

22nd May 2026

Headteachers Update

What a fantastic way to finish another half-term here at Belsay Primary School!

Although it has been a short half-term, we have certainly packed a lot into it. A huge well done to everybody for continuing to give 100% every day and for all of the hard work shown throughout the last few weeks. It is hard to believe that we now only have around seven weeks left of this academic year, with lots of exciting opportunities and activities still to come during Summer Term 2.

It has been lovely this week to see some of the fun activities beginning to creep into school life. Oak Class had a fantastic opportunity to visit the Red Bull Stadium at Kingston Park to take part in a large rugby festival. The children represented the school brilliantly, showing excellent attitudes and teamwork throughout the day. There were certainly some very talented rugby players on show and I think a few children even surprised themselves with just how well they did!

It has also been wonderful to see the children spending more time in our garden areas this week, even the staff stayed behind after school one evening to get the chicken coop back up and running again. Hopefully our chickens will return over half-term, ready for the summer term ahead. We have most certainly missed them and it will be good to see them again.

This week we also held our Honey and Toast event, so thank you to everybody who kindly donated and supported this. The money raised will help support our bee project as we work towards rebuilding our colonies after sadly losing them during the colder weather earlier in the year. Fittingly, this week also included World Bee Day and our whole-school Biodiversity Day, where we focused on the importance of caring for our planet and protecting the environment around us.

We finished the half-term with our Celebration Assembly and Hot Chocolate celebrations, recognising all of the fantastic achievements across school. Well done to all of our winners this half-term, including our three children who achieved 100% attendance and received an Amazon voucher — a fantastic achievement.

We hope half-term brings some brighter weather and plenty of opportunities to relax, recharge and spend quality time together as families. We look forward to welcoming everybody back into school on Monday 1st June, ready for our final half-term of the year.

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 **Miss Dixon, Miss Houghton and Mr Shaw.**

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HORROR FILMS & AGE RATINGS

The on-demand availability of streaming platforms in many homes creates extra possibilities for young viewers to be exposed to age-inappropriate content. Material which features horror or violence can cause anxiety and nightmares for children, especially since it can be hard for young ones to grasp that what they're watching isn't real.

CLASSIFICATION BREAKDOWN

The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) has the following age ratings:

- U: Suitable for all ages
- PG: For children aged 8 and above, this content includes some violence
- PGC: Children under the age of 10 may, if not suitable, be scared or shocked. This content includes violence, language, nudity or sexual references
- PG-13: Suitable only for 13-year-olds and above
- 16: Suitable for 16-year-olds or older, or 15-year-olds with parental consent
- 18: Suitable for 18-year-olds or older

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Horror films can be scary and frightening, and can cause anxiety and nightmares for children. They can also be a good way to explore complex themes, concepts and allegories.

STREAMING IS EVERYWHERE

Children can watch streaming services on their own devices, such as tablets and smartphones. This means they can watch content at any time and in any place, making it difficult for parents to monitor what their children are watching.

FACT VS. FICTION

Many children have trouble separating fact from fiction. Horror films can be particularly scary because they often feature realistic-looking violence and scary characters that seem to be real.

PEER PRESSURE

Friends encouraging each other to watch a scary movie can lead to children watching content that they're not ready for. It's important to talk to your child about peer pressure and to encourage them to be confident in their own choices.

CHILDREN SCARE DIFFERENTLY

It can be difficult to decide what content is appropriate for children. Every child is different, and some children may be more easily scared than others. It's important to know your child's limits and to talk to them about their fears.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

Horror films can have a psychological impact on children, especially if they are watching them frequently. This can lead to anxiety, nightmares, and other psychological issues. It's important to monitor your child's behavior and to seek help if you notice any signs of distress.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH THE FILM FIRST

If you're unsure if a film is appropriate for your child, watch it first. This will help you understand the content and decide if it's suitable for your child's age and maturity level.

REMEMBER - IT'S NOT REAL

Emphasize to children that the content they're viewing is not real. This can help them understand that the scary things they're seeing are just make-believe.

DISCUSS THE CONTENT OF FILMS

If your child has seen a film that you think may have exposed them to potentially uncomfortable themes or ideas, don't shy away from talking about it. Discuss any questions they may have, and reassure them that it's okay to feel scared if they watched the film with you.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most streaming platforms have the option to put a parental control PIN on a child's account. This means that only you can approve what content the child can watch. It's important to use these controls to protect your child from inappropriate content.



