



**4th April 2025**

## Headteachers update

Welcome to the end of the penultimate week this term. I am pleased to say that it has been a slightly quieter week but with the sun shining it has been a great opportunity for some Forest School and Orienteering. I have said it in the past but I honestly can't think of a more beautiful school setting than Belsay on a sunny day.

As we approach the end of the term I have taken the opportunity to speak to a variety of children about the topics they have been learning this term. Since Christmas we have been using something called 'Make a Fuss!' which has been designed to help the children be very clear about what information they must retain and is given to them at the start of topics in subjects such as History and Geography. It appears to have been a great new approach to teaching as the children are remembering far more than what they have in previous terms - well done everyone!

On behalf of the school, I would like to thank our wonderful PTA who have very kindly agreed to purchase a new fire-pit for our children. You will have noticed that we have created a new seating area at the bottom of the hill so this will be a fantastic addition to the outdoor learning space. I know Mr A is already trying to work out what he will be cooking first once it is all set up.

Another project that we are working on and hoping to get established soon will be our Belsay Bees. Once again Mr A has worked incredibly hard to secure funding and thanks to the Hexham Bee Society, who will help us set it all up, we are hoping to have our very own apiary in the coming months.

Thank you to everyone who joined us on Thursday for our Year 2 parent lunch and to our Reception parents and carers who joined us for a stay and play. It is always lovely to have parents and carers in school and the children certainly enjoy seeing you all.

Finally this week, due to the various trips and visits that we have had over the last few weeks we have missed Hot Chocolates and Celebrations, a big part of school life here at Belsay. To make up for it, we have had two lots of celebrations this week so it has been amazing to have so many success stories in school, it really does provide a feel good factor.

As we approach the final week of term, please remember that it is a normal pick up time next Friday and don't forget that it is also our Easter Bonnet or Egg Decorations competition.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend and fingers crossed the sun keeps shining for us all.

**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**.

**What Parents & Educators Need to Know about POP-UP ADS**

Pop-up advertisements have been a staple of the internet since they were first introduced in the late 1990s. This form of advertising causes a small window or banner to appear in the foreground while someone is browsing a website. Although these adverts are merely irritating for most people, pop-ups can present more severe risks to younger users.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

- DECEPTIVE TACTICS**  
Children sometimes don't understand that adverts (including pop-ups) are designed to sell a product – and can't distinguish between a legitimate feature of a site and an advertisement. Video games, for example, can be full of pop-up ads that tempt users into spending money, yet they might take the form of a mini-game or extra level.
- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**  
While some adverts are targeted based on a user's interests and activity online, that isn't always the case. This means that children may unfortunately be exposed to ads for age-inappropriate goods or services such as tobacco products, alcohol and gambling sites.
- MALWARE RISK**  
Most pop-ups from reputable advertisers are safe. However, in some cases, pop-ups can trick you into downloading malware – whereby cybercriminals install software on your device, allowing them to access your sensitive data. It can be difficult to know if malware has been installed on your device, so your best option is to avoid engaging with these pop-ups altogether. Be wary of sites that suddenly bombard you with ads or try to prevent you from leaving.
- PRIVACY RISK**  
Many app and game developers will collect their users' personal data, such as their name, address, email address, geolocation information, unique numerical identifiers, photos and payment information. If a child clicks on an illegitimate pop-up loaded with malware, all this information could be put at risk.
- RACKING UP BILLS**  
If a child has access to a payment card on their device – be it a smartphone, laptop, or tablet – they could very quickly rack up a massive bill by interacting with pop-up adverts and buying products shown to them. Try to keep a close eye on their spending.
- BEHAVIOURAL IMPACT**  
Research has found that pop-up ads can even have an impact on children's behaviour. Some of these adverts use manipulative tactics that take advantage of children's developmental vulnerabilities, intentionally or otherwise. This approach may cause a child's mood to shift, becoming more stubborn, for example, if they begin wanting their parents to buy a specific product for them.

