



23rd May 2025

Headteachers update

It's been a brilliant week at Belsay filled with celebration, exploration and a fair bit of amusement.

The highlight for us all was celebrating Mrs Hayes reaching an incredible 25 years of service at the school. A true pillar of Belsay life, she has supported countless children (and adults!) with her kindness, patience and fabulous cooking skills. I struggle cooking for a family of four so I have no idea how Mrs Hayes cooks for over 70 children every day! Thank you, Mrs Hayes, for everything you bring to our school every single day.

On the field, the new fencing is now standing tall and looking very smart. Even more exciting – we're hoping that over the half term break, our bees will finally arrive! We can't wait to welcome them and begin this new chapter in our outdoor learning. Of course, no week would be complete without a little drama – and this week's unintentional entertainment came courtesy of the work van valiantly trying (and mostly failing) to get back *up* the field after finishing the job. Children and staff alike enjoyed the spectacle – who knew vehicle extraction could be such a crowd-pleaser?

A big well done goes to our Year 3 and 4 pupils who took part in the Quad Kids athletics event this week. Their enthusiasm, sportsmanship and determination made us incredibly proud. It's always a joy to see our children challenging themselves and cheering each other on.

Our classes have also been out and about exploring the wider world. Oak Class enjoyed an inspiring visit to the Discovery Museum, where they got hands-on with all things science and innovation. Meanwhile, Years 1 and 2 headed to the Laing Art Gallery as part of their linking project, it was great to see them return with such enthusiasm and stories of the friends they had met. Also, to celebrate the end of SATs, Year 6 had a well deserved meal at Sambucas in Morpeth. So lovely to see them switch off and have fun after last week.

The half term has ended with our celebration and hot chocolate rewards so as always, very well done to everyone, I think you're all amazing!

And with that, we reach the halfway point of the summer term! Thank you all for your continued support and for sharing in the laughter and learning of school life. We hope you all have a restful half term and we look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 2nd June.

Mr Shaw



Friday Flyer

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**.

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, UKiA, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some sites show children to meet people or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Warning your child play online for a while could be a good way to get into a particular game, where the parent-led controls are most visible. Ask you to level up or chat to your child or read their friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Be in mind that some games (and the time to recover from the player, while others (and the time to recover) for example) can be addictive or played for a minimum of 20 minutes. A quick break every hour or two is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for in-game items and extra levels can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new items or upgrades for their characters, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expenditure but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or the content they want to play. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game, even though it is rated above their age, then explain that as a boundary. Explain that you've made an agreement, and that when the age ratings mean that you're unable to support them, they could be in contact with the boundary by knowing games' levels. Explain that you're happy to discuss why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they naturally dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Be in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Unfortunately, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful. If they love Minecraft, choose something to build together. If Fortnite is their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes. Ask to play a round, which doesn't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to drive while gaming. Are they allowed to teach (or other players, for example) can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotional and healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about when your child's behaviour is in terms of what they think is acceptable, what behaviour by other users is really frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.



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	90%	96.93%
Maple	97.92%	96.32%
Alder	89.52%	95.76%
Oak	94.23%	96.22%

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

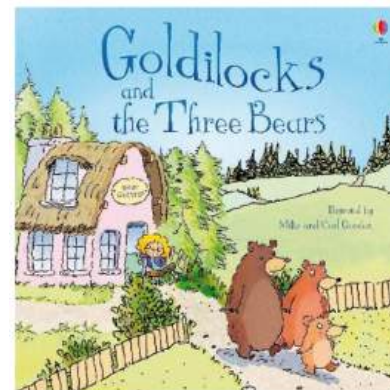
Absence Procedures if your child is ill, please keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school. Please notify us by phone call or email before 9.15am if your child is to be absent, and continue to inform us on a daily basis if they continue to be ill.

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

What a great final week of the half term we have had. We have read one of our class favourite stories Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We have enjoyed taking on the role of the different characters. Luke has been amazing at being Daddy Bear! We have enjoyed acting out the story, writing about the different characters and making a 's map' of the story. We are looking forward to continuing our traditional tales topic after half term and we have already chosen the following stories: The Gingerbread man, The Three Billy Goats Gruff and Jack and the Beanstalk as the stories we would like to read next half term.



We have thoroughly enjoyed our time with Year 1 who have been visiting our classroom this half term while Year 2 have completed their quizzes. It has been lovely to see new friendships being formed and I am hopeful that the children will continue to strengthen their friendships over the next few weeks. A big thank you to Mrs Hayes who has been a great help during this time.

The children have had a lovely time with Mr A this week to take part in orienteering activities. Mr A was very impressed with the children's collaboration skills and how well they listened to the instructions that were given.

We enjoyed Year 1 and 2 being out of school on Wednesday as it meant we got to spend time in their classroom. We had a great time thinking about where we might like to sit next year and even seeing all of the different resources and toys they have. We noticed lots of things that are going to be the same in the classroom such as the values display, the lego and even the pencils. Lots to look forward to!

I hope everyone has a lovely half term break, it seems to have come round very quickly. I know the children are looking forward to some family time together and they have already been telling me what they have planned for the holidays. I can't quite believe that we are going into our final half term together before the children move to Year 1. We have a busy half term ahead of us so rest, have a great time and make lots of memories together.

Miss Houghton



Friday Flyer

Classroom updates - Maple Class

This week, Maple Class have shown great imagination and resilience as they re-wrote the story of *The Lion and the Unicorn* in English. Both Year 1 and Year 2 pupils worked independently to structure their writing using a range of sentence types, while also including exciting new vocabulary to bring their stories to life. It has been a joy to see their confidence grow and their writing flourish as we approach the final term of the school year.

