



18th July 2025

Headteachers update

As we wrap up another truly amazing year at Belsay, it's impossible not to pause and reflect on just how much we've achieved together. From academic excellence to unforgettable trips, performances, sporting events and everything in between, this has been a year to remember — one packed with pride, progress and community spirit.

This week has been the perfect way to finish on a high. On Tuesday morning, we said goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 pupils with a heartfelt Leavers' Assembly. It was a joy to welcome so many of you into school to celebrate their journey with us. The children's reflections were moving, their song choices poignant and the memories shared showed just how special their time at Belsay has been. We are incredibly proud of them all — their kindness, resilience and spirit shine brightly. We wish each and every one of them the very best of luck as they move on to the next chapter. And remember: once a Belsay pupil, always a Belsay pupil – we love hearing your stories!

Wednesday brought our much-loved Summer Fair and what a spectacular event it was! The sunshine held out, the stalls were bustling and the laughter echoed all afternoon. A huge thank you to our incredible PTA, who once again went above and beyond to make the event such a success. Of course, thank you to all our families for supporting us – the funds raised always go straight back into enriching the school experience for our children and your generosity is deeply appreciated.



We rounded off the week with our final Celebration Assembly on Friday morning – a brilliant way to finish such a vibrant and successful school year. The hall was filled with pride as we applauded the many accomplishments, big and small, that have made this year so special.

As headteacher, I can only say how privileged I feel to be part of such a remarkable school community. The passion and dedication of the staff, the enthusiasm and resilience of the children and the unwavering support from all of you makes Belsay a truly exceptional place.

While we say goodbye to this academic year, we're already excited for what's ahead. Planning for 2025–26 is well underway and I have every confidence it's going to be another cracker!

Wishing you all a restful, safe and sunny summer holiday. See you in September ready to go again!

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**.

Online safety tips for parents & carers to KEEP CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE OVER SUMMER

School's out... for summer! Yes, it's that time of the year again: around six weeks at home for ecstatic youngsters. For many young people, a bumper stint off school means a welcome chance to spend even more time with their games console, phone, tablet or smart TV. So whether your children are likely to be scrolling on Snapchat, nestling in front of Netflix or trying foes on Fortnite, we've put together some top tips to help you keep them safe online this holiday.

THERE'S NO NETWORK LIKE HOME
Teenagers, especially, tend to be delighted to find that a coffee shop, restaurant or shopping centre offers free WiFi. These public networks are much less secure than home WiFi, though, so discourage your child from making online purchases or entering personal details when out and about.

LIGHTS OUT, SCREENS OFF
This is a golden rule: try to limit how much screen time your child has towards end of the day. Staring at the screen of a phone or tablet for too long before bed severely impacts a child's quality of sleep - which can play havoc with their concentration, mood and energy levels the next day.

FOCUS ON FACTS
The internet is phenomenal at spreading gossip. When children of certain ages aren't in daily contact at school, the digital humour mill can go into overdrive. Remind your child not to believe everything they're told online - especially if the person involved isn't around to provide their side of the story.

KEEP TALKING
It sounds blindingly obvious, but having regular chats with your child about who they're talking to online, what games and apps they're using and what shows they're streaming is a huge benefit. It doesn't have to be every day or even every week, but it can signal potential issues well in advance.

PRIVATE INFO STAYS PRIVATE
It's worth checking your child's social media or gaming profiles occasionally to make sure they aren't inadvertently giving away too much information. Details such as their full name, address or where they go to school could all be used to track them down by individuals with sinister intentions.

LIMIT SOCIAL AUDIENCES
When they're old enough, young people love to broadcast their summer holiday highlights all over social media. The unfortunate truth, however, is that we don't always know who might be viewing this content. Check the settings to ensure that only friends and family can see your child's posts.

DEMONSTRATE GOOD HABITS
Children often learn their digital behaviour from watching the grown-ups around them. So make sure your child observes you being positive and supportive on social media, for example - and, especially, see that you know when it's time to switch the screen off, even though you're having fun.

WATCH FOR EXCESSIVE GAMING
With no school, children often take every opportunity to fit in 'just one more go' on their favourite game - sometimes at the cost of their daily routine, or having family time. A little extra gaming is to be expected in the holidays, but it could become problematic if it evolves into a recurring habit.

IT'S 'THE GREAT OUTDOORS' FOR A REASON
For most northern hemisphere-dwellers, this time of year is a rare opportunity to enjoy the outside world in pleasant weather. Remind your child how amazing it is to feel the sun on their back and fresh air in their lungs. Disney's and Minecraft will still be there on drizzly Sundays in October.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday



Attendance

As parents and carers we want to share our attendance figures because it is you who can make the big difference. Our children are entitled to a full and balanced education and at Belsay we feel we provide one of the best experiences possible.

