



**9th May 2025**

## Headteachers update

I am not quite sure how we got to Friday so quickly - these four day weeks are welcome but very much throw me out of sync! Well done to everyone this week for adapting better than me and getting through a tonne of work. It seems the children can definitely work hard and play hard whereas in days gone by it may have been more work a little and play lots when the sun is shining. A sure time of our children now striving for excellence in all that they do.

This week has been a special one as we have joined the Nation to mark the momentous occasion for the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Throughout the week we have discussed the meaning behind this and I have been amazed and even some of the youngest children can tell me facts about the war. To mark this event we decided to hold a 'Street Party' at lunchtime which was an absolute delight! The children, wearing red, white or blue, sat at tables in the playground surrounded by bunting and balloons to enjoy a spot of lunch, courtesy of the fabulous Mrs Hayes. We played traditional songs from the era such as Vera Lynn and The Andrews Sisters as well as a few modern classics to help the party flow.



Today has got back to our tradition of Hot Chocolate and Celebration Assemblies so a big well done to all our superstars this week because there were a lot! It goes to show just how much hard work can be achieved in such a short amount of time.

As we close out this week, I want to wish all of our Year 6 pupils the best of luck with their SATs which start on Monday. I am so proud of them for working so hard to get to this point and I have every faith that they will do us proud!

I hope you have a wonderful weekend and enjoy the sunshine. See you on Monday for week 3.

**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**.

### 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators MANAGING EXAM STRESS

At some point in their education, children are almost certain to encounter exam stress, which can cast a shadow over their mental, emotional and physical wellbeing. Mental health charity YoungMinds estimate that a staggering 87% of pupils suffer from exam stress – highlighting the urgent need to minimise its impact on children's health and happiness.

- 1 PRACTISE WORKLOAD WISDOM**  
The build up to exam season is such a busy and pressured time in a child's education that it can be difficult for youngsters to avoid feeling overwhelmed. Encourage them to consider whether their current workload is realistic and allow them sufficient time to relax and recharge. Work with them in crafting a revision timetable that's manageable and includes breaks and occasional days off.
- 2 ADVISE CLEARING THE CLUTTER**  
A disorganised work environment is proven to negatively affect our ability to focus, as well as our emotional state. Encourage children to keep their desk, notes and revision materials tidy – creating a dedicated, well-lit study space to promote maximum focus. Foster their creativity by suggesting they incorporate vibrant colours, mind maps and even quirky drawings into their revision notes.
- 3 MASTER THE MATERIALS TOGETHER**  
Revision seems far harder when a child is uncertain where to begin or what source to consult. Support them in confirming revision materials with their various teachers – emphasising the importance of gathering a range of resources to get a more comprehensive understanding of the subject. Feeling more prepared should nurture the child's confidence and help to dispel some of their anxiety.
- 4 RECOMMEND CREATIVE NOTE-TAKING**  
Writing out notes in full – rather than simply bullet pointing – can be a strong start to a child's revision. Reinforce this idea, encouraging the use of flashcards (featuring shorter versions of previously taken notes) for effective repetition and memorisation. Discuss the power of regularly reviewing notes to help them stay in the child's memory.
- 5 USE VISUAL AIDS AND MNEMONICS**  
Encourage the use of visual aids like videos and sticky notes to enhance learning. Some children find these resources far more useful than simply reading their notes as writers. Explore creating mnemonics for a fun and effective study approach – and it's also worth noting that the strategic use of colours is a proven means of triggering recall during exams.
- 6 GATHER A 'TECH TOOLKIT'**  
Technology can be a huge advantage in exam prep. Educational YouTube channels and revision websites like BBC Bitesize can be immensely powerful resources for helping children to expand and retain their knowledge. You could also recommend the use of flashcard apps and educational podcasts for revision and reminders when young people are on the go.
- 7 KEEP IT FUN**  
Revision tends to go far more smoothly if children are having fun in the process. Injecting some humour into their notes, for instance, can make details more memorable – as can relating information to their real-life experiences. Try to encourage a variety of study methods, such as incorporating physical activity (even simply taking a walk) into their revision routine.
- 8 SUGGEST ACTIVE REVISION STRATEGIES**  
Make sure children are aware of different study techniques. You could emphasise the effectiveness of spaced repetition by reviewing material regularly over time to reinforce learning and improve retention. Discuss the benefits of active recall methods – such as self-testing or explaining a concept aloud – in identifying where their strengths and weaknesses lie.
- 9 ENCOURAGE A POSITIVE MINDSET**  
It can be easy for children's thoughts to fall into a downward spiral when they're stressed about exams. Try to foster a growth mindset by emphasising the importance of giving it their all rather than aiming for complete perfection. Positive self-talk and the use of affirmations can build confidence and reduce anxiety, while visualising success and setting realistic goals can help them stay motivated and focused.
- 10 HELP THEM TO SEIZE THE DAY**  
There are lots of things children can do on the day of their exam to reduce stress and increase their focus. Talk them through some helpful exam-day strategies – such as arriving early, reading the instructions and the questions carefully, and pacing themselves during the test. Suggest some relaxation techniques, such as deep breathing or visualisation, to help them manage any nerves before and during the exam.



