

10th October 2025

Headteachers update

It's been another fantastic, busy and brilliant week here at school! The children have once again been absolutely amazing and we've got some lovely news to share, along with a few exciting hellos and updates.

This week, we had a very special visit from Mr. Phillips, Head of School at Shilbottle, as he wanted to see what all the fuss was about at Belsay. He left absolutely buzzing! He was incredibly impressed with the quality of teaching he saw in action but even more so with the sheer enthusiasm and resilience of our wonderful pupils. It's a huge testament to how strong our curriculum is getting and how ready the children are to tackle any challenge. We just love any chance we get to show off how brilliant they all are - well done, superstars!

Speaking of brilliant, we also had our Safeguarding Review from Pele Trust today, and it was extremely positive! The children were truly articulate, clearly explaining how we all stay safe in school and connecting it straight back to their learning in PSHE. Seriously, they nailed it!

We are delighted to extend a huge, warm welcome to Miss Checkley, our new Trainee Teacher joining Maple Class! Miss Checkley comes to us with a degree in Biomedical Science and is incredibly excited to start her teaching journey. We are so lucky to have her with us until the February half term, so if you see her around, please do introduce yourself!



I know I'm being hounded about it daily (and rightly so!), so here's the latest on Arthur! He's doing really well and is about to start his proper puppy training with The Dog Log very soon. This means we're hopeful that his official first school visit won't be too far off! I am going to try my best to bring him in for a little sneak peek before the half term so the children can meet our furry friend!

Finally, we wrapped up the week with our joyous Celebration Assembly and Hot Chocolate! A massive well done to all of our incredible winners this week—you earned it!

I hope you have a great weekend and only 2 more weeks to go before a well deserved half term break.

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 TIKTOK

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's following feed only displays videos from trusted sources, for users it's content based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be well-meaning, but the app's algorithm is not always accurate. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.8 billion users globally, the potential for contact with strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-18s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are not publicly visible. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to download or screenshot their posts.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous challenges for boys (such as 'ice bucket' or 'TikTok'). One extreme example of the latter was the 'Seahorse' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to teenagers dying because of the 'TikTok over the top' deaths of their children.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more fun than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 13 to 17-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misperceptions, rumours or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase virtual gifts for content creators. Gifts can be redeemed for real money, with the app earning £3.20 to an eye-watching £13, while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.8 billion in user spending in 2021. TikTok's policy to treat under-18s as minors in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2021, UK children spent an average of 87 minutes per day on the app, that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The increasingly addictive nature of the app may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (restricting the content of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child seems to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Explain that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs, increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is talking to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.



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.

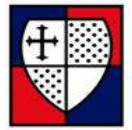
Current Whole School attendance is 96.01% Our **NEW** target for Whole School Attendance is 97%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	100%	99.31%
Maple	94.23%	96.62%
Alder	92.80%	92.97%
Oak	99.13%	97.68%

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 week we have had in Reception! The children have been full of curiosity and enthusiasm as we explored new ideas and deepened our understanding across all areas of learning.

This week, we have focused on our Science topic 'Seasonal change'. We have looked at what is happening all around us and thought about how different the weather is now compared to the summer holidays. We have explored our beautiful school grounds and discovered the leaves on our trees are starting to fall. Not one to miss an opportunity to use a free resource for learning, we collected the leaves and have used them for all sorts of crafts this week. A firm favourite being leaf rubbing!



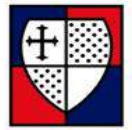
Our story focus this week has continued to focus on *It's Okay to Be Different* by Todd Parr. Through this colourful and uplifting book, the children have been reflecting on what makes each of us special. We have had lovely discussions about our unique qualities, talents, and interests, celebrating the wonderful diversity within our classroom.

The children have led their own learning this week by setting up their own scientific enquiry. They have enjoyed exploring what happens to water when we freeze it? The children made thoughtful predictions before observing the changes over time. There was great excitement as we discovered how water turns into ice and discussed where we might see ice in the world around us. I think the most fun was had when we tried to break the ice to unfreeze the cars that we had used as part of our experiment. A personal highlight of this experiment was the colourful ice that Toby made. We had great fun using it to paint pictures and explore colour changes.

It has been a week full of discovery, creativity, and thoughtful conversations. What more could we need?

I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend. Next week we will be thinking about performing for an audience! We are very excited for our first Harvest festival to take place.

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

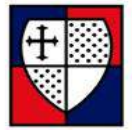
This week in Maple, we have been busy building upon our spelling, punctuation and grammar skills in English. The children enjoyed re-reading our class text of Julia Donaldson's *Zog* and created their very own story maps to help them remember the key events. Using pictures and keywords, they carefully sequenced the story and discussed their favourite parts. We are now looking forward to using our maps and new writing skills to retell the story of *Zog* in our own words next week!

