



12th September 2025

Headteachers update

What a brilliant week it's been at Belsay! The children have been full of energy and enthusiasm and it's been lovely to see classrooms full of excitement for learning. In my new role I am not here every day but I have nothing but pride in the way that the school is operating and the way that everyone is challenging themselves to better each and every day.

On Monday it was National Literacy Day and to celebrate it we have created an extra treat for our readers in KS2 (Year 3-6) as they'll be able to collect double book worm points between Monday 8th and Monday 15th. A perfect excuse to curl up with a book and see those totals rocket!



Over the summer, Mr Atkinson has been working hard with our busy bees and we've been lucky enough to spin several jars of delicious, golden honey. We'll be selling the jars soon, so do keep an eye on Class Dojo for updates – it's a real Belsay harvest.

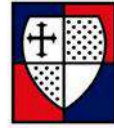
As the new term gets underway, we'd also love to hear from anyone interested in joining our PTA. Each year we wave goodbye to some fantastic members as their children move on to high school and we are so grateful for the time and energy they've given. The PTA is a huge part of our school life, raising funds that provide opportunities and experiences for all of our children. If you'd like to get involved, please contact the school office or Louisa Squires – every helping hand makes a difference, no matter how much time you can dedicate.

Today we once again got started with our celebration assembly and our first lucky 8 children were chosen for Hot Chocolate. This really has become a tradition that always rounds the week off with plenty of smiles.

Looking ahead, dates for our Harvest Festival will be in the morning of Friday 17th October and our Christmas Nativity performance is going to be on Friday 5th December, please keep an eye on the diary dates that are always towards the bottom of this flyer.

As we end week 2, I hope you all feel settled and back into more familiar routines now the summer is all but a distant memory. Have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to seeing you next week.

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 **Mr Shaw and Miss Dixon**.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SMART TVs

Smart TVs connect to the internet without the need for a set-top box or streaming device, letting users access a range of features through the TV set itself, from on-demand content apps like BBC iPlayer to streaming services such as Netflix, as well as connecting to smartphones and other wireless devices. Most new televisions are internet enabled – so, whether you're thinking of upgrading your home viewing system or buying an additional TV for your child's room, it's now even more important to consider the online safety aspects.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

From Netflix to Disney+ to Prime Video, there is a plethora of streaming services available. While these services offer content catering for younger viewers, they also provide material for more mature audiences. If you don't have parental controls set up on your accounts, your child could find themselves being exposed to shows and movies with adult themes, strong language and violence.

INCREASED SCREEN TIME

The array of content available through smart TVs could lead to your child spending excessive amounts of time in front of the screen. Not only can prolonged screen time distract from important activities such as schoolwork or exercise, but experts have also warned that endless hours in front of the box can lead to health problems including obesity, poor sleeping patterns and depression.

REMOTE-CONTROL RETAIL

Like many online devices, smart TVs facilitate digital purchases: buying a new app or the latest season of a favourite show, for example. If your child has access to a bank card and isn't restricted by spending controls on the system, they could run up a sizeable bill through a smart TV fairly easily – especially if they're not quite old enough to fully appreciate the value of money.

UNCONVINCING SECURITY

As Internet of Things (IoT) devices, smart TVs can be uniquely vulnerable to attack. Experts warn that internet-enabled TVs tend not to support high-level security software, so you won't always be able to download strong antivirus programmes like you would on a phone or computer. Being targeted by hackers could be deeply upsetting for your child, as well as putting their personal data at risk.

A SILENT SPY?

Some smart TVs already collect data on users' viewing habits and then display targeted advertising based on that personal information – while there have also been reports of internet-enabled TVs (and the apps installed on them) being used to 'spy' on owners. In models with a built-in microphone (for voice activation), third parties could potentially listen in on someone's home life.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Many smart TVs can be used for web browsing, social media and live streaming – all of which could allow unknown users to contact your child (or vice versa). If your child engages with these functions of the TV, a stranger could potentially discover their contact information and potentially then use it to obtain even more sensitive personal details, such as your home address.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MAKE IT A FAMILY THING

Family TV time is a great way to model the responsible enjoyment of technology – showing your child how to use the smart TV safely for when they're old enough to watch it independently. You could also take this opportunity to establish some healthy TV boundaries, such as time limits on their daily viewing or how to make sure they're only watching content that's appropriate for their age.

CREATE CHILD PROFILES

Much like with smartphones and tablets, apps can be downloaded onto smart TVs from free content platforms such as BBC iPlayer to paid-for services like Prime Video. Most of these apps allow you to create a separate account for your child which has different settings to your own – suggesting more child-friendly material and reducing the possibility of them viewing explicit content.

SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

It's likely that your smart TV has built-in parental controls, which not only let you filter out age-inappropriate shows, movies and games but can also restrict in-app purchasing, so your child can't accidentally spend money through the device. When you've enabled these safeguards, have an open conversation with your child about the reasons, helping them to understand the potential risks.

CONSIDER THE LOCATION

If you're concerned about the online safety hazards that a smart TV might pose to your child, you could consider where in your home you put the device. The safest option would be to place the smart TV in a shared family space – so that an adult is usually nearby and able to supervise while your child's watching it – rather than in the relative privacy of a bedroom.



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.

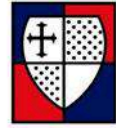
Current Whole School attendance is 98.30%. Our **NEW** target for Whole School Attendance is 99%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	96%	97.50%
Maple	99.23%	99.57%
Alder	98.80	96%
Oak	100%	100%

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 first full week we have had in Reception! The children have settled beautifully into our routines and have embraced each new experience with smiles, curiosity and great enthusiasm.

The children have loved diving into the magical world of the Gruffalo. We have been retelling the story together, using puppets and actions to help us remember the sequence. The children have started to use the language of the story in their play, which has been wonderful to hear. We have also been talking about the characters' feelings and thinking about how we might feel if we met the Gruffalo ourselves!

Our first phonics sessions have been full of energy and excitement. The children are listening carefully to sounds, joining in with games and beginning to recognise the first few letter sounds. We are so proud of how quickly they are picking things up and a brilliant start to their reading journey. Thank you for all of the extra support at home with this. It really does make a difference.

This week has brought some exciting new lessons, including PE, Music and French. In PE, the children have been learning to move safely in the hall and practising listening to instructions carefully. During Music, they have been experimenting with rhythm and enjoying singing together. In French, the children were delighted to try out some new words – "Bonjour!" has become a popular greeting in class!



We are so impressed with how the children are adapting to Reception life. They are already showing such independence, kindness and a real love of learning. We cannot wait to see what next week brings!

Wishing you all a restful and happy weekend.

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

This week, Maple Class have been busy exploring the wonders of space as part of our new science topic. The children have been fascinated by the eight planets, learning about their features and what they are made from. After some fantastic discussions, the class worked independently to order the planets in their science books, showing great enthusiasm and focus. We also enjoyed a solar system quiz, which helped us to discover lots of new and exciting facts about space!

In maths, Year 1 have been representing numbers to 10 using objects and manipulatives, while Year 2 have been practising flexible partitioning of two-digit numbers using base 10. Everyone has been working hard to strengthen their number knowledge and develop their confidence. In English, the children learnt how to structure expanded noun phrases and used this skill to write wonderful character descriptions of Zog. The class really impressed us with their creativity and vocabulary, producing some excellent pieces of writing.

In RE, we have started our new topic, *What do Christians believe God is like?* The children enjoyed a thoughtful story-based discussion about who made the world in Christianity and why Christians are thankful. To build on our ideas, we listened to the story *Jacob's Life on a Farm in Rural Northumberland* and reflected on the beauty of the natural world. Everyone then drew something from nature that they thought was wonderful, creating a lovely collection of pictures to celebrate the world around us.



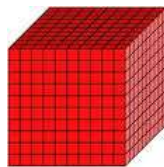
Miss Dixon



Classroom updates- Alder class

It has been another fantastic week in Alder Class. We are so impressed at the way our new Year 3s are getting used to such a big step up, they are all doing brilliantly. We are also incredibly proud of the Year 4s who are being wonderful role models to our new class members.

In English this week we have been building up the writing skills we will use for a character description at the end of next week. The characters from 'Inside Out' have proved useful for this task. In our reading lessons we have been making predictions about our new class text 'Anglo Saxon Boy'. Maths has seen a continuation of exploring place value. It has been a lot of fun using our base 10 manipulatives to help us with this.



1000



100



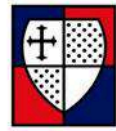
10



1

As an initial introduction to our class pets, we have been investigating the three stick insect species we have. We have linked this learning to the Science curriculum and found it interesting to explore words like camouflage and habitat. We also looked up where in the world these creatures come from. Everyone showed great bravery skills when it came to learning how to handle our pets and all have earned their stick insect licences. When we have completed these initial introductory lessons we will be moving onto our first Science topic where we will learn all about electricity.





We created some beautiful Anglo Saxon patterns in Art this week and made links to Maths in doing so. It was fun to create symmetrical and repeating patterns, everyone used rulers and some even used compasses to create arcs and circles. We stuck to typical colours used in Anglo Saxon times.

