

12th June 2026

Headteachers Update

Another cracking week! As we continue to move through our assessment period, I want to share how incredibly proud we are of all our children. They consistently demonstrate the resilience, enthusiasm and positive attitudes that make our school such a special place. This week, our Year 1 children completed their Phonics Screening Check. We are extremely proud of how confidently and sensibly they approached this important assessment, showing just how much progress they have made this year.

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils have also taken part in our Money Grows enterprise project this week. Working with visitors, they have been exploring how a £5 investment can be used to develop and grow a business idea. It has been brilliant to see their creativity and teamwork, and we are excited to see how these ideas develop further as we launch this project fully in school. Thank you to all pupils involved for their enthusiasm and engagement.

We would also like to remind families to keep an eye out for information regarding the Robinwood residential. This exciting trip takes place in February and will be a fantastic opportunity for our children in Y3-5. It is a new site for us this year and we are very much looking forward to it following excellent feedback from other schools. Please ensure forms are returned as soon as possible if your child is attending.

This week we were also proud to host the Pele Trust Year 3 and 4 Orienteering Event. Our children represented Belsay brilliantly, achieving first, second and third place overall and retaining the trophy we won last year. A huge well done to all who took part and thank you to Mr Smith for organising such a successful event.

Looking ahead, next week is a very exciting one for our Year 6 pupils as they head off to their French residential from Wednesday to Sunday, travelling via London before continuing to France. We know they will have an amazing experience and have worked incredibly hard to earn this opportunity.

For the rest of school, next week will be our Transition Week, where children will spend time in their new classrooms and with their new teachers. This is a valuable opportunity to help everyone feel confident and prepared for the year ahead.

As always, the week ended with our Celebration Assembly and Hot Chocolate Friday. Congratulations to all of our winners. Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the sunshine. We look forward to seeing everyone 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.**

World Cup 2026

The FIFA World Cup 2026 kicked off this week with the opening match between Mexico and South Africa and will conclude with the final on 19th July.

The World Cup can be an exciting time that brings people and communities together through a shared love of sport. However, the experience of major sporting events and football is not the same for everyone, particularly for women and those affected by Domestic Abuse.

We would like to remind all families that support is available for anyone experiencing Domestic Abuse or feeling unsafe at home. If you, or someone you know, needs help, the following organisations can provide confidential advice and support:

- National Domestic Abuse Helpline – 0808 2000 247
- Refuge: www.refuge.org.uk
- Women's Aid: www.womensaid.org.uk
- In an emergency, always call 999

Please also speak to a trusted member of staff if you require any support or guidance.

We hope everyone enjoys the tournament safely and respectfully.



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%	96.2%
Maple	93.6%	95.2%
Alder	98.8%	94.6%
Oak	96.7%	97.3%

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.

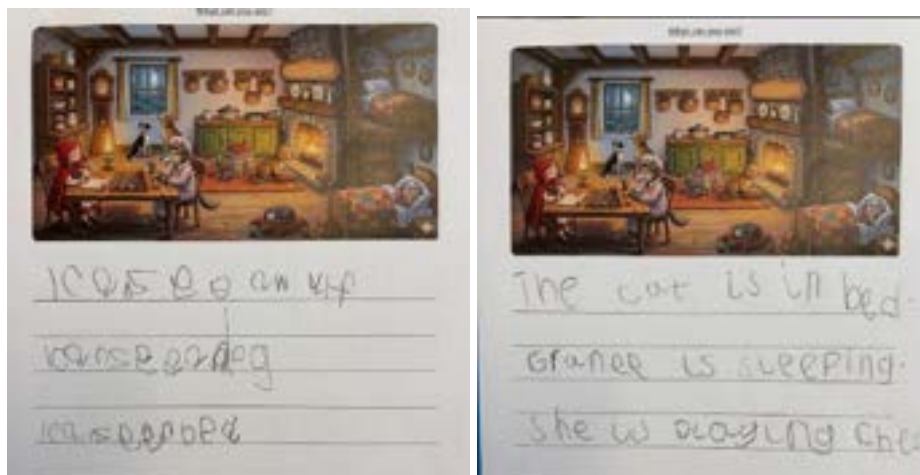


Classroom updates - Willow Class

What a fantastic week we have had in Reception. The weeks really are flying by!

This week, we dived headfirst into the classic tale of The Three Billy Goats Gruff. The children have loved exploring the story, practicing their best "Trip-trap, trip-trap" walks, and learning all about the grumpy troll under the bridge. Ask them if they can retell the story to you at home!

We had an incredibly special moment in class this week. We looked back at the very first pieces of writing the children did at the start of the year. To say there have been big improvements is an understatement! The children genuinely could not believe it was their own work. One of my favourite quotes from the week was from Theo: "How old was I when I wrote that? Because I was absolutely not in Reception!" I am so so proud of everyone's progress, confidence and hard work. Well done Team Willow!



The children have been busy creating beautiful artwork inspired by the British sculptor and photographer Andy Goldsworthy. Using natural materials like leaves, twigs, and stones, they have been exploring patterns, shapes, and textures in the world around them.

We love our weekly sign language sessions! The children are thoroughly enjoying working with Natasha and are learning so many brand-new signs and concepts each week. They are picking it up incredibly fast. We feel very lucky to have such a fantastic teacher in Natasha who is able to teach us so many valuable skills.

