



9 October 2026

Executive Headteacher Update

What another fantastic week we have had at Belsay! It has been another busy week but once again I have been incredibly proud of the children and the way they continue to approach their learning with such enthusiasm, resilience and curiosity.

This week we held our RWI Phonics Day, giving us a great opportunity to focus on the importance of phonics and, in particular, how reading at home can make such a difference to children's progress. Just a few minutes of regular reading, practising sounds and talking about books can have a huge impact on a child's confidence and fluency. Thank you, as always, for the support you give at home, it really does make a difference.

Our staff have also spent time this week looking carefully through children's books as part of our ongoing moderation process. It has been fantastic to see so much gold-standard work across all classes. The quality of work being produced by the children is something we should all be incredibly proud of and it is a real reflection of the high expectations and hard work of both our children and staff.

We also welcomed the new Headteacher from Cambo First School into Belsay this week for a tour of our school. He was extremely impressed by the work ethic of our children and the quality of work being produced across the school. It was lovely to have an external visitor recognise what we see every day at Belsay – children who are enthusiastic, hardworking and determined to do their very best.

As always, we finished the week in the best possible way with our Celebration Assembly and of course, Hot Chocolate! It is always a lovely opportunity to recognise the achievements of our children and celebrate the many successes, both big and small, that happen across the school each week.

Finally, a reminder that our Harvest Festival takes place next Friday. We would love to see as many of you as possible there to help us celebrate together. Thank you for your continued support of our school and, as always, have a wonderful weekend!

Mr Shaw

Next week I am planning to be in school on Monday and Friday.



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 and Miss Houghton**.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ALLERGIES & ANAPHYLAXIS

An allergy is an overreaction of the immune system to a food or substance that's usually harmless. Symptoms can be mild, but for some people they can be very serious. This is known as anaphylaxis.

HOW TO SAY ANAPHYLAXIS: ANA-FIL-AX-IS

ALLERGIES AND ANAPHYLAXIS

- Mild allergy symptoms are treated with antihistamines.
- Anaphylaxis is treated with adrenaline, which is administered via an adrenaline device, injected into the outer upper thigh or using a nasal device.
- Anaphylaxis is a medical emergency and a threat to life.

WHAT ADRENALINE DOES

Adrenaline reduces swelling, opens the patient's airways and raises their blood pressure. Patients must go to hospital for monitoring, as the reaction could return.

Two doses: 0.15 mg (x 0.3 mg)

ANAPHYLAXIS SYMPTOMS

AIRWAY

Symptoms include swelling in the throat, tongue or upper airways; tightening of the throat; a hoarse voice; and difficulty swallowing.

BREATHING

Symptoms include persistent cough; sudden onset of wheezing; breathing difficulty; and noisy breathing.

CIRCULATION

Symptoms include pale and clammy skin; dizziness; feeling faint; sudden sleepiness; tiredness; confusion; and loss of consciousness.

In extreme cases of anaphylaxis, there could be a dramatic fall in the patient's blood pressure. The patient may become weak and floppy, and have a sense of something terrible happening. Any of the ABC symptoms listed above may lead to collapse and unconsciousness and, on rare occasions, be fatal.

TOP 14 FOOD ALLERGENS:

(However, be aware people can be allergic to anything.)

CELERY	FISH	CRUSTACEANS	EGGS	MILK
SOYA	LUPIN	CEREALS	TREE NUTS	SESAME
MUSTARD	MOLLUSCS	PEANUTS	SULPHITES	

NON-FOOD ALLERGENS:

POLLEN	PET HAIR/DANDER	INSECT VENOM	MEDICATION/DRUGS
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LINKS TO FURTHER RESOURCES

Scan the QR codes to find out more

	AllergyWise®		EpiPen		Jexi		ADRENALINE AND A&DS
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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 96.1% Our target for Whole School Attendance is 97%

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	100%	96.6%
Maple	88.6%	95%
Alder	94.8%	96.6%
Oak	100%	96.2%

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

We continued our journey exploring the importance of celebrating our uniqueness. Through stories and class discussions, the children shared what makes them special and learned how our differences make our classroom community stronger, kinder, and more vibrant. We know the story 'It's okay to be different' really well. We have been changing some of the pages to our own story and thinking about what it is okay to be or do. My favourite one was 'It's okay to be part of Belsay school'.

In Maths this week, we took a deep dive into the number 3—looking at how it's written, counting 3 objects, and identifying groups of 3 all around us. We also practiced subitising numbers 1, 2, and 3! Subitising is the ability to instantly recognise the number of objects in a small group without having to count them one by one (for example, instantly knowing there are 3 dots on a die when you roll it). Developing this skill helps children build a strong foundation for mental maths and number confidence!

During Discovery Time, our focus was all about working together. It has been wonderful to watch the children share ideas, take turns, and solve problems as a team while building, creating, and exploring through play. Our art area has been buzzing with energy and imagination this week as the children dove hands-first into colour mixing! This hands-on exploration provided a fantastic outlet for self-expression and creative freedom, allowing the children to experiment with different textures, brush strokes and shade combinations. It has been inspiring to see their curiosity take flight as they build artistic confidence, express their unique ideas and proudly showcase their colorful masterpieces across the classroom.



Have a lovely weekend.

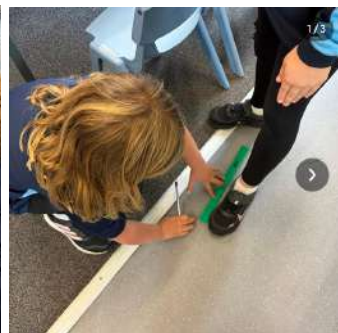
Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple class

It has been another busy and exciting week of learning in Maple Class! In Maths, Year 1 began the week developing their counting skills by counting in 5s and 10s, while Year 2 have been working hard to learn to count in 3s. Later in the week, we began exploring part-whole models. Year 1 challenged themselves to find missing wholes, while Year 2 recapped their number bonds to 10. In Science, we carried out an enquiry to investigate whether older children have longer feet. Working in groups, we ordered children from oldest to youngest before measuring the length of their feet and recording our results in a table. Year 1 measured using cubes, while Year 2 measured in centimetres. We concluded that taller children tend to have longer feet, but being older does not necessarily mean that you are taller!

In English, we have been learning about story structure and thinking carefully about how stories are organised. We then planned our own retellings of *The Lost Toy Museum*, drawing on all the skills we have developed since the beginning of September. We are looking forward to putting our plans into action and writing our own versions of the story next week! In RE, we learnt that Christianity teaches that God wants people to be kind to others, including people we do not know. We worked alongside our Reception friends to create a kindness chain, filling it with ideas about how we can show kindness and care to others. It was lovely to see the children sharing their ideas and thinking about how small acts of kindness can make a big difference.



Mrs Landreth



Classroom updates- Alder class

It has been another wonderfully busy week in Alder Class! Here is a look at what we have been learning:

In English the children completed their information text unit with a big write all about light. The children produced fantastic facts about how light works, used subheadings and detailed diagrams and organised their ideas clearly. Towards the end of the week, we introduced our new unit writing a character description based on one of the characters from *Felix and Everly's Mini Adventures in the Big City*. Set locally in Newcastle, the children are fascinated by the main character's supernatural ability to shrink at will and are loving guessing where in Newcastle they are going to go next.

We wrapped up our place value unit this week by focusing on rounding numbers, counting in 50s and completing a general recap of the terms work so far. Next week, we begin our addition and subtraction unit which will start with a quick refresher on our number bonds.

The history detectives were back this week, summarising our exploration of Skara Brae through artefacts and images. We are starting to learn about the arrival of metalworking in Britain through the Bronze and the Iron Ages and the changes and advancements this brought.

In Science, we continue to explore rocks. This week we looked at a collection of fossils from a beach in the North East. We were fascinated by the fossil of an extinct marine mollusc known as the 'devils toenail' that lived around 200 million years ago!

We ended the week with some practice for our harvest celebration assembly next week. It is really coming together and we are all so excited for you to see it!

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Aynsley and Mrs Rutter





Classroom updates - Oak class

Another busy and productive week in Oak Class! In English we have started our new text *You Wouldn't Want to Be a Victorian Schoolchild!* by John Malam. We used the book as a starting point for our new persuasive writing unit and began by identifying the key features of a persuasive letter. The children were brilliant at spotting language designed to convince the reader and discussing why particular words and phrases are effective.

In Maths we have continued our work on addition and have moved onto formal written methods of column addition with multiple exchanges. We have worked through concrete, pictorial and abstract representations to make sure the children really understand what is happening when we exchange across different place value columns.

In History we explored the importance of Victorian inventions and discussed how some of these developments completely changed everyday life in Britain and beyond.

In RE we continued our work around understanding God and considered some of the different ways Christians describe and think about God. Harvest Festival rehearsals are also going really well! We have managed a couple of practices this week and everything is beginning to come together brilliantly. The children are sounding fantastic and their confidence is growing each time we rehearse.

Have a lovely weekend and as always thank you so much for your continued support. It really is appreciated!



Mr. McLeod

Friday Flyer



Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Friday 16th October	9am	Harvest festival performance
Thursday 22nd October	3.15pm	Halloween Disco and school closes for half term
Friday 23rd October	All day	School closed
Monday 2nd November	All day	Teacher training day
Tuesday 3rd November	8.45am	School reopens to pupils
Friday 20th November	All day	Flu immunisations for all children
Thursday 10th December		Christmas lunch
Friday 11th December	2pm	Christmas Nativity performance
Wednesday 16th December	9am	Christmas Panto at Tyne Theatre
Friday 18th December	1pm	School closes for Christmas holidays
Monday 4th January	8.45am	School reopens to pupils



Friday Flyer

BELSAY



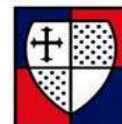
BABY & TODDLER GROUP

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



JOIN US FOR HALLOWEEN FUN

PTA HALLOWEEN

DISCO

THURSDAY OCTOBER 22, 2026
15.15 - 16:45 PM
£6 PER CHILD
HOTDOG, SNACK & JUICE PROVIDED.

Payments to: 'Friends of Belsay'
Sort - 30-93-55
Acc - 01735759

Featuring



Please see Class Dojo for the Google form