This week the children have come home with their first homework. Please could this be handed in to school on Monday. Next week they will get a similar sheet that will focus on English. We will alternate between English and Maths every week. We have been delighted to see some students have already completed a piece of homework from their optional challenge passport booklet, a massive well done to Scarlett and Dylan. Well done to all those who have managed to engage in some of their online learning too. Login details for Spelling Shed, Times Tables Rock Stars and Reading Plus are all glued onto the inside front cover of their homework books.

We really look forward to a third successful week next week. Thank you to all the support from parents/guardians for their help in settling everyone in so well.

Mrs Aynsley & Mrs Rutter



Classroom updates - Oak Class

It's been another busy and exciting week in Oak Class! In English, we have been delving further into the features of WWI poetry, focusing on *In Flanders Fields* by John McCrae, while also exploring other poems from the period. We have been learning how poets use imagery, rhythm and structure to create powerful emotions, and pupils have been developing their own descriptive phrases inspired by the themes of remembrance and sacrifice.

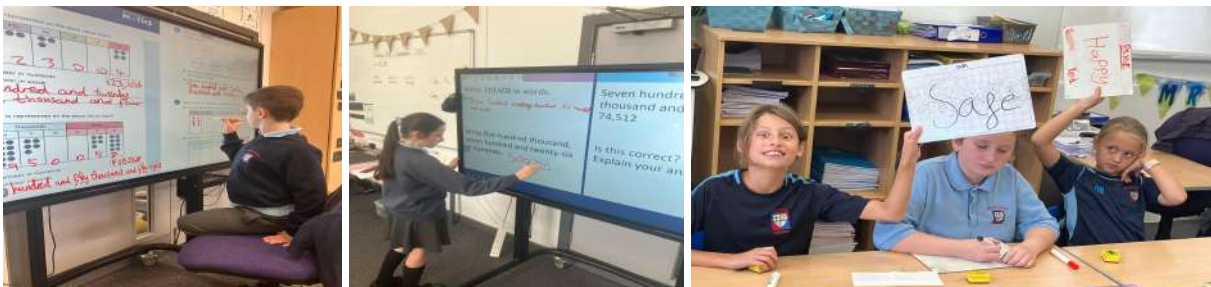
In Maths, we have been working with numbers up to 1,000,000, representing them in concrete, pictorial and abstract ways to deepen our understanding. The children have been comparing and ordering large numbers, spotting patterns, and using place value counters and number lines to show their reasoning clearly.

Our new History unit on World War II began this week, with an introductory lesson to set the scene. The children were fascinated to learn about how the war was truly a global conflict and asked thoughtful questions about the impact on Britain and the wider world. In Science, we explored the different circuit symbols and what they represent, with pupils drawing and interpreting their own simple circuit diagrams.

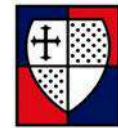
In PSHE, we continued our work on mutual respect and how it shapes positive relationships. The children contributed sensitively to discussions about listening carefully to others, valuing different opinions, and showing kindness in our daily lives.

In Art, we have been studying perspective and creating trench compositions linked to our WWI topic. The children experimented with horizon lines and vanishing points, producing thumbnail sketches that showed real thought and creativity. We have also enjoyed time for both swimming and PE, where pupils built confidence, worked on teamwork skills and celebrated each other's progress.

All in all, it has been a week filled with curiosity, creativity and collaboration. What an absolute belter of a start to the year up here in UKS2. Let's all have a great weekend and have another bash next week!



