



7th November 2025

Headteachers update

Welcome back, everyone! I hope you all had a really lovely half-term break and managed to enjoy a bit of downtime with family and friends. Whether you spent it wrapped up on autumn walks, tackling the ever-growing pile of jobs around the house, or simply recharging with a good cuppa and a lie-in, I hope it was time well spent. We've got seven busy but exciting weeks ahead as we head towards Christmas and it's been brilliant to see the children return with such enthusiasm and focus. They've settled straight back into routines, showing great attitudes to learning and reminding us all just how proud we are of the high expectations and positive atmosphere we have here at Belsay.

Next week promises to be full of activity and reflection in equal measure. On Monday, children are invited to come into school wearing odd socks to mark the start of Anti-Bullying Week. This is always a great way to celebrate individuality and the simple message that we're all different- and that's what makes us special! Children can come in their PE kit and odd socks if they wish and we're looking forward to a colourful display of mismatched feet around school.

On Tuesday, we'll be holding a special assembly for Remembrance. It's always a powerful moment in the school calendar when we gather together for a minute's silence to reflect and pay our respects. The children always approach this with such maturity and thoughtfulness and it's one of those occasions that really shows what a kind and caring school community we have.

Then on Friday, it's time for Children in Need - always a highlight of the autumn term! Children are invited to wear non-uniform (spots optional, of course) and bring along a £1 voluntary donation. Every little bit helps and we're always so grateful for your support in raising funds for such an important cause.

Finally, we're once again working with the wonderful Action for Children charity on their Christmas Shoebox Appeal. This has become a really meaningful tradition for us at Belsay and it's amazing to see how generous our families are each year. A letter with all the details has gone out via email, but in essence, we're inviting families to fill shoeboxes with small gifts and essential items for children across the North East who might be in need this winter. The difference these boxes make is huge and I'd like to thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.

As always, thank you for everything you do to support the school and our wider community. It really is a team effort and we're so grateful for the way you all get behind everything we do. I hope you have a restful weekend, manage to dodge the showers, and get a bit of time to relax.

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 GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

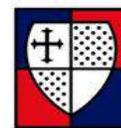
Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and online safety. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY**
Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.
- EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unsuitable material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.
- PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY**
Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.
- REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING**
Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.
- DIGITAL DEPENDENCY**
Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unmanaged, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.
- UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES**
Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or creative tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Clear discussions around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES**
Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.
- PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION**
Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.
- ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION**
Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.
- ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS**
Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.



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.

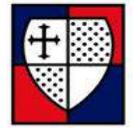
Current Whole School attendance is 96.61% Our **NEW** target for Whole School Attendance is 97%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	95.83%	98.46%
Maple	99.04%	97.27%
Alder	94.50%	94.37%
Oak	94.02%	97.88%

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

It has been lovely to see all the children return to school full of smiles and enthusiasm after the half-term break. The classroom has been filled with chatter as the children have enjoyed sharing their fun and adventures from the holidays, from family days out to cosy moments at home.

This week, we have focused on settling back into our routines and reminding ourselves of our classroom expectations. The children have done brilliantly showing independence, kindness and curiosity in everything they do.

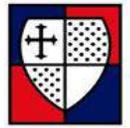
With Bonfire Night taking place this week, our learning has included an important focus on firework safety. The children have discussed how to enjoy fireworks responsibly, keep a safe distance, and look after pets who might find the celebrations a little noisy. It was lovely to hear about all of the fun the children had on bonfire night and how they helped others to stay safe. We have been inspired to create our own firework artwork this week as well.



I am so proud of how well everyone has started this new half term and are looking forward to the exciting weeks ahead as we move towards winter! This half term is truly the most magical and exciting half term of the whole school year. We have lots of fun events planned already so please check Class Dojo to stay up to date.

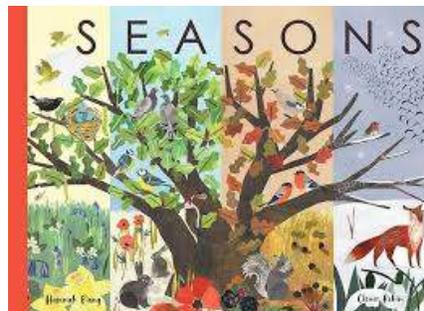
Wishing you all a safe and sparkling weekend!

