



## 5th September 2025

### Headteachers update

Panic over, the summer holidays have finally finished so you can now get back to some form of normality!

What a fantastic first week back we have had at Belsay! The atmosphere around school has been so positive and it has been wonderful to see how quickly the children have settled into their new routines. Classrooms are already buzzing with enthusiasm and there is a real sense of excitement about the learning ahead.

We are confident that we are due another massive year at Belsay and off the back of another set of superb results last year, we have a reputation to uphold!

A very warm welcome to our new Reception children, who have made a brilliant start to their school life. It has been lovely to see them confidently exploring their new environment and making friends so quickly. We also extend a big welcome to the children who have joined us in other year groups, including those who have come to Belsay from other schools – and even from overseas. We are delighted that you are part of our community and we look forward to seeing you grow and develop as part of the Belsay family.

This year we will be continuing with our celebrations on a Friday which includes the infamous Hot Chocolate reward. Our Bookworm points will be starting again and remember you need 200 home reads over the year to be in the prize draw. In addition, we will also be running leaderboards and reward opportunities for those children in Year 3-6 linked to ReadingPlus. Your child will be expected to read a minimum of 3 ReadingPlus a week at home each week and this will be tracked by teachers.

A few little reminders; to send your children in with waterproof and wellies, particularly as the weather starts to change. Also please remember to order the school lunches so we can ensure all children have the meal that they would like. Finally, can you please check at home for any school reading books as we seem to have lost a number of our phonics books. These are very expensive to replace so if you have any please return them to the office as it will be massively appreciated.

We are proud of our values at Belsay and the way our children look after one another and this week has been a wonderful reminder of what makes Belsay such a special place to learn and grow.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend, I am sure the children will be tired after their first week in school so get them rested and ready for another busy week.

**Mr Shaw**

# Friday Flyer



## 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 **Mr Shaw and Miss Dixon**.

### 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

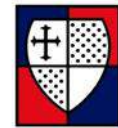
## SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Returning to school after the summer holidays can be both exciting and daunting for children of all ages. Different routines, classes, subjects, and academic pressures can cause anxiety or uncertainty. Parents play a vital role in easing this transition. This guide will help you support your child emotionally, mentally, and practically as they return to school.

- RE-ESTABLISH ROUTINES**  
Gradually shift back to school-time routines at least a few before term starts. Earlier bedtimes, waking-up times, and mealtimes can help children feel more secure and reduce the shock of change when school begins. Having a routine creates predictability and stability to reduce anxiety while improving sleep and concentration.
- TALK ABOUT FEELINGS**  
Encourage open conversations with children about their feelings. Ask them how they feel about returning to school, such as what they're looking forward to and anything they might be feeling unsure or worried about. Reassuring that emotions can help reduce anxiety and show them it's okay to talk about their emotional wellbeing.
- SUPPORT WITH SLEEP**  
Children need adequate sleep for concentration, mood, focus, memory, and emotional regulation. Establish a regular routine without screens at least an hour before bed, and encourage relaxing activities like reading or listening to calming music.
- LOOK OUT FOR SIGNS**  
Encourage children to tell their worries. Watch for changes in their behaviour, such as withdrawal, persistent sadness, and irritability. If worries persist, speak with their teacher at the school or have your child receive support.
- REFRESH SOCIAL CONNECTIONS**  
Help children reconnect with school friends by arranging playdates or video chats in the weeks before school starts. Familiar faces and social interactions make the transition and provide emotional comfort on their first day back.
- CREATE A CALM MORNING**  
Mornings set the tone for the day. Plan ahead with a consistent morning routine that allows time for breakfast, getting dressed, and talking calmly about the day. Avoid last-minute rushing to reduce stress for everyone.
- FOCUS ON POSITIVES**  
Talk about the fun and interesting parts of school – seeing friends, favourite subjects, or exciting activities. One simple but powerful change parents can make is swapping "Don't forget your homework" for "I know you've done your homework" this makes more of an effort, open response. Focusing on positives can help shift children's mindset towards and reduce school as a stress and obligation.
- VISIT OR VISUALISE SCHOOL**  
If possible, encourage visits to the school grounds before the first day, especially if it's a new school. Walking the route or even looking at photos of classrooms and teachers can make the environment feel familiar. The school website is always a great go-to place for this. This is particularly helpful for younger children or those with additional needs.
- PLAN AHEAD TOGETHER**  
Involve children in preparing for school – buying supplies, packing their bag, or choosing which uniform. This gives them a sense of control and builds excitement. Use checklists or calendars to prepare together, helping reduce last-minute stress.
- STAY POSITIVE AND PRESENT**  
Children pick up on your routine, mood, and presence, especially during drop-offs and pick-ups. Stay calm, confident, and supportive. A consistent, loving presence before their confidence is built.