In Maths, both year groups have been working hard on their number skills. Year 1 have been focusing on number bonds to 10, writing number sentences and spotting patterns that help them add quickly and accurately. Year 2 have been building on their knowledge by studying addition facts, using a range of strategies to solve problems and explain their reasoning. It has been wonderful to see everyone's confidence with numbers growing each day.

In Science, we celebrated World Space Week and learnt all about the moon and its different phases, discovering how it appears to change shape across the month in the Lunar Cycle. To help track these changes at home, everyone made their very own moon spinner. Overall, it has been a fantastic week full of creativity, curiosity and enthusiasm for learning!



Miss Dixon



Classroom updates- Alder class

Maths has seen a continuation of our addition and subtraction topic. We have begun looking at exchanging numbers when adding and subtracting and will continue with this next week.

In English we have been working towards writing a non-chronological report about Anglo Saxon life. We have also used our reading skills to carry out research. We are all now excellent at highlighting key words and annotating text.

We had so much fun in Science this week. In small groups we were given a variety of circuit components. We explored and experimented with them. The excitement in the room when a group managed to light their bulb, hear their buzzer or see their motor work was infectious! We have all got our polystyrene tiles ready for some Anglo Saxon printing next week. Please could everyone come in with an old tshirt or short, it may get messy.

We enjoyed learning about The Battle of Hastings this week, where we explored the three contenders for the English crown in 1066. We organised the events of the battle in chronological order and explored how William the Conqueror had eventually managed to win. We were amazed at the size of the Bayeux Tapestry and how it had recorded all of the key events of the battle.



Mrs Aynsley & Mrs Rutter



Classroom updates - Oak Class

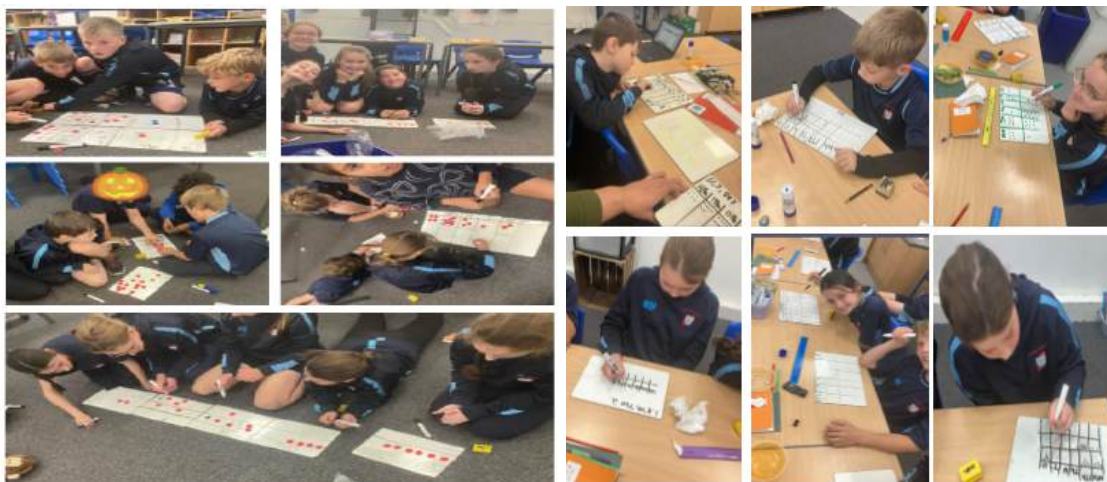
This week in English, Oak Class have been exploring what makes a brilliant diary entry. We've looked closely at how informal language, snippets of direct speech, emotive vocabulary and time adverbials can help us bring our writing to life and make it feel personal and authentic.

In Maths, we've been developing our fluency in formal written methods of calculation. After plenty of concrete and pictorial work, we've moved into the abstract, confidently showing our exchanging skills when adding and subtracting larger numbers.

In History, we've continued our learning about World War II by discovering how the incredible technological advancements made during the war, from radar to early computing, continue to shape our lives today.

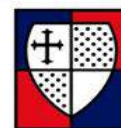
In Science, we've been delving into the fascinating world of electricity, learning about key figures such as Nikola Tesla, Benjamin Franklin, Alessandro Volta and Michael Faraday, the pioneers whose discoveries continue to power our modern world.

In PSHE, we've been discussing how respectful relationships in school help to keep us safe and create a positive environment where everyone feels valued whilst in RE, we've begun to bring together all of our big questions from philosophy, theology and the social sciences, reflecting on what we've learned about beliefs, wonderings and the different ways people make sense of the world. A big thank you, as always, for your continued support and we'll see you all on Monday!



Mr McLeod

Friday Flyer



Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Monday 13th October	Morning	Flu Immunisations
Friday 17th October	9am	Harvest Festival
Tuesday 21st October	All day	Center for Life Trip - Willow and Maple Class
Tuesday 21st October	3.15pm	PTA Halloween Disco
Wednesday 22nd October	All day	Cragside Trip - Alder and Oak Class
Friday 24th October	3:15pm	School closes for half term
Monday 3rd November	All Day	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 4th November	8:45am	School reopens
Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th November	Times TBC	Parents Evening - details to follow later this month
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.

The flyer 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, including a person on a bicycle, a person in a wheelchair, a person pushing a stroller, and several children. To the right of the school is a triangular warning sign with a red border and a white background, showing two children walking, with a rectangular sign below it that says 'School'. Below the illustration, a yellow zigzag line separates the scene from a red background. The text 'SCHOOL — KEEP — CLEAR' is written in yellow above this line. On the red background, there are two white car icons, one on the left and one on the right, each with a driver and passengers. The text '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.' is written in white on the red background.

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.

Friday Flyer



Belsay PTA invites children to decorate a spooky plate for Halloween. There will be prizes for the most spooktacular entries. Please pay your £1 entry fee to the 'Friends of Belsay' account (details have been shared on our ClassDojo post). Plates must be returned to school no later than the 13th October.

A purple-themed flyer for a 'Spooky Plate' competition. The background is decorated with various Halloween icons: a spider on a web, a ghost, a skull, a eyeball, a witch's hat, a pumpkin, a bat, a candle, and a witch's broom. The text is centered and reads: 'PTA DECORATE A SPOOKY PLATE COMPETITION - £1.00'. Below this, it says 'PLATES WILL BE SENT HOME ON FRIDAY 3RD OCT—PLENTY OF TIME TO CREATE YOUR SPOOKTACULAR DESIGN!' and 'PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME AND CLASS ON THE BACK. RETURN PLATES BY 13TH OCTOBER TO ENTER THE COMPETITION.'

PTA
DECORATE A
**SPOOKY
PLATE**
COMPETITION - £1.00

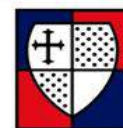
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Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



PTA Halloween Disco

Please complete the google form and send payment to the PTA account to purchase tickets. Full details have been emailed on 3rd October.

<https://forms.gle/z1MsepVcNM3DQm8x9>

A colorful illustration for a Halloween disco. It features a large orange jack-o'-lantern in the center with a smiling face. Surrounding it are four children in costumes: a witch with a blue hat, a mummy, a boy in a pumpkin costume, and a vampire. The background is purple with flying bats and a full moon. The text 'HALLOWEEN DISCO' is written in large, stylized yellow and white letters. Below it, the text 'FUN | GAMES | PRIZES' is in yellow. The date and time 'TUESDAY 21ST OCTOBER - 3:15-5PM' are in white. The price '£5 PER CHILD - INCLUDES HOTDOG, SNACK & JUICE.' is in white. At the bottom, instructions to 'SEND FANCY DRESS IN A BAG TO SCHOOL. PLEASE COMPLETE THE GOOGLE FORM AND FOLLOW PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR TICKETS.' are in white.

**HALLOWEEN
DISCO**

FUN | GAMES | PRIZES

TUESDAY 21ST OCTOBER - 3:15-5PM

£5 PER CHILD – INCLUDES HOTDOG, SNACK & JUICE.

**SEND FANCY DRESS IN A BAG TO SCHOOL.
PLEASE COMPLETE THE GOOGLE FORM AND FOLLOW
PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR TICKETS.**

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



Belsay Daycare & Purple Haze Flowers

Wreath Making Workshop

Tuesday 9th December

6:30pm - 8:30pm

£35

Get into the festive spirit with this fun two-hour wreath making session led by Diane James. All materials provided. Takes place in School Hall & refreshments will be available.



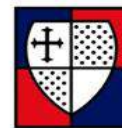
Contact Laura on 07834 828524
to book a place (£5 deposit required)

Raising funds for Belsay Daycare

Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



ALL STARS SPORT

FREE RUGBY DEVELOPMENT

SESSION



Free rugby development session in partnership with Ponteland RFC. This session is open to players aged 6-16 and all ability levels. The session will be delivered by highly experienced coaches and ex players.

31st October 2025
10am - 1pm



Ponteland RFC, Callerton Lane, NE20 9EG
<https://all-stars-sport.classforkids.io/camp/32>

Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



Alastair Lord is currently offering a free brass instrument 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

