



20th September 2024

Headteachers update

You just blink and the week has gone, I don't know if that is good or bad as we have so much to learn and get through. This week has been a particular delight as the sun has been shining bright and we all know how amazing Belsay looks in bright sunshine.



The good news is that clubs have started this week and we have been extremely pleased with the uptake from the children. Thank you to everyone who has been to a club so far and remember if you are wanting a spot for your child, contact the school office.

As the year progresses we will be looking to add to our current offer so if you think you could offer a club or know people who may want to get involved, please contact school to have a discussion.

We have continued to look at our school vision and values this week and this month's key value will be 'Respect'. In assembly this week we used the Bible story of Adam and Eve to discuss this value, especially when Eve didn't listen to God and ate off the forbidden tree. We will be continuing to use stories to help cement the understanding of our values and this could include stories from other cultures as we aim to showcase cultural diversity at Belsay.

In other exciting news I have been able to talk to our fabulous PTA this week and organise some key dates for the term ahead. These dates have been added to the diary below but one of my particular favourites will hopefully be the Belsay Quiz and Chilli night on Thursday 12th December hosted by our very own legendary quizmaster... Mr McLeod! More details to follow but we hope you can join us for what I am sure will be a fun night.

Well done to all of our superstar children this week for working tremendously hard but an even bigger congratulations to those children who gained Outstanding Achievement Awards and those voted for this week's Hot Chocolate.

I hope you have a great weekend, whatever plans you may have.

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.

Remember our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) in school are **Mr Shaw and Miss Dixon**.

Safeguarding Update

Children are quick to come home and go on their tablets or gaming devices and as the weather starts to turn in the next few weeks and months, time on devices will no doubt increase. How much time is too much time and how can we try and get a healthy balance?

On the Internet Matters website they have some handy tips to help you learn more about the impact of being on devices. You can access it by clicking [here](#).

Parking

Linked to safeguarding please could I politely ask that no parents or carers are using the school car park for drop off and pick up purposes. Whilst I know parking is not ideal at these times the main car park is used for bus and taxi drops off only. Thank you for your cooperation.

Before School

Please can we kindly request that the children do not play on the fields before school, particularly in the coming weeks as the weather starts to change. Can we also stress the importance that an adult comes into school and stays in the playground with their child until the doors are open, this is for safeguarding reasons.



Attendance

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	100	100
Maple	99.03	95.81
Alder	96.67	95.56
Oak	96.44	97.93

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.

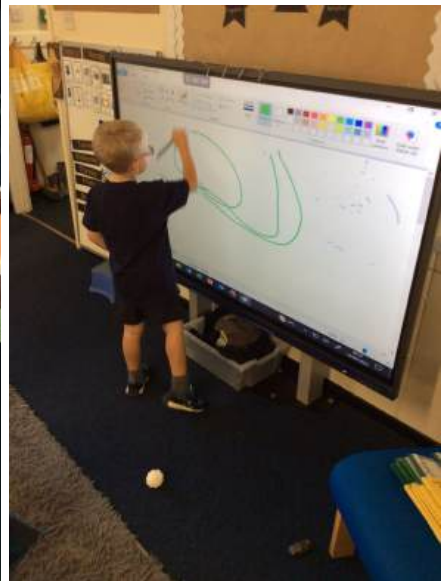
What are the risks of missing a day of school?

'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

What a wonderful week it has been in Willow class. We have had a great time together and it is clear to see we are now a well established team. The children are very settled and it really is amazing just how quickly they have settled into life at Belsay. The weather this week has meant we have been able to get lots of jobs done in the gardening area. The children were able to help with tidying the greenhouse, harvesting potatoes, checking on the beetroot and watering the tomatoes. We ended the day by staying cool in the sun with lots of water fun. A great time was had by everyone! On Wednesday we enjoyed eating the Belsay potatoes that Mrs Hayes very kindly cooked for us. They were delicious!



Inside the classroom this week, we have been working hard in Phonics to learn the new letter sounds and we have been trying hard to remember them. We have been great at writing the letters in our books and even using the smart board. It has been a lot of fun and we have now learned 10 letters! A very impressive start to our reading journey.

