and using gold standard presentation! After writing our letter, some of us were brave enough to read them to the class which was a great way to get to know each other more.

We are so proud of all the children this week and their positivity and excitement to learn has made it super special. Enjoy your weekend and thank you for a brilliant first week Alder Class, I can already tell this year will be brilliant!

Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



Miss Cruse and Mrs Aynsley



Classroom updates - Oak Class

A huge welcome back to everyone and what a week it's been! First of all, we must give credit to our fantastic Upper Key Stage 2 children who have settled in superbly. Sometimes, early September days in school can be taken up by mundane tasks as we re-learn and embed new routines. Not with this class though as they have got straight down to business with superb levels of confidence, resilience and collaboration. Our new Year 6 pupils have settled into their new positions as role models with great aplomb and their excellent behaviours and attitudes have clearly reflected on our new Year 5 pupils, who have taken the step into their new year group with an equal sense of maturity and curiosity to learn.

We have introduced our first key text in English, "Street Child by Berlie Doherty". Fantastic levels of absorption and concentration from our children indicates that we are going to have a really inquisitive half term around this book as we work towards a wide range of writing including: character descriptions; setting descriptions and non-chronological reports.

Maths has kicked off with a reintroduction of place value and it is great to see how much knowledge our students have retained from previous years, which is really reassuring. We were also able to introduce our Year 5 and Year 6 "split" for our lessons at the back end of the week, allowing our Year 6 pupils to get to know Mr. Shaw in a new light as their Maths teacher for the year.

Wonderful levels of engagement have allowed these guys to produce some great introductory work in History (British Empire) and Science (Properties of Materials) and it is clear to see how motivated they all are to produce work to our very own "Gold Standard".

A big shout out also, to our two new recruits in Oak Class. You have both become huge parts of our class already and it is as if you have always been here with us! We can all go into this weekend brimming with pride after this belter of a first week!

As always, have a wonderful weekend and more of the same next week please!

Mr. McLeod

Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School





Dates for your Diary

| Date | Time | |
|----------------|-------------|--|
| 25th September | 9:00am | Willow class reading cafe |
| 7th October | From 8:30am | School photos (individual+sibling) with Paul Gremmel |
| 22nd October | All day | Alder class Ancient Egypt Day |
| 25th October | 9am | Harvest Festival |
| 25th October | TBC | Flu immunisations |
| 25th October | 3:15pm | School closes for half term |
| 4th November | All day | Teacher training day |
| 5th November | 8:45am | School opens to all pupils |
| 6th December | TBC | Christmas School Performance |
| 13th December | All day | Teacher training day |
| 17th December | TBC | Whole school trip to Tyne Theatre |
| 20th December | Lunch | School closes for Christmas |

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



Friday Flyer



THE GREAT GEORDIE BANGER OFF

Get ready for some **sausage-tastic** fun as we've teamed up with our pals at the Geordie Bangers to create their next big flavour in a **Pele Trust wide competition.**

THE COMPETITION

Entrants will need to come up with the name, ingredients and drawing of their tasty creation to impress the judges.

THE PRIZES

The winning sausage will be made by Geordie Bangers and will appear in the next menu cycle for all schools within the trust. The winner will also receive 5 Kilos of their new sausage to take home and enjoy with their family.

There will also be runner up prizes for each school, they will receive a certificate and a pack of Geordie Bangers to take home.

Entry forms will be available from w/c 23th sept 2024

We can't wait to see what wonderful creations you come up with!

Richard Bell | Area Catering Manager
Vin & David McDonad | Geordie Bangers



Friday Flyer



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