



14th March 2025

Headteachers update

Happy Friday everybody, another super Belsay week with so much fun and drama - quite literally! Goodness me, where do I start in terms of the pride I have for our children this week. On Wednesday, Oak Class spent the day in Newcastle as they were performing their Shakespeare Play 'Much Ado About Nothing'. Children were in school at 8am and at the Northern Stage at 9am for their tech and dress rehearsal, which culminated in a performance in the evening at 7.45pm in front of over 300 people. It is not often I am lost for words but I find it hard to find the right words to describe the performance. The children were ABSOLUTELY unbelievable, so confident, so clearly spoken and most of all so dramatic. On the night there were four performances from Pele Trust Schools and we most certainly received the most laughs. Well done to all of Oak Class and a special thank you to Mr McLeod who once again created a true Belsay classic! Thank you also to our parents and carers for supporting us in making this all happen, we really appreciate it.



On Thursday this week, it was fantastic to welcome in so many of our parents and carers for our Year 1, Come Dine with Me event. They were treated to a wonderful lasagne, coleslaw and the old school classic of cake and custard! We love being able to provide these types of events and our plan is to ensure that all year groups have the opportunity to join their child for lunch by the end of the summer term.

This afternoon, we have held our first ever Careers Fair which has been brilliant. Thank you to Mr Tweedie (Leisure Company CEO), Mrs Foxton (Veterinary Surgeon) and Mr Shahabeddin (Social Media Content Creator), for giving up their time to speak to our children. We always want to provide our children with the best possible opportunities and what a great way to do this by sharing aspirational career options.

Finally, we got back to our infamous Hot Chocolate and Outstanding Achievement awards so a huge well done to all of our superstars. Nothing better than ending the week with a big congratulations!

Have a lovely weekend, hopefully you find time to support the Black and Whites and all that is left to say is 'Howay the lads!!'

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 & Carers Need to Know about LIVE STREAMING

Live streaming involves broadcasting and watching videos online in real time, often on social media or video platforms like YouTube and Twitch. Viewers can interact through comments, chat and reactions during the broadcast, such as direct engagement makes this an exciting way to share experiences, learn from others and build digital communities. Despite the many positives, live streaming also creates a potential platform for unsuitable content and poses some risks to children. It is essential to keep privacy and safety in mind and comply with each site or app's age restrictions.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION
Despite their age restrictions, some platforms don't require proof of age or sign-up - meaning that anyone can register for an account (and potentially pretend to be older or younger than they actually are). In many cases, this means that young live streamers can never be fully certain if they're who they are broadcasting to and who is engaging with their live stream.

DISCLOSING PERSONAL INFO
A characteristic of live streaming is the ability for videos to be instantly shared worldwide. Without the normal privacy settings enabled, a child could inadvertently reveal personal information or their location, making them vulnerable to online predators or identity theft. It's a good idea to regularly check the privacy settings and what data is being shared on any apps your child has signed up to.

ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN
As the video streams live, children might encounter (or be inadvertently shown) inappropriate content. Most live-streaming apps have rules to prevent this and, ideally, their content moderation systems should be triggered for review. It may not be dealt with promptly, however, meaning that your child could be further exposed to harmful content during a live stream.

UNAUTHORISED RECORDINGS
Each live-streaming platform uses a different system to protect different periods. Twitch uses broadcast shields to prevent live streams from being recorded. YouTube uses YouTube's copyright technology to prevent others from sharing clips of their content without the creator's consent. Some live streamers use third-party software to record their live streams and upload them to other sites.

ROGUE CONTENT CREATORS
Live streamers don't need to be a professional or a star, which means potentially anyone can stream on any live streaming platform (and live in person). While most claim to be live streamers, some will stop any chat about children or their activities - but with millions of streams per day, it's not possible to regulate them all. A streamer could be exposed to inappropriate content without parents knowing.

DANGER OF GROOMING
There are numerous reports of children being groomed into performing "ragga raga rock" or "dabbing" on social media streaming sites. Due to the lack of verification required for certain apps, anyone can sign up to these services (including predators or users of false identity). It's vital, therefore, to ensure that content safety measures are in place before your child begins live streaming.

