



**5th June 2026**

## Headteachers Update

Welcome back to everyone after what was a fantastic half-term, helped by some glorious weather! Unfortunately, this week has brought us back down to earth with a bit of a reality check but hopefully it's just a temporary blip.



The children have returned brilliantly and it has been a particularly busy first week back. Our Year 2 pupils have been completing their in-class assessments, while Year 4 have started their Multiplication Tables Check. Next week, our Year 1 children will take part in their Phonics Screening Check. This is always a busy assessment period but as always, our children have tackled everything with smiles on their faces and a determination to give 100%. We are incredibly proud of them all.

This week, we welcomed Craig from Close House Golf Club, who delivered golf taster sessions for all of our children. The sessions were thoroughly enjoyed and gave many children the opportunity to try a sport that was completely new to them. Thank you to Mr Smith for organising this experience.

On Thursday, John Sadler and Bev from Time Bandits visited school, in association with Ray Wind Farm, to deliver history workshops linked to topics the children have studied throughout the year. From Grace Darling and great Northumbrians in Key Stage 1 to World War One and modern conflicts in Key Stage 2, the workshops helped bring learning to life and build upon the knowledge already gained in class. Thank you to both of them for a fantastic day.

Today, we finished the week with our Celebration Assembly recognising the many achievements and successes of our children.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing everyone back in school 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 **Miss Dixon, Miss Houghton and Mr Shaw.**

### What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SHOPPING PLATFORMS

For people looking to make purchases on their phones, several shopping apps – such as Temu – allow users to buy goods at reduced prices. Others, like Vinted and Depop, let you sell items you no longer want. As internet shopping continues to grow, however, so does the risk of scammers, hackers and breaches of privacy.

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### MISSING ITEMS

Users of Vinted, Depop and Temu have reported not receiving their products despite payment being taken. Users can initially contact the seller to query a missing item, and they have between two and five days (depending on the app) to tell the company what has happened. However, once the money has reached the supposed seller, it can be quite difficult to get back.

#### SCAMMERS AND PHISHING

Scammers are always on the lookout for unsuspecting buyers or sellers. Common tactics include concealing shipment of an item once the payment has been processed or asking to conclude the chat and payment outside of the app, where the victim is no longer protected by the buyer protection plan. This should, naturally, be avoided at all costs.

#### DATA MISUSE

Apps of all kinds frequently collect our data, often asking for more information than is necessary to set up an account. Data gathered in this way is then usually sold on to third parties for marketing purposes. Lately, certain apps have been under scrutiny for using spyware to track their members' activities – but all too often, the user's consent to this practice has been hidden away in the terms and conditions.

#### FAKES OR REPLICAS

It's certainly not unheard of for poor-quality products to be falsely marketed as luxury items, using misleading pictures or clever wording. These disingenuous sales are sometimes used by suspiciously low price tags, but this isn't always the case. For children and young people especially, there's a risk that the promise of buying a high-end item for a fraction of its usual price will outweigh any suspicions they may have.

#### SLOW REFUNDS

While all apps offer a refund if the product is damaged or doesn't match the description, it can take up to a month to be compensated for this. For many people (especially during a cost-of-living crisis) that can be a long time to be without both the product you bought and the hard-earned cash you spent on it.

#### MISLEADING DESCRIPTION

Some people will be able to notice when, say, a product's photo and its description don't seem to match. This isn't a reliable means of picking up on misleading marketing, however – especially not for children and young people, many of whom may not yet realise that such practices even exist. While it's legal to advertise one thing and sell another, plenty of shrewd traders use clever wording and omissions to get around this.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

#### ALWAYS STAY ON THE APP

It's vital that users pay for any goods through the same app on which they found them, to ensure they are covered by buyer protection. This means users can access support if the item arrives damaged, isn't as described, or doesn't arrive at all – allowing them to seek compensation for the loss. Such regulations can't protect you, however, if you don't do the deal through the app in question.

#### BE WARY OF PHISHING ATTEMPTS

Scammers frequently send messages within these apps to steal personal and financial information from other users. Don't respond to these messages – and under no circumstances should you follow any links they contain. Check for spelling errors, as well as inspecting the name of the sender. Report any suspected phishing emails to the app's help centre – and notify your bank if you think your financial information has been compromised.

#### CHECK REVIEWS

Take time to read the reviews and comments left by other users – not just of products, but of sellers and buyers, to ensure they're legitimate and reliable. Before buying an item online, check the reviews for comments about the product's quality, the seller's communication and the delivery time. If you're selling, check the reviews of your buyer for red flags such as frequent requests for refunds or claims of 'missing' items.

#### KEEP SAFE AS A SELLER

Sellers can be exploited just as much as buyers. Some users may purchase an item, for example, then pretend it didn't arrive to secure a refund. Always take photos of the shipping label, along with a picture of you posting the item. Send the package's tracking number to the buyer and keep a copy for yourself, letting you investigate any future claims that it never arrived. When taking photos of items you're selling, ensure nothing personal is in the background.



## 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	85.7%	96.1%
Maple	84.6%	95.3%
Alder	95%	94.4%
Oak	94.2%	97.4%

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 has been wonderful to welcome the children back after the half-term break. We hope everyone had a lovely week to relax, spend time with family and enjoy the beautiful weather. Whilst breaks are important, it has been so lovely to be back together again, sharing stories and settling quickly back into our routines. This marks the beginning of our final half term in Reception, which is hard to believe! We are looking forward to making the most of these last few weeks together, celebrating how much the children have grown and preparing them for their exciting transition into Year 1.

