

24th October 2025

Headteachers update

Well, we've made it! The final week before half term and what a fantastic (and full!) eight weeks it's been.

First off, a huge thank you to our wonderful PTA for organising yet another brilliant event, the Halloween Disco on Tuesday night. It was absolutely fantastic to see so many children there, dressed up and dancing away! Your ongoing support for our PTA events makes such a difference as they're an invaluable resource for the school and we really couldn't do it without you, our families and community. So, thank you once again for getting involved and helping to make these things happen.

It's also been a week of adventures for our classes! Reception and Key Stage 1 had a brilliant visit to the Centre for Life - from everything I've heard, they had a great time exploring and learning and it all linked beautifully with our curriculum. Meanwhile, our Key Stage 2 children headed off to Cragside in Rothbury. Thankfully, the weather held out and they enjoyed a wonderful day exploring the house, gardens and all things Victorian. These experiences really are what school memories are made of!

Another highlight this week was having Arthur in school for a few days. He's been making his way around the classes and judging by the children's smiles, they were just as delighted to see him as he was to be in school!

We've finished the week, as always, with our Hot Chocolate Friday and Celebration Assembly - well done to all of this week's winners. You've worked so hard and should be very proud of yourselves.

As we close out this first half term, I just want to say a heartfelt thank you to all of our staff for their relentless hard work and dedication. Eight weeks is a long stretch and every day brings new lessons, new challenges and new successes - their commitment to our children should never go unnoticed.

To everyone - children, families and staff - have a wonderful half term. Enjoy the break, put your feet up and hopefully squeeze in something fun because you deserve this holiday..

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday 4th November - please remember that Monday 3rd November is a Teacher Training Day.

Have a brilliant week off!

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 MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING APPS

When looking at options for supporting a child's mental health, the sheer volume can be overwhelming. There are many wellbeing apps available, but unfortunately not all are trustworthy. It's important to evaluate which resources are suitable, reliable and effective. This guide lets you know what to consider before installing such an app, to determine just how useful it's going to be.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

QUALITY & RELIABILITY

Mental health apps can be a useful starting point when looking for wellbeing advice and strategies to support a child's mental health. However, they aren't a substitute for professional help. Some of these apps are not reliable. They may look good and share helpful, but have they been designed by a mental health professional or therapist? As they have no way to track up their content?

PLACE RESPONSIBILITY ON CHILDREN

Some apps add the words 'child' or 'children' to their title or use a cartoon icon to make them more appealing to young people. When signing up for some of these apps, some will agree to the parent's consent, saying something along the lines of 'I've asked my parents' or 'I've asked my teacher'. It's important to make sure that the child's mental health journey, as required, should be reviewed.

DISREGARDING APPROPRIATE SUPPORT

Young people who feel anxious and have trouble sleeping may encounter a mindfulness app to help. While this is a good idea, it's not addressing the root of the problem. A more realistic approach is to encourage them to seek professional help, which could potentially reduce their anxiety in the long run.

LACK OF PERSONALISATION

Mental health or wellbeing apps are useful tools for the short term, teaching users several helpful skills to manage their condition – such as keeping an anxiety diary, breathing and relaxation techniques, and relaxation exercises. However, many apps don't adapt to different ages and developmental stages. These apps struggle to tailor their advice to users' individual needs. For example, many apps don't distinguish between the ages of users and can offer extremely generic advice.

DATA SECURITY

As with any other app – and just think for a moment about social media – it's vital to check what the privacy policy looks like. Downloading it. Some of these apps will track your data with third parties for advertising purposes. Some will track your personal and sensitive information within the app. They probably don't want it, but you should be aware of their intent.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Many apps will provide their most basic features for free but will require you to pay for other features – such as a more tailored experience or access to additional resources. This could be a one-off fee or a regular subscription. Consider whether this is actually required to be beneficial. The app, or could they receive the same support from a mental professional?

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHECK THE CREDIBILITY OF THE APP

Before you download a mental health and wellbeing app, investigate the developer. Have they conducted any qualified work or been professional in their field? Also check whether the app is approved and endorsed by mental health organisations, as these are good indicators of quality. However, you may also be asked to provide your own consent to download the app. There are many good apps out there, but there are just as many that are not.

SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

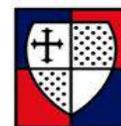
Trusted mental health and wellbeing apps designed by qualified, reputable organisations can be used alongside the professional advice and support offered by mental health professionals. These apps should never be considered a substitute for professional support or other tailored health care. If you have any concerns about a child's mental wellbeing, you should seek appropriate advice from a suitable service, such as HEE CP or CHUBBS, who can be contacted by calling 9900 111.

READ THE PRIVACY POLICY

Look into the app's terms of service – especially the privacy policy. Do you understand what they get access to with their data? Do you consent to the app's use? Do you know what data will be collected and how it will be used? Look out for any information that could be used to identify you or your child. Consider whether you want to download that particular app.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Mental health and wellbeing apps can be useful for writing down feelings, tracking your own thoughts and other such activities. However, help if the app is not helpful, and necessary – such as a child getting distressed about something. If you're not sure what to do, seek professional support. Remember, it's important that children don't solely rely on the app and have a safe space to talk about their feelings and experiences to the real world.



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.

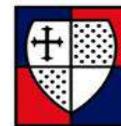
Current Whole School attendance is 96.70%. Our **NEW** target for Whole School Attendance is 97%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	96.67%	99.02%
Maple	96.92%	97.09%
Alder	98.40%	94.36%
Oak	100%	98.27%

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 first half term we've had together in Willow Class! The children have settled beautifully into school life, learning routines, making friends, and showing such curiosity and enthusiasm each day. I am so proud of how far they've come already!

This week we had a very exciting visitor Arthur the puppy! The children were thrilled to meet him and learned all about how to care for a pet. Arthur was very gentle and loved all the attention he received from our caring Willow Class! We are looking forward to him being able to come for another look around soon.



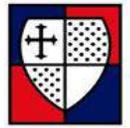
Our trip to the Centre for Life was a huge success! The children explored the exhibitions, asked brilliant questions, and were fascinated by the hands-on science activities. A big thank you to our Science lead Miss Dixon for organising this trip.

What a spook-tacular time everyone had at the Halloween Disco! The costumes were incredible from friendly witches and brave superheroes to sparkly pumpkins! The children enjoyed dancing, games, and a few tasty Halloween treats. Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a fun evening!

As we head into the break, we want to say a huge well done to all of the children in Willow class for a fantastic start to the school year. Next half term promises to be the most magical one yet full of festive fun, new learning adventures, and plenty of sparkle!

Have a lovely half term. I can't wait to see and hear what you have been up to!

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

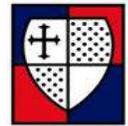
This week, Maple Class enjoyed an unforgettable trip to the Centre for Life, a truly amazing day out! The children were thrilled to see everything they've been learning in Science, History, and Geography come to life through hands-on experiences. Highlights of the day included an engaging storytelling workshop, a fantastic Science Show, and a special visit to the planetarium for a Halloween-themed story. It was wonderful to see the children's curiosity and enthusiasm shine as they explored and discovered new things together.

To round off a brilliant first half term, we also had a spooktacular time at the school Halloween disco! The children showed off their terrific costumes and some impressive dance moves on the dance floor.



Thank you, Maple Class, for your hard work, enthusiasm, and fantastic progress so early in the school year. Have a wonderful half-term break, rest, relax, and get ready for more exciting learning adventures when we return in November!

Miss Dixon



Classroom updates- Alder class

What a fantastic week we have had in Alder Class to finish off the half term. In English, we have been exploring an Anglo-Saxon poem and combining our class text Anglo Saxon Boy with our history learning to create fantastic setting descriptions of an Anglo-Saxon village. We have worked hard to include adverbs and adjectives to add depth to our descriptions.

In Maths, we have continued to build our fluency in addition through concrete and pictorial strategies using Base 10 and place value counters to confidently make exchanges. We have also moved into more abstract strategies and formal written methods for column addition. All of the children have shown great determination and perseverance this week. It is wonderful to see them confidently setting out the work in their books with increasing independence. Well done everyone!

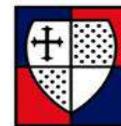
Throughout the half term we have been working on an Electricity unit in Science. On Wednesday, we enjoyed a fantastic visit to Cragside - the birthplace of electricity. We marvelled at Lord Armstrong's ingenious inventions and investigations and saw our learning in practice.

In History, we finished our Anglo Saxon unit by exploring a pull out copy of the Bayeux Tapestry and revisiting the events of The Battle of Hastings. We also learnt about the Norse legend of Beowulf and explored what it told us about Anglo Saxon culture. Listening to the Old English version of part of the poem was a great eye opener as to how our language has developed! We finished by evaluating whether these primary sources of history are reliable. A game of pass the whisper, helped us understand how information passed down through generations in story telling may not remain 100% accurate and was a lot of fun!

