

26th September 2025

Headteachers update

What a wonderful week it has been at Belsay! On Friday we marked European Languages Day and the children rose brilliantly to the challenge of learning how to say hello, goodbye and thank you in a European language. I was amazed by their enthusiasm and the wide range of languages they explored – the reward of a sweet at the end definitely helped too! We are lucky to have a French specialist teacher come to school every Wednesday, something other primaries won't have outside the Pele Trust. Having a weekly lesson along with our monthly 'Language of the Month', we feel it really helps to promote diversity and the wider world we live in.



Our Year 5/6 girls played in their first football tournament of the year and as always, did us very proud. They showed great teamwork, respect and determination in every match, representing Belsay in the best possible way. Well done girls, we are very proud of you!

During the year we carry out checks to ensure that children are receiving the very best education and

this week we focused on English. We were blown away by the learning taking place in classrooms and the fantastic attitudes of all our children. Even at this early stage, we are already seeing some brilliant examples of writing as we strive for our Gold Standard expectations.



Further to the exciting news about our school dog Arthur, I am delighted to confirm that he will be collected on Sunday. The children are so excited and judging by conversations on the playground, I know many parents are too! We will keep you updated over the coming weeks.

We ended our week together with Celebration Assembly and Hot Chocolate, a lovely way to round off another positive week so as always, well done to all of our winners.

Thank you as always for your continued support and to all of you who purchased the school honey last week, hopefully you enjoyed it as much as I do. The money raised goes back into school and we are extremely grateful for your generosity. Thank you also to our two Year 6 girls for showing great selling skills, entrepreneurs in the making!

Have a restful weekend and we look forward to another brilliant week ahead.

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 YOUTUBE KIDS

As the name suggests, YouTube Kids is a child-friendly version of Google's online video-sharing platform. Its colourful user interface is designed with young people in mind, and it offers a curated, family-friendly experience with features like age-based content settings and parental controls.

AGE RESTRICTION 4+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT BYPASSING FILTERS (18+ CENSOR)

YouTube Kids is not free of inappropriate content. But the 18+ filter is not perfect. Some inappropriate content is still visible. For example, some videos are not properly filtered. Some videos are not properly filtered. Some videos are not properly filtered.

BE WARY OF ADVERTISING (BUY NOW)

The 18+ filter is not perfect. Some videos are not properly filtered. Some videos are not properly filtered. Some videos are not properly filtered.

DESIGNED TO BE ADDICTIVE

YouTube Kids is designed to be addictive. The platform's design features, such as the infinite scroll of video thumbnails and the reward system of gold coins, are designed to keep children watching for longer.

SETTINGS CAN BE CIRCUMVENTED

YouTube Kids offers a parental control system, enabling you to set an account for family and restrict the content of what is seen on the app. However, the 18+ filter is not perfect. Some inappropriate content is still visible. For example, some videos are not properly filtered. Some videos are not properly filtered.

AI-GENERATED MISINFORMATION

There is also a risk of AI-generated misinformation. AI-generated content can be used to spread false information and disinformation.

DATA COLLECTION RISK

YouTube Kids collects data on the devices and YouTube Kids accounts used to view content. The platform collects data on the devices and YouTube Kids accounts used to view content.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PARENTAL CONTROLS

You can use the parental control system to restrict the content of what is seen on the app. You can also use the parental control system to restrict the content of what is seen on the app.

SET TIME LIMITS

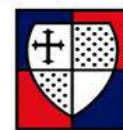
You can use the parental control system to set time limits for how long children spend watching videos. You can also use the parental control system to set time limits for how long children spend watching videos.

CHECK WATCH HISTORY

You can use the parental control system to check the watch history of the devices and YouTube Kids accounts used to view content. You can also use the parental control system to check the watch history of the devices and YouTube Kids accounts used to view content.

WATCH TOGETHER

It's important that you try to make YouTube Kids a fun and positive experience for children. One way to do this is by watching together. You can also use the parental control system to watch together.



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 96.26% Our **NEW** target for Whole School Attendance is 97%.

| Class | Weekly attendance | Annual attendance |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Willow | 100% | 98.89% |
| Maple | 94.62% | 97.77% |
| Alder | 92.80% | 93.16% |
| Oak | 95.22% | 97.37% |

| 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 week we have enjoyed in Reception!