I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend!

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

This week, we had a fantastic visit to the Laing Art Gallery as part of our Schools Linking project. It was wonderful to meet our link class from Cullercoats Primary for the first time and see the children working so positively with their new friends. Together, we played a range of games to get to know one another, took part in creative activities and even designed our own unique robots, which will be showcased in the gallery. The children represented Belsay brilliantly and we are excited to continue our link with the same class in September.

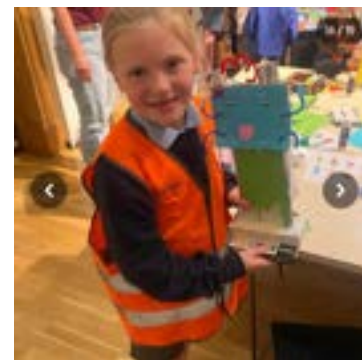
In Geography, we explored how the sea shapes the land through the process of erosion. Working collaboratively with a partner, the children examined and sorted photographs, deciding whether they showed coastal or non-coastal locations and explaining their reasoning using geographical vocabulary. They then created detailed maps, identifying where the coast meets the sea and adding features such as beaches, cliffs, harbours, lighthouses and rock pools to deepen their understanding of coastal environments.

Our Science lessons focused on the five senses. The children carried out a scientific enquiry to investigate whether tasks could be completed without the sense of sight. Through three different activities, they discovered that although the tasks were possible, they had to rely much more heavily on their senses of touch and smell. We also discussed how some people may have stronger senses than others and reflected on the important role each sense plays in helping us understand the world around us.

Finally, we would like to say a huge well done to our Year 1 children, who completed their Phonics Screening Check this week. We are incredibly proud of the progress, confidence and resilience they have shown throughout the year and during the assessment itself. They approached the challenge with positive attitudes and determination, and they should all be very proud of themselves.



Miss Dixon





Classroom updates- Alder class



We have certainly been a musical bunch this week. It has been a real pleasure to merge Science, Music and English as we have developed ideas and skills for our poetry writing. Throughout the week, we have explored onomatopoeia, rhythm, rhyme, repetition, alliteration, similes and ambitious vocabulary. To inspire our writing, we have been experimenting with a variety of instruments and sounds. It has been wonderful to hear performances from children who are learning instruments, ranging from the clarinet and flute to the violin and even the harmonica! We cannot wait to hear the children perform some of their finished poems. In our reading lessons, we have been exploring information texts about the ear and developing our understanding of sequencing and how information can be organised clearly for the reader.

In Science, we continued our learning about sound by predicting what noises we might hear around the school grounds before heading outside to investigate. The children enjoyed comparing their predictions with the sounds they actually heard. In Art, we continued our Islamic geometric art project by creating collages inspired by repeating patterns and shapes. The children showed great creativity and care, and the results are looking fantastic.

In Maths, Year 3 have continued their work on fractions, while Year 4 have been developing their understanding of decimals. There has been lots of practical learning this week, with whiteboards and counters helping us to deepen our understanding and build confidence.

One of the highlights of the week was our orienteering afternoon. It was wonderful to welcome schools from across our trust family and even more special to be the host school. We also enjoyed a follow-up HSBC workshop, where we thought carefully about budgeting for a holiday. Thanks to a fantastic question from one of our Year 3 pupils, we will be following this up next week by exploring currencies from around the world.

We are all looking forward to our transition activities next week, especially our annual trip to Belsay Hall, Castle and Gardens. Have a wonderful weekend everyone!

Mrs Aynsley and Mrs Rutter



Classroom updates - Oak class

Another busy and productive week in Oak Class has come to an end. In English, we began our exciting new class text about the life of Louis Pasteur and explored the features of effective character profiles. The children enjoyed learning about this remarkable scientist and identifying the techniques writers use to present information about a person's life, achievements and character.

In Maths, both year groups have been developing their understanding of angles. Year 6 have focused on calculating missing angles in triangles while Year 5 have been finding angles on straight lines. The children have shown great perseverance when tackling increasingly challenging reasoning problems and explaining their methods.

Our Make Five Pound Grow project got off to a fantastic start this week as Sam from Virgin Money joined us alongside Miss Cook to launch our economics challenge. The children worked brilliantly in their groups, sharing creative ideas and beginning to think carefully about how they can turn their initial investment into something even bigger. There is already a real buzz around the project and we are excited to see where their ideas take them.

In PSHE, the children explored global citizenship and spent time thinking about the transition to high school with Mrs Aynsley. There were some thoughtful discussions and sensible questions as the children considered the opportunities and responsibilities that come with the next stage of their education.

Geography saw us comparing the large cities of North America with the rural villages of Northumberland. The children considered how different environments influence the way people live and were fascinated by the contrasts between bustling urban areas and quieter rural communities.

In RE, we explored the power of prayer and worship within faith communities. The children reflected carefully on why these practices are important to believers and discussed the role they can play in bringing people together.

It's been a fantastic week across the curriculum and the children have worked incredibly hard throughout. Have a wonderful weekend and we look forward to seeing you all again on Monday. 😊



Mr McLeod



Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
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

Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



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