



14th November 2025

Headteachers update

What another fantastic week it's been here at Belsay! The children have continued to work incredibly hard, showing real focus and enthusiasm in all they do. There's such a positive feeling around school at the moment - you can tell that sense of excitement is starting to build as we edge ever closer to December!

This week we also marked Odd Sock Day, a lovely opportunity to talk about celebrating our individuality and recognising the importance of kindness and respect for one another. It was wonderful to see so many bright and colourful socks around school and to discuss with the children how our differences make us unique and special.

On Tuesday, we joined together virtually for a Remembrance Assembly led by Reverend Checkley. He spoke beautifully about the meaning and importance of Remembrance Day and our children showed the utmost respect during the minute's silence. A particular highlight was one of our talented Year 5 children, who introduced the silence with a moving rendition of *The Last Post* on his trumpet - a truly poignant and memorable moment for everyone.

Today we've also supported Children in Need and once again our pupils and families have shown such generosity and spirit. It's been fantastic to see the children arrive in their non-uniform, with plenty of spots and bright colours on display and to talk about the real difference that these donations make to others.

A quick reminder that Parents' Evenings will take place next week on Monday and Tuesday. This is a wonderful chance to see your child's work, talk with their class teacher and celebrate all they've achieved so far this term. We are so proud of every single one of them - they are a real credit to you all.

Finally, it seems the Nativity season is fast approaching! Over the next couple of weeks, you may start to receive information about costumes and parts for our performances in early December. If you have any questions, please just speak to your child's class teacher and they'll be happy to help.

Finally, we had our Celebration Assembly and Hot Chocolate Friday, which was a perfect way to round off the week. Well done to all our wonderful winners - what a great start to this half-term!

Wishing you all a lovely 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 **Miss Dixon, Miss Houghton and Mr Shaw.**

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY ON THE ROAD

Traffic-related incidents are a significant risk for young pedestrians and cyclists, so understanding road safety is crucial for children's wellbeing. While all road users share responsibility for keeping one another safe, this guide offers strategies for empowering young people to navigate the roads confidently and responsibly.

- #### 1 TAKE PRACTICE JOURNEYS

Walking practice journeys with children is a great way to help them stay safe, identify travelling responsibilities, behaviours and having road safety conversations as they prepare to travel independently. Add hazard perception activities like spotting safety vehicles - which may have a green number plate - and point out how quiet they are. Children learn by watching others, remind them that their peers might not always be the best role models.
- #### 2 BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN

Visibility is lower during darker winter days, and drivers need to take extra care to look out for pedestrians. Wearing bright and reflective clothing can help make children more visible to drivers near roads. In poor daylight conditions, encourage children to wear light, bright or fluorescent clothing, which is easy to see. Reflective clothing or materials such as a reflective armband or jacket.
- #### 3 EYES UP

Encourage children to look up and keep their eyes on the road. Teach them to constantly watch for traffic and practice double-checking the road before crossing - looking right, left and then right again.
- #### 4 LIMIT DISTRACTIONS

Where possible, devices like phones should be kept away from children when out on about near roads. If they're carrying devices, these should be put away until they've reached their destination. Children must also avoid playing with toys or being distracted by friends. If a friend wants to show them something funny on their phone, there'll be time for that once they've safely arrived.
- #### 5 SLOW DOWN

Discuss the importance of waiting instead of crossing immediately. It can be tricky to judge the speed of traffic and spot obstacles that could cause a trip or a fall. For safety, children must stop and think before they get to the kerb and should always walk - not run - when crossing the road. They should wait crossing until they're certain they have plenty of time. Even if traffic seems a long way off, it could still be approaching very quickly.
- #### 6 STOP BEFORE THE KERB

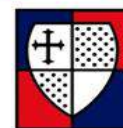
Teach children to stop before reaching the kerb - not right at the edge of it, waiting before they get to the kerb allows them to see if anything's coming, whereas getting too close to kerbs is dangerous. If there's no pavement, children should stand back from the road's edge but ensure they can still see approaching traffic.
- #### 7 CROSS SAFELY

