



13th June 2025

Headteachers update

What a glorious week we've had – and yes, we really do mean *glorious*... the sun *finally* decided to make an appearance, just in time for our much-anticipated Belsay Sports Day 2025!

The field was alive with the sound of music, laughter and cheering as the children started the event with a lap of honour to represent their country. It was an absolute joy to see the fun and determination on our children's faces as they sprinted, skipped and leapt their way through the events. A huge thank you to all our wonderful parents and carers who came along to support – your encouragement really lifted the children's spirits (and possibly their speed!). Thank you also to the Year 6 parents for volunteering to race against their children. I love to see the level of competition as you were adamant you wanted to beat your child over that finish line - brilliant!



We'd also like to give a big shout-out to our fabulous PTA, who kept everyone refreshed throughout the afternoon with tea, coffee and biscuits – and not forgetting the much-loved Ice-Pops handed out to our tired but very happy competitors at the end of the day. Your support as always is invaluable so thank you very much.

Of course, we mustn't forget the man who made it all run so smoothly – a massive thank you to Mr Smith for organising and leading such a brilliant event. Your energy and enthusiasm made the day not just a success, but a memory to treasure. Talking of sporting events Mr Smith

has been a busy man this week as our Year 5 and 6 Swimming Gala Team made a splash at the Trust competition, showing off their skill, speed and team spirit in the pool. We're thrilled to report that Belsay brought home several winner and runner up medals – what a fantastic achievement! Huge congratulations to all involved – you've done us proud.

The week has ended with our customary hot chocolate celebration and assembly, another truly superb week in Belsay, well done everyone. This week's winners were once again treated to a special trip to meet the bees.

Have a great weekend and 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 SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

School avoidance refers to reduced attendance or non-attendance at school by a child or young person. In 2022-23, more than one in five children in England were found to be absent from school over 10% of the time. This guide focuses on school avoidance with an emotional basis, offering expert mental health advice. However, it's important to remember that school avoidance is a hugely subjective experience which requires a tailored, individual approach.

UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

REASONS FOR ABSENCE
School avoidance is sometimes underpinned by several factors rather than one single cause. This could include something going on for the child or young person within the family or at school. A child may have caring responsibilities at home, for instance, or a change in family dynamics, bullying and friendship difficulties at school, pressure to achieve in homework and exams, or moving from primary school to secondary school.

PATTERNS OF ABSENCE
You may notice patterns in regular absences or children regularly expressing that they don't want to attend school (particularly being reluctant to leave home on school days). If a child or young person is neurodiverse, there is some evidence to suggest there are more aspects of school life which can cause distress - such as changes in the environment, changes of routine and sensory stimuli.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS
There may be an increase in a child or young person's complaints about physical symptoms, particularly on school days or the evening before school. These could include tummy aches, headaches, or saying they feel ill when there doesn't appear to be a medical cause. Always check with the GP first to rule out medical causes or illness.

IMPACT OF SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT
School refusal can negatively impact a young person's learning and development. Attending school on a regular basis not only supports academic attainment but is also important for the development of key life skills and the growth of children and young people as citizens.

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES
The difficulties associated with school non-attendance can be far reaching and may have a negative impact on long-term outcomes. It may, for example, lead to reduced future aspirations, poor emotional regulation, mental health difficulties, limited academic progress and restricted employment opportunities.

CYCLE OF ABSENCE
Consistent absences may contribute to sustained school avoidance over time. Further to this, the longer a pupil is out of education, the more likely it is that there is a rise in their ongoing need to avoid the activity making them anxious - increasing their desire to stay at home.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WORK TOGETHER
If there's a concern about a child's absence and emotional wellbeing, it's important that there is clear communication and a consistent approach between the child's parents and the school, so you can take a child-centred approach together towards a plan of support or reintegration. This ensures a consistency of approach from both home and school, creating better outcomes for the child.

