



6th June 2025

Headteachers update

Welcome back, I hope you had a wonderful half term. It's been another wonderfully busy week here at Belsay and we're positively buzzing with excitement... quite literally!

Yes, our new residents have arrived - and they've been creating quite the buzz around school! The children have been absolutely fascinated to know more and have been asking brilliant questions. A very lucky group of children got to meet the bees up close today as part of their hot chocolate reward - what a sweet way to end the week! We know this will be a brilliant learning opportunity as the children explore nature, sustainability and caring for our environment.

I am delighted to announce that from September, Miss Houghton will be stepping into the role of Head of School, working alongside myself as I begin my new role as Executive Headteacher across both Belsay and Shilbottle Primary Schools. Miss Houghton brings enthusiasm and a real drive to the role - we're incredibly lucky to have her on board.

If you've passed our Early Years area this week, you may have spotted the fantastic resurfacing that has taken place - and it's just the start! Huge thanks to Pele Trust for supporting this improvement project. We're excited to keep developing this space into a special, inspiring area for our youngest learners over the coming months. Watch this space...

On Monday, it was the PTA AGM and it was heart-warming to reflect on just how much has been achieved this year. From discos to fairs - thank you to everyone who's played a part. A massive shout-out to Amelia and Frances, who are stepping down as Chair and Treasurer - we're incredibly grateful for their time, energy and creativity. Stepping up in style are Louisa Squires (Chair) and Julie-Ann Scott (Treasurer) - thank you both! Psst... we're always on the lookout for new PTA members! No idea is too small or too silly - we're in the business of fun and memory-making, after all!

Finally this week, we got off to a great celebration assembly and the all important Hot Chocolate reward. As mentioned above, the added treat this week was being the first pupils to meet the bees. Well done to everyone for a truly positive first week back in school!

Have a great weekend and see you all on Monday morning, raring 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**.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about LEGO FORTNITE

Epic Games have recently introduced three new game modes to Fortnite: Rocket Racing, Fortnite Festival and, finally, LEGO Fortnite, a survival game using official Lego characters. There are lots of great mechanics that encourage creativity in children, but – as with any online game – it's important to stay aware of the potential risks.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MONETISATION
LEGO Fortnite contains no adverts within the game, as with most other games. When this title was released, the price for the game was £19.99. However, the price for the game is now £24.99. This is due to the fact that the game is now available on the PlayStation 5 and Xbox Series X/S. The price for the game is now £24.99. The price for the game is now £24.99. The price for the game is now £24.99.

ONLINE PLAY
LEGO Fortnite can be played online, as with most other games. However, the game is not available on the PlayStation 5 and Xbox Series X/S. The game is not available on the PlayStation 5 and Xbox Series X/S. The game is not available on the PlayStation 5 and Xbox Series X/S.

FEAR FACTOR
There is an explicit warning in the game that there is a lot of combat. While the combat in the game is not very realistic and is not meant to be scary, it is still a survival game. The game is not meant to be scary, but it is still a survival game. The game is not meant to be scary, but it is still a survival game.

COMPLEX GAMEPLAY
LEGO Fortnite is a survival game, though it's not as simple as some might think. There are lots of different building mechanics and a lot of different items to use. The game is not as simple as some might think. There are lots of different building mechanics and a lot of different items to use. The game is not as simple as some might think.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEGO IS FRIENDLY
Much like real Lego, this game is incredibly safe. It is friendly, fun and accessible. Younger players may not enjoy this title as much as their older peers. However, the game is not as simple as some might think. There are lots of different building mechanics and a lot of different items to use. The game is not as simple as some might think.

SET LITTLE CHALLENGES
As we've noted, the game is a bit more complex than some might think. It's not as simple as some might think. There are lots of different building mechanics and a lot of different items to use. The game is not as simple as some might think.

PLAY TOGETHER
Take some time to play the game together. Not only will this help you see some of the complex mechanics, but it's also a great way to ensure that your child is safe. The game is not as simple as some might think. There are lots of different building mechanics and a lot of different items to use. The game is not as simple as some might think.

MONITOR SPENDING
As a child-free product from parents, we will advise you to monitor your child's spending. It's not as simple as some might think. There are lots of different building mechanics and a lot of different items to use. The game is not as simple as some might think.



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 96.15% Our **NEW** target for Whole School Attendance is 97%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	97%	96.93%
Maple	96.67%	96.33%
Alder	92.86%	95.66%
Oak	91.54%	96.06%

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

It's been great to have the team back together this week and we have enjoyed hearing all of the lovely adventures you have been on over half term. The highlight had to be seeing Luke riding his bike without stabilisers without any help. That is what half term is all about!