Current Whole School attendance is 96.12%. Our **NEW** target for Whole School Attendance is 97%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	96%	96.97%
Maple	91.67%	96.18%
Alder	87.73%	95.44%
Oak	96.15%	96.27%

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.



Classroom updates - Willow Class

What a truly wonderful final week it's been! We can hardly believe our time in Reception is drawing to a close – but what an incredible journey it has been.

To help us celebrate in style, the amazing Magic Andrew wowed us with his fantastic tricks and magical fun. The children were absolutely delighted – it was the perfect way to mark our final days together! A big thank you to Belsay Preschool for allowing us to join in the fun. Hallie and William were chosen to help Magic Andrew with his magic and they were truly magnificent!

Inspired by our Year 6 leavers we've spent time this week sharing our favourite memories from the year – and what a lot there were! From our first days exploring the classroom, to Forest School, festive performances, Mrs Moffat having a baby and all the laughter and learning in between, it's clear this class has made memories to last a lifetime. After such a busy, brilliant year, we are definitely ready for a well-earned summer break before the exciting step into Year 1. The children have grown in confidence, independence, and curiosity – they are more than ready for their next adventure!

I may be biased, but I am proud to say it – this has been the best class in the school! Thank you to Team Willow for your enthusiasm, kindness, and sparkle every single day. I really will miss you all over the summer but I will be ready and waiting to see you move to Year 1.



Thank you to all our lovely families for your support, encouragement, and partnership throughout the year. It's been a joy to share this journey with you.

Wishing you all a restful and sunshine-filled summer.

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

Maple Class have had a fabulous final week of the school year! We completed our art project on *War and Peace*, finishing with some truly stunning "war sunset" paintings. The children thought carefully about how the colours of a sunset might have been affected by air raids during the war, choosing their shades with care and blending them beautifully. They used controlled brush strokes to layer darker colours at the top of the page before gradually working down to lighter tones, creating a powerful background. Finally, we added black cityscape silhouettes to complete the effect — the results were very impressive!

We also had the chance to join the rest of the school to watch the Year 6 leavers' assembly. It was a lovely moment to reflect and celebrate the oldest children in our school, as they shared memories and sang some wonderful songs. Maple Class really enjoyed the assembly and we all wish the Year 6 pupils the very best of luck as they begin their next adventure at high school.

To round off the week, Maple and Willow Classes came together for what may have been the best end-of-term party ever! We had an epic water fight out on the school yard, followed by a delicious buffet in the classroom while we cooled off and enjoyed watching *The Smurfs*. A big thank you to all our parents and carers for the generous party food donations — we had a fantastic spread! Thank you, Maple Class, for a brilliant year. You should all be so proud of everything you have achieved. Have a wonderful, restful summer holiday!



Miss Dixon



Classroom updates- Alder class

What a fantastic week we have had this week - ending our term in style! It is hard to believe how quickly this year has passed. Alder Class have spent the week reminiscing about our successes this year.

What a year we have had! The children have grown so much in confidence and resilience over the course of the year. Their determination to do their best and their perseverance when they are finding learning a little trickier has been marvellous to see. We are so proud of all of their achievements this year both academically and socially.

Some of our Year 3s had their first experience away from home at Ford Castle undertaking fantastic challenges and making memories that will last a lifetime. Our winning basketball team, the Kaleidoscope choir, our award winning engineers... We could keep going!

We have a fabulous Year 4 cohort who are more than ready to become an amazing set of Year 5s next year with Mr McLeod. They have really impressed with all their transition activities and we have no doubt that they will achieve great things next year.

Our wonderful Year 3 cohort are ready to become the eldest in the class again. We know that they are going to be fantastic role models to their new classmates in September. We are excited to see them back in September and are already looking forward to seeing what they will achieve next year.

Well done for a fantastic year, Alder Class. Have a well deserved summer break. We look forward to seeing you all again in September.



Mrs Aynsley & Mrs Rutter



Classroom updates - Oak Class

As we draw a close to another academic year up here in Oak Class, it is important to reflect on what an absolutely tremendous year we have had.

