

Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



4th July 2025

Headteachers update

What a fantastic week it has been at school! We've loved hearing all the stories and memories from our Year 6 pupils who returned from the residential to France – it's clear the trip created some very special moments. The busy end to the year continues for our Year 6 pupils who have also spent two days on transition this week at Ponteland High School. It's hard to believe we are already at this stage of the year – their time with us is flying by!

On Wednesday, we were delighted to welcome Mr Brown, Education Advisor for Pele Trust, who visited school to carry out a review of our Early Years provision. He was absolutely blown away by the children – their curiosity, kindness and enthusiasm for learning truly shone through. A huge thank you to Miss Houghton who delivers the magic every single week. What a fantastic start to the Belsay journey our youngest children have, we are very lucky indeed. On that note we still have spaces for children to join our Reception class in September so if you know of anyone then please do point them in our direction.

Today, Alder Class had the chance to visit Close House for a special golf afternoon. They took part in sessions on the driving range, chipping and putting greens – and I wasn't jealous at all (honest!). A huge thank you to the team at Close House for offering such a brilliant experience and to Mr Smith, who once again continues to go above and beyond to create these wonderful opportunities for our children. PE and Sport opportunities have truly transformed over the last few years!

Back in school, the children have continued to work incredibly hard. Many classes are now coming to the end of their current topics and it's been lovely to see them consolidating their learning and sharing their progress. To celebrate this I can confirm that all end-of-year reports are being written and we look forward to sharing these with you next week. We hope you enjoy reading about everything your child has achieved this year, we are very proud of them.

A letter went out yesterday with details of all the events planned for our final two weeks of term. I'm not sure how we're managing to fit so much into just 9.5 days – but as always, we love a challenge! If you still have questions please call the office.

Final reminder: if your child is aiming for the *Bookworm Reads* prize draw for completing 200 reads, please ensure this is submitted by Monday 14th July.

We ended the week with our usual Celebration Assembly and Hot Chocolate winners – a big well done to all the children recognised for their effort, kindness and resilience.

Have a wonderful weekend whatever you have planned and see you Monday for the final 2 weeks...

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**.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE TROLLING

The term "trolling" refers to sending hurtful or provocative comments – often done anonymously online – to provoke a reaction or cause emotional distress. Anonymity can embolden people into saying things they wouldn't dare say in person. Euro 2024 and other tournaments tend to put an emphasis on this, with the abuse of both players and fans often increasing during such events.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ESCALATION
Many trolls begin with silly, banal comments before moving on to a broader pattern of offensive messages and posts. They can also turn their attention very quickly to a new target if they grow bored with an existing one, which makes engaging with one fruitless at best – and potentially dangerous at worst.

HIDEING BEHIND A SCREEN
Because trolls tend to use anonymous profiles, they enjoy a lack of accountability. This also means they'll often have multiple profiles, potentially switching between them regularly or posting across several of them at the same time, making a target feel as though there's no escape. After all, once you block one account, what's to stop them reappearing elsewhere?

24/7 CONTACT
The Internet has given us the ability to remain in contact at any time, from almost anywhere in the world. A troll having the ability to reach you whenever they want can leave you feeling like their abuse is unavoidable. While they don't see you in real life, they can message you at any time, reach out to your peers online and even try to discover your personal information to scare you.

HATE SPEECH
Sadly, many trolls resort to spewing racial slurs, homophobic attacks and awful stereotypes, as these often stand the best chance of causing emotional harm. This can add a hefty degree of weight to their attacks, moving from what might charitably be described as "teasing" into a genuine hate crime. After Euro 2020, three England footballers were racially abused, resulting in several prison sentences.

IMPACT ON VICTIMS
It's not uncommon for the victims of trolls to shut down their accounts, disappear from public life, and try to stay out of the crosshairs for a time – with some even leaving social media forever. This can have a severe impact on children and young people's connections to friends and the world at large, and may not even actually stop the troll. The victims' families, for example, may have online profiles that trolls can still access.

