



2nd May 2025

Headteachers update

Welcome back to the summer term at Belsay! We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Easter break. The sunshine has certainly helped to lift everyone's spirits and it's been a real joy to see the children return to school with such energy, big smiles and a fantastic attitude to learning. With only a few weeks of this half term it is imperative that every minute of every day counts.

A special mention must go to our wonderful Year 6 pupils, who have come back with real purpose and maturity as they head towards their SATs in 10 days time. They're showing great focus, resilience and support for each other – a real credit to themselves and to the school. We're very proud of the way they're preparing and we'll be right alongside them every step of the way.



Meanwhile, in true Belsay style, there's been plenty of teamwork on display as we've transformed our Invention Shed into a now very purposeful 'Intervention Shed!' Whilst we can continue to use this space for arts and crafts we felt that it could be utilised further so with a bit of muscle and a lot of collaboration, it's become a bright and calm space for targeted support and learning – and we're already seeing the benefits. Huge thanks to everyone who played a part in the transformation!

It's been a lovely start to the term – full of sunshine, smiles, and the Belsay spirit shining through.

Next week is the 80th anniversary of VE Day which will be marked on Thursday 8 May – signalling eight decades since the end of the Second World War in Europe. We are very excited for our themed lunch and children are welcome to come into school wearing something red, white or blue.

It seems like we are just back and we already have 3 days off, so I hope you have a wonderful weekend and you have something nice planned. Fingers crossed the weather stays as glorious as it has been all this week. See you on Tuesday morning!

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**.

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 Media Trust has advised that entertainment usage has recently increased to new highs. To promote a safer and more responsible gaming culture among young people – with parents and carers – we've helped 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 video games are safe for your child is no simple task. In fact, some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which could be potentially harmful. Before your child plays, it's best to do a bit of research. Look for a particular game, check the parental controls and read reviews. Allow your child to look up the game on their own, but make sure you're aware of the content. The best way to do this is to look at the game's rating and check the content. If you're unsure, ask the game's developer or publisher for more information.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS
Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in moderation. This is especially important if your child is playing for long periods. Encourage your child to take breaks every hour or so. You can also encourage your child to take breaks when they feel tired or when they need to go to the toilet. Encourage your child to take breaks when they feel stressed or when they need to talk to someone.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS
There's no doubt that gaming can be a fun and exciting activity. However, it's important to set boundaries around spending. Agree a budget for your child's gaming. This could be a set amount of money each week or month. Encourage your child to save up for new games or accessories. Encourage your child to be responsible with their money.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS
Children often ignore the age ratings on games or other content. They may want to play a game that's rated for older children. Encourage your child to read the age rating and understand what it means. Encourage your child to talk to you about the game's content. Encourage your child to be responsible with their gaming.

MEET OUR EXPERT
Dr. Sarah Johnson, a child psychologist, explains why it's important to set boundaries around gaming. She says that gaming can be a fun and exciting activity, but it's important to set boundaries around spending and time. Encourage your child to be responsible with their gaming.

FACTOR IN FRIENDS
If your child is a fan of 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 Media Trust has advised that entertainment usage has recently increased to new highs. To promote a safer and more responsible gaming culture among young people – with parents and carers – we've helped 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.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER
Gaming can be a fun and exciting activity. However, it's important to set boundaries around spending and time. Encourage your child to be responsible with their gaming. Encourage your child to talk to you about the game's content. Encourage your child to be responsible with their gaming.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS
Gaming can be a fun and exciting activity. However, it's important to set boundaries around spending and time. Encourage your child to be responsible with their gaming. Encourage your child to talk to you about the game's content. Encourage your child to be responsible with their gaming.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS
A frequent problem when gaming is dealing with trolls. Encourage your child to be responsible with their gaming. Encourage your child to talk to you about the game's content. Encourage your child to be responsible with their gaming.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday



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	100%	96.80%
Maple	93.91%	96.14%
Alder	98.10%	96.02%
Oak	99.23%	96.24%

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

What a great first week back at school! It has been lovely to see (via tapestry) and hear about all of the lovely adventures you have all had during the Easter holidays. You certainly have made the most of your time together.

This week we have been on chicken duty which has meant we got to see the chickens everyday. We have shown the school value collaboration when making sure the chickens have enough food and water as well as a clean coup. We have made good use of our time in the gardening area by helping to water the plants in a truly unique Willow class way! We have used water soakers to water the plants. Everyone has been very sensible and only watered the plants.