Our learning has continued around *The Colour Monster*, helping us to explore and talk about our feelings. The children are becoming more confident in recognising and expressing different emotions, showing growing empathy and understanding.

A highlight of the week was making scrambled eggs together. The children carefully followed instructions, practised cracking eggs, and enjoyed tasting their delicious creations. It was a lovely opportunity to develop independence and practical life skills. Mixed opinions on the taste and texture of the egg but everyone was willing to try it. Willow class have requested that we make boiled eggs next, watch this space!

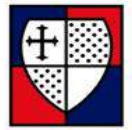


Phonics is going from strength to strength! We are beginning to blend sounds to make words, which is a huge step forward in early reading. The children are so proud of their progress—well done everyone for working so hard. A big thank you to everyone who has supported their child with reading at home. This really does make a difference and the children have enjoyed checking how many bookworm points they have collected so far.

Our creative area has been buzzing with activity. From painting and collage to imaginative constructions, the children have been expressing their ideas beautifully and with great enthusiasm.

As we reach the half way point of the half term, it is a good time to reflect on how far we have come in 4 weeks. Everyone has settled into school life wonderfully and I could not be more proud of them. This only happens with support from home. I think it is fair to say that Willow class certainly has plenty of that!

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

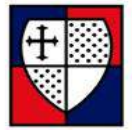
Maple Class have had yet another busy but brilliant week of learning! In Maths, we continued our work on place value and explored comparing numbers using the important vocabulary of *less than*, *more than* and *equal to*, along with the matching symbols. Year 2 pupils also challenged themselves with some tricky independent problem-solving activities, showing fantastic perseverance and resilience.

In English, our focus has been on developing our SPaG skills. We have been practising writing in the first person using the word *I*, and joining sentences together with the conjunction *and*. Year 1 children are working very hard to write independent sentences, carefully using their phonics to sound out spellings, while Year 2 have been concentrating on accurate punctuation. We also learned more about word classes, discussing adjectives, nouns, and verbs—so keep testing us at home!

In History, we took on the role of explorers by plotting Captain Cook's voyage on a world map. The children really enjoyed finding out about the journeys he made and why they were so important. We also thought carefully about how explorers have helped us to learn more about the wider world. It has been wonderful to see such enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the week!



Miss Dixon



Classroom updates- Alder class

Alder Class has had another fantastic week of learning! In English, we've been planning a character description of the main character in our class text, Magnus. We've explored how adjectives and adverbs add depth to our writing and can make characters come alive. We've also used dictionaries and thesauruses to create a glossary of subject specific vocabulary we can use in our text to make it stand out. We are looking forward to writing our descriptions and showcasing what we have learnt.

In Maths, we have continued our focus on place value this week. We have concentrated on number lines and how to estimate where a number would appear on number lines up to 1,000 and 10,000. We have also looked at comparing numbers and deciding which numbers are more, less or equal to others. We all enjoyed learning the alligator song to help us identify which way the more than and less than symbols appear.

In RE this week, we've been thinking about what it means to make a promise and how important promises are. Last week, we acted out the story of a broken promise and this week, we looked at the emotions behind this and had a debate about whether it is ever ok to break a promise. Lots of us admitted that we had promised to clean our bedrooms but then had not done it in the end. I'll ask again this week, if anyone has managed this over the weekend!

Have a great weekend everyone. We look forward to seeing you next week.



Mrs Aynsley & Mrs Rutter



Classroom updates - Oak Class

It's been another brilliant week of learning in Oak Class. In English, we've been hard at work on our non-chronological reports all about WWI poetry. We explored how to write strong introductions, developed clear topic paragraphs and rounded things off with effective summaries. The children have shown real skill in organising their ideas and using precise language.

In Maths, number lines have been our key tool. We've stretched them to show numbers all the way up to 10,000,000 and then used them to begin exploring negative numbers. The children enjoyed spotting where we might encounter negative numbers in real life, from temperatures to bank balances.

History took us closer to home as we looked at Northumberland's role in World War II, particularly focusing on Belsay and how the local community supported the war effort on the home front. In PSHE, we thought carefully about the importance of boundaries in relationships and why respecting them keeps us safe and helps us feel valued.

In Science, our circuits work continued as we experimented with how different components affect the way circuits behave, testing ideas and recording what we noticed. Finally, we ended the week in Art by developing our battlefield drawings further, adding a focal point to bring atmosphere and depth to our work.