We've continued with our topic of Traditional tales and we started this half term by focusing on the story The Three Billy Goats Gruff. The children have loved taking on the roles of the characters. It has been great to see and hear the children challenge themselves to change their voice depending on the character they have transformed into. We have also produced some AMAZING writing! I often talk about the first term of the school year being where we see the most amount of progress being made. I truly believe that the summer term is where we see the hard work and dedication being shown through the work the children produce. The work this week really has been phenomenal. Well done Team Willow!



What a great surprise for the children this week when we went outside and saw the new outdoor area flooring. It really does look amazing and the children have enjoyed going over the ramps and different surfaces on the bikes and scooters. We have all had a lot of fun!



We have been working hard in PE with Jamie and Mr Smith to prepare for next week when we will take part in our first school sports day. We are looking forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday afternoon and we are keeping everything crossed for good weather.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

This week in Maple Class, we have been busy exploring new learning across a range of subjects! In English, we have been learning about the differences between formal and informal letters. We discussed the key features of a letter and had great fun writing giant letters from Matilda to Mrs Phelps. Everyone showed fantastic collaboration by working together in partners and small groups, helping each other with ideas and checking our writing. We are enjoying reading the story of *Matilda* in our daily story time sessions and have been discussing and comparing the text to other Roald Dahl books the children have read at home.

In Maths, Year 1 pupils have been learning how to make equal groups and used this understanding to create arrays. They have also been practising counting confidently in 2s, 5s, and 10s. Meanwhile, Year 2 have been learning how to read temperature scales on thermometers and have been comparing different temperatures. In Science, the whole class examined various types of seeds and compared them to bulbs. We discussed their similarities and differences, and were fascinated to learn how these tiny objects grow into plants. It's been a week full of discovery and teamwork!



Miss Dixon



Classroom updates- Alder class

It has been lovely to see everyone this week and hear about the fun that you had over half term. We have all come back into school raring to go and have had a fantastic week back.

We have started our new class text this week, *The Boy in the Back of the Class*. The children have enjoyed writing from the perspective of a new child entering their classroom for the first time. They have written some wonderful pieces including some fantastic similes including comparing being nervous to legs shaking like a slithering snake. In maths, we have continued looking at decimals and fractions this week; partitioning decimals in different ways and identifying fractions of an amount.

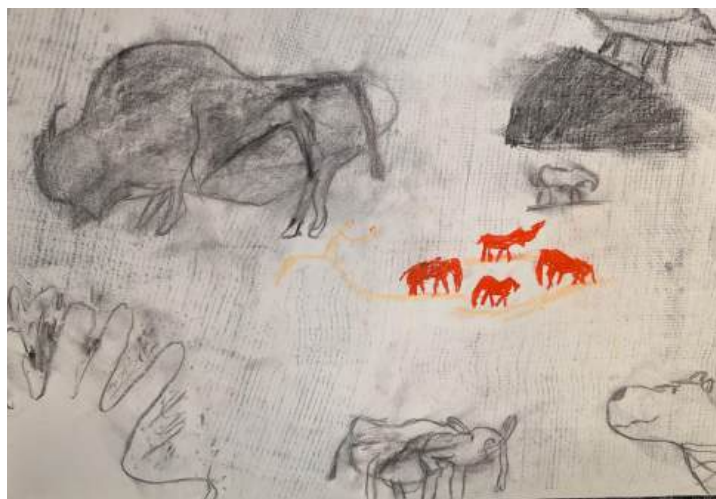
We've continued with our topic of Stone Age to Iron Age by looking at the Bronze Age this week. We were amazed by how much metal changed prehistoric society. We have also enjoyed some acting this week, acting out the parable of *The Lost Son*. The children were very creative in developing their own take on the story.

In Art we have had a lot of fun creating more stone age art. We used charcoal to sketch bison and then moved onto creating our final piece. There were some very messy hands and a lot of smiling faces. We will start our new Science topic next week. This will be all about rocks. If anyone has any special rocks or fossils at home that they would like to share, we would love to see them.

We have been so impressed by the children's attitude to learning this week. They have come back into school with a huge amount of enthusiasm for learning. Well done Team Alder. Have a great weekend and we look forward to seeing you next week.



