



11th April 2025

Headteachers update

We have done it! Well done to everyone for making it to the Easter Holidays because this has been one of the longest Spring terms I can remember. I want to take a moment to reflect on everything we've achieved together—and to say a heartfelt thank you for your continued support.

It has been a term filled with energy, progress and a real sense of community spirit. From the fantastic residentials and trips, to curriculum projects around Made in the North East, that have truly brought learning to life, the children have shown great resilience, curiosity and joy in their learning.

The children continue to make us proud every day, not just with their academic achievements but with the kindness and care they show one another. It's been a pleasure to see them grow in confidence and character as the term has gone on. Staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure learning remains ambitious and exciting for every child this term as we continue to refine and strengthen our curriculum, including in areas like PSHE, History and Geography, ensuring it meets the needs of all our pupils and reflects our high expectations.

Next term, a key event will be our Year 6 SATs, the children have worked incredibly hard so I know they are ready to tackle them head on. Also next term we should see some exciting new changes occurring to the outdoor area in Reception. We are hoping for some new resurfacing and some new equipment so already lots to look forward to. A reception child even asked me to consider a school dog this week which is certainly food for thought!

A special thank you to our wonderful families, too. Your involvement - whether through supporting homework, attending school events or simply sharing a kind word at the gate - makes all the difference. Thank you also for Easter Bonnet and Decorative Eggs, some truly incredible designs I'm sure you'd agree.

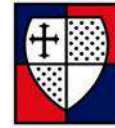
Friday finished with our Hot Chocolate and Celebrations so well done to everyone involved and to all our winners for this term - another true example of how amazing the children are at Belsay!

As we now head into the Easter break, I hope everyone gets the chance to rest, recharge and enjoy some quality time with family. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for the Summer Term on **Monday 28th April**, ready for more exciting learning and sunshine (hopefully!).

Wishing you all a very happy Easter.

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**.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

Minecraft is a beloved classic of modern gaming, still boasting over 160 million players who happily return to it at least once every month. The game has also been used in schools to teach coding, science and other skills. Encouraging creativity, Minecraft has plenty to offer, and it's available on almost all video game platforms.

AGE RATING: 7+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVERS
Joining a public Minecraft server lets children potentially interact with strangers through text chat. Some servers focus on building, while others are dedicated to playing mini-games or competitive modes that pit players against each other. Anyone can join a public server and connecting to one is relatively simple. A public server's IP address is easy to find with search engines and can potentially be used to determine the host's location.

GRIEFING
Some people in Minecraft delight in purposefully damaging or destroying another player's creations. This is called "griefing" and is a form of bullying; it intentionally spoils someone else's experience in the game by deleting hours of their work and forcing them to start from scratch. Many public servers treat griefing as a severe offence and frequently ban offenders.

ADDICTIVENESS
Minecraft's gameplay is relatively simple and seeing the result of hours of resource gathering and building can be extremely gratifying. This can make the game highly addictive, it's easy to lose track of time while playing Minecraft, causing committed young players to forget about other activities like homework or enjoying family time.

SCARY ELEMENTS
The visual design and gameplay of Minecraft is purposefully child friendly, so there's no mature content in the game. However, some enemies might prove scary for younger players. In the game, certain creatures come out at night and are accompanied by spooky audio - such as zombie moans and skeleton bone rattles - that may be unnerving. There are also enemies called "creepers" which sneak up silently and explode, which could startle and upset young users.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES
After initially buying the game, players can make optional purchases for cosmetic items and other bonuses. Additionally, Minecraft Realms is an optional online subscription service that lets users run their own private server to play with their friends. Some games consoles also need a separate active subscription - such as PlayStation Plus - to enable online play, so multiplayer Minecraft can quickly become an expensive hobby.

