



16th May 2025

Headteachers update

Well, what a week it's been at Belsay Primary! As we head into the weekend, the school has that unmistakable 'phew, we did it!' feeling in the air. The biggest news of the week, of course, has been our brilliant Year 6 pupils completing their SATs. It's been a week of head-scratching, pencil-chewing and plenty of deep breaths, but they've all tackled the tests with maturity, focus and a sprinkle of Belsay spirit!

We are so proud of how they approached the challenge - supporting each other, keeping calm and even managing the odd smile along the way. A huge well done to them all (and to the staff who have been cheerleading behind the scenes with quiet words of encouragement!). Year 6 can now look forward to enjoying their final half term packed with exciting activities, trips and of course, some well-deserved fun.

Outside the classroom, our PE sessions have been given a touch of sporting glamour this week. Thanks to the generosity of Close House Golf Club, we were visited by one of their pro golfers who delivered a fantastic golf taster session to each of our classes. It was brilliant to see children from Reception to Year 6 giving it their best swing. We witnessed some surprisingly accurate shots and a fair few 'oops where did that ball go?' moments. Perhaps we've inspired a future Open champion... or at least a few more family trips to the driving range. Thank you to Mr Smith for organising the sessions, it was a great opportunity for everyone.

Adding to the buzz of the week has been the glorious weather. Sunshine has brought smiles to faces and it's been wonderful to see the children making the most of the outdoors during playtimes and PE. Long may it continue! Speaking of making the most of the outdoors, if you're looking for something to do this weekend, don't forget the Belsay Horse Trials are happening just down the road. It's a brilliant local event that brings our community together - from thrilling equestrian displays to stalls, food and family fun. It's a fantastic way to support local businesses, enjoy the countryside and maybe spot a few of our pupils cheering on the horses.

Our week concluded with our celebrations and Hot Chocolate rewards so well done to everyone on a superb week, once again full of incredibly hard work!

I hope you have a great weekend and I'll see you Monday to start the last week of this half term, which feels like it has come around ridiculously quick.

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**.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY ON THE ROAD

Traffic-related incidents are a significant risk for young pedestrians and cyclists, so understanding road safety is crucial for children's wellbeing. While all road users share responsibility for keeping one another safe, this guide offers strategies for empowering young people to navigate the roads confidently and responsibly.

- 1 TAKE PRACTICE JOURNEYS**
Making practice journeys with children is a great way to help them stay safe, thereby modelling responsible behaviour and having road safety conversations as they prepare to travel independently. Add hazard perception activities like spotting electric vehicles - which may have a green number plate - and point out how quiet they are. Children learn by watching adults; remind them that their guess might not always be the best risk model.
- 2 BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN**
Visibility is lower during darker winter days, and drivers need to take extra care to look out for pedestrians. Wearing bright and reflective clothing can help make children more visible to drivers near roads. In poor daylight conditions, encourage children to wear light, bright or fluorescent clothing. When it's dark, wear reflective clothing or materials such as a reflective emblem or jacket.
- 3 EYES UP**
Encourage children to look up and keep their eyes on the road. Teach them to constantly watch for traffic and practice double-checking the road before crossing - looking right, left and then right again.
- 4 LIMIT DISTRACTIONS**
Where possible, devices like phones should be kept away from children while out and about near roads. If they're carrying devices, these should be put away until they've reached their destination. Children must also avoid playing with toys or being distracted by friends. If a friend wants to show them something funny on their phone, there'll be time for that once they've safely arrived.
- 5 SLOW DOWN**
Discuss the importance of waiting instead of crossing immediately. It can be tricky to judge the speed of traffic and spot hazards that could cause a trip or a fall. For safety, children must stop and think before they get to the kerb and should always walk - not run - when crossing the road. They should avoid crossing just they're certain they have plenty of time. Even if traffic seems a long way off, it could still be approaching very quickly.
- 6 STOP BEFORE THE KERB**
Teach children to stop before reaching the kerb - not right at the edge of it. Halting before they get to the kerb allows them to see if anything's coming, whereas getting too close to traffic is dangerous. If there's no pavement, children should stand back from the road's edge but ensure they can still see approaching traffic.
- 7 CROSS SAFELY**
Children should always find a safe spot to cross the road, prioritising major crossings or pedestrian crossings, footbridges or subway. Find a place where they can see traffic coming from both directions. Avoid crossing near junctions, bends in the road, or obstacles that block their view. Instead moving to somewhere they can see and be seen. Remind them to use their eyes and ears together when checking the road, or sometimes they can hear traffic before they can see it. Looking and listening while crossing helps them quickly spot traffic, including cyclists and motorcyclists driving between other vehicles.
- 8 PARKED VEHICLES**
Crossing between parked vehicles is very dangerous. Teach children to use extra caution if crossing in this way, and, ideally, avoid it altogether. They should use the outside edge of a vehicle as if it were the kerb, leaning and checking for traffic before crossing. They should ensure vehicles aren't about to move, by looking for drivers in the vehicles and listening for engine rattling - but remember that electric vehicles may move off silently. They should always make sure there is a gap between any parked vehicles on the other side, so they can reach the pavement.
- 9 REVERSING VEHICLES**
Children must never cross behind a reversing vehicle - it's extremely dangerous. Remind them to look for white reversing lights and listen out for warning sounds. Can they hear the engine sound or a radio playing inside the vehicle?
- 10 WAIT FOR THE BUS TO LEAVE**
When getting off a bus, children must wait for it to leave before crossing so they can have a clear view of the road in both directions. This also allows them to see and be seen by other road users. Crossing near large vehicles is particularly dangerous and should be avoided.