## 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	100%	96.89%
Maple	90.63%	95.98%
Alder	95.24%	96%
Oak	96.15%	96.23%

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.

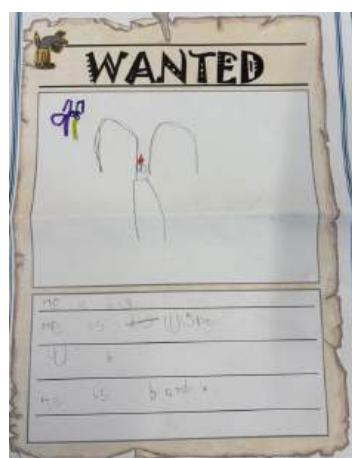
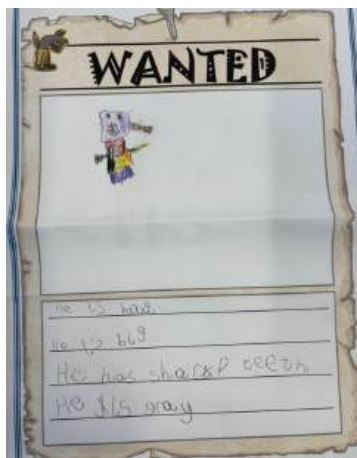
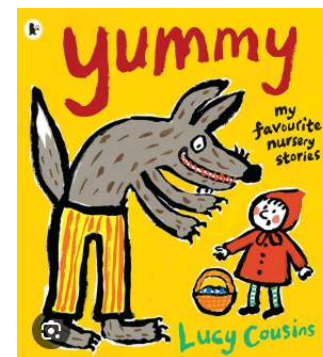


# Friday Flyer

## Classroom updates - Willow Class

This week has flown over but it might have been helped by the fact we got to spend longer together with our families. It has been lovely to see all of the lovely activities you have completed. Thank you for sharing your photos on Tapestry. The children love sharing the photos together.

This week we have been focusing on the story The Three Little Pigs. This is a story the children know very well and they enjoy joining in with retelling the story together. We have read different versions of the same story to see what changes we can notice. We have also thought about writing our own story and thinking about what we would change. Some of us decided we would change the little pigs to little lambs and the big bad wolf would be Mr Shaw. We enjoyed telling the story with the changes! We also made our own wanted poster to tell Mummy Pig what the Big Bad Wolf looks like. Next week we will focus on the story Little Red Riding Hood. Who knows what changes we will make to this story.



On Thursday we had a very special day to celebrate VE day. We enjoyed a delicious lunch cooked by Mrs Hayes. In the morning we had made our own flags and we were excited to take these with us to show Mrs Hayes. It was lovely to see preschool during lunchtime, we really enjoyed seeing our friends. In the afternoon we enjoyed spending time with Miss Dixon and KS1 to complete VE day activities. We learned why VE day was so important and how it is celebrated across the country.

I have added photos of the writing and VE day celebrations to Tapestry if you get a chance and would like to look at them.  
Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Houghton



## Classroom updates - Maple Class

It has been another busy and exciting week in Maple Class! In English, we've been exploring the suffixes *-ness* and *-iness* and learning how to add them to root words to change their meaning. The children have enjoyed discovering how words like *kind* become *kindness* and *happy* turns into *happiness*. We've been putting our new knowledge into practice by writing creative and imaginative sentences using our new vocabulary.

