

**19th September 2025**

## Headteachers update

It has been another fantastic week at Belsay, full of positivity, achievements most of all and smiles. Wherever I walk into a classroom the energy is unbelievable and the enthusiasm of the children is just a joy to watch - keep it up everyone!

Our reading journey has started off really strongly this term – thank you for all your support at home. To keep the momentum going, we are offering double Book Worm points for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 readers from now until next Friday. Let's see how many extra points we can collect! Reading is crucial for the children and their journey through school so use it as an excuse on an evening to forget the house jobs, leave your phones to one side, find a quiet spot and spend some quality time in a comfortable space with your child. It's a special time and one that you won't necessarily get back once they're older.

Last week our Year 5 and 6 football team took part in the Pele Trust Festival at Darras Hall. The results may not have always gone our way but the effort, determination and smiles on their faces told the real story. They gave 100% throughout, showing off the best of our school values. We are so proud of every single one of them – I know Mrs Rutter was your biggest fan on the sidelines!



A special mention must go to Henry, who completed the Great North Run earlier this month in aid of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. Through his incredible efforts and the generosity of those who supported him, he raised a staggering £1,231. What an amazing achievement – well done, Henry!

Further to the letter sent out on Wednesday regarding the potential 'new pupil', please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any further questions. We want everyone to feel comfortable about the idea and have no doubt it will be a real asset to the school and more importantly the children.

We ended the week, as always, with Celebration Assembly and Hot Chocolate, a perfect way to round off another brilliant week together. Well done to all our

winners this week!

Hope you have a great weekend!

**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 & Educators Need to Know about AI-ENABLED SCAMS

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is quickly becoming a widely used tool, with lots of positive applications being discussed and developed. Sadly, however, as with most technology tools, there are those who will seek to use it for malicious and dishonest practices, with children and other vulnerable groups particularly at risk.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**PHISHING EMAILS: BETTER & QUICKER**

Phishing emails - emails designed to trick people into handing over login details or money - are not new, and do not rely on AI, however, AI has made them far more dangerous. Criminals can now generate highly convincing emails or social media posts, mimicking an organisation's tone, branding and language with ease. This makes phishing attempts harder to spot, especially for young people who may not yet know what to look out for.

**ONLINE MARKETPLACE FRAUD**

Online marketplaces are now a common way to buy and sell everything, from second-hand clothes to cars. Criminals are exploiting this by using AI to enhance or completely fake product photos and videos, and pressure buyers into paying deposits or full amounts up front. These tactics are becoming more advanced, making it vital to pause, check, and verify the site before parting with any money.

**VOICE IMPERSONATION**

AI can now realistically reproduce a person's voice when given a short sample of someone's speech patterns. This is especially concerning where voice has been enabled as an alternative to password-protected logins. One such example was the use of AI deepfake audio as part of a fake home phone scam, the criminals used an AI voice clone of a 12-year-old to convince her parents she had been kidnapped and asked for money.

**EMPLOYMENT SCAMS**

Using AI, criminals can create fake online profiles that seem completely real. These synthetic identities can chat with young people about fake job offers, looking for reasons to become a slave or perpetrator. In 2020, the Guardian reported a scam targeting young people with promises of quick cash, posing as 18 job offers.

**INFLUENCER & INVESTMENT SCAMS**

AI tools now make it easy to manipulate video and audio, with technology available that can generate entirely fake content using the likeness of celebrities or influencers. Criminals are using this to create convincing videos of well-known figures promoting fake products or services, which young people can be particularly susceptible to. Cryptocurrency scams are a common tactic, luring people into investing in schemes that do not exist. Once payment is made, the investment simply disappears with the money.