MANAGE OVERWHELMING FEELINGS
Acknowledge the child's worries, listen and discuss coping strategies together to help them manage difficulties. These could include mindfulness, deep breathing or going for a walk. This helps them understand that you are working together towards a common goal, and that these strategies can be used when bigger feelings arise.

FOLLOW REGULAR ROUTINES
Children can benefit from regular and consistent routine. This could be a morning routine, from waking up and having breakfast through to getting dressed, packing their bag and leaving the house. A consistent evening routine which is calm and spent away from screens can also give children much needed predictability and familiarity. Schools can help create a timetabled routine for the child's school day, if required.

RECOGNISE POSITIVE STEPS
Drawing attention to a child's successes - be they big or small - can help to give them some much-needed confidence and motivation. Celebrate these daily victories - such as getting out of bed on time or completing schoolwork - and don't hesitate to let the child know when you're impressed or proud of them. Such an approach can go a long way.



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 96.17%. Our **NEW** target for Whole School Attendance is 97%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	96%	96.90%
Maple	94.58%	96.28%
Alder	98.18%	95.75%
Oak	97.69%	96.11%

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 has flown over but they do say time flies when you are having fun and we have certainly had a lot of that in Willow class this week. Miss Cook has been very impressed with how hard everyone has been working when she has been in the classroom and it has been lovely for me to visit KS1 to see how hard they have been working.

This week we have focused on the story Jack and the Beanstalk. The story has inspired us to plant our own sunflower seeds in the hope that it might grow as long as the beanstalk from the story. We are excited to see them grow.

What a treat Tuesday was! We thoroughly enjoyed working with different teachers for the morning to learn all about our country. Then in the afternoon we took part in all of the sports day games with our friends from different year groups. We had such a great time and it was lovely to see so many of you there watching and cheering us on. A big thank you to everyone who was able to attend. The afternoon would not have been the same without you all.



We have all worked very hard this week and we were a great help with our new Reception children when they visited our class again this week. It is lovely to see how far we have come and how much we are able to support other children. Well done Team Willow!

A bit thank you to everyone who has continued to upload photos and videos to Tapestry as the children appreciate being able to share the photos during show and tell.

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to next week!

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

This week in Maple Class, we began our new Summer 2 Art topic, *Peace and Conflict*, inspired by *The Lion and the Unicorn*. We explored the powerful artwork of war artist Henry Moore, focusing on his evocative tunnel pieces. Using oil pastels, we created our own responses, paying close attention to the shapes, colours, and emotions in his work. We had some fantastic discussions about how the artwork made us feel and how the colours and lines helped tell a story of safety, fear, and hope.

We also had a brilliant time celebrating Sports Day! The children took part in a range of fun activities within their country teams during the morning and showed fantastic teamwork and determination. It was lovely to try some delicious food from around the world, too. We were thrilled when the sun came out just in time for the main events in the afternoon, and it was wonderful to see so many parents and carers cheering us on. The children really embodied our school values of resilience and collaboration throughout the day.

A special well done to Year 1, who completed their phonics screening check this week — we're so proud of how much progress the children have made in their reading this year!



Miss Dixon



Classroom updates- Alder class

Another busy week in Alder Class this week. This week, we continued reading our class text *The Boy at The Back of the Class* and began to learn about what it means to be a refugee. We had some wonderful discussions about how it would feel to come from a different country and be thrust into life in a British primary school. The children have really enjoyed thinking about the different feelings and emotions this situation might evoke and have done some fantastic drama to support our big write of a diary entry.

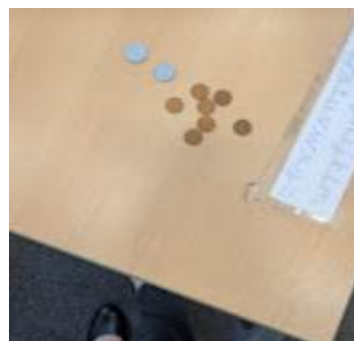
Sports Day on Tuesday did not disappoint and we celebrated it in true Belsay style. The children loved learning about their team country and creating fantastic pieces of artwork. Mrs Rutter was met with lots of information about the fantastic food they had been tasting on Thursday morning - this obviously left a big impression! The children were delighted that the sun came out for the afternoon and enjoyed competing and supporting their friends.