Children should always find a safe spot to cross the road, prioritising zebra crossings or pedestrian crossings, footbridges and subways. Find a place where they can see traffic coming from both directions. Avoid crossing near junctions, bends in the road, or obstacles that block their view. Instead, trying to somewhere they can see and be seen. Remind them to use their eyes and ears together when checking the road, so sometimes they can hear traffic before they can see it. Looking and listening while crossing helps them spot any traffic, including cyclists and motorcyclists, driving between other vehicles.
- #### 8 PARKED VEHICLES

Crossing between parked vehicles is very dangerous. Teach children to use extra caution if crossing in this way, and ideally, avoid it altogether. They should use the outside edge of a vehicle as if it were the kerb, walking and checking for traffic before crossing. They should ensure vehicles aren't about to move, by looking for drivers in the vehicles and listening for engines running - but remember that electric vehicles may move off silently. They should always make sure there is a gap between any parked vehicles on the other side, so they can reach the pavement.
- #### 9 REVERSING VEHICLES

Children must never cross behind a reversing vehicle - it's extremely dangerous. Remind them to look for white reversing lights and listen out for warning sounds. Can they hear the engine sound or a radio playing inside the vehicle?
- #### 10 WAIT FOR THE BUS TO LEAVE

When getting off a bus, children must wait for it to leave before crossing as they can have a clear view of the road in both directions. This also allows them to be seen by other road users. Crossing near large vehicles is particularly dangerous and should be avoided.



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.

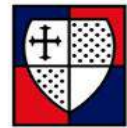
Current Whole School attendance is 96.47%. Our **NEW** target for Whole School Attendance is 97%.

| Class | Weekly attendance | Annual attendance |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Willow | 100% | 98.64% |
| Maple | 93.85% | 96.92% |
| Alder | 96.80% | 94.63% |
| Oak | 94.35% | 97.46% |

| 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

This week we began reading *Spreading My Wings* by Nadiya Hussain. The children have been captivated by the story and have enjoyed discussing the characters and their experiences. Our reading has sparked thoughtful conversations about courage, self-belief and celebrating our own uniqueness.



We have also been learning about Remembrance Day, reflecting on its significance and the importance of remembering those who have served and sacrificed. The children showed great respect as we discussed why we wear poppies and how we can show gratitude in our own ways. It was great to hear so many children have been discussing remembrance at home with their families and talking about important family members.



As part of Anti-Bullying Week we talked about what it means to make kind and unkind decisions. Together we linked these discussions to our school values, thinking carefully about how our actions and words can help everyone feel safe, respected and valued.

Another highlight of the week was our visit to Bolam Church. The children were fascinated to explore this special place and to learn more about its history and meaning within our community.

It has certainly been a busy and exciting start to the half term – and this is only the beginning! We are looking forward to many more learning adventures in the weeks ahead.

Wishing you all a restful weekend

Miss Houghton



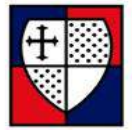
Classroom updates - Maple Class

This week, Maple Class have been busy exploring our brand-new Geography topic, **'How is Newcastle different from Belsay?'** We began by learning about the difference between a city and a village, thinking carefully about what makes each one special. The children enjoyed comparing famous landmarks in Newcastle, such as the Tyne Bridge and Grey's Monument, with those closer to home here in Belsay. We also talked about the different transport links in each place and discovered that, despite their differences, Newcastle and Belsay share some surprising similarities — including both having magnificent castles!

In RE, we learnt why Christians celebrate Christmas. We also had a wonderful visit to St. Andrew's Church in Bolam. The children loved learning about the history of the church and finding out how churches support and help their communities. It was fascinating to explore inside, spotting the different features we had talked about in class, such as the font, the altar, and the stained-glass windows. A highlight of the trip was hearing the church bell ring and listening to the beautiful sounds of the organ, a perfect end to a morning full of curiosity and discovery!



Miss Dixon



Classroom updates- Alder class

Alder Class have had yet another great week this week.

