



31st January 2025

Headteachers update

What a fantastic week it has been at Belsay! Every day, I am reminded of what a special place our school is and that is down to our incredible children, our supportive families and our dedicated staff.

Walking through school this week, I've seen so many moments of joy, determination, and kindness. From the youngest in Willow class showing such enthusiasm for their learning to the older children in Oak impressing us with their creativity and resilience, it has been a pleasure to see everyone giving their best. It's not just about what happens in the classroom - our children continue to show kindness to one another, work as a team and uphold our values whether that is during play time or during Forest School sessions.

A huge thank you to parents and carers for your ongoing support. Whether it's helping with reading at home, ensuring good attendance or simply encouraging your children to do their best, it makes all the difference. We are lucky to have such a strong and engaged school community.

In connection to reading, Miss Houghton has decided that from Saturday 1st February until Sunday 9th February, she will double Bookworm Points! This is in conjunction with National Storytelling week so it is a great opportunity to encourage your children and read as much as possible at home with them, it really does make a huge difference. We know the children are excited about this so find a nice comfortable spot, switch off from our busy lives and let's have some quality time with our loved ones.

Did you know that reading with children is one of the most powerful ways to support development. Furthermore it can boost language and literacy skills; improve academic success; strengthen parent-child bonds; develop focus and imagination and encourages a lifelong love of reading - so what are you waiting for?

Looking ahead, we have some exciting events on the horizon and I can't wait to see what the next week brings. In the meantime, I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Our week has ended in a normal fashion with Celebration Assembly and Hot Chocolate nominations. Congratulations to all of this week's superstars for their hard work and recognition!

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend and I look forward to seeing all your extra Bookworm Points over the coming days.

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**.

All National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

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 via platforms like YouTube and Twitch. Viewers can interact through comments, chats and reactions during the broadcast: such instant 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's essential to keep privacy and safety in mind and comply with each site or app's age restrictions.

AGE RESTRICTION
13+ 16+ 18+
Age varies by platform

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 totally certain exactly 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 correct privacy settings enabled, a child could inadvertently reveal personal information or their location, making them vulnerable to online predators or identity theft. It's wise to regularly check the privacy settings (and what data is being shared) on any apps your child has signed up for.

ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN

As the video streams are live, children might encounter (or inadvertently share) inappropriate content. Most live-streaming apps have rules to prevent this and monitor their services, also providing report buttons where content can be flagged for review. It may not be dealt with instantly, however, meaning that your child could be further exposed to harmful content during a live stream.

UNAUTHORISED RECORDINGS

Each live streaming platform stores completed videos for different periods (Twitch saves broadcasts for 60 days, for example, while Facebook and YouTube remove them only at the creator's request). Deleting a video, though, doesn't always stop it from being shared: in some cases, streams have been illegally recorded (or screenshots taken) by certain viewers and redistributed on other sites.

ROGUE CONTENT CREATORS

Children can also watch other people's live streams, which could potentially contain anything at any time (such as nudity, drug use or profanity). Most apps claim to monitor live streams and will stop any that don't adhere to their guidelines - but with millions of streams per day, it's complicated to regulate them all, so children could be exposed to inappropriate content without parents knowing.

DANGER OF GROOMING

There are increasing reports of children being contacted by strangers on some live-streaming apps. Due to the lack of verification required for certain apps, almost anyone can sign up to these services (including anonymously or under a fake identity), it's vital, therefore, to ensure the correct safety measures are in place before your child begins live streaming.

Advice for Parents & Carers

PUR 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 the live chat, shielding your child from any upsetting comments - although viewers' feedback is often seen as an integral part of the fun, identify any nearby items (such as school uniforms or visible landmarks) that could give away your child's location.

MANAGE MULTISTREAMING

Some apps and sites let users stream their content through multiple social media platforms at once. A broadcast on SteamYard, for example, can be shared on YouTube, Twitch, X and Facebook if the accounts are linked. The privacy settings can differ on each of these, so we'd suggest only streaming via one platform at a time to maintain greater control over who's watching your child's videos.

GET INVOLVED YOURSELF

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

TALK ABOUT LIVE STREAMING

Try to start with positives before discussing potential risks. You could ask which live streaming apps your child likes and how they use them. Do they just watch streams or create their own? Explain why it's unwise to reveal personal information while streaming (even to friends). If you feel your child's too young for live streams, explain your reasoning to them and perhaps agree to review this decision in the future.

CONSIDER THEIR ONLINE REPUTATION

As the broadcasts are live, it often causes the misconception among young people that whatever happens in their video simply 'vanishes' once the stream ends. 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 96.06%. Our **NEW** target for Whole School Attendance is 97%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	100%	96.27%
Maple	98.07%	95.85%
Alder	98.41%	96.39%
Oak	99.11%	95.87%

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 really is hard to believe that another week is coming to an end. It is true what they say that time flies when you are having fun and we have had lots of that this week in Willow class.