On Thursday we had a lot of fun together... all week the children have been asking if we could have a water fight so we worked together to plan it all. We wrote lists of what we would like to happen including which water soakers we would need. We even wrote a playlist of music we would like to listen to! After lunch we had the best time ever in the outdoor area having a water fight and staying cool in the sun. Flynn said it was "the best school day he has ever had and never wants to leave Willow class!". A big thank you to all of the parents for embracing this and sending in spare clothes, sun hats and suncream.



Have a lovely long weekend, fingers crossed this lovely weather is here to stay for a little bit longer!

Miss Houghton



Friday Flyer

Classroom updates - Maple Class

Maple Class had a brilliant first week of the Summer term and began their study of the new class text, *The Lion and the Unicorn* by Shirley Hughes. We started the week with reciprocal reading, making thoughtful predictions before opening the book and working together to clarify unfamiliar vocabulary. The children showed great curiosity as they studied the illustrations, using them to infer meaning and spark discussion. They wrote accurately punctuated questions about their favourite images, helping us explore the story more deeply as a class. Later in the week, we focused on the powerful opening passage set in wartime London. After identifying the nouns in the text, the children thought carefully about the language used to describe the setting. They then stepped into the shoes of an illustrator and created their own drawings to match the descriptive writing.

In PSHE, we learned about the importance of staying safe on farms. We began by discussing what farm safety means and why it's so important, especially when visiting working farms. The children were introduced to three key rules to remember during a farm visit, which they explored through discussion and role play. Using their new knowledge, the class then examined two different farm setting images and worked together to identify potential hazards, demonstrating thoughtful awareness of the risks and how to stay safe.

In Science, we launched our new biology unit by exploring the main parts of a plant. The children worked in pairs to sketch and label diagrams, identifying the roots, stem, leaves, and flowers. They showed great teamwork and scientific thinking as they explained the function of each part to their peers in small groups. It was lovely to see how clearly the children communicated their understanding and how proud they were of their detailed diagrams.



Miss Dixon



Classroom updates- Alder class

Welcome back Alder Class. What a fantastic first week back we have had this week. It has been great to hear about the fun you have had over Easter. We have all come back to school refreshed and ready for the half term ahead. We loved seeing all of the Y3 parents this week for Come Dine with Me and are excited to see Y4 parents before half term.



In literacy, we have started the term with a new class text *Stone Age Boy* by Satoshi Kitamura. We have immersed ourselves in Om's adventure back in history and been fascinated by how different life was. We've made predictions about the text, sequenced events and used a setting picture to create upscaled sentences using colourful semantics!

In Science we have continued to learn about plants and had lots of fun dissecting daffodils at the start of the week. We were also able to separate the tomato seed saplings we had grown to enable everyone to take their very own sapling home. It was lovely to hear how the pea plants are coming on.

Art this week has seen the completion of our Kaleidoscope Kenyan Flag project and it looks fantastic. It will look wonderful with all the other Pele Trust art when displayed at the exhibition.

On Thursday afternoon in History, we started to look at the timeline of the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. We were amazed at how much happened in Britain during this prehistoric period and spent time exploring the timeline in the playground to find key events and dates. We are all looking forward to delving deeper into life in the Stone Age next week!



Year 4 are continuing to work hard on their multiplication practice ahead of the checks in June. Please continue to practice at home using Times Table Rock Stars - we can see the improvements you are all making! Year 3 have started a new unit on measurements looking at kilograms and grams and how to use scales to measure. Year 4 have concluded their fractions unit this week and move on to start looking at decimals.

Well done for all your hard work this week Alder Class. Have a good weekend and we look forward to seeing you all next week for another busy week.

