



10th July 2026

Headteachers Update

What a lovely week it has been, the sunshine has certainly made a welcome appearance and we have made the most of the beautiful weather throughout the week.

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who joined us for Sports Day. Following feedback from parents, we made a few changes to the format this year and from the conversations I had afterwards, these seem to have been very well received. It was wonderful to see so many families supporting the children and celebrating their achievements. A special thank you must go to Mr Smith, who once again organised the event.

I would also like to thank our amazing PTA. The homemade scones, cream and jam were an absolute treat and helped create a fantastic atmosphere on the day. Their support goes far beyond Sports Day, funding opportunities such as the Football WOW day, providing ice pops for the children and supporting countless events throughout the year. We are incredibly grateful for everything they do for our school community.

On Thursday, we held our whole-school Science Day. A huge thank you to Miss Dixon for organising such an engaging day and to Mr Atkinson for helping secure some fantastic experiences, including the opportunity for children to observe a live beehive in a safe viewing display. There was a real buzz around school as children explored experiments and scientific investigations throughout the day.

Finally, today was the spectacular performance of 'The Last Aliens' by our talented Year 3 and 4 children. They put on an absolutely fantastic show, and it was wonderful to see their hard work, confidence, and creativity shine through on stage. This performance also brought a very poignant moment for our school community as we say a heartfelt thank you to Mrs Wigham and wish her a very happy retirement. Mrs Wigham has worked tirelessly for Belsay over the years, and we are incredibly appreciative of her dedication, warmth, and everything she has done for our children and staff. She will be greatly missed, and we wish her the absolute best as she begins this exciting new chapter.

To round off the day we had our Celebration Assembly and our last Hot Chocolate of the academic year. Well done to all of our winners and thank you to every child who has worked so hard throughout the year. We look forward to our final Celebration Assembly next Friday, where there will be some special prizes to round off another successful year.

Enjoy the sunshine this weekend and we look forward to seeing everyone again 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 VIOLENT CONTENT ONLINE

Around 70% of teenagers say they've seen real-life violence on social media in the past year – often from as young as primary school age. Just 5% actively seek it out; most encounter it through group chats or social media algorithms. From fights and pranks to hate speech and graphic media, exposure to violent content online is more widespread – and more harmful – than many adults realise.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MENTAL HEALTH AND TRAUMA

Children and young people report feelings of anxiety, guilt, shame or fear after seeing violent content. For some, these effects may be short-lived, but for those with existing mental health issues or past trauma, the impact can be more severe. When violent content is 'shared' or 'liked', it can be perceived as 'helpful' or 'relevant', increasing its reach and visibility, even when they find it distressing.

DESENSITISATION

Over time, they become numb to violent content and are less likely to report it. Younger children are more likely to report it – usually because they don't believe anything will be done or because they're afraid of being labelled a 'snitch' by their peers.

BEHAVIOUR CHANGES

Exposure to violent content can lead to 'hardening' of attitudes or changes in behaviour. When children see weapons used in videos, it can reinforce their perception that the world is a hostile one. In rare cases, exposure to the content may lead to carrying a weapon themselves, such as a knife for protection.

HARMFUL IDEOLOGIES

Violent content often goes alongside with racist, misogynistic or homophobic extremist beliefs. These messages can dehumanise others or glorify violence as a way to gain power, popularity or money. Over time, this can normalise dangerous beliefs and attitudes among impressionable viewers.

ESCALATION AND PARTICIPATION

Violent content often goes viral quickly. What begins as an online argument can quickly become real-world fights – which are sometimes filmed and shared to gain views or status. Some children even admit to sharing or creating violent content themselves to gain attention or boost their reputation.

DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT

Not all children are affected equally. Those who are excluded from school, marginalised, disabled or neurodivergent are often more vulnerable to the effects of online violence. It's essential to consider wider context – including a child's life and access to safe spaces – when thinking about potential harm.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CREATE SUPPORTIVE SPACES

Many children feel guilty or ashamed if they don't understand their experiences online. Take time to build trust through open, judgement-free conversations about online safety. Encourage them to speak to you directly, gently, and supportively. Encourage them to seek help from trusted adults.

KNOW WHAT'S ILLEGAL

Some content is simply against the law. Children who create or share violent content may be breaking the law. Help them understand the difference between 'harmful' and 'illegal'. Encourage them to report illegal content to the police or a trusted adult. A useful resource is: <https://www.mind.org.uk>

AVOID HARSH RESTRICTIONS

Harsh restrictions can make children feel more isolated and angry. Instead, try to be supportive and encourage them to talk to you about their online experiences. Encourage them to seek help from trusted adults.

UNDERSTAND TECH AND TRAUMA

Children often don't know how to block accounts or report harmful content. Help them understand how to use technology safely. Encourage them to seek help from trusted adults. Encourage them to seek help from trusted adults.



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	80%	95.9%
Maple	95.2%	95.4%
Alder	94.1%	94.9%
Oak	98.3%	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

What a fantastic week we have had! As we approach the end of the term, the energy and enthusiasm in the classroom is as high as ever. A huge well done to our children for being fantastic friends to the new Reception children during their transition visits. It can be a big step moving into Reception, but our current pupils have shown immense kindness, sharing their toys and making sure our newest class members feel incredibly welcome and safe. We are so proud of your leadership!



Thank you to everyone who joined us for Sports Day! It was wonderful to see children from all different year groups spending time together, cheering each other on and collaborating across the school. The team spirit was alive and well and there was fantastic participation from absolutely everyone. Whether running, jumping or cheering, everyone gave it their all!

Our young scientists were hard at work during Science Day this week, investigating how we might plant and grow food on the moon! To test the extreme lunar environments, we set up a fascinating experiment: we put one lot of cress seeds in the freezer and another lot in the classroom to see which environment allows them to thrive. The children loved getting their hands messy, and we are keeping a close eye on both batches to see if we have some future space-farmers in our midst!

With the final weeks of the school year upon us, our classrooms have been filled with reflection. We have been spending time looking back on the year, sharing favorite memories, and reflecting on just how much we have achieved, both academically and personally. It is amazing to see how much everyone has grown since September! Have a wonderful weekend. I am looking forward to spending our last week of Reception together next week.

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple class

It has been another brilliantly busy week for Maple Class as we approach the end of the term! We were delighted to welcome *Le Petite Crêperie* to school, where we enjoyed an exciting French-themed workshop. We learnt some basic French greetings and practised ordering our delicious crêpes in French. Alongside tasting this wonderful treat, we also discovered lots of interesting facts about France, including its location, famous landmarks and traditional cuisine. It was a fantastic way to bring our learning to life!

Thursday was packed full of exciting scientific learning as we celebrated Science Day. We took part in a raft-building competition, where we had to carefully consider the size, shape and materials needed to create a raft that would float while holding as much weight as possible. After lots of testing, Grace was crowned our champion when her impressive raft successfully floated while holding an incredible **60 marbles**—what a fantastic achievement! We also enjoyed a fascinating bee workshop led by Mr A and our special visitor, beekeeper Johnathon. We learnt all about the life cycle of bees, how a hive functions, how honey is made and how to stay safe around beehives. One of the highlights of the day was observing live bees up close, with many of us even managing to spot the queen bee!

Our scientific discoveries didn't stop there! Back in the classroom, we began a cress-growing enquiry to investigate what plants need in order to grow healthily. We made predictions about what would happen under different conditions and are excited to observe the changes over the coming days. We are looking forward to harvesting our cress next week when we use it as part of our Design and Technology learning. What a wonderful week of hands-on learning, curiosity and discovery it has been for Maple Class!



Miss Dixon



Classroom updates- Alder class

What a phenomenal, action-packed week it has been in Alder Class! From athletic triumphs and French culinary adventures to scientific discoveries and operatic performances, the children have thrown themselves into every challenge with incredible energy

.We kicked off our week with a fantastic Sports Day. This year had a wonderful international flavor, and the children loved learning about different countries representing the global community. It was inspiring to see Alder Class competing side-by-side in mixed teams featuring all year groups across the school. The teamwork, encouragement, and sportsmanship on display were absolutely top-tier!

On Wednesday, the delicious aroma of French baking filled the air thanks to a visit from La Petite Creperie. After some diligent classroom practice beforehand, the children put their language skills to the test. Every single student successfully ordered their crêpe in French! *Délicieux!* Thursday was all about hands-on investigation for Science Day. We explored the physics of sound waves by crafting our own string telephones (with plenty of testing in the classroom, corridor and yard). . We also turned our eyes to the natural world, exploring the engineering genius of nature by examining how birds make their nests. We had a go at making our own nests using beaks (pegs and folded cards). It was trickier than we thought.

We capped off this memorable week with our showstopping performance of *The Last Alien*. Written by the renowned Scottish Opera, this brilliant production focuses on the critical message of climate change. The children delivered an absolutely incredible performance, singing their hearts out and bringing powerful environmental themes to life on stage. We could not be prouder of their dedication and showmanship! Thank you to all the families who supported us this week, whether by cheering from the sidelines or helping children practice their lines and lyrics. Have a wonderful, well-deserved weekend rest!

Mrs Aynsley and Mrs Rutter





Classroom updates - Oak class

On Monday, the children continued their Virgin Money Make £5 Grow work with Miss Cook. This has been a fantastic opportunity for them to think like young entrepreneurs, using their creativity, teamwork and problem-solving skills to develop their ideas into proper projects. The groups have now finalised their plans and it has been lovely to see how much thought has gone into their products, budgeting and decision-making. There has been a real buzz around the classroom as the children have discussed how to make their ideas successful.

Tuesday was, of course, Sports Day, and Years 5 and 6 were absolutely superb throughout the day. They led by example from start to finish, showing kindness, encouragement and maturity towards the younger children while still throwing themselves fully into the competitive spirit of the afternoon. What stood out most was the inclusivity on show: children cheering each other on, celebrating effort as well as success and making sure everyone felt part of the day. We were incredibly proud of them.

On Wednesday morning, Year 6 headed to the High School for a Maths Morning, which gave them another valuable opportunity to experience life beyond primary school and build confidence ahead of September. In the afternoon, we were then joined by Gilbert from La Petite Crêperie, who brought a wonderful taste of French culture into school. The children loved the experience and it was a brilliant way to bring language learning to life in a fun and memorable way.

Thursday was our World Science Day, and the children threw themselves into their learning with real enthusiasm. We began with bee-based enquiries linked to British Science Week, with pupils researching thoughtful questions about pollination, bee populations, food chains and how humans can help protect these incredibly important insects. Later in the day, the children completed a TAPS investigation into reaction times, thinking carefully about fair testing, recording results and what their findings might tell them.

Finally, Friday was a lovely but emotional day as we said goodbye to Mrs Wigham. She has been such a valued part of school life and the children were very thoughtful in the way they marked her final day. Alongside this, our Leavers' Assembly is really starting to take shape. The children have been working hard, and it is already clear that it is going to be a very special occasion. They continue to make us incredibly proud.



Mr. McLeod



Dates for your Diary

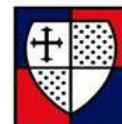
Events could be subject to change and will be communicated if required

Date	Time	
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:

🎈🍰 **Jensen (Maple)** 🎉🎁

Have a fantastic time celebrating



Friday Flyer



Belsay Daycare brings you...

Holiday Club Wednesday Theme Days

Wednesdays · 9am – 3pm · Ages *2 – 12

Running weeks 1, 3 & 5 of the summer holidays * Limited places for 2 years olds due to staff ratios



Weeks 1,3 & 5 Mon-Wed also available for booking

**£35
Per Child
Per Day**

- Book single days or full blocks
- Snacks will be provided
- Packed lunch needed each day

**Full payment
required in
advance**

Places are limited!

Book online ➔



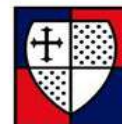
Scan to
book

01661 881704 · Belsaypreschool@yahoo.co.uk

For further information and terms & conditions

click here ➔

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



Please [click here](#) to book online



Belsay Daycare brings you...

Summer Holiday Club 2026

Mondays – Wednesdays • 9am – 3pm • Ages *2 – 12

Running weeks 1, 3 & 5 of the summer holidays * Limited places for 2 years olds due to staff ratios

Week 1

**Mon 20th –
Wed 22nd**
July

Week 3

**Mon 3rd – Wed
5th**
August

Week 5

**Mon 17th –
Wed 19th**
August

Every Wednesday is a themed special!

£35
per child
per day

- Book single days or full blocks
- Snacks will be provided
- Packed lunch needed each day

**Full payment
required in
advance**

Places are limited!

Book online ↗

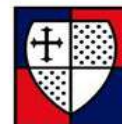


**Scan to
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Belsay Daycare - Belsay Primary School, Belsay, Newcastle upon Tyne NE20 0ET



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