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 96.18% Our **NEW** target for Whole School Attendance is 97%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	98%	97.16%
Maple	97.50%	96.27%
Alder	95.24%	95.97%
Oak	97.69%	96.28%

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

Another fantastic week for all of us in Willow class this week and what wonderful weather we have had to enjoy it. Sadly no water fight this week, however we have had a lot of fun playing with our new water wall, chutes and water pump. It has been lovely to see the children enjoying our new outdoor equipment that has started to arrive. This week our fabulous PTA have agreed to fund half of the money towards a new mud kitchen which will be a great addition to the outdoor area. Next week we will have workmen building our own mini gazebo. This will provide an outdoor work space that can be used in all weathers. We had a donation from one of our families in school which has allowed us to be able to do this. During the half term holidays we will see the current flooring in the outdoor area taken up and replaced with a brand new sensory flooring. None of this is possible without the support of a lot of people especially Mr Shaw and Mrs Leightley (Pele Trust finance officer) who are in charge of the money we are able to spend, so a big thank you must go to both of them as well. We are looking forward to seeing the work being completed next week and we have already prepared lots of questions for the builders about their job, materials and the task at hand.



Not only have we been having a lot of fun, but we have continued to work hard this week as well. We have enjoyed reading the story of Little Red Riding Hood. We have made our own masks and used them to act out the story. It has been lovely to see the children so confident to take on different roles. We have also enjoyed reading Little Red Riding Hood and the Sweet Little Wolf. This is a story that is very different to the traditional tale.

On Wednesday we enjoyed working with KS1 to continue the work Miss Dixon had started on Mental health and wellbeing. We discussed this year's mental health awareness focus on 'community'. We drew around one member of our group and then thought about all of the important people in our community. We discussed what a community is and why it is so important to have strong support from the community we feel part of. It was great to hear the children discussing who they have in their community and the wider world community.

I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend. Long may this weather continue!

Miss Houghton

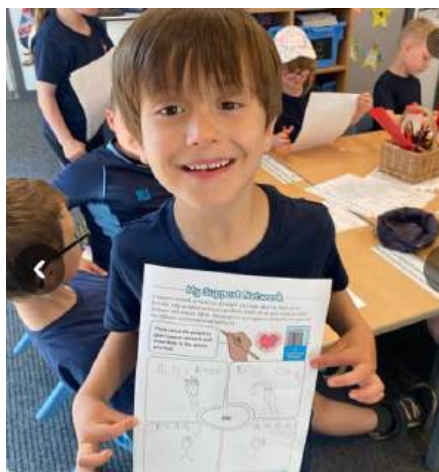


Classroom updates - Maple Class

Maple Class have been enjoying the sunshine this week but have still been working hard in all of their school subjects. In Maths, Year 1 have been counting confidently in 2s and 10s, using their knowledge to tackle some challenging reasoning questions. Meanwhile, Year 2 have been applying their understanding of mass to solve problems using all four operations. Both Year Groups showed great resilience and problem-solving strategies.