**ROMANCE SCAMS & SEXTORTION**

AI chat bots can now mimic real conversations, often accompanied with realistic fake photos and videos. This makes it easier for criminals to build trust with young people - among other things, this can lead to fraud or extortion. In 2024, the NCA's CEOP Safety Centre received 280 reports of sextortion, a 40% increase in the first five months alone, police received an average of 110 monthly reports involving children, the amount has risen and targeted this trend has become.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

**THINK CRITICALLY**

The key to addressing the increasing growth of AI-enabled scams is to think critically and show caution. Warn children that if something is too good to be true, then it probably is. Encourage them to stop and carefully consider what they are seeing and reading before taking any action. For example, if a social media post addresses urgency, proceed with caution if content seems unusual, even from a known person, it may be that their account has been hacked.

**USE TRUSTWORTHY SITES AND SERVICES**

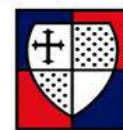
Online marketplaces are useful when buying and selling items, however, where possible, encourage children to use reputable companies and their online shopping sites. These companies are likely to have more sophisticated cyber-security safeguards in place, underpinned by consumer legislation, enabling them to control how products and services are displayed and traded on their sites.

**SEEK TO VERIFY**

Criminals may breach an influencer's account or spread misinformation and fake content; however, their approach will generally be limited to a single account, site or service. Where possible, show children how to verify information to check its legitimacy before proceeding. Small actions, such as phoning the person who is the subject of a suspicious email, or checking content via an individual or company website or social media sites can make the difference. The greater the risk, the more effort we should spend to confirm whether the information presented is true or false.

**REPORT IT**

As the sophistication of scams increases, the likelihood of being tricked by them also increases, especially when not paying attention or acting quickly. It is important that young people know how to report incidents as they happen. Show children how to report their concerns to the social media site, Action Fraud, banks, and other individuals or organisations listed or involved. If you are unsure of the most effective reporting channel, contact Action Fraud.



## 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.

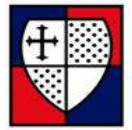
**Current Whole School attendance is 96.87%** Our **NEW** target for Whole School Attendance is 97%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	100%	98.46%
Maple	97.69%	98.90%
Alder	88.40%	93.29%
Oak	95.65%	98.14%

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've had a wonderful week in Willow class, full of exploring, learning and growing together.

This week we enjoyed the story *The Colour Monster*. It helped us to think carefully about our feelings and how we can recognise and name them. The children have been brilliant at talking about what makes them feel happy, sad, worried or excited, and learning that all feelings are important.

Our outdoor area has continued to be buzzing with activity! The children have been developing their independence and teamwork as they explore, create, and play. From creating potions in the sand and water trays to developing our core strength on the climbing frame and balance beams, we are making the most of outdoor learning, no matter what the weather!



We've taken our first steps into Maths this week with lots of counting, sorting, and singing number songs. The children are building confidence with numbers through fun, practical activities. There's been plenty of singing and laughter along the way, it is music to Mr McLeod's ears (quite literally).

Thank you for your continued support, it really does make a difference to the experiences we are having!

Have a lovely weekend.

**Miss Houghton**



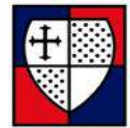
## Classroom updates - Maple Class

This week in our mixed Year 1 and 2 class at Belsay, we have been busy developing our Maths skills. Year 1 children have been practising finding one more and one less than numbers to 10 and beyond, while Year 2 children have been counting in tens and working hard to identify missing tens and ones on number lines. They tackled number lines that were only marked with the start and end points, showing fantastic perseverance! Across the class, we have been focusing on using precise mathematical vocabulary, with key words such as *partition*, *intervals*, *fewer than*, *more than*, and *equal to* helping us explain our thinking more clearly.

In History, we have launched our exciting new topic, *How have Explorers changed the world?* The children were captivated by learning all about the life and achievements of Captain James Cook. We discovered how his journey began in Whitby, Yorkshire, before leading him across the oceans to the coasts of Australia and New Zealand. We talked about his travels through the Arctic Circle, and to the islands of Hawaii and the Pacific. The children were fascinated by his spirit of adventure and curiosity, and we enjoyed lively discussions about what it must have been like to travel to such distant and unknown places over 250 years ago.