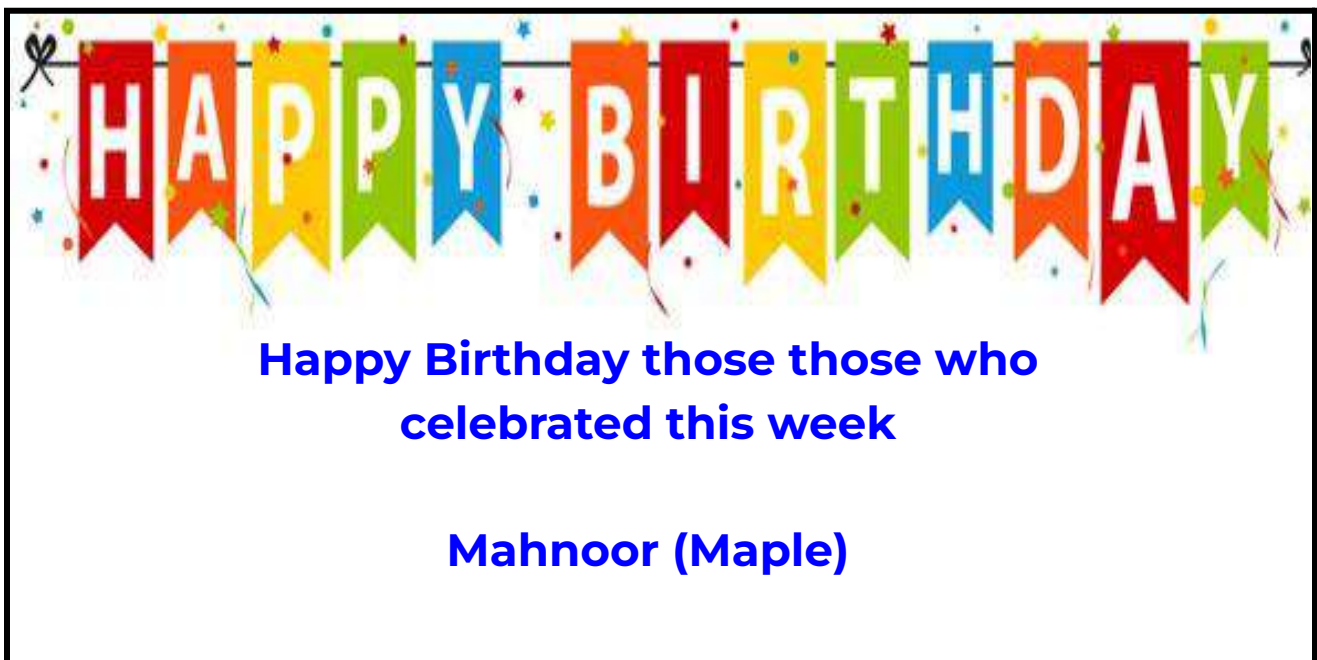
Mr McLeod



Dates for your Diary

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

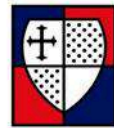
Date	Time	
Thursday 25th September	3:30 - 4:30pm	Year 5/6 girls 7v7 Football Tournament at Darras Hall Primary - Details to follow
Wednesday 1st October	9am	SEND Coffee Morning in School Hall
Thursday 2nd October	9am	Sibling and Individual school photos
Friday 17th October	9am	Harvest festival
Tuesday 21st October	3.15pm	PTA Halloween Disco
Friday 5th December	9am	Christmas Nativity Performance



Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



Fancy joining the Belsay School PTA? Please come along to join us for an informal meeting. If you are unable to attend or wish to know more about the PTA please speak to Louisa Squires.

PTA Meeting
Friday 19th September from
1:30pm
@ The Blacksmiths Coffee
Shop
New members welcome



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

belsaydaycare@yahoo.co.uk

01661 881704



Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



Alastair Lord is currently offering a free trial (which can be held in school)
Please complete this [Google form](#) for more information or to arrange a trial.

LEARN **BRASS!**

French Horn

Cornet

Baritone

Trumpet

Tuba

Tenor Horn

Trombone

Alastair Lord



Brass Teacher

Twenty years teaching experience



Learn in School

Group or 1-1 lessons

All instruments provided!

scan HERE 

For more info and to sign up

Contact: 07834226096

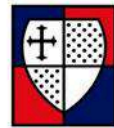
lord.alastair@gmail.com



Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



PONTELAND RFC

MINIS & JUNIORS ARE BACK!

TRAINING STARTS SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER

UNDER 6'S, 7'S, 8'S, 9'S AND 11'S

STARTS AT 9AM

UNDER 10'S, 12'S, 13'S, 14'S AND 15'S

STARTS AT 9:30AM

UNDER 12 GIRLS AWAY AT NOVOS

KO AT 2PM

PITCH UP FOR RUGBY!

SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER, AT 10AM

JOIN IN WITH OUR START-OF-SEASON PITCH UP EVENT – COME ALONG AND GIVE RUGBY A TRY IN A FUN, FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT. WHETHER NEW OR EXPERIENCED, BOYS AND GIRLS – THIS IS FOR ALL SKILL LEVELS!

FOR MORE INFO, EMAIL US AT INFO@PONTELANDRFC.CO.UK





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
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:



Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



Tynedale Hockey Club JUNIOR HOCKEY

£5
Per
Session



Everyone of all abilities welcomed at
Queen Elizabeth High School
Sunday's

Year 8 - 9am to 10.15am

Years 6 & 7 - 10.15am to 11.30am

Year 5 - 12.45pm to 2pm

Under 10s (year 4s) and U8s (years 2 and 3)
12.45pm to 2pm

please email:
maggiemcoombe@gmail.com
to book a space!