**Meet Our Expert**  
This guide was created by Jo Barber-Drew, an author of four books on child psychology with nearly 20 years' experience supporting children and young people's mental health. She produces uplifting YouTube content for parents and other adults to better support young people's wellbeing, with a mission to help every child feel valued and understood in their world.

**Wake Up Wednesday**      **The National College**



## 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 97.27%** Our **NEW** target for Whole School Attendance is 98%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	100%	100%
Maple	100%	100%
Alder	92.50%	92.50%
Oak	98.91%	98.91%

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.

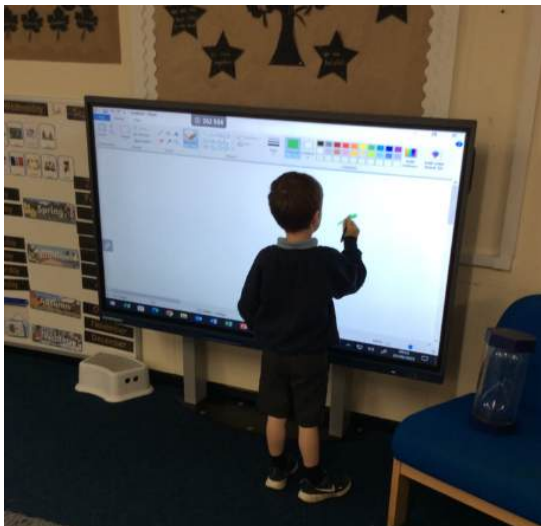
We have a continual focus on attendance and punctuality and this is of the utmost importance in your child's education. Please remember that our school gate closes at 8.55am as this is when our lessons begin. Anyone arriving after this time is classed as late and will miss valuable learning opportunities which take place immediately after registration, such as phonics.



## Classroom updates - Willow Class

What a wonderful start we have had to our school year in Reception! Beginning school is such an exciting step, and we know it can feel a little bit nerve-wracking too for children and parents alike. We are so proud of how the children have settled in and begun to explore their new classroom, and we are looking forward to working closely with you throughout the year to make this journey as smooth and enjoyable as possible.

This week, we have been getting to know one another by sharing our favourite stories and talking about our favourite colours. We also talked about some of our fears, and I am very pleased to say that Theo and Reuben have kindly reassured me that they will be on hand to catch any spiders in our classroom this year helping me with my own fear of spiders! These conversations have helped us to learn more about each other and have already begun to make our classroom feel like a warm, welcoming space where everyone belongs.



A highlight of the week has been our first Forest School session. The children approached the activities with great enthusiasm, enjoying the fresh air and freedom to explore. We even visited the chickens, which caused much excitement! These experiences have already helped us to create some very special first memories together.

We know this is just the beginning, but it has been a fantastic first step into Reception. Thank you for your continued support. We are very excited about the year ahead and all the adventures it will bring. Have a restful weekend ready for our first full week together next week!

**Miss Houghton**



## Classroom updates - Maple Class

Maple Class had a magnificent start to the new school year! It has been wonderful to spend time getting to know each other and to begin working together as a brand-new class. The children have shown great enthusiasm and teamwork already, settling quickly into routines and approaching each day with curiosity and excitement. Even though it is only week one, everyone has been working very hard and making a brilliant start to their learning across all subjects.

In Maths, both year groups have been busy exploring their new units of work. Year 1 have been developing their counting skills by sorting and grouping objects, while Year 2 have been learning about place value, focusing on tens and ones. They have been using this knowledge to practise counting and solve number problems. It has been fantastic to see how confidently the children are approaching their maths tasks and supporting each other in their learning.

In English, the children were introduced to their new class text, *Zog* by Julia Donaldson. They enjoyed making predictions about the story, discussing new vocabulary, and working with partners to write thoughtful questions about Zog as a main character, making sure to use capital letters and question marks. In science, we began our new Physics topic of Earth and Space. We were fascinated to learn what the solar system is and were able to recall the order of the planets collaboratively as a team. A truly exciting first week of learning for everyone!



Miss Dixon



## Classroom updates- Alder class

Welcome back Alder Class! It has been wonderful to see you all this week and hear about all the things that you got up to over the summer. You have all come back to school full of energy, positivity and a real enthusiasm for your learning!

We've started our place value topic in Maths this week, recapping our work in this unit last year. Using concrete resources (Base 10, place value counters) we have been looking at building different numbers within 100 and 1,000. We will continue this work next week, focusing on the value of each digit and partitioning numbers.

In English, we have been writing a non-chronological report about our class pets - the stick insects. We think that they have grown almost as much as the children have over the summer! We have also written a letter to our future selves that we will open from our time capsule at the end of this year. I wonder if any of our predictions will be correct.

In History, we spent an afternoon exploring the timeline and learning about chronology. We looked at BC and AD and where to find key events. We then looked at some key events in British history before identifying where to find the Anglo Saxons in history - our new topic for this term.

It's been a wonderful first week and we are looking forward to seeing you all next week. Make sure you have a good rest this weekend - you've all earned it!



Mrs Aynsley & Mrs Rutter



## Classroom updates - Oak Class

Welcome back everyone! It is marvellous to be with you for the first time this year. It's been brilliant to have Oak Class together again—full of energy, smiles and a great “ready to learn” attitude. We've settled quickly into routines and hit the ground running across the curriculum.

We've launched our place value unit by revisiting Roman numerals and linking them to the number system we use today. Pupils have used concrete resources (place value counters and Base Ten) alongside place value grids to build and partition numbers, explain digit values, and compare numbers accurately. The focus has been on clear mathematical talk—saying what each digit is worth and why.

In English, we've explored the features of First World War poetry: imagery, powerful vocabulary, rhythm/structure, and the impact of viewpoint. We looked closely at how poets create mood and meaning, and began collecting “magpie” phrases and sophisticated word choices to use in our own writing later this term.

Our new unit on Relationships has started with class agreements about kindness, respect and listening well. We practised how to disagree respectfully, and discussed why valuing others' feelings helps everyone feel safe and ready to learn.

Oak Class have kicked off our Electricity topic by recapping safety rules and learning key vocabulary (cell, wire, bulb, switch, circuit). We tested our knowledge of the precautions we should take around electrical appliances and identified them brilliantly.

A great first week all round, and a first weekend thoroughly well earned. Many thanks, and see you all on Monday, team!




Mr McLeod



## Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Thursday 11th September	3:30 - 4:30pm	Year 5/6 boys 7v7 Football Tournament at Darras Hall Primary
Thursday 25th September	3:30 - 4:30pm	Year 5/6 girls 7v7 Football Tournament at Darras Hall Primary - Details to follow
Thursday 2nd October	9am	Sibling and Individual school photos



**Happy Birthday to all those celebrating  
this week**  
**Bee (Alder)**  
**Thea (Alder)**  
**Philippa (Maple)**

The image shows a colorful banner with the words 'HAPPY BIRTHDAY' written in white capital letters on multi-colored flags (red, yellow, green, blue). Below the banner, the text 'Happy Birthday to all those celebrating this week' is written in blue, followed by the names 'Bee (Alder)', 'Thea (Alder)', and 'Philippa (Maple)' in bold blue text.

Belsay Primary School

# Friday Flyer

Belsay School



## NEW FEES 25/26 MORE FLEXIBILITY



### BREAKFAST CLUB:

£5.50 from 7:45am



### AFTER SCHOOL CLUB:

£7.00 3:15pm-4:30pm



### STAY LATER FOR LESS:

£2.25 for every 30mins  
from 4:30pm-6pm

Look out for our half-termly special events. All children welcome whether or not they attend clubs regularly.

Find out more at [www.belsaydaycare.co.uk](http://www.belsaydaycare.co.uk)

[belsaydaycare@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:belsaydaycare@yahoo.co.uk)

01661 881704





# WHALTON VILLAGE SHOW 2025

SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 11.00am - 4.30pm

- Bubble Whisperer •
- 3SIXTY Bicycle Stunt Team •



- Teddy King Big Band • Ponteland Community Wind Band • Rock Choir •
- Dog show • Flower, vegetable & craft show • Classic vehicles •
- Trade stands • Homemade teas • Raffle •



For more information e-mail [show@whaltonvillage.org.uk](mailto:show@whaltonvillage.org.uk)  
[WWW.WHALTONVILLAGESHOW.COM](http://WWW.WHALTONVILLAGESHOW.COM)

- Prices: Adult £10 • Child £5 •
- Family Ticket (2 adults and 2 children) £25 •
- Tickets may be bought in advance using the QR code:

