



21st March 2025

Headteachers update

Happy Friday! Yet again the week has disappeared in front of our eyes. After the high drama and excitement of Sunday's football I am pleased to say that school has been calm this week but there has definitely been a fun and excitable buzz in the air.

This week has been a highlight of the year for some children as we have taken our Year 3, 4 and 5 children to Ford Castle near Berwick. For many of your young people this is the first time they have been away from home and I am so very proud of each and every one of them. They have all gone above and beyond to show the school values and you should be very proud of your child if they went on the trip. We have received a number of comments from the Ford Castle staff due to their courteous manners and resilient attitudes. Well done everyone - absolute superstars! I am already planning our trip for next year to a new location so watch this space.



This week is National Neurodiversity Week and Mrs Aynsley put on a fantastic assembly to educate the children about what this means. It is amazing to listen to and understand what some of the terminology means but to also see just how many famous people are neurodivergent but never have it stop them from striving for success. For example Billie Eilish, Robbie Williams and Daniel Radcliffe.

Also this week we acknowledged Red Nose Day, a little earlier than the nation but this was so we could allow all children to take part. Thank you as always for your kind donations, the little amounts go a long way.

Due to the residential this week we have not had our usual celebration assembly and hot chocolate but these will be carried on to next Friday.

I hope you have a fantastic weekend and for those that have been to Ford Castle I hope you have a nice warm shower and catch up on some much needed sleep!

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**.

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you're probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. This is a trade-off for interactive entertainment. UKiA has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on how to do this, where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES
 Looking at which video games are on offer, and which ones are rated as being 'suitable for children' or 'suitable for younger children', is a good start. However, parental controls can help you to restrict your child's access to a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles mean you can limit their time on your console. Remember your child of the internet should always be aware when you discuss the boundaries with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS
 Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, knowing whether there's a break (either from in-house or outside) or a time when they should stop playing. Encourage them to take a break from the game for a while, such as to get a drink, go to the toilet, or to stretch. A good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as to go to the kitchen or get some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS
 There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and parents should make sure to agree how much they're willing to spend on their child's gaming. It's a good idea to agree a budget for their purchases, for example, to set a limit on how much they can spend on a game, or to agree a limit on how much they can spend on a game. It's also a good idea to agree a limit on how much they can spend on a game, or to agree a limit on how much they can spend on a game.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS
 Children often ignore the age ratings on games. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game, it's important to check the age rating. It's also a good idea to check the game's content, as some games may be more suitable for older children. It's also a good idea to check the game's content, as some games may be more suitable for older children.

MEET OUR EXPERT
 Meet our expert, a professional in the field of child protection, who will provide you with advice and support on how to keep your child safe while gaming.

FACTOR IN FRIENDS
 If your child is a keen gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle. When talking to them, do they actually want to be online or computer? You could put boundaries in place before they start playing, or by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Some parents might think they may try to sidestep this, but they can't if they're not working for their gaming screen. If they play, they will be able to see how long they've spent.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER
 Getting to the point where your child can play on their own is a good thing, but it's also a good idea to play with them. This can help you to see how they're playing, and to make sure they're not spending too much time on the game. It's also a good idea to play with them, as this can help you to see how they're playing, and to make sure they're not spending too much time on the game.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS
 Help your child to manage their emotions when they play. Discuss what it's like to play, and how they feel when they're playing. It's also a good idea to talk about how they feel when they're playing, and to make sure they're not spending too much time on the game.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS
 A frequent problem when gaming is the risk of trolls. Trolls are people who try to cause trouble for other players. It's important to be prepared for trolls, and to make sure your child knows how to report and block anyone who makes their experience a negative one. It's also a good idea to be prepared for trolls, and to make sure your child knows how to report and block anyone who makes their experience a negative one.

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 96.18% Our **NEW** target for Whole School Attendance is 97%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	100%	96.50%
Maple	100%	96.13%
Alder	97.88%	96.32%
Oak	92%	95.97%

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

Another fantastic week in Willow class. The children have been very busy and I have loved hearing all about it from Mrs Aynsley and Mrs Rutter.

We started the week off by naming the polar bears. A few weeks ago we raised money by holding a cake sale and the aim was to adopt a polar bear. The sale was that much of a success that we managed to raise enough money to adopt two polar bears. The polar bear teddy and information pack arrived this week which was very exciting. We all had lots of names we wanted to call them so we agreed the fairest way to do this was to write down the names and put them in a pot. We then chose two names. The names that were chosen were Olive and Jude. The children were great at accepting that even though their name wasn't chosen they knew we had to make it fair.

On Tuesday we were dressed in non-uniform in support of Red Nose Day. A big thank you to everyone who donated money to this worthy cause. We learned about why we have a Red Nose Day and discovered that the money we have donated will help other children and families who are not as fortunate as others. We had a lot of fun making our own Red Nose Day biscuit. The best bit was definitely eating them and they were delicious! I enjoyed seeing the different types of noses the children created.



