



20th June 2025

Headteachers update

Another week has flown by and as ever, our children have been working their socks off across the school. From enthusiastic writing to collaborative maths and creative artwork, it's been a real hive of activity (pun intended!).

Speaking of hives... our Year 5 and 6 children have been fully immersed in Bee Week, a brilliant initiative run across all Pele Trust primary schools. The children have been busy learning fascinating facts about the vital role bees play in our ecosystem. A highlight of the week was a buzzing talk from our very own in-house bee expert, Mr Atkinson, who brought the topic to life with enthusiasm and a wealth of knowledge.

The absolute highlight of *my* week, however, came on Thursday evening when I had the immense pleasure of watching our Year 6 girls perform at the Tyne Theatre as part of the Kaleidoscope Project, a Trust-wide celebration of creativity and talent. The evening focused on music and performance – and what a show it was! The Belsay girls were nothing short of sensational, dazzling the audience with confidence, passion and joy. I don't say this lightly – they absolutely brought the house down, earning easily the biggest applause of the night.

A special shout out must go to Allegra, who took the lead in choreographing the whole routine – the collaboration, trust and teamwork between the girls was something to behold. You made us all extremely proud - thank you for being brilliant!

We ended the week, as always, with our Hot Chocolate Friday and Celebration Assembly. This week's Hot Chocolate winners were once again treated to a special visit to the bees – a reward that is proving very popular indeed! Well done to all our stars of the week.

Looking ahead to next week, it's Transition Week – a big moment for all our pupils as they take those exciting steps into their next year group. Please make sure you're dropping off and picking up from the correct doors as staff will be based in different classrooms.

Finally, I want to wish our Year 6 pupils the best of luck as they head off to France with other schools in the Trust. What a unique and enriching opportunity this is, and I know they'll make Belsay proud.

Have a lovely weekend when it arrives, see you on Monday.

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 CLICKBAIT

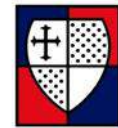
Clickbait is a controversial online marketing strategy which uses sensationalist (and frequently misleading) headlines to encourage engagement with an article, image or video – often playing on users' emotions and curiosity, while much of the actual content is of questionable accuracy. Clickbait is also sometimes used to disguise scams, phishing sites and malware.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- HARMFUL MISINFORMATION**
Clickbait tends to play fast and loose with the truth, opting for eye-catching content over objectivity. This is particularly dangerous for younger internet users, who are generally more susceptible to that type of material. A child could be presented with fake news, misleading articles and – in some cases – outright lies without fully understanding what they're viewing and why it's harmful.
- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
Due to the misleading nature of many examples of clickbait, what may seem to be innocuous and child friendly could actually contain age-inappropriate material such as extremist political views or violent, pornographic or sexually explicit content. This is clearly a hazard for young people, who could be upset, disturbed or influenced by exposure to such subject matter.
- HIDDEN MALWARE**
While most clickbait is simply trying to promote engagement to earn companies' additional revenue, some of it does redirect to dubious sites with the potential to infect devices with viruses or malware. This could put a child's sensitive data – such as their name, their location and their date of birth – at risk of being accessed and exploited by malicious hackers.
- PRIVACY PROBLEMS**
Some clickbait leads to sites which could coo a child into volunteering their personal data – using pop-ups to ask them for their email address and phone number, for example, in exchange for accessing additional content or subscribing to various services. Normally, this harvested information is then sold to third parties, who often utilise it for targeted adverts and other sales schemes.
- A DRAINING DISTRACTION**
Clickbait encourages spiralling consumption of online content, which could easily result in a young person spending hours scrolling aimlessly instead of doing something productive or interacting with family and friends. This can leave them tired, asocial and lacking focus – and, in the long term, can negatively impact their social skills, education and mental wellbeing.
- IMPACT ON BEHAVIOUR**
Depending on the type of clickbait a child is interacting with, you might notice negative changes in their behaviour. Weight loss scams, for example, are common among clickbait and have the potential to influence eating habits and body image – while deliberately inflammatory rage bait articles can leave impressionable young people feeling irritable, restless or argumentative.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- START A CONVERSATION**
The sheer volume of clickbait can make protecting children against it quite challenging. It's vital to talk to young people regularly about the types of content they encounter online, so that they understand the risks of engaging with clickbait. If you're still concerned, it may also be wise to keep an eye on children's online activity to ensure they're not being tempted by clickbait headlines.
- PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING**
Encouraging children to question the legitimacy of sensational headlines and too-good-to-be-true promises will help them to become savvier online – and far less likely to be drawn in by clickbait content. These critical thinking skills will also serve to protect them in other areas of the digital world where misinformation is becoming increasingly common.
- SPOT THE TELLTALE SIGNS**
There are certain common elements in clickbait, including headlines and images that use shock and outrage to grab people's attention – as well as numbered lists, such as '10 Facts You Won't Believe Are True'. Some clickbait combines several of these tactics to snag users' interest. Learn to recognise these techniques for yourself so you can teach children to notice them as well.
- TAKE CONTROL**
Many parents opt to place limits on how long their children can spend online each day, which obviously reduces the chance of exposure to clickbait. Alternatively, most internet-enabled devices have built-in controls that allow parents to manage what sort of online content their child can access – including filtering by age, which can screen out a percentage of inappropriate material.