Our focus this week has been on Chinese New Year. I have been so impressed with the children and their ability to remember the different animals, practice saying simple greetings and even completing some writing linked to the topic of Chinese New Year. I was particularly impressed with the sentences some of the children were able to write following the theme of 'I can see a ...'. Have a look on Tapestry to see some of your children's amazing work. One of the favourite activities of the week was writing numbers using the Chinese symbols to represent the numbers. It was great to see the children so confident to attempt to write the symbols and everyone was very impressed with the final outcome.



On Thursday afternoon we welcomed the children and staff from Belsay preschool into our class. It was lovely to see everyone together again and the children enjoyed completing the different activities linked to Chinese New Year. It was great to see the children in Willow class so confident to show preschool the classroom. The children enjoyed trying noodles and prawn crackers. We are very lucky to have such strong relationships with Belsay Preschool and it is great that we can work so closely together.

It is always a great week in Willow class but I feel like this week is the week where we can really see the impact we are having on our development. I have been blown away by the writing that has been produced this week. Everyone is progressing in Phonics and seeing everyone so busy in Discovery time has been amazing. The children really are the best thing about Belsay and they make me so proud of them every single day. None of this is possible without the support from the parents in Team Willow. We really are the best team. A big thank you to you all for all of the support.

Miss Houghton



Friday Flyer

Classroom updates - Maple Class

In Science, we have been learning about animals and how they are suited to their habitats. We discussed the different types of habitats around the world and talked about the animals we would find living within them. We were given examples of creatures found in each habitat and looked closely at their features, discussing how they are adapted to their surroundings. We carried out a research enquiry and learnt lots of amazing facts about all of our favourite creatures! We used our facts to create posters about different animals and their adaptations.

In PSHE, we learnt all about Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated. We listened to the story of the Chinese Zodiac and marked this year as the Year of the Snake through crafts in class. On Wednesday we had a delicious Chinese lunch prepared by Mrs Hayes and we put our Mandarin language skills into practise. Sun nin fai lok!



Miss Dixon and Miss Oliver



Classroom updates - Alder Class

We have big news in Alder Class this week, the female Australian Walking Stick Insect that we have been watching so carefully has laid eggs! It's possible Mr Atkinson is the most excited about this, but needless to say we are all thrilled. Watch this space!

Much debate has been had around our big question in English this week. Should zoos be banned? It would be wonderful if you could continue these discussions around the dinner table at home. I can't wait to read the final pieces of writing the children complete. Maths has seen a continuation of multiplication and division skills, everyone is making great progress!



The children were delighted to resume our Design Technology project this week and their locomotives are coming on well. We have been focussing on measuring and have discussed the importance of accuracy. We will continue building the chassis next week and then move onto considering the electronics required to make the locomotives move.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Mrs Aynsley and Mrs Rutter



Classroom updates - Oak Class

Is it really Friday already? The weeks just keep rolling round when you are as jam-packed with action as we are up here in Oak Class!

We have begun our next unit of writing around Much Ado About Nothing, beginning to show our character knowledge as we work towards a diary entry for some of our favourite characters. Having first identified the features necessary for a diary entry, we have been looking at informal language and first person/past tense writing with some pretty awesome results.

It is always a pleasure to spend a little bit of time altogether as a Y5/6 group in Maths for Reasoning and Problem solving and luckily we have been able to do that this week with division as the core focus. The knowledge that the Year 6s have been able to pass on to our Year 5 pupils has been absolutely priceless.

We talk about RESPECT a lot at Belsay, but PSHE this week has given us a brilliant opportunity to look at self respect and what we can do to practice it both in and out of the classroom. Again, there was some brilliant maturity on show here. Air resistance was the focal point of Science this week and we even had time for some Mayan writing in History.

Onwards and upwards to another weekend Team Oak! Thank you for your endless support!



Mr. McLeod



Dates for your Diary

Date	Time	
10th February	All week	Year 6 mock SATS week
11th February	All day	Safer Internet Day
17th February	1pm	Dance Festival @ Heddon on the Wall
18th February	3:30pm	Ford Castle residential parent information evening
19th February	3:30pm	SATS Parents information evening (Year 6)
21st February	3.15PM	School closes for half term
3rd March	All day	Teacher training day
4th March	8.45am	School reopens for all children
6th March	All day	World Book Day *** more details to follow ***
12th March	All day	Oak Class Shakespeare performance @ Northern Stage
13th March	4:30pm	Year 6 France residential parents information evening at Darras Hall Primary School
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
24-28th March	All day	Made in the North East week
27th March	Morning	Willow class trip to a farm
11th April	3.15PM	School closes for half term
28th April	8.45am	School reopens for all children

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



Friday Flyer



Happy Birthday to all those celebrating this week

Ella (Maple)
Henri (Maple)

Jane Lee McCracken: Artist Talk & Auction

Queens Hall, Hexham
Wednesday 19 February, 7pm
Tickets From £5
White Room



[Click here for more information and to book tickets](#)



Friday Flyer

SCHOOL COUNCIL

School council met this week to discuss various fundraising ideas and our involvement in the very exciting Kaleidoscope Project! Watch this space for more information coming soon!