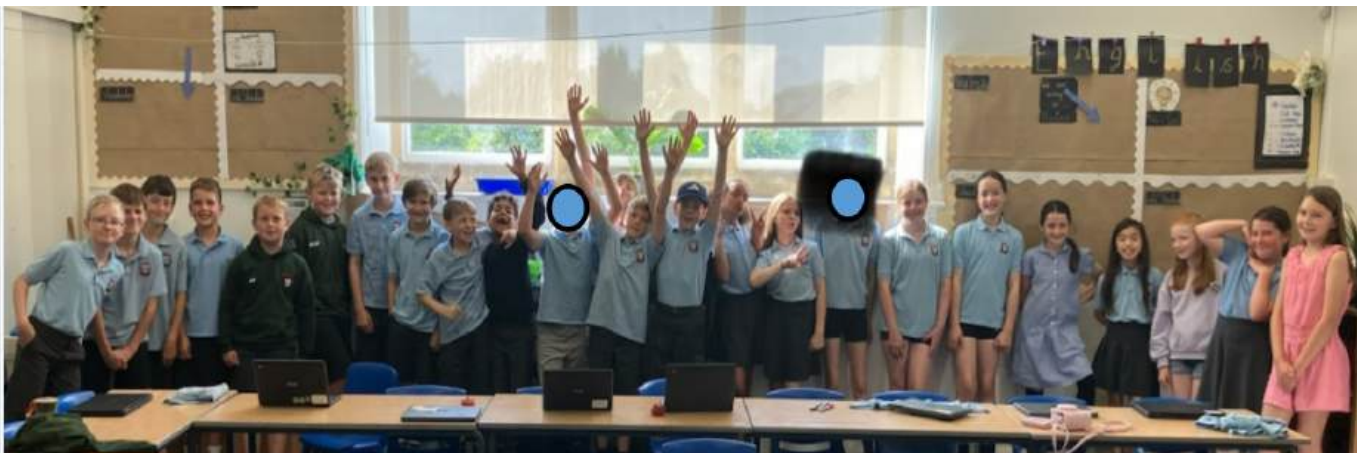
In terms of academic progress, across both year groups, I have immeasurable amounts of pride in how far these guys have come. Stamina for writing, speed of maths recall, disciplinary knowledge in foundation subjects, these are all areas where immense steps have been taken, and I hope you can all take a little time to pour over your books to really celebrate this.

But what about the other stuff? Where do you even start with the memories? The Northern Stage? The Tyne Theatre? The Football matches? The dances? The swimming gala? Ford Castle? France? Kaleidoscope galleries? I could write for pages and pages (don't worry, I won't) about all of the priceless experiences we have gone through together this year, but I'll just let you reflect on them in your own way.

We have, in our school, a Year 5 cohort who will make a fantastic set of Year 6s next year. I cannot wait to see what they can achieve, on top of what they already have!

And the Year 6s? Ponteland High's New Year 7s? I think it's safe to say that I have never met a cohort like them. I also think it's fair to say that we will miss them beyond words. These guys are unique, strong and wonderful in every way. They really do leave a huge hole in our Belsay family, but what an absolute pleasure it has been to be their teacher. Go well friends. It's been a blast!

Have a wonderful summer team! Your support has been fantastic. And for those of you moving on, please don't be strangers. You will always be a part of our Belsay family. Cheers, and peace out.



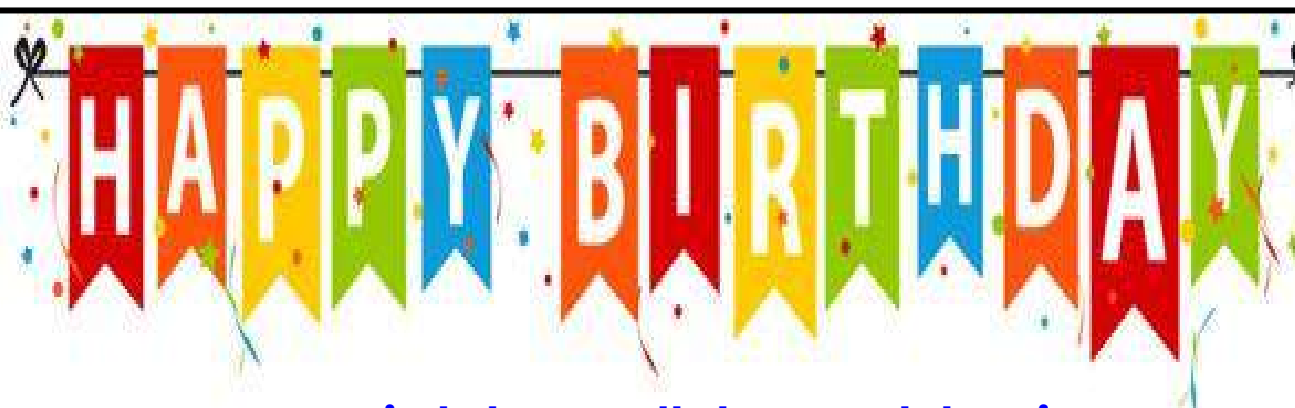
Mr McLeod



Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Monday 1st September	All day	Teacher training day
Tuesday 2nd September	All day	School reopens for Year 1-6
Wednesday 3rd September	All day	School reopens for Reception



**Happy Birthday to all those celebrating
this week**

Jenson (Maple)

Ellen (Oak)

Archie (Oak)

And to everyone celebrating through the holidays



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Friday Flyer

Belsay School



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