



28th March 2025

Headteachers update

What a week - so much going on, it's hard to keep track of it all. After a busy residential last week you would be thinking that this week would be quiet but that is certainly not the case because it is Made in the North East Week. I honestly feel that this week is so important because it is truly amazing what an incredible place the North East is and it is vital that the children know about their locality. On Tuesday we had an assembly and we talked about how we still have the most castles, the darkest skies, the largest forests and not forgetting Greggs!



It has been lovely to visit the classrooms this week and find out what each year group is learning about, there is a sense of excitement and lots of learning as the children recite the various facts they have learnt. Thursday was a strange day in school as all of the classes, except Alder Class, were out on trips to locations such as farms, Cragside House and the Victorian Tunnels. Fascinating visits surrounded by a wealth of historical information. On Friday, Alder Class visited Lilidorei and Alnwick Castle, again such a fantastic experience for our children.

On Monday and Tuesday this week it was lovely to see so many parents come into school for their consultation meetings. I know the staff really enjoy these nights as it is a chance to celebrate the fantastic things that your children do in school. Thank you so much for the positive feedback and I will make sure we pass that on to staff as it means an awful lot.

Due to the amount of trips this week and various staff in meetings we have had to postpone the Celebration Assembly once more but I have told the children that next week we will have two celebrations and more importantly two hot chocolates! I know how much this means to them and it is a big part of the weekly routine.

Thank you for all your support this week because without you all these fun events wouldn't be possible. Have a great weekend and see you on Monday!

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**.

Mental health and wellbeing

At Belsay, we know that mental health and wellbeing is just as important as physical health. Supporting children to feel happy, confident and resilient helps them to thrive in their learning and daily lives. We encourage open conversations about emotions and offer strategies to support wellbeing both in school and at home. To help parents and carers, we have a dedicated section on our school website with useful resources, advice and links to support services. Visit [Belsay School website](#) to find out more.





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%	96.64%
Maple	99.52%	96.27%
Alder	92.06%	96.18%
Oak	98.22%	96.04%

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

What a fantastic week we have had in Willow class!

Firstly, a huge thank you to all the parents who attended Parents' Evening. It was wonderful to share your child's progress and celebrate their achievements with you. Your support makes such a difference!

This week, we've also been celebrating Made in the North East Week, exploring the rich culture, history, and traditions of our local area. Learning about where we live helps children develop a sense of pride and belonging. As part of our celebrations, we even tasted some traditional North East foods, including ham and pease pudding sandwiches and delicious scones with jam. Some mixed views from the children but everyone was willing to give it a try and that is all that we ever ask!



Our trip to the farm was a huge success! The children loved meeting the animals, learning about farm life, and enjoying the great outdoors. A special highlight was seeing Mrs. Moffat—it was lovely to catch up and see her doing so well! Please login to Tapestry to see more photos of our trip.



I'd love to say we have a quieter week ahead of us next week but we don't. However I am looking forward to welcoming everyone into school on Thursday afternoon between 1-2pm so that you can see the classroom and outdoor area with your child.

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

This week, Maple Class had an amazing time celebrating *Made in the North East* week, with a special focus on inventions! We explored the life and achievements of the world-famous inventor Lord Armstrong, discovering how his incredible ideas changed engineering forever. We also learnt more about pioneering engineer George Stephenson and his son Robert. A highlight of our learning was a fascinating virtual tour of the *Stephenson Rocket*, where we saw one of the most important early steam locomotives up close. We also got a taste of the North East's culinary heritage with Miss Houghton, making and enjoying traditional ham and pease pudding sandwiches, followed by delicious jam scones!

To end our exciting week, we went on a fantastic trip to *Cragside*, Lord Armstrong's extraordinary Victorian home. Our adventure began at the Archimedes Screw and Pump House, where we learned how water power was used to generate hydroelectricity. We then walked through the beautiful Rock Garden before stepping inside Cragside House, spotting all of the amazing inventions we had studied last half term in our History lessons! After lunch and some fun in the woods, we finished our visit at the Waterwheel and Powerhouse, seeing first-hand how innovation shaped the home. It was a truly unforgettable trip—one of our favourite school outings so far!



Miss Dixon and Miss Oliver



Classroom updates- Alder class

I can't tell you how proud (but not surprised) we were to hear how amazing Alder Class had been on their residential trip. By all accounts they acted with respect, care and bravery in all their activities and throughout the whole stay. Well done Alder Class and thank you Mr Shaw, Miss Houghton and Mr Atkinson for looking after them so well.



This week we have celebrated Made in the North East Week as part of a whole school project, for this Alder Class focussed on castles. In English we explored performance poetry. Everyone seems to have thoroughly enjoyed our drama focussed lessons. The warm up circle games proved lots of fun and the performances each group did were fantastic. We also enjoyed some castle watercolour art and made Google slides to summarise our castles learning this half term.



Our Kaleidoscope art work is coming on a treat. You can see the collaborative Kenyan flag we have been working on in these pictures. It will look fantastic at the Pele Trust exhibition at the end of term.

Mrs Aynsley & Mrs Rutter

Classroom updates - Oak Class

Friday Flyer



It always amazes me how quickly these Fridays roll around, but when you are as busy as we are, it is hardly surprising, I suppose!

It has not just been the children who have had to tolerate my dulcet tones this week. With Parents' Evening taking up the first two evenings of our week this week, it has been a pleasure to share the achievements of all of your children with you. It has given us all an opportunity to reflect and realise how far our children have come and what a pleasure it continues to be to teach them.

Made in the North East week has given us a mining focus. Such a proud and prominent pillar in our North East community, the mining industry has given our children a fascinating insight into all things coal from Ellington to Easington. Some brilliant research around pit villages and mining communities has acted as an eye opener for our children, and have sparked some brilliant stories about some of your families' histories. All topped off by a wonderful double header of a trip to the Mining Institute of Newcastle upon Tyne and the Victorian Tunnels, we can once again say that the week has been a roaring success.

Big thanks to Miss Houghton and Mr. Atkinson for taking the reins today to guide us through some final "Made in the North East bits" on top of some clay work for our Kaleidoscope project this afternoon.

Have a great weekend Team!



Mr. McLeod

Dates for your Diary

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



Friday Flyer

Date	Time	
3rd April	Afternoon	Willow class parents welcome into school
3rd April	Morning	School photographer - Class photos
3rd April	11:30am	Come Dine with Me Year 2
4th April	Morning	Kaleidoscope Workshop at Newcastle University
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 (details to follow)
12th May	All week	Year 6 SATS Week

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



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For parents and carers

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**Wednesday 7th May 10am-
12pm Blyth Family Hub,
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Friday Flyer



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Friday Flyer



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