Advice for Parents & Educators

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS
There are a lot of Minecraft content creators who release helpful videos about the game on YouTube and Twitch. Not all of these, however, are suitable for children. Watching these content creators' channels yourself first is a safe way to find appropriate videos to share with children. This also helps you learn more about the game itself.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE
Selecting "Creative" or "Peaceful" mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of zombies attacking you, or creepers exploding and damaging your build.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER
The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and - if necessary - ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. However, hosting a private server will cost a monthly fee.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS
It's easy for the hours to fly by while a child is playing Minecraft, so remind them to take regular breaks. This is a useful way for them to learn good time management, which they'll benefit from as they get older. It will also teach them to play their favourite games in moderation - limiting addictive behaviour and allowing them to manage their day better.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS
At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential - as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. Ensure that a child knows to never tell a stranger about themselves online, and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.



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 96.17%. Our **NEW** target for Whole School Attendance is 97%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	94.00%	96.68%
Maple	95.65%	96.22%
Alder	97.14%	95.94%
Oak	98.00%	96.12%

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

We've had a *cracking* week in Willow Class, full of curiosity, creativity and cress!

This week, the children have absolutely loved making and tasting their very own egg and cress sandwiches! We carefully observed how the cress grew from tiny seeds and talked about healthy eating while enjoying our delicious creations. Some mixed views on the sandwiches but everyone gave them a try.



In Maths, we've been diving into the number 10. The children explored number bonds, counted objects, and used ten-frames to show different ways of making 10. We're getting really confident with our numbers! Mrs Ward and Mr Mcleod were very impressed with the children and their knowledge of numbers!

During this half term we have been learning about the life cycle of a caterpillar. It has been fascinating to watch the caterpillars growing and they are starting to hang from the lid of the container which means it is almost time for them to go into their chrysalis. I will be taking them home over the half term holidays and if they transform into a butterfly I will share a video on class dojo of this. Fingers crossed they wait until we are back in school to transform.

Thank you for all your support this half term. The children have worked so hard and I am so proud of their progress. Have a restful half term break – I look forward to welcoming everyone back soon!

Miss Houghton

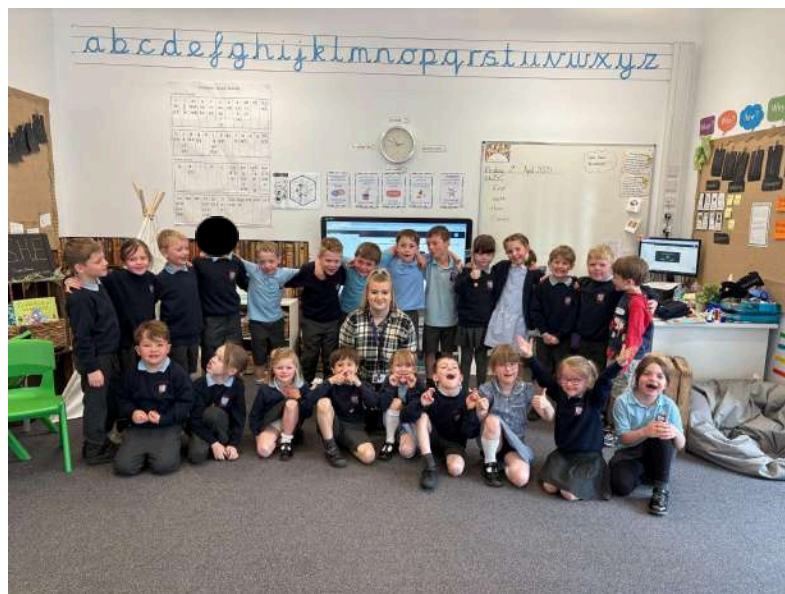


Classroom updates - Maple Class

This week in Maple Class, we've been busy exploring mass in our Maths lessons! The children have been learning how to measure and compare the mass of different objects using balance scales and non-standard units. They used their new knowledge to solve some tricky problem-solving questions and impressed our visitor, Mrs Ward, with their fantastic reasoning skills—particularly Year 1! In English, we wrote wonderful diary entries about our trip to Cragside. The children used the first person, descriptive vocabulary, and suffixes to bring their writing to life. It was so lovely to look back on our special day and remember all of the exciting things we saw and did.

