



11th July 2025

Headteachers update

What a week to celebrate the brilliance, talent and spirit of our children at Belsay!

We continue to be inspired by the incredible work taking place through the Kaleidoscope Project, part of our wider Pele Trust partnership. It's been truly unbelievable to see what our young people can achieve when they come together with a shared purpose and passion. Following the fantastic dance showcase at The Tyne Theatre recently, the journey continued this week with the launch of the Kaleidoscope Exhibition at Ponteland High School. The creativity, collaboration and confidence shown by all involved was exceptional – a real celebration of the power of working together across schools.

On Monday afternoon, our children enjoyed a very 'délicieux' experience – Crêpes in school! It was wonderful to see them confidently ordering in French and putting their language learning to such good use. A huge well done to everyone for embracing the experience so enthusiastically.

This week we also had the joy of welcoming the Ponteland High School Brass Band on Monday morning. Their performance was nothing short of amazing and it was especially heartwarming to see some of our former Belsay pupils now thriving and performing with such confidence and skill. What a treat to start the week!

This week we also celebrated the achievements of our incredibly talented Year 6s. We are beyond proud of them – not just for their SATs results, which were excellent but for the maturity, resilience and ambition they've shown all year as they worked towards them. Once again Belsay has come out extremely positively when compared to other Trust schools so I have no doubt that our children are receiving a wonderful education, whilst having lots of additional fun along the way, what more can we ask for.

Speaking of having fun, on Wednesday afternoon there was a well-deserved treat... Tony paid us a visit with his Ice Cream van, giving all our children a delicious surprise. With the hot weather, it couldn't have come at a better time – thank you, Tony and thank you to our children who once again have been truly outstanding all year round.

We rounded the week off with our Celebration Assembly and final Hot Chocolate of the academic year. A huge well done to all our winners – your hard work and kindness continue to shine.

This has been a week full of joy, achievement and togetherness. Next week we look forward to the Summer Fair so please come along and support the school as any money raised goes to good uses.

Have a lovely weekend, keep going – we're nearly there!

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**.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATING FAMILY RULES FOR USING DEVICES

A set of family rules agreed on with children can promote the safe, responsible use of devices like tablets, smartphones, gaming consoles and computers. By developing rules around technology, it opens the conversation regarding boundaries and expectations, ensuring a healthy balance of screen time. This guide will help you to develop an age-appropriate family agreement to suit your household.

- 1 WORK TOGETHER**
Collaborating with children when setting rules around the use of technology is a valuable task that can encourage them to take more ownership. It's important to make rules which reflect your family and are age appropriate. Think about what you all enjoy doing online and what apps, games or devices children use most frequently.
- 2 AGREE TIME LIMITS AND SUITABLE TIMES**
Be realistic when setting screen time limits. These can vary depending on the child's age, whether it's a weekday or weekend, and what they're actually doing online. If they're conducting research for homework, that might require more time than if they were playing games. Consider when screen time begins, does it come after chores and homework? Agree times when technology and phones must be put away.
- 3 ENCOURAGE HONESTY**
Family rules ensure that everyone can have fun with their devices and be safe while doing so. Nonetheless, children may make mistakes as they learn to navigate the online world. Emphasise that if they ever feel worried, unsafe or upset about something they've done, sent, said or received, they should tell you immediately so you can help them resolve the problem.
- 4 CHARGING AND OVERNIGHT STORAGE**
To ensure children get the downtime they need overnight, it's important that devices - especially smartphones - are kept in a common space, where possible. This reduces the chance of pointless late-night scrolling or sleep being disturbed by calls, messages or notifications. There are charging boxes you can purchase, or all gadgets could be charged in the kitchen overnight to avoid distractions.
- 5 REVIEW RULES REGULARLY**
Anything you agree on isn't set in stone. These rules will likely alter as children get older and the way they use technology changes. Take time to review these as a family, discuss what's working, and what isn't. Communication is key - so by doing this, you involve the child in their own online safety while promoting an open dialogue.
- 6 PROTECT PERSONAL INFO**
Discuss and demonstrate the importance of protecting your personal information. Talk about what details you share online and who with. Use parental controls to block children from connecting with strangers, so that any interactions they do share is among their real friends. Ask a child's permission before posting any photos of them on social media, as this demonstrates positive online behaviour that they should learn and remember.
- 7 BE RESPECTFUL**
Highlight the importance of showing respect to others when using technology. Encourage children to speak kindly to others online - such as on social media, when playing multiplayer games or in group chats (which can often lead themselves to teasing behaviour). Explain that if they aren't treating others considerately, they might be made to stay away from their devices for a while.
- 8 "NO TECH" ZONES**
Designating spaces in the house where technology isn't allowed (for example bedrooms, bathrooms and at the dinner table) lets you keep an eye on what children are viewing and who they're communicating with. It gives you some quality, screen-free time with them, too. It also helps reduce any impulses to potentially engage with inappropriate content, as they're unlikely to do so in a common space within the home.
- 9 AGREE ON CONSEQUENCES**
As a family, discuss why the rules are important, to balance their screen time, to ensure everyone enjoys gaming or interacting online, and that they are safe when doing so. Therefore, if these rules are broken, there has to be a consequence. Discuss what would be fair for certain breaches of the rules, as this can prevent a disproportionate response in the future.
- 10 KNOW ALL PASSWORDS**
To protect children from inappropriate content, parents should have access to all passwords. Parents should also make it clear that they will check children's devices, should they have any concerns about their use. Emphasise that this isn't due to a lack of trust but is an extra way of keeping them safe.