In English, we have been continuing to plan our diaries by learning how to distinguish between the first and third person. We created an expansive word bank of adverbs, adverbial phrases and time connectives to support our big diary write next week. Today, we have made a plan for our diary entry ahead of next week's writing.

In Maths, we are working on the final part of the addition and subtraction unit, looking at column subtraction with exchanges. This week, we have used manipulatives to help us identify how to make the exchanges. Next week, we will finalise this topic, before moving into multiplication and division.

In RE, we have continued to consider what the perfect world would look like. The class were very respectful during our debate, discussing whether everyone's perfect world was the same. We had a fantastic visit to the Newcastle Reform Synagogue, learning about their services and how they celebrate Sabbath at home. The children loved exploring the synagogue, spotting the particular features they had learnt about, such as the Torah, the Menorah and the Ark.

In PSHE, we linked our learning this week to Anti-Bullying Week. We looked at what bullying is and how we can make a difference rather than act as a bystander.

We have also begun the Christmas preparations with our first rehearsals for the Christmas performance. All in all a very busy week.

Have a great weekend Alder Class, see you all next week.



Mrs Aynsley & Mrs Rutter



Classroom updates - Oak Class

We've had a really productive and enjoyable week in Oak Class, with the children showing great focus and enthusiasm in everything they've done.

In Grammar, we explored co-ordinating and subordinating conjunctions, learning how they help us extend sentences and show different relationships between ideas. The children enjoyed experimenting with FANBOYS and using subordinating conjunctions to add detail and clarity to their writing.

In Literacy, we have begun writing informal letters inspired by Letters From The Lighthouse. We looked closely at how to create the right tone, how to show emotions through word choices, and how to use the key features of a letter to bring the characters' experiences to life.

In Maths, we took our first steps into our multiplication unit by exploring factors and multiples. The children impressed us with their reasoning, pattern-spotting and willingness to tackle tricky number challenges.

In Geography, we launched our new UK Physical Geography topic by learning how rivers are formed and exploring their key features. The class did brilliantly identifying meanders, deltas, tributaries and more.

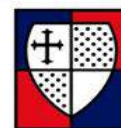
In RE, we began our unit on Moral Choices, and we also had the fantastic opportunity to visit Newcastle Reform Synagogue. The children asked thoughtful questions and demonstrated real respect throughout the visit, and we were very proud of them.

We have also officially begun our Christmas preparations. Children have received their Christmas scripts and we've started learning the songs for our brand-new, purpose-written Christmas performance. Excitement is already building.

Keep up the great work at home and have a lovely weekend.



Mr McLeod



Dates for your Diary

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

| Date | Time | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th November | Various times | Parents Evening |
| Monday 24th November | Monring | Reception and Year 6 NHS National Height and Weights checks |
| Friday 28th November | All day | Non-uniform day - donation for the Christmas Jingle - details to follow |
| Friday 5th December | 9am | Christmas Nativity Performance |
| Monday 15th December | 3.15pm | PTA Christmas Jingle |
| Thursday 18th December | Afternoon | Pele Trust Christmas Concert at St Mary's Church (for those in choir and band) |
| Thursday 18th December | Afternoon | Willow and Maple Christmas party |



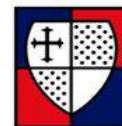
Happy Birthday those those who celebrated this week

Aleksander (Maple)

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 graphic 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 on a scooter, a woman with a baby, a family with a dog, a man with a child, a person in a wheelchair, a woman with a stroller, and a person on a skateboard. To the right of the school is a triangular warning sign with two children and a rectangular sign below it that says 'School'. Above the school, the text 'Safer Parking around our school' is written in large, bold letters. Below the school illustration, a yellow zigzag line is drawn across the road with the text 'SCHOOL —KEEP— CLEAR' written in the center. The background is a light blue sky with a sun and clouds. The entire graphic is set against a red background at the bottom.

Safer Parking around our school

SCHOOL —KEEP— CLEAR

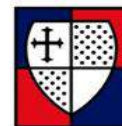
As a driver you have a responsibility to park in a safe and considerate manner.

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



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