In PSHE, we read *That's Not My Name* and talked about what makes our names special. We had thoughtful discussions about the British value of respect and how important it is to say each other's names with kindness.

We ended the week with lots of Easter fun, including two exciting Easter egg hunts on the school field! It was brilliant to see everyone's decorated eggs displayed in the gazebo—we loved admiring all the creative and unique designs. Today, we also said a heartfelt goodbye to Miss Oliver, who has been a fantastic student teacher in Maple Class since January. We will miss her very much and wish her every success in the next step of her teaching journey.



Thank you for all your hard work this term, Maple Class. I hope you have a brilliant Easter holiday with your families and look forward to seeing you next term.

Miss Dixon



Classroom updates- Alder class

What an amazing term we have had in Alder Class. It's hard to believe all that we have managed to fit in and this week was no exception. Everyone has worked hard on our climate change topic in English and PHSE, where we have been exploring the causes and effects of climate change and how we can be more sustainable to mitigate our impact on the climate. All of the children have shown wonderful respect, when discussing differing views on the topic. We ended the week playing a climate change game to see if we were making "green" or "red" decisions. Then, the children have all created their own leaflet to highlight climate change to others.

On top of that we have finished our wonderful river models, adding in the processes of erosion, deposition and transportation. We have all really enjoyed this topic and shown great collaboration in our team work. The children have modelled our school value of curiosity, asking meaningful questions to deepen their knowledge and understanding. We have been so impressed by their work this week and over the whole term.

This term we have achieved so much and made some great progress covering challenging topics in maths of fractions and multiplication, a wide variety of different writing styles, medieval castles and rocks and forces in Science. Not to mention the outstanding artwork, computing and music work that the children have completed.

We will keep up our focus on times tables next half term. We are all enjoying our times table songs during tidy up time. We also have some more fantastic topics for us to get excited about. Have a fantastic break - Alder Class. You have worked so hard this term and we are so proud of you all. Have a very Happy Easter break!