If you have any ideas for fundraising that you would like us to discuss at our next meeting in 2 weeks, please let us know.

School Council

WEST NORTHUMBERLAND FAMILY HUBS

What's on at Prudhoe Family Hub

Find us on Facebook & Instagram



@WestFamilyHubs



peep



FREE

A range of groups supporting parents and children to learn together



PEEP STAY & PLAY

Mondays (0-5 years) 1:30pm-2:30pm
at Richard Coates CE Primary School, Ponteland
Tuesdays (0-18months) 10am-11am at Prudhoe Family Hub
Wednesdays (0-5 years) 10am-11:30am at Albemarle (for military families only)
Thursdays (0-5 years) 10am-11:30am at Prudhoe Family Hub



PEEP FEEL GOOD FRIDAY (Running for 4 weeks) **NEW!**

Starting Friday 10th January 1pm-2pm (0-5 Years)
Our new Feel Good Friday sessions follows the Peep Learning Together Programme. Each week we will be exploring different themes to support learning through play.



PEEP AND

(Additional needs and/or disabilities)

Friday 10am-11:30am
A group for families with a child under 5 with additional needs or waiting for assessment.



PEEP BABIES (0-6 months) & (6-12 months)

Explore hints & tips to help you in these first few months with your baby. These sessions create stimulating play experiences, encouraging communication with your baby and an understanding of each stage of their development.



PEEP TODDLERS (1-2 years +)

Connect with others and discuss key aspects of your child's development as they learn and grow, which will support you in helping your child make the most of the world around them.



PEEP EARLY COMMUNICATORS (15-36 months)

These sessions support young children in learning to express themselves and improves communication between parents and children. Help boost your little ones speech and language, social skills, routine and much more.



AND Chill Out

Fortnightly, starting Tuesday 14th January 3:30pm-4:30pm

A session for children aged 4-14 with additional and/or needs and disabilities and their family, and their family. Come along and meet other young people and families in a safe space.



Feeding Friends

(Alongside Peep Stay and Play)

Tuesday 10am-11:30am

The Infant Feeding team offer support, whether you're getting started with breastfeeding, starting solids, returning to work and everything else in between. The groups are also a great place to chat with other parents about you and your new addition to the family.



Welcome Party

Monday 20th January 1pm-2pm

For expecting parents and babies up to 6 months. Come along and find out what the Family Hub has to offer. Join in with some fun activities for you, bump and baby too!



Family Panel (Contact your Family Hub)

Do you want to help make a difference to families like yours? Join the Northumberland Family Panel to get involved in future plans and share your thoughts and views, to help shape the support for families in your community.



Autism Family Support Drop-in

Tuesday 14th January 10am-12pm
At Hexham Family Hub

Come along for a cuppa and a chat. No diagnosis needed!
For parents of pupils aged 0-19 years.



First Aid Courses (Contact us to book your place)

Friday 7th February, 12:30pm-2:30pm

Babies and children first aid awareness, a free session for parents and carers.

Registrar

Thursday 30th January & 27th February

[Click here](#) to book an appointment and register a birth

Midwife & Health Visitor Appointments

You can arrange to see your Midwife or Health Visitor at the Family Hub.

Please contact them directly to book.

Health Visitor Appointments - 0300 373 2488 Midwife Appointments - 0344 811 8118

Get in touch with Prudhoe Family Hub

Phone - 01661 839350 Email - prudhoefamilyhub@northumberland.gov.uk



Friday Flyer

Rocking & Reeling Around the World

It's FREE!

An Afternoon
of
Musical Workshops
Saturday 8th
March

At Chantry Middle School, Morpeth
12.30 to 6.30pm

Whatever instrument you play, or if you like to sing, there is a workshop for you. From traditional reels to rock music, and everything in between, will be taught and then performed to parents.

Come and join in the fun, make new friends and learn new music!

SIGN UP HERE Or Scan

Students **MUST** sign up in advance to attend the workshop



MUSIC PARTNERSHIP NORTH

mpn@northumberland.gov.uk

Northumberland County Council

Supported using public funding by
Department for Education
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND