



3rd July 2026

Headteachers Update

It has been another busy and enjoyable week at school, with several classes taking part in exciting trips and experiences beyond the classroom.

Our Year 6 pupils enjoyed their chosen end-of-year trip to Walby Farm Park, Cumbria this week. It was fantastic to see them having so much fun together, sharing plenty of laughs and creating memories as they approach the end of their primary school journey. As always, they represented the school brilliantly through their excellent behaviour, kindness and inclusivity.

We were also delighted that our Year 3, 4 and 5 pupils had the opportunity to visit Ray Wind Farm. Through its charitable arm, Ray Wind Farm provides our school with valuable funding each term. This support makes a real difference to the opportunities we can offer our children. The visit itself was fully funded and gave pupils the chance to learn more about renewable energy and the important role it plays in our future. From all accounts, the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and came away with lots of new knowledge that will support future learning..

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helps make these experiences possible. Our staff spend a great deal of time organising trips, completing risk assessments and ensuring all safeguarding requirements are met. Equally important are our parent volunteers and PTA members, whose support throughout the year is absolutely invaluable. Whether you have helped on a school visit, supported an event or contributed in another way, your generosity of time and effort is greatly appreciated. Opportunities would not be possible without your support.

A reminder that our Sports Day takes place on Tuesday afternoon next week. This year we are trying a slightly different format. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will take part between 1pm and 2pm, with Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 competing between 2pm and 3pm. We hope as many families as possible will be able to join us for an enjoyable afternoon of sport, teamwork and friendly competition.

We finished the week with our Celebration Assemblies and Hot Chocolate. Even with the summer holidays approaching, the children continue to work incredibly hard and make us proud every day.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope you all have a lovely weekend and we 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 ZEPETO

ZEPETO is a fast-growing app blending social networking with a virtual world experience – attracting around 20 million monthly users, with 15% from Europe. Players create 3D avatars to explore immersive environments, play games and interact with others; however, with minimal safety controls, anonymous chat and monetised content, ZEPETO poses a number of online safety concerns that parents and educators should be aware of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- NO PARENTAL CONTROLS**
Although ZEPETO is intended for users aged 14 and up, it lacks built-in parental controls or age verification. Instead, relying on safety features on the device or in the operating system. This lack of parental controls means parents are unaware of what their child has done or is doing on the app.
- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
As a role-playing game world, ZEPETO features a wide range of user-generated content. There are many references to violence, such as the name of a virtual island, or to inappropriate sexual content. There is also a lot of user-generated content that is inappropriate for children.
- STRANGER DANGER**
If a child is able to message and interact with anyone online, they are open to cyberbullying, sexual harassment and grooming. It is also possible for a child to be contacted by someone who is not who they claim to be, such as a predator.
- CYBERBULLYING RISKS**
As with many social platforms, ZEPETO can be targeted for bullying. There is no way to block or report users, and the app does not have a reporting system. This means that if a child is being bullied, they may not know who to tell or how to get help.
- ADDICTIVE GAMEPLAY**
ZEPETO is designed to be addictive, with a focus on social interaction and virtual world exploration. This can lead to children spending a lot of time on the app, which can impact on their schoolwork and other activities.
- SPENDING REAL MONEY**
While the app is free to play, ZEPETO offers a range of in-app purchases, including virtual clothing and accessories. These can be bought with real money, which can lead to children spending a lot of money on the app.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- ENABLE PRIVACY SETTINGS**
Set the child's profile settings to private, so only approved users can send messages – options include everyone, followers only, or no one. Unapprove all friends to avoid sharing any personal information on their profile, as this is visible to all public accounts.
- CONTROL SPENDING**
To prevent accidental purchases, set up parental controls on the app. If a child is using the app, consider reviewing payment methods or linking pre-paid cards with set budgets.
- LIMIT IN-APP TIME**
Use parental controls on the device (e.g. Screen Time on iOS) to limit app usage by setting time limits or daily limits. Encourage children to take breaks and avoid using the app before bed to reduce sleep disruption.
- HAVE REGULAR CONVERSATIONS**
Talk openly with children about whom they interact with online and the kinds of things they see or experience. Encourage them to speak up if someone makes them uncomfortable or if they come across inappropriate content. Teach them how to recognise red-flag behaviours such as asking for secrets, giving gifts, or requesting personal information.



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	97.1%	96.2%
Maple	93.2%	95.3%
Alder	97.3%	94.9%
Oak	100%	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

There were some incredibly special moments this week as we finally let our butterflies go. It has been a beautiful journey for the children to witness the full life cycle firsthand—watching them transform from tiny, wriggling caterpillars into beautiful butterflies. Releasing them into the wild was the perfect finale to a wonderful science project!



This week, we dived headfirst into the classic tale of Jack and the Beanstalk. The children have loved exploring the story, practicing their storytelling skills, and engaging in some giant-sized learning activities. Ask your child to retell their favorite part of the story to you this weekend!

Our children had the wonderful opportunity of spending time in Year 1 this week. They did a fantastic job adapting to the new environment, exploring the classroom, and getting a feel for what lies ahead. We are so proud of how mature and enthusiastic they were during their visit.

Next week brings a very special mission! We are looking forward to welcoming the new Reception children as they come to school for their very first transition visit.

Our current class will be stepping up as amazing role models, and they are already so excited to help the new children settle in, show them around, and make them feel incredibly welcome.