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 96.22%. Our **NEW** target for Whole School Attendance is 97%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	100%	96.99%
Maple	91.67%	96.31%
Alder	92.73%	95.66%
Oak	97.69%	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

Willow Class have had another fantastic week filled with creativity, achievement and a few well-earned treats!

On Tuesday, the children visited Ponteland High School to see their beautiful art work proudly displayed as part of a collaborative exhibition. They were beaming with pride to see their pieces presented so professionally, and it was a wonderful opportunity for them to feel part of a wider school community. A big well done to all our talented young artists!

This week also marked the completion of our final assessments for the academic year. The children approached each task with enthusiasm and determination, showing just how much they've grown in confidence and independence. I am incredibly proud of all they've achieved and how far they've come.

On Monday, the class enjoyed a delicious crepe-making session – a lovely treat that also sparked some wonderful conversation and a great opportunity to use the French we have learned this year. Then on Wednesday, we had a surprise visit from Tony the ice cream man, bringing smiles all round with a well-deserved ice cream for each child.



Additional photos are available on Tapestry so please make sure you login to see the photos. I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend. Next week we are looking forward to our class party to make the end of the Reception year together!

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

Although the summer holidays are just around the corner, Year 1 and 2 in Maple Class have continued to work hard and stay focused across all areas of the curriculum. In maths, we've been learning to tell the time to the hour, half past, quarter past and quarter to. This can be a tricky concept, but the children have shown fantastic perseverance and resilience as they tackled each new challenge. We've also completed our end-of-unit topic tests in History and Science, and were all incredibly proud of how much we remembered from earlier in the term—well done, Maple Class!

In Science, we revisited our classroom broad bean enquiry, checking in on how our plants were growing. It was exciting to compare our predictions with the actual results, and the children enjoyed being young Scientists, observing and discussing what they noticed. We also had a visit from *Le Petite Crêperie* and put our French speaking skills into practice by ordering our crêpes in French—*délicieux!* Another top highlight of our week was being treated to a surprise visit from Tony and his ice cream van! The children were thrilled and it was the perfect way to celebrate all their hard work this term.



Miss Dixon



Classroom updates- Alder class

Alder Class have had another wonderful week this week. We've been so impressed with how focussed they have been on their learning despite being so close to the end of the year.

On Monday, we were very excited for the visit of La Petite Creperie. Everyone enjoyed using the French they had learnt to order some incredible crepes! What a great start to the week. The children also had a visit from the High School Brass Band this week - it was an amazing experience to see live music even if it was very loud!

This was closely followed by a trip to see their wonderful art projects at the Kaleidoscope display in Ponteland. It was amazing to see their work showcased so beautifully, alongside the talent from the rest of the local schools

In Maths, we have continued to learn about time using both analogue and digital clocks. Year 3 children also learnt their Roman numerals up to 12. I wonder if any of them can remember to show you at home? In English, we have continued to read our class text *The Boy at the Back of the Class* and explore what life is like as a refugee. This week the children have produced some beautiful refugee poetry in a range of styles. In Geography, we have looked at the climate across the UK and discussed the weather that different parts of the country experience. In Science, we looked at how rocks are formed using chocolate to explore the different processes that rocks go through.

Have a lovely weekend everyone! Enjoy the beautiful weather. Don't forget that our party is on Wednesday next week. Please bring something for a pooled party tea and also remember it is non-uniform.

Mrs Aynsley & Mrs Rutter





Classroom updates - Oak Class



It has been another action-packed week in Oak Class!

We had a fantastic time with *La Petite Crêperie* – everyone ordered in French and enjoyed some delicious treats.

A huge well done to our choir members who sang beautifully at the Ponteland High School concert, you did us proud!

We've also been hard at work rehearsing for our Leavers' Assembly, and it's really coming together. It's been lovely to see the teamwork, laughter and energy as we prepare for the end of term.

Our learning and creativity haven't slowed down, even with the summer sun shining!

Thank you for your continued support during this busy time of year.

Have a wonderful weekend, whatever you're up to.

Only one week to go – let's make it a great one!

Mr McLeod

Friday Flyer



Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Monday 14th	3:15pm	Year 6 boys football against All Saints @ Belsay
Tuesday 15th July	9am	Year 6 Leavers Assembly
Wednesday 16th July	Afternoon	Alder and Oak class end of year party
Wednesday 16th July	3:15pm	PTA Summer Fair
Thursday 17th July	Afternoon	Willow and Maple class end of year party
Friday 18th July	1:15pm	School Closes for summer

SCHOOL CLOSET

We have a fantastic selection of summer dresses, skirts and shorts, Belsay fleeces, Belsay jackets and forest school waterproofs.

All items £1

Just pop to the school office or send a message via ClassDojo of what you need and sizes and I will get back to you.

Miss Whitehouse



Belsay PTA brings you...

Belsay School

SUMMER

FAIR



Wednesday 16th July 3.15pm

Football Tournament

Tea/Coffee

Cake Stall

School Closet

Ice-Creams

Please bring
small change.
Thank you!

Tombola

Hot Dogs

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All money raised will go directly towards buying new equipment and resources for the school.



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Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



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