It has been a great half term everyone - enjoy your well deserved half term break. We are looking forward to seeing you in November and hearing what you have been up to!

Mrs Aynsley & Mrs Rutter





Classroom updates - Oak Class

In Oak Class, this week, we've delved deeper into *Letters From The Lighthouse*, beginning our new focus on informal letter writing. We've explored the features of these letters. The children have really enjoyed imagining how life would have felt during World War II.

In Maths, our focus has remained on subtraction. We've been building fluency through concrete, pictorial and abstract strategies from using place value grids and counters, to confidently exchanging across columns in formal written methods. The children have shown great resilience and precision in their work and it's fantastic to see them applying these skills independently.

In Science, we wrapped up our *Electricity* unit in style by designing and building our very own working traffic lights! The children worked brilliantly in small teams to complete circuits, test connections, and understand how switches control the flow of electricity. We also enjoyed a truly memorable visit to Cragside this week. We explored Lord Armstrong's incredible inventions, from the Powerhouse and Waterwheel to the Archimedes Screw and Iron Bridge, learning how science, engineering and nature came together to create something remarkable. It was an inspiring trip that helped us see electricity in action.

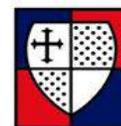
In PSHE, our theme has been communication helps us understand each other. Through discussion and role-play, the children reflected on how speaking clearly, listening carefully, and showing empathy can strengthen friendships and teamwork.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and have a wonderful weekend



Mr McLeod

Friday Flyer



🎃 A Huge Thank You from Belsay PTA! 🎃

We'd like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined in and supported our recent events — your kindness, creativity, and enthusiasm make such a difference to our lovely little school.

Together we raised:

- 🖌️ £48 from the Spooky Plate Competition
- 🦊 £198.75 from the Halloween Disco
- 🌾 £39.75 from the Harvest Festival

Every penny goes straight back into supporting our children's learning and school community — thank you for helping us make it happen! 🍷 🎃

Dates for your Diary

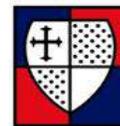
Events could be subject to change and will be communicated if required

Date	Time	
Monday 3rd November	All Day	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 4th November	8:45am	School reopens
Monday 10th November	All day	Wear odd socks for Anti-bullying
Thursday 13th November	Morning	Willow and Maple Class trip to St Andrew's Church, Bolam
Thursday 13th November	Morning	Alder and Oak Class trip to Newcastle Reform Synagogue
Friday 14th November	All day	Children in Need Non Uniform Day - wearing spots optional. £1 donation requested
Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th November	Various times	Parents Evening
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

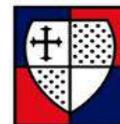
As a driver you have a responsibility to park in a safe and considerate manner.
Park with care and help make the area near and around our school a safer place for everyone.

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 a dog, a person 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, with 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. The text is in white and pink.

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

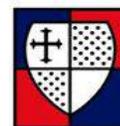
EVERYONE WELCOME

£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.



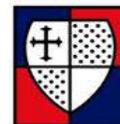
Contact Laura on 07834 828524
to book a place (£5 deposit required)

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

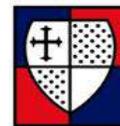


Ponteland RFC, Callerton Lane, NE20 9EG
<https://all-stars-sport.classforkids.io/camp/32>

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





**Treat your child to a day
in the forest this Summer!**

**HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUB
Michelangelo's, Ryton**

Wednesday 29th October

10-3pm

Order a delicious Italian takeaway to be delivered to the woods! (£35 per day with own food / £40 per day with food)
Suitable for children from Reception age and upwards.



Activities can include campfire, s'mores, fire lighting, mud, sand and water play, outdoor crafts, mud kitchen, tools, hammocks, messy play, hill climbing and free time to explore.

Forest Adventurers is run by experienced Forest School Practitioners (DBS checked, paediatric first aid trained).

<https://bookwhen.com/forestadventurers>
<https://www.facebook.com/forestadventurers.co.uk/>
suzanne@forestadventurers.co.uk 07711 461 409

Contact us for
more information
if you're
interested in

Holiday Clubs

Parent and
Preschool Groups

After School
Clubs

Birthday Parties

Corporate Events

Sessions in your
Child's School

School Trips