In English, we continued our study of *The Lion and the Unicorn*. The children created fantastic storyboards and Writing Toolkits to help them prepare to rewrite the story in their own words next week. We're looking forward to celebrating some wonderful writing using all of the fantastic new vocabulary we have learnt from the text.

In PSHE we discussed Children's Mental Health Week, the children explored what mental health means and shared thoughtful ideas about how we can look after ourselves and support others. We had meaningful discussions about the different communities we belong to, both in and out of school, and talked about the importance of trusted friends and adults we can rely on when we need help. It's been a wonderful opportunity to reflect on kindness, empathy, and emotional wellbeing.



Miss Dixon



Friday Flyer

Classroom updates- Alder class



Another fantastic week in Alder Class and what beautiful weather we have had.

Maths this week has seen a continuation of measurement in Year 3 and decimals in Year 4. Both year groups are grasping these topics really well. In English we have been developing and revising skills to use in our big write at the end of next week. We wrote some beautiful sentences containing fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases. What a difference this is making to our writing. We will finish revising how to punctuate speech correctly before planning and writing stories based on our class text Stone Age Boy.

Drama was the focus in Science this week as we have explored the process of pollination. What fun we had! We made headbands to help represent flowers and bees and post-it notes were used for pollen. The most popular props were the sweets that represented nectar, these were held in a lanyard around the flower's neck.

We took advantage of the weather and ventured outdoors for Art. These last two weeks of the half term are focussing on exploring Stone Age Art. The hand cave paintings came out really well and the grass weaving looked very therapeutic. Next week we will swap groups and have a go at drawing bison with charcoal, a medium we last used back in September.

We hope the weather lasts and you all have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Aynsley & Mrs Rutter



Friday Flyer

Classroom updates - Oak Class

A Friday message from an incredibly proud teacher.

And that's that! Year 6 have completed their SATs and we could not be prouder of them. It's always a tough week, but the resilience all of the children have shown has been absolutely outstanding through every single paper. Their attitude from the moment they have walked through the door for breakfast club, to the moment we have collected their papers, has been absolutely impeccable towards the whole process. I don't want to dwell on it too much as none of these papers will ever define how wonderful our children are, but I couldn't finish the week without praising them one last time! Well done team!

Year 5s have been busy too. Working with Mr. A, they have produced some fantastic work on what Belsay means to them. From powerpoints to artwork, it really has been a truly wonderful cross curricular effort that all the children can be incredibly proud of.

In the afternoons, we have re-convened and spent some time in our outdoor areas, building dens, conducting traffic surveys, fine tuning our football skills and choreographing dances. And what a week of weather we have had for it too!

There are some lovely trips and activities planned for next week and we can't wait to get going! See you on Monday for another crazy week! (Maybe with some more water fights?)



Mr. McLeod



Friday Flyer

Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
20th May	Morning	Year 4 Quad Kids
21st May	All day	Maple Class trip to Laing Art Gallery
21st May	All day	Oak Class trip to Discovery Museum
22nd May	11:30am	Year 4 Come Dine with Me
22nd May	Afternoon	Year 6 Celebration meal
23rd May	All day	Break the Rules Day

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



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AND BETTER THAN EVER!

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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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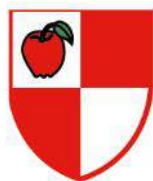
Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025



Belsay Daycare Open Afternoon

Saturday 17th May
12 noon - 2pm

All parents & children,
& new families are welcome!

Tombola, crafts, games & refreshments

Meet our outstanding team &
hear about exciting new plans for the
outdoor area!

AGM from 1pm, all welcome!

www.belsaydaycare.co.uk



Friday Flyer

[To register for Instrumental or Vocal Lessons please click here.](#)

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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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