NORMALISATION OF TROLLING
It is, regrettably, inevitable that some people will go too far in their criticisms or comments, both online and in the real world. This can lead to many people seeing trolls and their abuse as part and parcel of social media – an inherent risk of interacting with others online. This doesn't mean, however, that it should be considered "normal" or even tolerated.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS
While social media platforms (where most trolling tends to happen) aren't always helpful when responding to abusive behaviour, parents can set up screen time limits, so children only get to use certain apps at certain times. There's always the potential for trolling to occur anyway – such as friends showing screenshots to one another – but this would minimise the likelihood of children seeing it.

DON'T ENGAGE WITH ABUSE
A well-known adage on social media is "don't feed the trolls". Fundamentally, if a child identifies a potential troll online, it's best not to engage with that individual directly. Instead, consider setting up a log to gather evidence for reporting them later on, including screenshots and quotes where possible.

ENCOURAGE EMPATHY
While every professional athlete aspires to maintain high standards, it's important to separate the player from the person. A player's performance doesn't make them worthy of abuse, and that can often be forgotten by younger children who simply see the colour of the shirt without considering the person wearing it. For all the rivalries between teams, it's essential children understand that players are still human beings, with families and lives outside of sport.

BLOCK AND REPORT
While anonymous accounts make it difficult to block trolls permanently – or even for very long – it's still good practice to help children learn to control who can engage with them online. It's not worth "feeding the trolls", and it's more helpful to block them, report them, and try to move on. Blocking and reporting is an anonymous process, too, so there'll be no indication of who specifically blew the whistle.



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 96.26% Our **NEW** target for Whole School Attendance is 97%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	98%	96.91%
Maple	97.08%	96.47%
Alder	91.82%	95.75%
Oak	98.08%	96.23%

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

This week in Willow class has been brimming with curiosity, creativity and collaboration. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring The Gingerbread Man story. We delved into the adventures of the cheeky Gingerbread Man who tried to outrun everyone he met. The tale inspired thoughtful discussions about perseverance and making good choices. We have also completed some writing about the animals in the story and I have been so impressed with the children for their hard work and commitment to their writing. To bring the story to life, the class took part in making their very own gingerbread men. The children measured, mixed and shaped the dough with great care, demonstrating impressive fine motor skills and a genuine enthusiasm for baking. The delicious results were a wonderful reward for their efforts and a lovely way to celebrate their learning. A big thank you to Miss Cook for her hard work to help with this activity.



I was particularly proud to see exceptional teamwork this week. Ronnie, Bradley, Luke and William collaborated brilliantly to construct an extensive train track. Their communication, problem-solving and shared sense of purpose were outstanding, and the final creation was a testament to their determination and ingenuity. In the words of Ronnie "Well done lads!".

A highlight of the week was welcoming Mr Brown into our classroom as part of the EYFS review. He was thoroughly impressed by how amazing the children are—demonstrating focus, independence and a love of learning that truly shone through. It was wonderful to have such positive feedback and to celebrate all that makes our Reception class so special. I am biased when it comes to Willow class but hearing feedback from others helps me to know I am right about our wonderful little team! Have a lovely weekend. Please check Class Dojo as I have put the details for our class party on it.

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

This week, Maple Class has been very busy with exciting learning across a range of subjects. In Maths, we have been exploring fractions in lots of different ways. Year 1 pupils have been learning to find halves and quarters of shapes, objects, and quantities, while Year 2 pupils extended their learning to include thirds and three quarters too. Everyone has enjoyed using practical activities to deepen their understanding and work together to solve fraction problems.

In English, we have been planning imaginative recounts inspired by the story of *Matilda*. The children came up with lots of creative ideas and exciting plot twists, and we're all looking forward to turning our plans into detailed recounts next week. We can't wait to share our finished work by reading them aloud to the class. In History, we learnt about how Belsay Castle has changed over time and discovered what inspired the building of Belsay Hall. Meanwhile, in Science, we explored the life cycle of a bean plant and even planted our own bean seeds in the classroom. We're excited to observe how they grow in the coming weeks! In Art, we finally had time (after a busy few weeks) to paint our kittiwake sculptures, they look fantastic and we are so proud of them!