In Maths we have looked at the number 1. We have found it on a number line, thought about numbers that are more and less than one and practised writing the number. We really enjoyed watching a short video all about the number one number block.

It is hard to believe it is only the end of week 3 and already we have completed so many things.

Have a lovely weekend and please send any photos on Tapestry so we can share these together next week. I am looking forward to the class reading cafe on Wednesday.

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

This week Maple Class have been responsible for looking after the school chickens. We enjoyed taking care of our feathered friends, feeding them and keeping their coop clean. We collected lots of big eggs and look forward to tasting them hard boiled in Mrs Hayes's school salad next week.



In English we have been learning about poems and how they are used to express thoughts, feelings and ideas. We worked in partners and small groups to write Autumn senses poems and enjoyed thinking about the changes the season brings. We worked hard to use interesting adjectives in our poems to create imagery for the reader.

Miss Dixon



Classroom updates - Alder Class

I am excited to share with you about a very positive and busy week in Alder Class, where we have delved deeper into our new subjects and embraced the challenge of taking responsibility for our routines at school.

It has truly been a fantastic week as the children have been working both independently and in pairs, sharing their knowledge and supporting one another. We have also had the pleasure of getting to know our new class animals with Mrs Aynsley, and the excitement of observing our stick insects continues to grow each week. They have become quite sizeable, and we plan to spend some time next week naming each one!

In Art, we drew inspiration from Alaa Awad's stunning Egyptian horses, and the children enjoyed creating sketches in their new sketchbooks. Their enthusiasm was evident as they shared their beautiful artwork with Miss Cruse later in the week, and it was heartwarming to see how proud they were of their creations.

In Maths, we have focused on place value, and Thursday was particularly enjoyable. The children worked with partners to complete tasks on comparing numbers before engaging in a dice game that put their place value knowledge to the test. It was wonderful to witness the growth in their confidence throughout the lesson, as they encouraged one another in their learning.

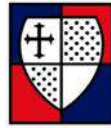
A highlight of this week was writing our very own adverts aimed at selling an Ancient Egyptian house. Over the past two weeks, we have concentrated on the features of an advert, and it was rewarding to see the children put their understanding into a longer piece of writing. Although it felt a bit daunting at first to use their best presentation skills and navigate this new format, their pride in their work was truly remarkable.



Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



Well done, Alder Class, on an incredible week! We look forward to another week filled with fun and learning ahead. Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Cruse and Mrs Aynsley



Classroom updates - Oak Class

The summer holidays are but a distant memory for Oak Class! Even though we have been enjoying the last of the beautiful British sunshine, it is more than fair to say that we are completely engrossed and engaged in our new routines and curriculum. An insurmountable amount of praise must go to all of our wonderful UKS2 children for how well they have thrown themselves into their learning this week. It is a real testament to their resilience and versatility, as this week has probably been the first "normal" week since their return to school.

In English, we have picked up the pace in working towards our first "Big Write" of the year and this has given our new Year 5s their first opportunities to complete a "Writing Toolkit". It has been brilliant to see how their knowledge of setting descriptions and all of their features has grown in these opening weeks of our new school year.

We had a great opportunity to work as a whole class (Years 5 and 6 together) in Maths on Wednesday which gave us a chance to work on our reasoning and problem solving skills. Although we have a long way to go, the lesson was rife with rich vocabulary and it was wonderful to see the children discussing and sharing their strategies for learning with each other.

Our continuing work on The British Empire touched on the controversial, but important matter of slavery this week. Our children really showed some wonderful empathy and understanding, raising some great questions and forming some brilliant discussions. Topping the week off with some Science experiments and some more Music with Mrs. Wigham was the cherry on the top of a very busy cake!

Let's do it all again next week!



Mr. McLeod



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
24th October	3:15pm	PTA Halloween Disco
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
13th November	11:30am	Come Dine With Me - Willow Class
18th - 19th November	Evening	Parents Evening
5th December	1:45pm	Pele Trust Christmas Music Concert @ St Mary's Church, Ponteland
6th December	TBC	Christmas School Performance
12th December	Evening	PTA Belsay Quiz and Chilli 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



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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