Miss Dixon



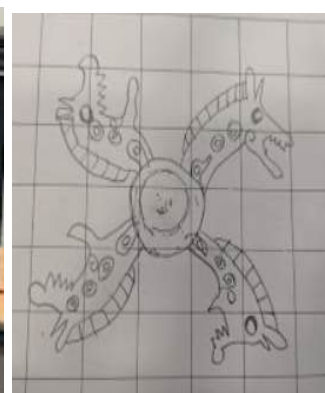
## Classroom updates- Alder class

In English this week we have continued building our skills around descriptive writing. We have explored expanded noun phrases, adverbs (as well as fronted adverbials in Year 4), and prepositions. We have also worked collaboratively to create Anglo Saxon Glossaries, we used our IT skills and knowledge of the Google Suite to help. The Year 4s made fantastic teachers in their groups and all showed great teamwork.

Maths has seen a continuation of our place value topic. We have been looking at partitioning in depth. Everyone enjoyed using our base 10 manipulatives to show flexible partitioning, this involved finding different ways of splitting the same number into 2, 3 or even 4 groups. We are becoming experts!

The variety of Anglo Saxon tile designs created in Art this week was impressive. We are now ready to move on to making our tiles so we can get messy with some printing. It would be great if the children could have a look around the house and discuss all the different appliances they use on a daily basis. This will feed into our topic about electricity.

We have enjoyed learning about Anglo Saxon settlements this week - we can't believe that everyone had to live, eat and sleep in one room. It was interesting to see how the Anglo Saxons chose places to settle close to natural resources to make living easier and efficient. In RE, we have been acting out the story of Lena's Promise - looking at the importance of keeping promises and how we can help others to be kind.



Mrs Aynsley & Mrs Rutter



## Classroom updates - Oak Class

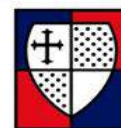
It's been another brilliant week of learning in Oak Class! The children have produced their WWI Narrative Poem Big Writes, weaving together imagery, rhythm, and emotion to capture life on the battlefield – they used the features we've been building up over the last few weeks brilliantly. In Maths, we've been stretching our number skills all the way up to 10,000,000 as part of our place value unit, showing great resilience with some really big numbers.

In Science, we've been investigating voltage and exploring how it can change in circuits, while in History we've started to uncover what life was like on the Home Front during World War II. To round the week off, Oak Class were treated to a fantastic Art lesson from Mr A, who showed us how to use colour and tone to capture the atmosphere of the WWI battlefields.

We've also been working hard on our discussion skills this week, with plenty of opportunities to share ideas, ask big questions, and support each other's learning. The enthusiasm and focus across the class has been brilliant to see – we're looking forward to building on this momentum as we head into another busy week ahead. Go well this weekend, Team Oak. Another marvellous effort, that! Looking forward to seeing you all, for the third Monday of this half term.




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
Thursday 2nd October	5.30pm - 7.30pm	Prospective Parents Information Evening @ Ponteland High School for current year 6 parents
Friday 17th October	9am	Harvest Festival
Tuesday 21st October	3.15pm	PTA Halloween Disco
Friday 5th December	9am	Christmas Nativity Performance



**Happy Birthday those those who celebrated this week**

**Emily (Alder)**  
**Hunter (Oak)**  
**Jenson (Oak)**

Belsay Primary School

# Friday Flyer

Belsay School



Ponteland High School

## Y6 OPEN EVENING

The Crescent  
Callerton Lane  
Ponteland  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE20 9EG



Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025 5.30-7.30pm

Listen to the Headteacher talk and take the opportunity to visit our fantastic curriculum areas

Aiming for our students to be happy, feel safe and secure, and achieve exceptionally well

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*

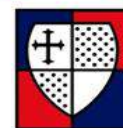
Learn in School  
Group or 1-1 lessons  
All instruments provided!

scan HERE →  
For more info and to sign up  
Contact: 07834226096  
lord.alastair@gmail.com

Belsay Primary School

# Friday Flyer

Belsay School



**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:



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](mailto:maggiemcoombe@gmail.com)  
to book a space!