Advice for Parents & Carers

PUT PRIVACY FIRST
Through the streaming app's settings, switch your child's account to "private" so only their friends and followers can see their broadcasts. You could also turn off live live chat, viewing chat history and enabling comments - although viewers' feedback is often seen as an integral part of the fun. Identify any content that your child uploads as visible (publicly) that could get into your child's hands.

TALK ABOUT LIVE STREAMING
Try to start with positives before discussing potential risks. You could ask which live streaming app your child likes and how they use them, but also just which friends or adults they want to broadcast to. It's crucial to reveal personal information while streaming (even to friends). If you feel your child is too young for live streaming, explain your reasoning to them and perhaps agree to review this decision in the future.

MANAGE MULTISTREAMING
Some apps and sites let users stream their content through multiple social media platforms at once. A broadcast on SteamTV, for example, can be shared on YouTube, Twitch, 2 and Facebook if the accounts are linked. The privacy settings on other platforms of a user to restrict (or make visible) their chat's watching your child's videos.

GET INVOLVED YOURSELF
Research suggests a significant number of children stream on their own, often in a supposed safe space like their bedrooms. If your child wants to live stream, ask if you could be present because you're interested in what it's like. You could even set up your own channel to gain a more detailed knowledge of what your child talks about in their live streams - and who they're broadcasting to.

CONSIDER THEIR ONLINE REPUTATION
As the broadcast is live, it often causes the misconception among young people that whatever happens in their video simply "vanishes" into the stream and is. However, videos can stay online indefinitely or be recorded by other users. It's important that your child understands what they do and say in a live stream could potentially damage their online reputation and, quite possibly, be seen by prospective future employers, colleges or universities.



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 96.20%. Our **NEW** target for Whole School Attendance is 97%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	100%	96.35%
Maple	97.10%	95.98%
Alder	95.24%	96.27%
Oak	95.56%	96.14%

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

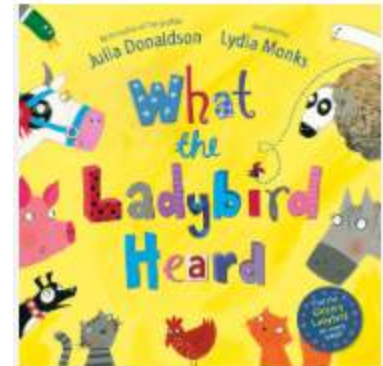
Absence Procedures if your child is ill, please keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school. Please notify us by phone call or email before 9.15am if your child is to be absent, and continue to inform us on a daily basis if they continue to be ill.

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 great week in Willow class this week. We have enjoyed starting to read the story *What the Ladybird Heard* by Julia Donaldson. This is a book that allows us to look carefully at farming and what we might see on the farm. The children are at a real advantage with this story as so many of them already had such fantastic knowledge of farming. It was great to share what life is like on a farm and use the children as the experts. We have been using the story as a stimulus to create our own maps. We have thought carefully about the starting point, x marks the spot and what we will see on the journey. We have shared the maps on Tapestry. I was really impressed with the amount of detail the children included in their maps.



The caterpillars have been growing really well and we are excited each day when we come into school and notice a change. We think they have doubled in size so far so we are really looking forward to seeing how much they change next week. They have been very useful to have in the classroom this week as we have continued to engage in Science week. After the success of visiting Belsay gardens last Friday we have enjoyed learning about different habitats and which ones living things come from. We completed an activity that focused on being camouflaged and discussed why this would be important to living things. Some of the ideas we had were:

"It would be good for the animals to not get caught," Ronnie

"The animals could run away easily," Bradley

"They might like to hide so that people don't take their food," Hallie



It has been another fantastic week for everyone in Willow class and I am so proud of how hard everyone is working. Thank you to everyone for all of the support. Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

This week in Maple class, we have been having a lot of fun while learning! In English, we read the story *Stella and the Seagull*. After reading the book, we created a story map to help us retell the story. This activity allowed us to think carefully about the sequence of events and the characters, while also practicing our speaking and listening skills. The children did a fantastic job recalling the important events from the story and we are excited to see how well they write their own versions next week!