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 94.94%. Our **NEW** target for Whole School Attendance is 95%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	100%	96.4%
Maple	97.9%	95.6%
Alder	90.4%	94.4%
Oak	99.2%	97.5%

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.

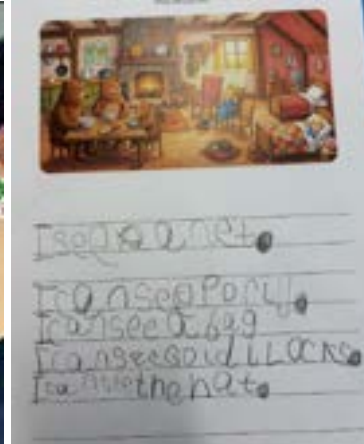
We have a continual focus on attendance and punctuality and this is of the utmost importance in your child's education. Please remember that our school gate closes at 8.55am as this is when our lessons begin. Anyone arriving after this time is classed as late and will miss valuable learning opportunities which take place immediately after registration, such as phonics.



Classroom updates - Willow Class

What a busy and brilliant week of learning we have had! The classroom has been absolutely buzzing and we are so incredibly proud of how hard the children have worked. A huge shoutout goes to everyone for their fantastic focus during independent learning this week. We have seen so much resilience, creativity and determination as the children took charge of their own choices and discoveries during independent time.

In English we have focused on a new "Make a Fuss" story, the classic tale of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The children loved bringing the story to life and we have been using detailed story maps to help us retell and sequence all of Goldilocks' adventures. Alongside our storytelling, we have been working hard on our writing skills. The children looked closely at different scenes from the book and practiced writing sentences about exactly what they could see.



Our maths focus this week turned us into ultimate math detectives through the game of dominoes! The children had a wonderful time playing together, practicing their matching skills and excitedly identifying whenever they found a double. After spotting their doubles, they put their counting skills to the test by working out how many dots there were altogether on the tiles.

We have had a wonderful half term together and I have loved how much we have achieved! Everyone has worked incredibly hard. It is hard to believe when we come back after half term this will be the final half term of Reception.

Have a fantastic half term break!

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

This week in English, Maple Class explored the features of a fact file. We learned how headings and subheadings help organise information, why fact files are usually written in the third person, and how images can be used to provide extra information to the reader. We also discussed the important difference between facts and opinions and practised identifying each one. To finish our learning, the children worked collaboratively in groups to create a whole-class fact file all about Belsay School, using all the features we studied earlier in the week.

In Maths, we continued our work on fractions. Year 1 children practised finding halves and quarters of shapes and quantities, using practical resources and visual representations to support their understanding. Year 2 children built on this learning by finding non-unit fractions of shapes and quantities and explained their reasoning clearly.

In PSHE, we revisited where money comes from, the different ways it can be spent, and the difference between needs and wants. The children then enjoyed playing a "Save, Spend, Share" game where they discussed what they would do in different money scenarios. We talked about the importance of planning ahead, saving for future purchases, and making sensible choices so that we do not run out of money.



Miss Dixon



Classroom updates- Alder class



It has been another wonderful week in Alder Class, full of creativity, curiosity and fantastic learning across the curriculum.

In Maths, Year 4 have continued their learning about decimals and are becoming much more confident when working with tenths and place value. Year 3 have now come to the end of their mass and capacity topic and have worked incredibly hard throughout. We have also spent more time exploring tips and tricks for learning our times tables, and it has been fantastic to see the children's confidence and fluency continuing to grow.

In English, we completed our non-chronological reports explaining how the portal works in our class text, *The Day I Fell Into a Fairytale* by Ben Miller. The children produced some fantastic pieces of writing filled with creativity, detail and technical vocabulary. We truly cannot express how much we have enjoyed this class text—it has completely captured the children's imaginations and led to some brilliant discussions and writing opportunities.

In Science, we have been learning all about the digestive system. As you can probably imagine, there were quite a few giggles when discussing poo! However, the children were incredibly engaged and fascinated by the topic. At the start of the lesson, there were so many questions and thoughtful comments that we almost struggled to move on to the main task! The children worked brilliantly in teams, drawing around one member of their group and then mapping out the organs involved in the digestive system onto their bodies. Some groups carefully drew the organs, while others used cut-and-stick collage techniques to create their designs. The finished pieces were both creative and informative. Those who finished early then made excellent links to our PSHE learning by discussing the healthy choices we should make to look after our digestive systems and overall health.