Friday Flyer



Mrs Aynsley & Mrs Rutter



Classroom updates - Oak Class

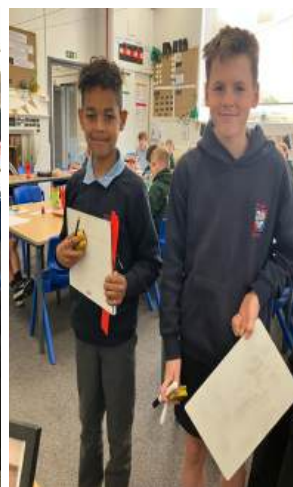
It has been a week that has (almost) had a sense of “normality” to it. As rare as this may be at Belsay, it has been brilliant to have full curricular focus this week and the children, as always, have excelled.

English has seen us work towards our writing of “Green Bills” to persuade. It has been brilliant to observe the children writing with such passion and use their bank of skills so effectively to produce incredibly persuasive pieces of writing, which would have any MP convinced.

Maths has been a mix of old and new experiences for all of us this week, staff included. For myself, it has been such a pleasure to work with our Year 6s again, as a small group. The reason for this is I have really seen how much amazing progress they have made in this last academic year. We should all be so proud of them. It has also been a great week for the Year 5s, who have had their first experience of Mr. Shaw as “Mr. Maths” rather than “Mr. Headteacher”. A truly monumental event for any child!

History was back with a vengeance this week too, as we explored the complex concept of Democracy in Ancient Greece. It was a real eye-opener to begin to compare democracy as we know it now in modern day Britain, to the Athenian democracy that we were studying. We really do have some fantastic moral compasses up here in Oak Class.

There are still many wonderful things on the horizon this half term, and we can’t wait to share them with you. Have a great weekend Team Oak!



Mr. McLeod

Friday Flyer



Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Tuesday 10th June	1pm	Whole school sports day
Wednesday 11th June	12:15pm	Year 5/6 Swimming Gala
Thursday 12th June	9am	Dance Rehearsal (Yr 6 girls) at Ponteland Primary School
Thursday 19th June	All day	Dance Performance at Tyne Theatre (Yr 6 girls)
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



Happy Birthday to all those celebrating this week

William (Alder)

Connie (Maple)

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



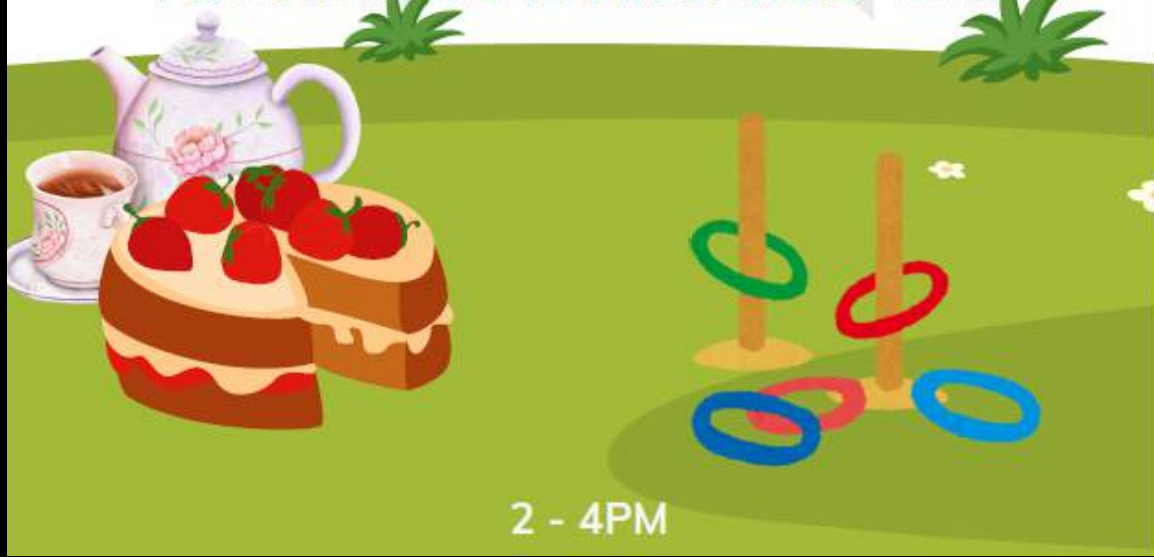
Friday Flyer

BOLAM CHURCH OPEN DAY

Come and explore this ancient church and discover its wealth of History. Set in the beautiful Northumberland Countryside Bolam Church is a true gem!

SATURDAY 7TH JUNE

**FAMILY FUN | REFRESHMENTS | LIVE MUSIC
FEATURING THE WANNIE LINERS - 3PM**



2 - 4PM

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



Friday Flyer



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)