As part of our Kaleidoscope Art, we've been thinking carefully about our Linking Project questions: *Who are we? Who are they? How do we all live together?*. After thinking about the beautiful surroundings of Belsay and the vibrant cityscape of Newcastle, we decided to merge the landmarks surrounding each school that make where we live so special. First we closely studied photographs and experimented with pastels in our sketchbooks, exploring different shades and colour combinations. The children then created overlapping sketches combining iconic landmarks from both Belsay and Newcastle. These imaginative artworks are now being developed into final pieces for the upcoming Kaleidoscope exhibition – we can't wait to share them with you!

Thursday was a particularly special day in school as we celebrated VE Day. We learned all about the importance of this historic event and then took part in a fantastic street party on the school yard. With wartime music playing, we tucked into traditional treats like fish and chips and corned beef pies. It was a joyful way to bring history to life and helped us connect with our class text *The Lion and the Unicorn*, set during the war.



Miss Dixon



## Classroom updates- Alder class



What a busy week we have had in Alder Class this week. In English, we've been learning about fronted adverbials and how they can add depth to our sentences. We have enjoyed designing our own Stone Age characters and writing creative character descriptions including metaphors and similes.

In Maths, Year 3 have continued to work on mass this week, looking at kilograms and grams as well as adding and subtracting weights. We are moving on to capacity and volume next week. Year 4 have started their decimals topic and were amazed when looking at sprint races how much difference one hundredth of a second could make. We have been learning how to create decimal numbers this week and add them onto number lines.

Thursday was a very special day with our VE Day celebrations. We learned all about the history of the event, enjoyed our school street party in the yard and made some fantastic presentations about the day. My highlight was our class sing-a-long at the end of the day, where we sang some wartime classics - Long Way to Tipperary and Pack up Your Troubles.

In Science we continue to learn about plants. This week we looked at the plants around the school and thought about how each one is adapted to its environment. We explored many different plant habitats, including coastal, desert, woodland and many more. Next week we will have our final lesson for this topic, we will use drama and games to explore the process of pollination.

Our Kaleidoscope project has almost come to an end, and what a beautiful piece of artwork we have to show for it. The children also created their own individual pieces in the sketchbooks. Such a lovely way to explore what makes Belsay special and how this differs from all the ways that make our link school in Kenya special.

**Mrs Aynsley & Mrs Rutter**



## Classroom updates - Oak Class

One might be led to believe that a four day week would be a somewhat quieter affair. Not at Belsay. With one final big push before SATs for Year 6 next week, we have worked hard, we have worked smart and we have worked ourselves into a position where we are 100% ready to take them on. Whatever happens, we are so proud of our Year 6s.

Loads of brilliant stuff in the classroom has been happening too. Our character descriptions have once again shown what a brilliant flare so many of our children have for creative writing. With their words, they have painted wonderful pictures of their favourite characters from our key text, *The Accidental Prime Minister* by Tom McLaughlin.

A functions focus in Maths has demonstrated some brilliant fluency. It has been particularly impressive to see how fluent and confident so many of us are in arithmetic questions that require more than one or two steps. The explanations behind our calculations have also included some brilliant language.

As we waved goodbye to Geography for another term, we began our History unit on the Ancient Greeks and did a fabulous job of indicating when and where they existed in History on both a timeline and a map respectively.

I know parents of Year 6 will be thinking about next week over the weekend. Please, let me assure you, there is no pressure from our end. These are wonderful children and no SATs paper will ever indicate how much we think of them. Have a peaceful and stress free 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	
12th May	All week	Year 6 SATS Week
16th May	Morning	Year 4 morning at Belsay Hall
16th May	Afternoon	Pele Trust Basketball event at Darras Hall Yr 3 and 4
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
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



# Friday Flyer



**Happy Birthday to all those celebrating this week**

**Olive (Alder)**

## Keep Clear of our school keep clears



SCHOOL — KEEP — CLEAR

Always park away from the zig zag lines; they are here for our safety. 😊



**Safer Parking**  
around our school

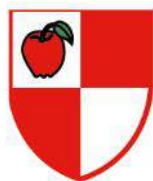
Belsay Primary School

# 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](http://www.belsaydaycare.co.uk)



# Friday Flyer

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

## 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.

**AT MUSIC PARTNERSHIP NORTH WE ARE ALL ABOUT:**

**LEARNING | MUSIC | UNLOCKING POTENTIAL**

**FOLLOW THE [LINK](#), REGISTER YOUR INTEREST AND WE WILL CONTACT YOU**

THERE ARE MULTIPLE PRICE OPTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL TO LARGE GROUP

#### 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>