Thursday was an especially exciting day for us all! Year 1 children had their *Come Dine with Me* event, where their parents joined them for a school lunch. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to share a meal with their parents and welcome them into our classroom to see where we learn. It was lovely to see so many parents and carers come into school and make this such a special experience for the children. A big thank you to Mrs Hayes for preparing a delicious lunch for us to enjoy!

In addition to *Come Dine with Me*, we also celebrated British Science Week on Thursday. As part of our celebration, we took part in a fun and educational activity called "Deep Sea Yoga." The children learned about different sea creatures while practicing yoga poses that represented these animals. It was a creative and relaxing way to connect with the wonders of the ocean, all while improving our flexibility and balance. Everyone enjoyed the challenge and left feeling calm and inspired by the creatures of the deep sea!



Miss Dixon and Miss Oliver



Classroom updates - Alder Class



Another fantastic week in Alder Class this week. We were delighted to welcome Mrs Forsyth back into school and were thrilled to explore traditional Kenyan dishes with some forest school cooking fun on Tuesday.

After kick starting National Science and Engineering Week off with some very cute and fascinating visitors last Friday, we have continued our learning into this week. On Wednesday we took part in a national Farming Live lesson with the NFU. We learnt all about Belted Galloway cattle and how they are adapted to live and thrive in their habitats. We also learnt about sustainability and all the good things this breed of cattle does to help the environment in which it lives. We even got to see a Belted Galloway calf being born live about half way through the lesson.

Our new Science topic is a biology one and focusses our learning on plant life. We will endeavour to continue doing practical activities in all our Science lessons and this week was no different. We began our first lesson of the topic looking at different seeds and trying to match them up with a range of fruits and vegetables. It was lots of fun tasting each of these. The raspberries and sugar snap peas were amongst the most popular.

Mrs Aynsley and Mrs Rutter



Classroom updates - Oak Class

Although we endeavour to make every week at Belsay memorable, this week has been rather special. It would be absolutely crazy not to focus on Wednesday and our phenomenal performance of William Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing", with our PELE Trust colleagues from Ponteland, Darras Hall and Richard Coates respectively.

I know that pretty much everyone was lucky enough to see the show, but I do not think it can be reiterated enough how absolutely phenomenal all of our children were. Even staff and parents from other schools commented on the immense professionalism of our school's company and their disbelief that this was purely our UKS2 class...not a handpicked drama club!

Hearing the huge crowd roar in hysterical laughter has done wonders for our children's confidence. During rehearsals, the jokes and humour often are not given the chance to "land on an audience", but on the very biggest stage, our children got to discover what a hilarious and wonderful cohort they are. I am not one to say that any one performance was any better than any other, but what I will say is, the school name on everyone's lips at the end of the night was Belsay. And deservedly so. Our young actors' delivery of their lines was so impeccable, they had the crowd eating out the palm of their hands and laughing all the way.

It was brilliant to see Belsay so well represented in the crowd. Parents, grandparents, younger siblings, older siblings, and other friends and family members too. All in all a very special night, proving that Belsay can mix it with the big boys, both on and off the stage.

Just another crazy week with residential next week, but first, let's all try and recharge over the weekend and be proud of what we have accomplished this week.

See you on Monday!



Mr. McLeod



Friday Flyer

Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
17th March	Morning break	Bee Breakfast
18th March	All day	Red Nose Day (non-uniform £1 donation)
19th-21st March	All day	Ford Castle residential for Year 3-5
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 Lilidorei
3rd April	Afternoon	Willow class parents welcome into school
3rd April	11:30am	Come Dine with Me Year 2
11th April	3.15PM	School closes for half term
28th April	8.45am	School reopens for all children

Friday Flyer



Happy Birthday to all those celebrating this week

Arthur (Alder)



Don't forget our Bee Breakfast is being held at Monday morning break time. Children can enjoy locally sourced honey on toast. The suggested donation of £1 can be made via SchoolGateway