On Wednesday, we had a very special day out at the Laing Art Gallery, where we finally met our penpals from Hawthorn Primary in person! The children had a fantastic time getting to know their new friends through circle games and collaborative art activities. We look forward to continuing our link with Hawthorn in the final school term and will be enjoying a national Schools Linking celebration assembly online at the end of the year. In class, we also completed our final art pieces inspired by our Linking Project for the Pele Trust Kaleidoscope Art Exhibition- there are some incredible artists in Maple Class!



Have a lovely half term!

Miss Dixon



Classroom updates- Alder class



Another busy week in Alder Class, and a lovely way to end the half term. Everyone in Year 4 and two of our Year 3 children enjoyed a trip to Darras Hall Primary School on Tuesday as part of the Quad Kids project. We were very proud of the way they represented the school with exemplary behaviour and attitudes all round. A small group of Year 3 had a walk up to Belsay Shop as part of their School Link project and, were once again, a group to be proud of. On Tuesday we celebrated National Bee Day, perfect for finishing off our learning about pollination and our Science topic all about plants. We made bees and flowers out of plasticine and finished performing our pollination plays to one another.

In English this week we continued learning how to correctly punctuate speech. We placed dry macaroni on sentences that were missing their inverted commas, to Mrs Aynsley's surprise, a number of children actually wanted to eat the dry pasta. This exercise really helped understand exactly where to put the punctuation needed in a sentence containing speech. The skills we have practised over these two weeks have culminated in a narrative 'big write'. We used the structure of Stone Age Boy to help us create our own stories.

Maths has seen the end of both the Year 3 and 4 blocks. Year 3 understood their topic all about measurements well, while Year 4 seemed to really enjoy making the link between fractions and decimals in their topic. They have all done well in their end of block assessments.

Mrs Aynsley & Mrs Rutter



Friday Flyer

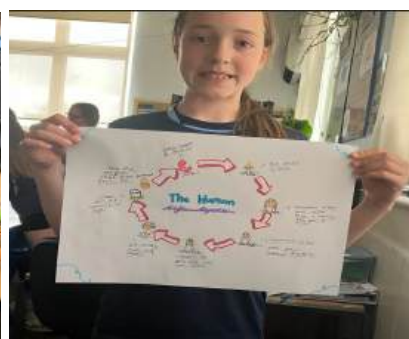
Classroom updates - Oak Class

A really magical week up here in Oak Class. Celebrations, new experiences and time to reflect over how wonderful this half term has been. In four weeks, all of our children have achieved so much and it really has been one to remember.

We still have work to do though! And we have been working very hard towards writing a "Green Bill for Change". This is a pretty advanced piece of writing for 9-11 year olds and even identifying the features can be tricky but these guys have once again shown their phenomenal progress and writing skill to produce some great work so far in this unit.

Our trip to the Discovery Museum on Wednesday allowed our children to take charge of their own learning for the morning as they explored independently. Exemplary behaviour was observed all round, not just by staff, but my members of the public and the museum team too, and the same could be said for our Year 6 celebratory lunch in Morpeth yesterday. Thank you so much to all of the parents who contributed to allow this to happen. The children were so fantastic, they even earned themselves a play around Carlisle Park. So well deserved!

Have an epic half term Team Oak, and see you soon!



Mr. McLeod
School council

Friday Flyer



School council have been researching the local history of Belsay. This is what they have found out:

Belsay School History

Belsay School dates back to 1870. It is a grade 2 listed building. In the mid 1950's Sunday services and other community events were held in the school building. The school was designed originally to hold 150 pupils.

It became part of the Pele trust in 2018 when it converted to academy status.

Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Friday 6th June	9:45am	Year 6 Quad Kids Athletics
Tuesday 10th June	1pm	Whole school sports day
Wednesday 11th June	12:15pm	Year 5/6 Swimming Gala
Thursday 5th June	11:30	Year 6 Come Dine with Me
Monday 23rd June - Friday 27th June		Year 6 France Residential
Thursday 26th June	11:30am	Year 5 Come Dine with Me (details to follow)
Tuesday 1st July	All day	Year 6 Beamish Trip
3rd and 4th July	All day	Year 6 Transition Days
Tuesday 15th July	9am	Year 6 Leavers Assembly
Wednesday 16th July	3:15pm	PTA Summer Fair



**Happy Birthday to all those celebrating this week Sybie
(Willow)**

Daisy (Maple)

Dylan (Maple)

Rory (Maple)

Harper (Oak)

Viola (Oak)

Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



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JUNIOR *Golf Camp*

Available to all abilities for anyone aged 5-14, the camp will include driving, iron play, short game as well as the opportunity to play on our Yearling academy course and receive on course tuition.

TUESDAY 27TH MAY | 10AM - 3PM
WEDNESDAY 28TH MAY | 10AM - 3PM
THURSDAY 29TH MAY | 10AM - 3PM

£45 | 1 DAY
£80 | 2 DAYS
£110 | FULL CAMP

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INTERNATIONAL

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28TH MAY - 1ST JUNE 2025

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16th-18th May 2025

Chatsworth Replacement Fixture
featuring CCI4*, Adv, CCI2*, Nov,
BYEH Qualifier

1

28th May-1st June 2025

*featuring CCI3*S, Int, CCI2*L,*
CCI2*S, Nov, BE105, CCI1*, BE100,
BE90 (incl. the British Pony &
Junior National Championships)

2

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Friday Flyer

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

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