Miss Dixon



Classroom updates- Alder class



It's hard to believe how fast this half term is going! It has been lovely to have the Year 4s back with us. They had a wonderful time in Oak Class last week and are definitely more than ready for the step up to Upper Key Stage 2, although we will miss them all very much. We will make the most of them all and have a lovely time over the next two weeks. This week we started discussions about the Summer Fair. We were delighted to see how enthusiastic the children were. Amongst other kind donations, we have had many many teddies, thank you so much!

In English we have continued our learning around the book 'The Boy at the Back of the Class'. We read a real thought provoking poem that gave an entirely different message when looked at from another angle. The pupils have written Haiku and Cinquain poetry and will continue their writing into next week. Maths has seen the end of our topic about money and the start of learning about time. We have learnt rhymes to help remember the numbers of days in each month. This is a topic you can really help with at home. Have ongoing conversations about what date and time it is. Little and often really helps.

In Geography our Year 3s had an amazing lesson this week, whilst Year 4 had another transition afternoon. They blew me away with their determination and team work - creating a map of major UK cities and the transport infrastructure that connects them! We talked about why cities are inter-connected and the importance of trade. Next week, we will be exploring regional jobs.

In Science we gathered a soil sample from the school grounds and compared it to one dug up from Mrs Aynsley's farm, a sample of shop bought compost and a sample of sandy soil. It is always good to get hands on in Science. Next week we will look at the different ways the three main types of natural rock are formed. We may even use chocolate and biscuits to help us explore the different processes.

We are very excited about our golf trip this afternoon! Have a lovely weekend Alder Class.

Mrs Aynsley & Mrs Rutter



Classroom updates - Oak Class

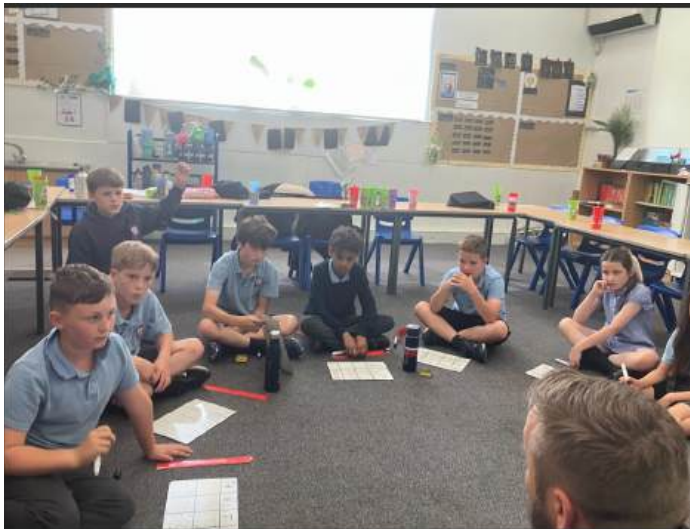
The whole team is back together for a normal week for the first time in what seems like forever! (Well, sort of.)

After ten of our Year 6 pupils returned from France, and the other four had represented Belsay brilliantly at various events, it would be easy to “ease down” to the end of term. But not at Belsay. We have all worked incredibly hard on filling in the gaps in subjects such as RE and Maths. We have done a fantastic job this week of understanding the Torah in Judaism, and our fabulous Year 5s welcomed our Year 4s to Oak Class, for a lesson on the Ancient Greek Olympics. It has been fantastic to observe how ready our Year pupils are for the extra responsibilities of being Year 6.

Our current Year 6s continue to enjoy their last term at Belsay. We had a wonderful day out at Beamish on Tuesday, at their own request, and once again exhibited very good behaviour and attitudes. Whether it was at the fairground, the Victorian sweetshop, or down the mines, our children once again, did us proud.