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	99.17%	96.37%
Alder	97.27%	95.80%
Oak	95.77%	96.10%

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 thoroughly enjoyed diving into the traditional tale of *The Little Red Hen* this week. The children loved retelling the story with actions and voices, especially joining in with “Not I!” and “Then I will do it myself!” They showed fantastic understanding of the story’s message about kindness, teamwork and helping others.

On Tuesday we were lucky enough to be able to see the bees with Mr A. The children were fascinated to see the bees up close and learn all about their important role in nature. They asked thoughtful questions and listened so carefully—true little nature explorers! It was a fantastic hands-on learning experience, and we’re so grateful to Mr A for making it possible. I think this might be the best show and tell of the year so far!



On Thursday we were able to spend some time with our KS1 friends to begin our transition activities. Miss Dixon was very impressed with our knowledge of the stories we have read so far. She particularly enjoyed seeing the s maps we were able to make and then use them to retell the story of *The Little Red Hen*. Miss Dixon was most impressed by the manners the children used. Well done Team Willow!

Next week we will get to spend even more time with Miss Dixon and the Year 1 children. We have been discussing what it might be like in Year 1 in September. We have lots of questions we would like to ask Miss Dixon and the Year 1 children to help us to find out more about it.

Although I won’t see as much of everyone at pick up and drop offs I will still be in school if you need to speak to me. I hope everyone has a lovely weekend.

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

This week in English, the children have been busy writing wonderful character descriptions of Matilda. They thought carefully about her personality and appearance, using adjectives and expanded noun phrases to bring their writing to life. In Maths, we explored fractions. Year 1 learnt how to find halves of shapes, objects and quantities, while Year 2 moved on to identifying quarters and thirds. Everyone showed great perseverance when tackling tricky fraction problems!

In Science, we planted our cress seeds and talked about what plants need to grow. The children are now eagerly watching their pots each day to spot the first signs of shoots. In Art, we have been sculpting clay models of kittiwakes, using special tools to carve features such as eyes, beaks and feathers. We also followed step-by-step guides to sketch the birds, paying close attention to their shapes and details.

On Thursday, Maple and Willow classes teamed up for a lovely Forest School afternoon in the sunshine. We used our whittling skills to create magic wands from sticks and took part in a summer scavenger hunt around the school field. The children were excellent nature detectives—spotting colourful flowers, identifying minibeasts and even sampling a taste of delicious honey made by the Belsay bees!



Miss Dixon



Classroom updates- Alder class

Maths this week has seen the start of a new topic, one I know a few of the Year 4s have been looking forward to. We are learning about money. Everyone is working really hard and doing brilliantly in this topic. We have been using plastic money to help solve some tricky problems. Some of them may have come home and asked you to show them the coins in your purse. It would be great practice if you could play with them. You could ask them to calculate how much money is in a specific pile of coins, or ask them how many different ways they could make £1. You could even talk about scenarios where they have to work out how much change they might get if they went to the shop.

In English this week we have been writing diary entries based on our new class book 'The Boy at the Back of the Class'. The students were able to choose whether to hand write their diary, or type it on their chromebook. Many chose to use their chromebooks. They thoroughly enjoyed this and some even asked if they could have extra time to spend on their work.