**Advice for Parents & Educators**

- START A CONVERSATION**  
It's important to have regular conversations with children about online advertising so that they understand the risks of interacting with pop-ups. For example, if a child asks for a product which has been advertised to them online, ask them why they want it and how they found it. This will present an opportunity to talk youngsters through the tactics used in online marketing.
- SPOT THE SIGNS**  
If you're concerned that a child may be following pop-up ads to make online purchases or viewing content that could be harmful, it's important to be able to spot the signs. Due to the often-manipulative nature of these adverts, children who interact with them regularly may show signs of distraction, stubbornness and an increasingly materialistic worldview.
- MONITOR CONTENT**  
It can often be difficult to spot when a pop-up advert is malicious – even more so for impressionable younger users. It's important to monitor the content they're consuming to prevent them from clicking on something dangerous. If a pop-up ad seems too good to be true – promising a free iPad, for example – it probably is.
- PRIVACY SETTINGS**  
Most modern devices have privacy settings that let you limit the amount of advertising a child is subjected to while using apps or browsing the internet. You may also want to speak to teachers about avoiding sites and apps with advertising, as well as adjusting digital privacy settings on any education technology they use.
- LIMIT SPENDING**  
Try to stay aware of what children are spending on and ensure that payment details aren't linked to or saved on the gaming platform that they use. Most video games and internet-enabled devices have settings that can help you manage what children can or cannot purchase online.
- CUT DOWN ON SCREEN TIME**  
Given the prevalence of pop-up ads (which can appear on everything from smartphones and tablets to internet-connected toys and games), it might be beneficial to limit the time children spend on digital devices to curb their exposure to digital advertising.



## 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 96.16%** Our **NEW** target for Whole School Attendance is 97%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	100%	96.78%
Maple	95.65%	96.24%
Alder	89.52%	95.89%
Oak	96%	96.05%

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

It is true what they say, time flies when you are having fun and that is exactly what is happening in Willow class!

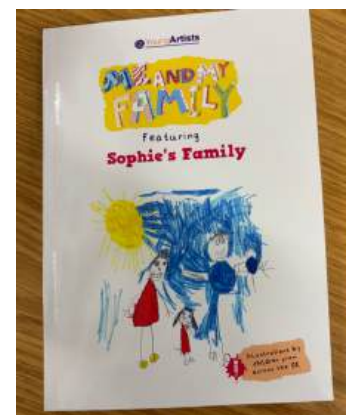
It has been great to welcome everyone into our class this week for a come and see the classroom event. A big thank you to Hallie who suggested we do this so that the children could spend time with their family in the classroom. We had a great turn out and I haven't seen Willow class so busy! I hope everyone enjoyed the chance to play some games and see what we do in the classroom. We had the perfect weather for it and we had a lot of fun in the outdoor area. It was great to see families playing with the bat and ball, painting and even having fun in the mud kitchen. A great afternoon all round!



A special parcel arrived in school on Thursday morning and it was the book that had our Artwork published in it. It has been lovely to see the children's work in a real book and they have enjoyed telling everyone that they are now the illustrator of a real book. If you would like to look at the book I have a copy in our classroom that I can share with you.

We were fantastic at having our class photo taken this week. The photographer said we are the best Reception class he has photographed this year. Well done Team Willow!

I hope everyone has a lovely weekend and let's keep everything crossed that this wonderful weather is here to stay! We are looking forward to planning our next event which will be a class water fight, not sure yet if the adults will be invited to this one, but watch this space!



**Miss Houghton**



# Friday Flyer

## Classroom updates - Maple Class

This week, Maple Class has been busy learning all about the Christian celebration of Easter. We explored why Easter is celebrated and the special traditions families enjoy, such as Easter lunch, giving chocolate eggs, taking part in Easter egg hunts, and making Easter bonnets. We also discussed how this time of year is a season of hope and new beginnings, reminding us to be grateful for all that we have. As part of our learning, we talked about the arrival of spring—how the weather is changing, the days are getting longer, and new life is appearing all around us. We identified animals that are born in spring and the flowers that begin to bloom, bringing colour back to our environment.