As the Year 6s have been at Ponteland High School for the last couple of days on their transition, we are reminded that their Belsay journey is drawing to a close. What a journey it has been for all of them! It was wonderful however, to spend some time with our Year 5 pupils in a smaller group. What a fabulous class we will have at the top end of our school next year.

Have a great weekend Team Oak and see you all Monday!



Mr McLeod

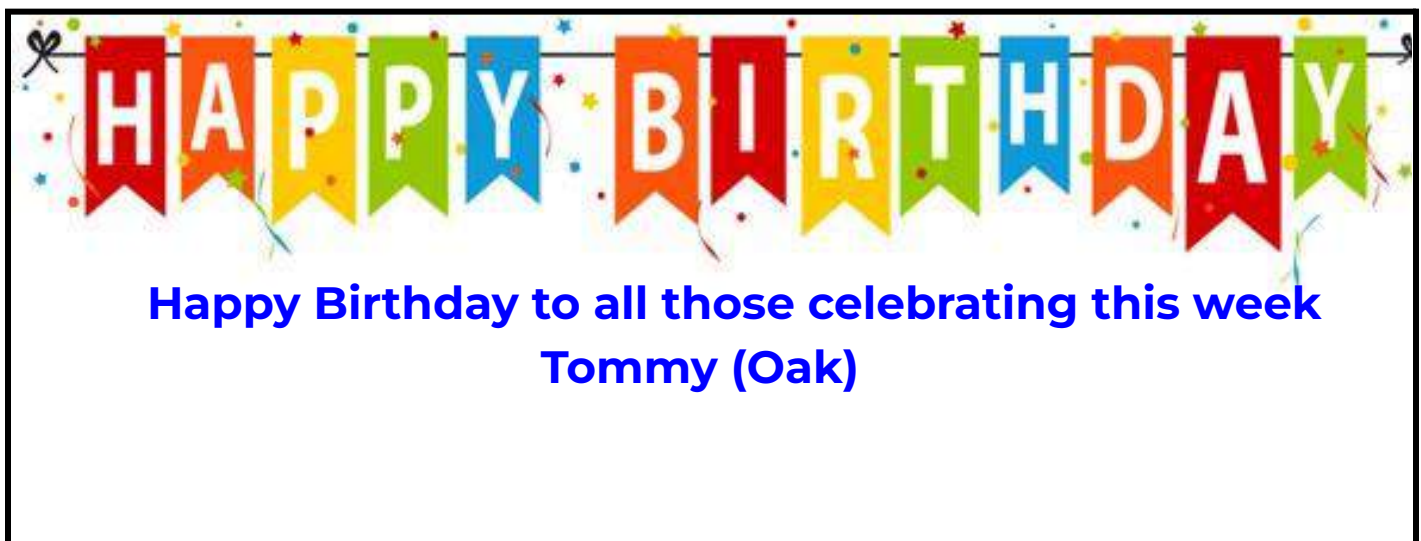




Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Monday 7th July	Afternoon	Le Petite Creperie
Tuesday 8th July	Morning	Whole School visit to Kaleidoscope Project @ PHS
Friday 11th July	9am	Band performance for parents of those in Band
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



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Kaleidoscope

USING OUR DIFFERENCES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Pele Trust Schools invite you to an exhibition of creativity, community, and young voices. Join us for the Kaleidoscope Exhibition.

Tuesday 8th to Thursday 10th July, 8am-9pm

Ponteland Leisure Centre

Belsay Primary School

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Belsay PTA brings you...

Belsay School

SUMMER

FAIR

Wednesday 16th July 3.15pm

<p><i>Football Tournament</i></p> <p><i>Tea/Coffee</i></p> <p><i>Cake Stall</i></p> <p><i>School Closet</i></p> <p><i>Ice-Creams</i></p>	<p>Please bring small change. Thank you!</p>	<p><i>Tombola</i></p> <p><i>Hot Dogs</i></p> <p><i>Teddy Tombola</i></p> <p><i>Glitter Tattoos</i></p> <p><i>Games ...and more!</i></p>
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All money raised will go directly towards buying new equipment and resources for the school.



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WHO ARE WE?

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