Huge thanks to Mr A for showing us his amazing collection of bee keeping tools. It was lovely to see the hexagonal wax structures they make.

In geography this week, we used our new knowledge of physical and human resources to plot some key features across the UK. It was great to see the children using the Atlas to help them plot features and also how many places the children were already aware of and could find on the map!

Our amazing stick insects are a lot older than their average age expectancy and are now over 2 years old. We celebrated how wonderful they are with a relaxed art lesson on Wednesday afternoon. Not all of them stayed still but it was fun to try and draw them.

Mrs Aynsley & Mrs Rutter





Classroom updates - Oak Class

We are absolutely BUZZIN' to tell you about this week. It has BEEEn amaZZZZZZing. We have been a real HIVE of activity. (Hopefully, by next year, I will have worked on some better bee puns.)

Bee Week is such a unique opportunity to the schools in our trust. It builds the final steps of our Year 6s' journey towards high school with a real sense of togetherness and collaboration. It gives us the opportunity to share our work and celebrate all of the fantastic bee work that we do collectively.

Our commitment to Bees At Belsay has shone through this week as well. With Mr. A leading his Bee Keeper's workshop, taking several of our children down to visit our very own Belsay Bees, and orchestrating a tasting session of our very own Belsay Honey, it is fair to say that we are at the very forefront of the Pele Trust Bee Project.

We can now confidently tell you the difference between honeybees, bumblebees and wasps and give you a really clear rundown of the roles and purposes of beekeeping equipment. Jilly and Rich from Scilly gave us an insight into how beekeeping differs on the island of Tresco and we had loads of insightful and inquisitive questions for them.

The feather in the cap this week was our Year 6 girls representing us at the Tyne Theatre. As part of the Trust-wide Kaleidoscope project, we performed collaborative pieces with our Pele Trust peers before blowing the audience away with our dance medley. The talent on show was phenomenal across the board, but, much like Shakespeare earlier in the year, everyone left the Tyne Theatre yesterday with Belsay at the forefront of their minds!

It's Bon Voyage from me and ten of our Year 6s for now as we head off to Saint Omer for our French Trip. Have a great week next week Team Oak!



Mr. McLeod



Pele Trust Bee Week

As part of Bee Week Mr Atkinson asked Oak Class to produce a piece of art relating to our studies this week. A winner was chosen by Miss Dixon, our Art Lead. The winner was Sebastian who is pictured below with his winning art piece which is now proudly displayed in the School Hall. He chose to do a close up picture of a bee with the Belsay beehive, field and school buildings in the background. Well done Sebastian, we hope you enjoy your prize.





Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Monday 23rd June-Friday 27th June		Transition week
Monday 23rd June - Friday 27th June		Year 6 France Residential
Tuesday 24th June	All day	Sports event for Yr 6 not attending France
Wednesday 25th June	All day	Whole school Belsay Hall visit
Thursday 26th June	All day	Cinema/Bowling for Yr 6 not attending France
Thursday 26th June	11:30am	Year 5 Come Dine with Me
Tuesday 1st July	All day	Year 6 Beamish Trip
3rd and 4th July	All day	Year 6 Transition Days
Friday 4th July	All day	Close House Golf event for Yr 3&4 (details to follow soon)
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	3:15pm	PTA Summer Fair
Thursday 17th July	Afternoon	Willow and Maple class end of year party



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SUNDAY 29TH
JUNE

8AM START

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- POOL BASED SWIM FOLLOWED BY RUN
- AGE APPROPRIATE DISTANCE
- MEDALS AND ICECREAM FOR ALL FINISHERS

AGES 8-16

[HTTPS://WWW.BRITISHTRIATHLON.ORG/EVENTS/PONTELAND-TRI-JUNIOR-AQUATHLON_16143](https://www.britishtriathlon.org/events/ponteland-tri-junior-aquathlon_16143)



Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



St Mary Magdalene Church, Mitford

Musica Johannis

Summer CONCERT

Friday, 20th June, 7pm

Tickets £10

To include a glass of wine/soft drink and nibbles



Open Garden

Sunday 22nd June 2025
NGS Garden Day
at Longwitton Hall, NE61 4JJ
By kind permission of Mr and Mrs M Spriggs

12-4pm



Entry £8 per person (Cards/Cash)
Tea, Cakes and Sandwiches provided (Cash Only)