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

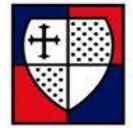
It's been a fantastic start to the new school term for Maple Class! The children have loved sharing their news from the half-term holiday and listening to what their friends have been up to. It's wonderful to see everyone return to school full of enthusiasm and ready to learn. In English, we began exploring our new class text, *Seasons* by Hannah Pang. The children made thoughtful predictions about the book, clarified lots of new vocabulary, and wrote interesting questions about each of the seasons. wrote interesting questions about each of the seasons.



In Science, we have been learning all about seasonal change, discussing the different weather patterns, daylight hours, and natural changes that occur throughout the year in the UK. The children shared lots of brilliant ideas and observations! In PSHE, we focused on Bonfire Night safety and talked about how to enjoy the celebrations responsibly. The class then designed some very eye-catching and informative posters to remind everyone how to stay safe while having fun. What a great start to the term!



Miss Dixon



Classroom updates- Alder class

What a fantastic first week back Alder Class. You have certainly hit the ground running and we are so proud of how much care you have taken over your learning this week. On Monday, we were lucky enough to learn about fire safety and get to make marshmallows at the fire circle with Miss Houghton. This was an excellent start to the week.

In English, we are starting a new focus on writing a diary entry from the perspective of Magnus Godwinson - the main character in our text Anglo Saxon boy. This week we have been perfecting our punctuation around exaggerated statements and rhetorical questions, as well as exploring emotive language. Next week, we will look at beginning to draft our own versions.

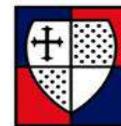
We must have been practicing maths over the half term as the children have jumped straight back into their learning. This week, we finished our focus on addition and moved onto column subtraction. We started with manipulatives to support our learning and are now able to do column subtraction without exchanges.

In RE, we have been looking at our perfect world and the children have completed some fantastic drawings of their perfect world with no pollution, peace and friendship. They have been really mature when discussing things that would make the world fairer. We also moved onto our new geography topic of "Why do people live where they do?"

It's been a wonderful week of curiosity, kindness and fantastic learning. Let's have another super week next week Team Alder. Have a brilliant weekend.



Mrs Aynsley & Mrs Rutter



Classroom updates - Oak Class

What a fantastic first week back! Oak Class have hit the ground running after half term, showing real focus, maturity and enthusiasm across the board. In Literacy, we've been diving into *Letters from the Lighthouse* and getting to grips with informal letters, thinking about how characters might share their thoughts and feelings during such a dramatic time. The children are already tuning into the emotions and historical context beautifully.

In SPaG, we've explored FANBOYS (our co-ordinating conjunctions), and we're already spotting them popping up in our own writing. The grammar's sticking because it's got real purpose behind it, exactly how we like it!

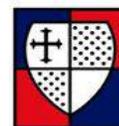
Maths has been all about thinking deeply as we've tackled reasoning and problem solving using addition and subtraction, with a real focus on using the inverse to check our answers and justify our thinking. The children are gaining real confidence in explaining *why* their methods work. Obviously this music to our ears!

In Science, we began our new topic on light, investigating how it travels in straight lines and why that matters in the real world (cue lots of brilliant questions and torch experiments!). We're already planning how we'll test and challenge what we know in hands-on investigations later this term.

It's been one of those weeks where the atmosphere in class is just spot on. Respectful, curious, hardworking and kind. The children have been amazing, and we're looking forward to a cracking run-up to Christmas. Let's keep it going, team!



Mr McLeod



Friday Flyer

Dates for your Diary

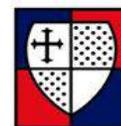
Events could be subject to change and will be communicated if required

Date	Time	
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
Thursday 18th December	Afternoon	Willow and Maple Christmas party

Happy Birthday those those who celebrated this week

- Ronnie (Maple)**
- Annabel (Alder)**
- Bea (Oak)**
- Grace-Mae (Maple)**
- Hallie (Maple)**

Friday Flyer



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 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 with a stroller, and a person on a scooter. To the right of the school is a triangular warning sign with two children 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. 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 people inside. The text in the red section reads: '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.'

Safer Parking around our school

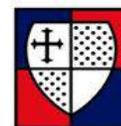
SCHOOL — KEEP — CLEAR

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.

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

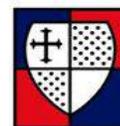
EVERYONE WELCOME

£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



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