Have a wonderful, restful weekend!

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple class

This week in Science, our mixed Year 1 and 2 class explored the differences between deciduous and evergreen trees. We learnt that deciduous trees change throughout the seasons, losing their leaves in autumn before growing new ones in spring, while evergreen trees stay green all year round. We also investigated the different shapes and textures of leaves, discussing how they look and feel. We are all looking forward to our nature walk next week, where we hope to identify some of the different types of trees growing around our school grounds.

In Maths, we continued developing our time-telling skills. Year 1 children have been learning to tell the time to the half hour, while Year 2 children have been practising quarter past and quarter to. Some of our confident mathematicians even challenged themselves to tell the time to the nearest five minutes! It has been wonderful to see the children's confidence and accuracy improving as they continue to practise this important life skill.

On Wednesday, we were incredibly lucky to welcome The Grizzly Forager, John Shahabeddin (Sybbie's dad), to join us during our Forest School session. We enjoyed a fascinating walk through the forest, discovering a variety of plants and trees while learning lots of interesting facts about the wildlife around us. After our adventure, we gathered around the fire pit to enjoy delicious beans and sausages before finishing the afternoon by toasting our own giant marshmallows. It was a fantastic outdoor learning experience that everyone thoroughly enjoyed!



Miss Dixon



Classroom updates- Alder class

What an incredibly busy, productive, and exciting week we have had in Alder Class! It started with the arrival of our butterflies, that we have watched grow from caterpillars! From environmental campaigns to high-wind adventures, the children have put 100% effort into everything they've done.

This week in English, our pupils turned into campaign speech writers! We began drafting campaign speeches aimed at stopping a bypass being built around the village. To make our arguments compelling and convincing, the children have been weaving together arguments and counter arguments using their skills of persuasion.

We have continued our practical work with money this week. We all enjoyed a brilliant money game that challenged us to budget wisely and calculate change accurately. It was fantastic to see everyone eagerly applying their addition and subtraction skills.

On Wednesday, Alder Class joined forces with Year 5 for a fantastic trip out to Ray Wind Farm. Getting up close to those colossal wind turbines was an unforgettable experience and gave us a real sense of scale for green energy.

Thursday brought a lovely, unexpected treat. The children were given the opportunity to spend some time with their new classes for next year. It was a wonderful, relaxed ice-breaker, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed getting to know their new peers and teachers a little better.

Today, the Friday spotlight was strictly on the arts. We had a full run-through of our upcoming performance, The Last Alien. The children are incredibly excited to show you all their hard work next week. Please check ClassDojo today for a message regarding the performance and details for next week!

It will be another busy week next week with Sports Day, Science Day and The Last Alien performance. Make sure you have a lovely restful weekend Alder Class. We look forward to seeing you again next week.

Mrs Aynsley and Mrs Rutter





Classroom updates - Oak class

Another busy and successful week in Oak Class. In English, we have continued our work on Louis Pasteur, focusing on how direct speech can be used to move a story forward. The children have been learning that dialogue should reveal thoughts and feelings, build tension and help the narrative progress. We have also practised using speech punctuation accurately and including actions alongside speech to make our writing more effective.

In Computing, the children have been working hard with Miss Cook to complete their units from across the year. They have shown great determination and resilience, and it has been lovely to see them applying the skills they have developed over many months. Thank you to Miss Cook for all of her support and expertise throughout the year. Our Virgin Money £5 Grow project has also continued this week, with groups preparing and delivering their presentations. The passion, effort and creativity shown by the children has been fantastic to see. They have worked brilliantly in their teams and should be very proud of everything they have achieved.

On Wednesday, our Year 6 children enjoyed their leavers' visit to Walby Farm Park. It was wonderful to see them relaxing, having fun and spending time together as they begin to approach the end of their primary school journey. Their behaviour throughout the day was excellent and they represented the school brilliantly.

We were also delighted to welcome our new Year 5 children during transition activities this week. It was lovely to see them working alongside our current Year 5 pupils, who will soon become our new Year 6s. The atmosphere in the classroom was extremely positive and we are already looking forward to next year.

Our leavers' assembly is beginning to take shape nicely and the children are working hard in preparation for this special occasion. It has also been fantastic to hear how well our current Year 6 pupils have settled into their transition days at Ponteland High School.

With just two weeks remaining of the academic year, there is still plenty to look forward to and lots to achieve. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing everyone on Monday.



Mr. McLeod



Dates for your Diary

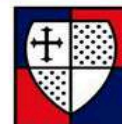
Events could be subject to change and will be communicated if required

Date	Time	
Tuesday 7th July	1pm	Sports Day 1-2pm- Reception and KS1 2-3pm- LKS2 and UKS2
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
Friday 10th July	9am	Year 3 & 4 - Performance of The Last Alien
Tuesday 14th July	All day	Pele Trust music concert
Wednesday 15th July	3.15pm	Summer Fair- PTA event
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

Happy Birthday to:

Tyler (Willow)

🎂 🎈 Wishing you a fantastic time celebrating 🎁 🥳



Friday Flyer

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5th**
August

Week 5

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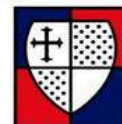


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Belsay Daycare - Belsay Primary School, Belsay, Newcastle upon Tyne NE20 0ET



Friday Flyer

BELSAY



BABY & TODDLER GROUP

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

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