This week, we enjoyed spending time with our friends in Year 1. The children had lots of opportunities to work and play together, helping them to build confidence and strengthen friendships across the two classes. It was wonderful to see them collaborating so well and enjoying shared learning experiences. This was a great use of our time while Year 2 completed their special quizzes.

In PE, the children took part in a golf taster session. They learned some of the basic skills needed to play golf, including how to hold the club correctly, aim at a target and control their movements. The children showed great enthusiasm and perseverance as they practised, and they thoroughly enjoyed trying a new sport.



Thank you to everyone who was able to share photos on Tapestry. We enjoyed sharing them together as part of our show and tell.

Have a wonderful weekend!

**Miss Houghton**



## Classroom updates - Maple Class

What an amazing first week back after the half-term holiday! It has been wonderful to catch up with one another and hear all about the exciting adventures, family time and special memories everyone made during the break. The children have returned to school with fantastic enthusiasm and have settled straight back into their learning.

Our Year 2 children have dived straight into their End of Key Stage assessments this week. They have shown incredible focus, resilience and determination, always striving to do their very best. We are extremely proud of everything they have achieved and how much they have progressed, both academically and personally, over the past two years. Their positive attitude and hard work have been outstanding. Well done, Year 2!

We have also enjoyed a busy and exciting week of learning across the curriculum. In PE, we were lucky enough to take part in a golf taster session delivered by a coach from Close House Golf Club. The children learnt all about pitching and putting and thoroughly enjoyed developing these new skills. We also welcomed Time Bandits into school for a fascinating history workshop, where we learnt about significant historical figures from Northumberland and discovered more about our local heritage.

In Science, we set up an enquiry to investigate which liquid would be most effective at preventing apples from turning brown. The children led the investigation themselves, voting on which liquids to test, discussing how to make the enquiry a fair test and making thoughtful predictions with reasons to support their ideas. It has been a wonderful week of learning, and we are looking forward to another exciting week ahead!

To top off a fantastic week, Natasha from The Lisa Project delivered our first sign language lesson of the term. The children had a fabulous time learning basic greetings and the alphabet through signing and song.



Miss Dixon





## Classroom updates- Alder class



We hope you all had a lovely, restful half-term week and enjoyed some of the sunshine. It has been wonderful welcoming everyone back for our final half term of the year. We can hardly believe how quickly this year has gone! A huge shout out must go to all of our Year 4 children, who completed their Multiplication Tables Checks this week. It has been fantastic to see just how much progress they have made over the year and how much hard work they have put into their times tables practice. They should all be incredibly proud of themselves. Year 3 have also impressed us this week with their growing independence as they begin preparing themselves for the move into Year 4.

In English, we have begun an exciting new two-week block where we are combining Science and English to create poetry linked to the human body. This week, we have focused particularly on using onomatopoeia — a brand new poetic technique for some of the children. Thanks to one of our fantastic Year 3 pupils, we have decided that every time we say the word, we must say “onomatopoeia-BOOM!” which has certainly helped us remember it! Next week, we are looking forward to creating our own sound poems.

In Maths, Year 3 have started learning about fractions, with a focus on adding and subtracting fractions. Year 4 have continued their work on decimals and are growing in confidence with each lesson. In Science, we finished our topic on the human body and began exploring sound. We had a fantastic lesson learning about the structure of the ear. Diagrams were hidden around the classroom, and in teams the children took turns observing them for around twenty seconds before rushing back to draw as much as they could remember. It was fast-paced, energetic and great fun!

In Art, we continued our work on geometric Islamic art by creating collages inspired by repeating patterns and shapes. The children showed great creativity and attention to detail in their designs.

We would say it has been a busy first week back, but think every week in Alder Class is busy! We hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

**Mrs Aynsley and Mrs Rutter**



## Classroom updates - Oak class

Another brilliant week in Oak Class this week with the children continuing to work incredibly hard across the curriculum. In English, we have been drafting, editing and publishing our Information Texts all about xenotransplantation. The children have worked hard to organise their writing clearly using headings and paragraphs whilst also developing a much more formal and factual style of writing. We have been especially impressed with the way the children have used ambitious scientific vocabulary and included diagrams, captions and labelled illustrations to support the reader.

In Maths, both year groups have now completed their work on area and perimeter before moving onto our new unit looking at shapes and angles. The children have shown excellent resilience when tackling reasoning and problem solving questions and have continued to develop their arithmetic confidence alongside this.

In Geography, we have begun our new North America topic by comparing the geography of Northumberland with different regions of North America. The children explored similarities and differences between physical and human geography and enjoyed discussing climate, landscapes, settlements and population.

In Art, we have started exploring the work of contemporary artists including Banksy and Grayson Perry. The children have already produced some thoughtful discussions around symbolism, colour and how artists communicate messages through their work.

We also thoroughly enjoyed a fantastic Time Bandits workshop on Thursday morning. The children represented the school brilliantly and showed great enthusiasm throughout the session.



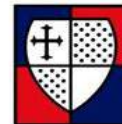
Mr McLeod



## Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
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
Thursday 16th July	Afternoon	Reception and KS1 end of year party
Friday 17th July	1pm	School closes for the summer holidays



# Friday Flyer

# 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**