In Art, the children have started creating beautiful Easter cards for their families, using bright colours and creative designs. They also took great care in writing thoughtful messages inside, practising their Gold Standard handwriting. A special highlight of the week was Year 2's very first *Come Dine with Me* event, where we were delighted to welcome parents into school. It was a wonderful opportunity for families to share a delicious meal together, prepared with care by Mrs. Hayes. We are so proud of how well the children participated in all their activities this week, and we look forward to next week's RE lessons, where we will learn about the Easter story and the deeper religious meaning behind this important celebration.

Next Friday, we will also say a fond farewell to our brilliant student teacher, Miss Oliver, who has been an asset to our class and our school. We appreciate all of the fabulous lessons she has taught us and wish her the very best of luck in the next steps of her teaching career.



Miss Dixon and Miss Oliver



## Classroom updates- Alder class

This week, Alder Class has been extremely busy learning about fractions and mixed numbers in maths. They have explored equivalent fractions, fractions on number lines and adding fractions together. They have all shown fantastic resilience and perseverance when approaching more challenging questions and we have been so impressed with how hard they have been working.

In Art, the children completed some fantastic collages with Miss Dixon, focusing on what made them unique. There were some wonderfully creative designs. We have continued the focus on what makes us unique and special in RE, where we are looking at the parables that Jesus told about inclusion and the value of each one of us. We were all enthralled with our climate change topic this week, linked to our class text *The Last Bear*. We have researched the causes and effects of climate change, considering how we can help. All this information will be used to make some factual leaflets next week.

A real highlight of the week has been our work in geography. The class has been absorbed with all things rivers. We have learned a lot of new terminology and on Thursday used everything we have learnt to create our own river diagrams. The children worked in teams and showed great creativity and amazing teamwork skills. Although our designs were all different, we had all captured the key learning. We finished our river focus with an experiment with a snow globe. This helped us to understand the river processes of transportation and deposition.

Well done Alder Class. You have worked extremely hard this week. Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you all next week.

## Mrs Aynsley & Mrs Rutter





## Classroom updates - Oak Class

Some normality this week? Yes, sort of! Has it been any less busy? Absolutely not! We have been hammering the curriculum this week and have had a really good run at it across all subjects and the results have been excellent. Let's have a look at the week, subject by subject!

**ENGLISH:** We have been tightening the nuts and bolts around some of our more common grammar and punctuation features. We have developed a good grasp on apostrophes for contraction and have applied these brilliantly, particularly in the build up to our Big Write, which will be an informal letter.

**MATHS:** Year 5s have been adding mixed numbers and are really getting to grips with their strategies whilst the Year 6s have been discovering that algebra really isn't so bad after all!

**SCIENCE:** Miss Dixon and Mr. McLeod split the group to look at the rate of baby development in their first year of life. We worked on our Data, Graphs and Tables strand and produced some brilliant line graphs and were even able to compare two sets of data whilst doing this.

**R.E.:** Baptism took the focus this week as we explored the different ways this Rite of Passage can take its form in the Christian Faith.

**P.S.HE:** We explored our emotions and the long term effect that they can have on our mental health and how this might look different for other people.

**GEOGRAPHY:** Absolute uproar as we discovered that deserts can be both hot and cold!

**MUSIC/FRENCH:** Mme. Humes and Mrs. Wigham, as usual, provided their expertise. We are so lucky to have these specialists in our school each week to harbour their love of their respective subjects into our children.

That's all from us Team! Have a wonderful weekend...perhaps in some sunshine!



Mr. McLeod



# Friday Flyer

## Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
10th April	12:20pm	Pele Trust Gymnastics Event
11th April	3.15PM	School closes for half term
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

Lucy (Willow)  
Harry (Oak)

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Safer Parking  
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# Friday Flyer



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**Wednesday 7th May 10am-  
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103 Wright Street,  
NE241HG**



[www.autismcentral.org.uk/NEandY](http://www.autismcentral.org.uk/NEandY)

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# Friday Flyer



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# Friday Flyer



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Northumberland County Council

# Friday Flyer



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