Mrs Aynsley & Mrs Rutter



Classroom updates - Oak Class

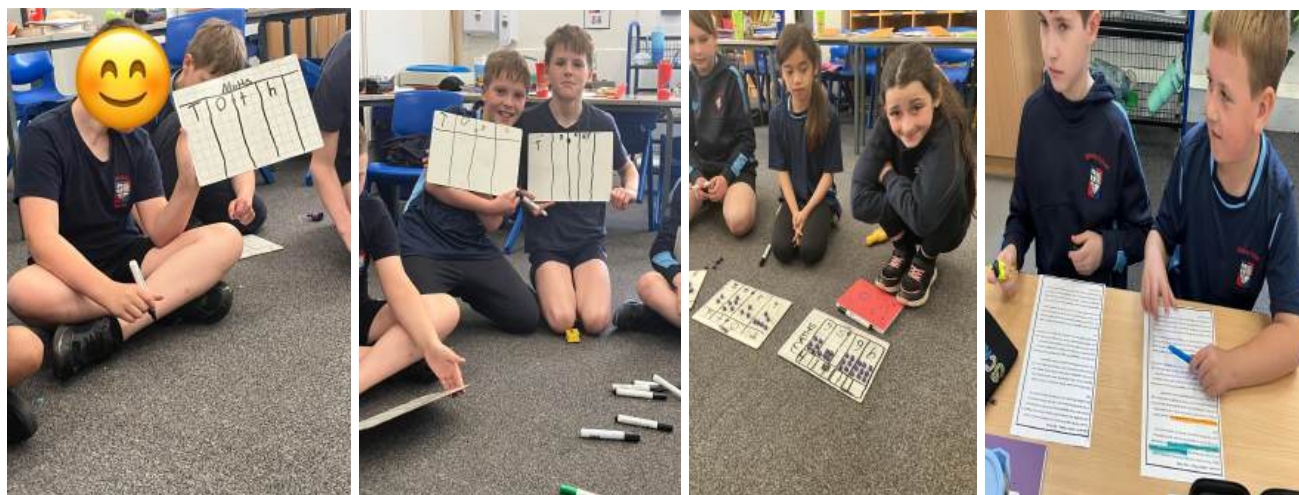
Welcome back Team Oak! It's like we have never been away. With this term being so short, we have had to hammer the learning this week. The children have come back fresh and have really thrown themselves into it though.

SATs prep (shhhhhh!) might very well be ticking away in the background, but this has not affected our timetable as we have been working towards a Character Description in Literacy. It has been such a pleasure to read their work so far! With all the different types of writing that we have done over this year, I had almost forgotten what a fantastic group of creative writers we have. The vocabulary in particular has been outstanding. We can't wait to get to the finished articles.

Our Geography topic has drawn to a close with a discussion around Global Warming. There have been some really strong views on the subject but the most impressive thing once, once again, the maturity of the children as they discussed their views and potential solutions. The children's engagement in our "new look" curriculum has been tremendous. We are looking forward to getting back to some History (Ancient Greeks) very soon.

Thank you for your continued hard work at home. We are seeing some great progress, particularly in spelling and reading. Don't forget to be writing in your Reading Diaries and sending them into school to rack up your Bookwork Points 😊

Have a great weekend everyone!



Mr. McLeod



Friday Flyer

Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
8th May	Lunchtime	VE Day Celebrations
12th May	All week	Year 6 SATS Week
16th May	Afternoon	Pele Trust Basketball event at Darras Hall
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

Rogan (Alder)

Poppy (Oak)

Keep Clear of our school keep clears



Safer Parking
around our school



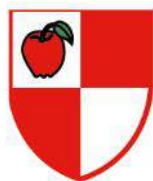
Belsay Primary School

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



Friday Flyer



Autism Central
For parents and carers

Northumberland In-Person Learning Workshops

**Wednesday 9th April
10am-12pm Prudhoe
Family Hub, Broomhouse
Lane, NE425FT**

**Wednesday 7th May 10am-
12pm Blyth Family Hub,
103 Wright Street,
NE241HG**



*"Very helpful sessions,
with lots of tips
and advice"*



www.autismcentral.org.uk/NEandY

Autism Central
is funded by:



Autism Central is delivered in North East
and Yorkshire England by:



**DAISY
CHAIN**
Autism & Neurodiversity

Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



The perfect way for girls aged 5-11 years to get involved with Football

Wild CATS
GIRLS' FOOTBALL

Make Friends

ENGLAND FOOTBALL #LET GIRLS PLAY

TIME AND DATE Saturday 10-11am	LOCATION Ponteland Community Primary 3G Pitch	SCAN ME:
WHO WE ARE Ponteland United FC		£ COST £3 per week
NEXT STEPS Email womenssecretary@pontelandunitedfc.com		



Friday Flyer

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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.

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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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Friday Flyer



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OR WENT TO SCHOOL THERE OR PARENTS LIVE THERE?

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chair@sirthomaswiddringtontrust.org

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