In Art, we continued our Islamic geometric art topic by exploring collage techniques. The children really enjoyed experimenting with different shapes, colours and patterns to create their own striking geometric artwork. It was lovely to see such creativity and focus during these sessions.

We would like to wish everyone a wonderful May half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back for our final half term of the year. How has it gone so quickly?!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, Mrs Aynsley & Mrs Rutter



Classroom updates - Oak class

Another really busy week in Oak Class and somehow we are already racing into the half term. In English, we have jumped back into Pig Heart Boy and begun working towards writing our own detailed information texts. The children have been exploring the features of non-fiction writing and thinking carefully about how information can be organised clearly for the reader whilst still remaining engaging and informative. There have already been some brilliant discussions and some fantastic scientific vocabulary being used confidently across the classroom. Whilst in Maths, Year 6 have been developing their understanding of area by calculating the areas of a range of different polygons whilst Year 5 have been focusing on finding the perimeter of rectilinear shapes and other polygons. There has been lots of resilience on show this week with children applying their arithmetic skills carefully and explaining their reasoning clearly.

In Science, we have been learning about the importance of exercise and the impact that physical activity has on the human body. The children explored how exercise affects heart rate and discussed why keeping active is such an important part of living a healthy lifestyle. Following this, our History lesson focused on the aftermath of World War I and the political decisions made once the fighting had ended. The children considered how those decisions affected different countries around the world and began to understand how the consequences of war can continue long after the conflict..

Monday was a lovely opportunity to celebrate the end of SATs with our Year 6 children. We enjoyed a fantastic lunch together at Sambuca Morpeth before heading over to Carlisle Park to run it all off in the rain. The children were an absolute credit to the school throughout and it was brilliant to spend some relaxed time together after such a demanding week. We also very much enjoyed Thursday, when the whole class headed out to a rugby competition at Kingston Park Stadium, home of Newcastle Red Bulls (or Newcastle Falcons to those of us of a certain vintage!). As always, the children were impeccably behaved and represented our school superbly, racking up plenty of tries along the way.

It really has been an amazing half term from everyone in Oak Class. The children have worked incredibly hard and should be so proud of everything they have done. Let's do it one more time in a week or so for one last half term of Belsay madness.



Mr McLeod



Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Monday 1st June	8.45am	School opens for Summer 2
Monday 1st-Friday 12th June		Y4 Multiplication check
Thursday 4th June		Time Bandits workshops in school
Monday 8th June	All week	Y1 Phonics screening check
Tuesday 9th June	All day	KS1 Laing Art Gallery- linking project
Tuesday 9th June	1pm	Year 3/4 orienteering at Belsay
Wednesday 17th June-Sunday 21st June		Year 6 France trip
Wednesday 17th June-Sunday 21st June		Rec-5 Transition week-
Wednesday 17th June	All day	Rec-5 Whole school trip to Belsay Hall
Wednesday 24th June	All day	Football WOW day
Tuesday 30th June	All day	Y6 end of year treat
Tuesday 7th July	1pm	Sports Day
Wednesday 8th July	1pm	La Petite Creperie
Thursday 9th July	All day	Whole school Science Day
Friday 10th July	All day	Non-uniform- PTA break the rules day
Tuesday 14th July	All day	Pele Trust music concert
Wednesday 15th July	3.15pm	Summer Fair
Thursday 16th July	9am	Year 6 leavers assembly
Friday 17th July	1pm	School closes for the summer holidays



Happy Birthday to:

Daisy (Maple), Rory (Maple), Dylan (Alder), Harper (Oak), Maria (Oak),
William (Oak), Connie (Maple)

🎉🎁 Wishing you all a fantastic time celebrating 🎈🍰

BELSAY



BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Every Monday (during term time)
in the school hall • 10am - 11am

Come along to a relaxed
and friendly group

EVERYONE WELCOME

£2.50 PER FAMILY



A FAMILY FUN DAY

Join us for a
Family Fun Day

7th June 2026 | 12pm

MORPETH SELECT XI vs SOUTH NORTHUMBERLAND XI

Fun for everyone!

- Bouncy Castles
- Face Painters
- Large Board Games
- T20 Cricket Match
- Raffle & Auction
- And More!

Entry Prices

£5 Entry
Adults

£3 Entry
Kids

Under 2's FREE

All funds are being donated to
The Lucy Goosey Tribute Fund
Raising money for
CHUF - Children's Heart Unit Fund
Making a real difference to
children and their families.

Chuf.
For hearts, for families, for life