We have started our Summer 2 geography topic this week, learning about the United Kingdom and how it is connected and divided. We started off by recapping on the main nations, their capital cities and finding out about some of the traditions in each country. We have also started looking at money and sorting out the values of coins and finding specific amounts with coins. Any practice at home will be great.

We are very proud of all of Year 4 this week, who confidently completed their multiplication checks showing the great progress they have made this year! Thank you for supporting them all with practice at home too - it has really helped.

Have a lovely weekend Team Alder - we look forward to seeing you next week for more fun.

Mrs Aynsley & Mrs Rutter





Classroom updates - Oak Class

An adaptive, but typically positive week up here in Oak Class. We have really been focussing on our Green Bill Big Write. I know I said it last week, but it is phenomenal to see the passion our students have for their given subject. From extended break times, to reduced plastic, to the building of skateparks, there have been a massive range of subjects covered in our Green Bills, and the persuasive devices which have been used are tremendous too.

We have been taking all of our Belsay joy elsewhere on a couple of occasions this week. We first took a team of 10 swimmers to Ponteland High School for our Pele Trust swimming gala. Exemplary behaviour and performances by all were observed and we even came home with some silverware! While we're on the subject of Sports, it was brilliant to see so many of our UKS2 children taking an active role in mentoring our younger pupils during Sports Day this week.

Our Year 6 girls took all of their talent and charisma to Ponteland Primary School on Thursday for a Kaleidoscope rehearsal. This show is going to be fantastic. Hundreds of children from across the trust, all working together towards a common goal of a star striking performance at the Tyne Theatre next week. There was an abundance of talent on show across the schools, but do not worry, we will be right in amongst it. You can buy your tickets (if you haven't done so already) by clicking on the link below.

https://www.tynetheatreandoperahouse.uk/whatson/the-pele-trust-presents-kaleidoscope/#Tickets_in

25 more school days until the summer Team Oak. Each and every one of them fun packed in their own way too! Have a great weekend and see you all on Monday.



Mr. McLeod



Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Thursday 19th June	All day	Dance Performance at Tyne Theatre (Yr 6 girls)
Friday 20th June	All day	Make Active Memories Event for select KS2 children
Friday 20th June	All day	Non uniform day in exchange for tombola items for Summer Fair
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 15th July	9am	Year 6 Leavers Assembly
Wednesday 16th July	3:15pm	PTA Summer Fair
Thursday 17th July	Afternoon	Willow class end of year party

Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



SCHOOL CLOSET

We have a fantastic selection of summer dresses, skirts and shorts available now!

Belsay branded items £2

Non branded items £1

All Belsay fleeces, Belsay jackets and forest school waterproofs are £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



INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL LESSONS

SIGN YOUR CHILD UP TODAY!



Did you know Music Partnership North deliver vocal and instrumental tuition on a wide variety of instruments across the whole of the county?

Lessons take place in the school day, it's easy to sign up online and pay online and you have direct contact with the tutor who will be teaching your child.

Need to borrow an instrument? That's easy too with our free instrument loan service.

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LEARNING | MUSIC | UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

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WHO ARE WE?

We are Northumberland County Council's Music Service and work with all schools across Northumberland to support and deliver musical tuition and opportunities.

"... they have given my son the very best start in life towards learning Music. He has achieved so very much because of MPN..."

"I love playing the cornet and have gained loads of confidence since performing at the Sage."



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<https://music.northumberland.gov.uk>





PONTELAND TRI CLUB

JUNIOR AQUATHLON

SUNDAY 29TH
JUNE

8AM START

- BASED AT PONTELAND LEISURE CENTRE
- 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)