A packed week of creativity, problem-solving and thoughtful discussion. What a class of absolute legends we have up here in UKS2!



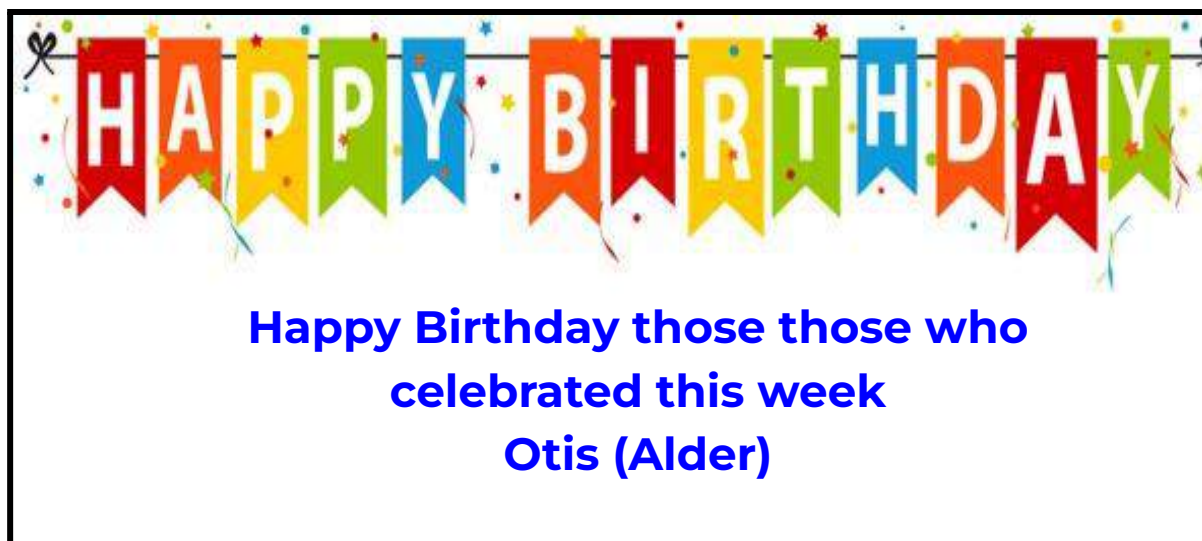
Mr McLeod



Dates for your Diary

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

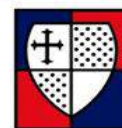
| Date | Time | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Monday 29th - Wednesday 1st Oct | 10am | Year 6 Prospective Parents Open Mornings @ Ponteland High School |
| Wednesday 1st October | 9am | SEND Coffee Morning in School Hall |
| Thursday 2nd October | 9am | Sibling and Individual school photos |
| Thursday 2nd October | 5.30pm - 7.30pm | Prospective Parents Information Evening @ Ponteland High School for current year 6 parents |
| Monday 13th October | Morning | Flu Immunisations |
| 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



We kindly remind you that the school car park should not be used between 8:20am - 9:10am and 2:50pm and 3:30pm. During these times, our buses and taxis need clear access to park and manoeuvre safely, so that children can board and disembark without risk.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping keep the car park safe.

**Safer Parking
around our school**

SCHOOL — KEEP — CLEAR

As a driver you have a responsibility to park in a safe and considerate manner.
Park with care and help make the area near and around our school a safer place for everyone.

The poster features a central illustration of a school building with a sign that says 'SCHOOL'. In front of the school, a diverse group of people is shown: a person on a bicycle, a person in a wheelchair, a woman with a baby, a family with children, a person with a dog, a person on a bicycle, a person in a wheelchair, a woman with a stroller, and a person on a scooter. To the right of the school is a triangular warning sign with a red border and a white background, showing two children walking, and a rectangular sign below it that says 'School'. A yellow zigzag line runs across the scene, with the text 'SCHOOL — KEEP — CLEAR' written in yellow above it. The background is light blue with a sun and clouds. The bottom section of the poster has a red background with two white cars, one on the left and one on the right, each with a driver and passengers visible.

Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



Ponteland High School

Y6 OPEN EVENING

The Crescent
Callerton Lane
Ponteland
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE20 9EG



Thursday 2nd 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

belsaydaycare@yahoo.co.uk

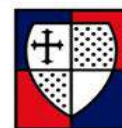
01661 881704



Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



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

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:
maggiectombe@gmail.com
to book a space!