While I was away at Ford Castle I know the children have been having a great time with Mrs Aynsley and Mrs Rutter. I am told one of the highlights of the week has been taking care of the stick insects. The children have loved having them in the classroom and being able to see them moving around in their tank. We have been lucky enough to see them a few times but the children have really enjoyed having the chance to hold them, ask questions and help with the food and water they need. Mrs Aynsley and Mrs Rutter have been so impressed with the children.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone during the week for parents evening. If you are unable to attend your appointment please let me know so we can rearrange this.

Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

Maple Class had a fantastic time celebrating Red Nose Day on Tuesday! We learned all about Comic Relief and the important work the charity does to help people in need. Through discussions and activities, we explored why fundraising is so important and how small acts of kindness can make a big difference. The children showed great enthusiasm and understanding, making it a meaningful and enjoyable day for everyone.

In English this week, we worked hard to write our own versions of *Stella and the Seagull*, focusing on use of accurate punctuation, gold-standard presentation and adventurous vocabulary. We also challenged ourselves to include exclamation sentences to make our writing even more exciting! We enjoyed reading our stories aloud to our peers and celebrating our fantastic pieces of work.

In Geography, we investigated how the weather is recorded, learning to measure temperature, rainfall and wind direction by reading scales on equipment and using compass points. Working in small groups, we created our own rain gauges and set up a class weather chart to track the daily weather in Belsay over the next three weeks. We can't wait to analyse our findings and spot patterns in the weather!

During Forest School, we had an exciting outdoor adventure with Mrs Aynsley linked to the story *What the Ladybird Heard*. Working in teams, we followed clues around the school grounds to uncover the ladybird's secret location. The children showed brilliant teamwork and problem-solving skills as they navigated the outdoor environment. It was a fantastic way to bring the story to life whilst developing our observation and collaboration skills in nature!



Miss Dixon and Miss Oliver



Ford Castle updates - Year 3,4 and 5

What an amazing time our Year 3-5 children had at Ford Castle! Over the course of three days and two nights, they took part in exciting activities, built their confidence, and made unforgettable memories. From scaling the heights of the trapeze to testing their bravery on the zip line, every challenge was met with enthusiasm and determination. The children really embraced every challenge with our school values of confidence and resilience.

The children also enjoyed team-building games such as aeroball and balloon splash which required them to work in collaboration to be successful. It was great to see everyone in Year 3-5 mixing so well and building a strong team bond over the last 3 days.

Evenings were spent around the campfire where we sang songs, toasted marshmallows and listened to stories being told. Then it was lights out and we would love to say that the children all went to bed without a sound but this was not the case (as we expect on residential). However the children were very respectful of each other and it was lovely to see everyone supporting each other at night to organise their belongings and get themselves sorted for bed even if they didn't sleep very much. We have shared a few photos below however if you would like to see some more photos of the residential in action please check the ClassDojo page.

A huge well done to all the children for their fantastic attitude and a big thank you to the staff who made the trip so special. We can't wait for the next adventure!





Friday Flyer



Mr A, Mr Shaw and Miss Houghton



Friday Flyer

Classroom updates - Oak Class Year 6

Unfortunately, even though it's only March, with SATs preparation in full flow, it kind of feels like the elongated countdown to the end of the academic year has begun! Before we know it, it will be Easter and then we're into that summer term of madness. This is sad because this cohort of Year 6 pupils is a cohort like no other...like seriously, no other! However, it has been brilliant to spend the week with them as a pure year group.

We have got through plenty of work across all areas of the curriculum and managed to squeeze in plenty SATs practise too, but in this smaller group, it has been so refreshing (and exhausting) to see all of their personalities shine through in a magnified manner.

The children have ploughed on valiantly through work on angles, rainforests and prenatal development with great versatility and have even begun to formulate a play review for our Much Ado performance from last week. All with their usual vibrant and brilliant senses of humour.

A great week, just our little crew! We are ready to welcome our Year 5 friends back with open arms on Monday and share all our awesome learning! Have a brilliant weekend!



Mr. McLeod



Friday Flyer

Dates for your Diary

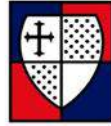
Events could be subject to change and will be communicated if required

Date	Time	
24th-28th March	8.45-8.55am 3.15-3.45pm	Scholastic Book fair
24th and 25th March	Afternoon / evening	Parents Evening
24-28th March	All day	Made in the North East week
27th March	Morning	Willow class trip to a farm
27th March	All day	Maple Class trip to Cragside
27th March	All day	Oak Class Trip to The Mining Institute and Victoria Tunnels
28th March	All day	Alder Class trip to Alnwick Castle and Lildorei
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
10th April	12:20pm	Pele trust Gymnastics Event Yr 5/6
11th April	3.15PM	School closes for half term
28th April	8.45am	School reopens for all children

Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



Happy Birthday to all those celebrating this week

Charlie (Oak)

Layla (Oak)