Mrs Aynsley & Mrs Rutter



Friday Flyer

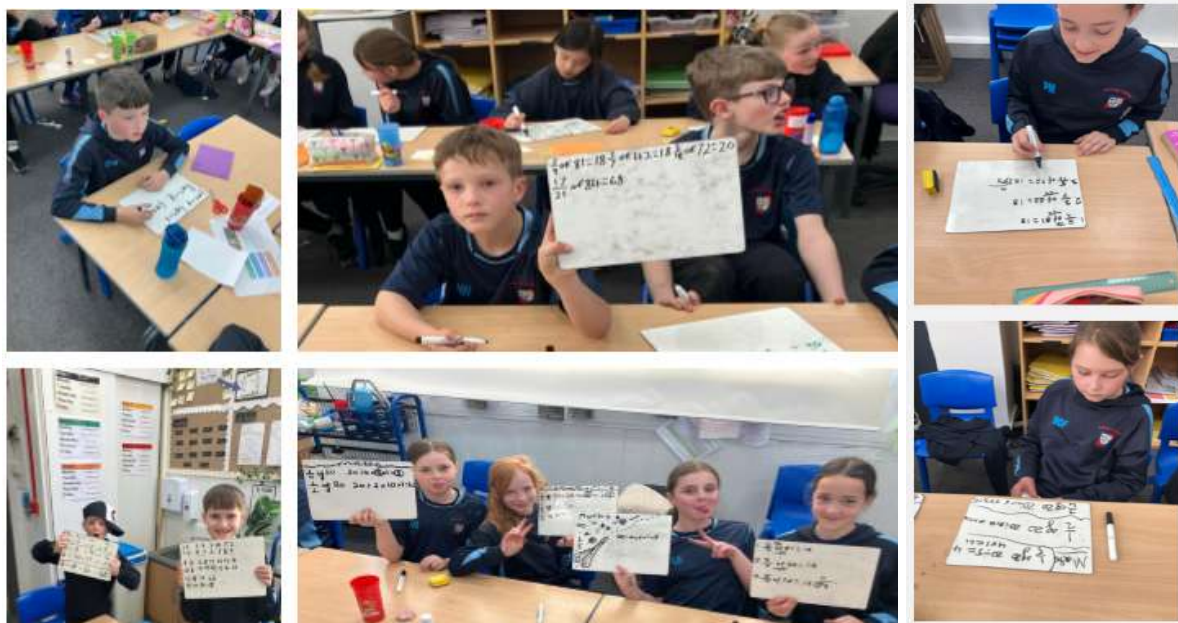
Classroom updates - Oak Class

WOW! What a term that was! We have made so much progress along so many different roads of our school journey, it would be impossible to cover them all...but let's have a go anyway!

Between Shakespeare performances, mining based visits, careers afternoons, gymnastic competitions, dance performances, KS2 residentials and many other wonderful things, there has just about been enough time left to get some teaching in!

Joking aside, the coverage we have managed over all areas of the curriculum this half term has been phenomenal. The children have shown their impeccable resilience and versatility throughout some really meaty topics such as Human Life Cycles in Science, Functions and Fractions in Maths, Letter Writing in English and Climate Zones in Geography. The quality of work that they have produced has been acknowledged not just by staff in school. We have had a plethora of visitors who have all been blown away by the standard of work in our books, on our displays and most importantly, in our pupil voice.

Of course, SATs will take up some of our time next term, but we certainly won't be stressing over them, or letting them affect all of the other wonderful things we have planned for our next half term. So, switch off, recharge and gear up for one more term of Belsay craziness! Happy Easter and blessings to you all!



Mr. McLeod



Friday Flyer

Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
28th April	8.45am	School reopens for all children
1st May	11:30am	Year 3 Come Dine with Me
8th May	Lunchtime	VE Day Celebrations
12th May	All week	Year 6 SATS Week
22nd May	11:30am	Year 4 Come Dine with Me (details coming soon)
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
April (Alder)**

Keep Clear of our school keep clears

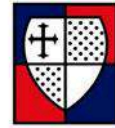


SCHOOL — KEEP — CLEAR

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

Safer Parking
around our school





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

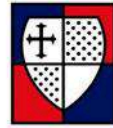
Autism Central
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Autism Central is delivered in North East
and Yorkshire England by:



**DAISY
CHAIN**
Autism & Neurodiversity



Friday Flyer

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



HOLIDAYS COVERED

We offer a range of creative and educational activities for all children from pre-school (3) to Year 6 (11) within **Darras Hall Primary** and welcome children from all local schools to join us throughout the holiday period.

- February half-term • Easter Holidays • May Half Term
- Summer Holidays • October half-term

Enjoy peace of mind knowing your children are having the best time ever with fun-filled activities in a safe, secure environment - within school grounds! And with an OFSTED-registered provider, it's a win-win for everyone.

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Book now at happydaysclub.co.uk



100% of families who joined us at Happy Days Holiday Club said their child had heaps of fun. Plus, 100% of parents would recommend us to their friends.

£30 per day, 8am-4pm
including breakfast and snack

We're proud of the
activities we offer:

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Baking
Clay animals
Dodgeball
Floor is lava
Potion making
Exploding volcanoes
Mini gardeners
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Marble ink Art

Not Just a Sports Club - Endless Fun,
Activities, and Adventures.

Book now at happydaysclub.co.uk



Friday Flyer

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

INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL LESSONS

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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."

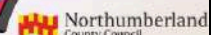


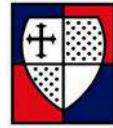
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Friday Flyer



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chair@sirthomaswiddringtontrust.org

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SIR THOMAS WIDDRINGTON (EDUCATIONAL) TRUST CHARITY NUMBER 505778