

**28th November 2025**

## Headteachers update

Good afternoon, everyone! I hope you've all managed to stay warm this week - the cold snap definitely seems to have settled in and with December just around the corner it feels like we're edging ever closer towards full festive mode. The term is flying by (far too quickly for some of us!) and once again it's been a really productive and positive week here at Belsay.

We were delighted to welcome visitors from Pele Trust into school this week. They were incredibly complimentary about the warmth of the school, the way staff truly know the children and how articulate, engaged and resilient our pupils are. The children should be very proud of the impression they make - we certainly are.

There has also been a bit of a buzz around school as the Nativity rehearsals are well under way. We're really looking forward to performing for you all next Friday, so please make sure your diaries are clear and you're ready for a festive treat. It promises to be something a little different this year, with Mr McLeod and the team adding their own twist - and we're sure you'll love it!



Talking of Christmas, we were very generously donated a beautiful Christmas tree today by the Mole Country Store in Alnwick, and it is now taking pride of place in school, complete with lights. A huge thank you to them for such a kind gesture - it really has added some extra sparkle to the building and will add to our glitz and glamour of next Friday.

A quick reminder that next week is the final hand-in date for our shoebox appeal for Action for Children. If you're able to put a shoebox together with a few small items, it can make an enormous difference to children who are far less fortunate than ourselves at this time of year. Just pop a sticker on the back with the age and gender, leave the box unsealed so it can be checked and we'll make sure it gets to the right place. Your kindness really

does go a long way.

We rounded off the week with our celebration assembly and of course, our all-important hot chocolate - always a highlight and always guaranteed to bring big smiles. Well done to all of this week's well-deserved winners.

Have a fantastic weekend, stay cosy and we look forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

**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 MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging they also carry significant risks. Around 19% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**ONLINE GROOMING THREATS**

Predators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. They may quickly demand and groom or exploit. Between April 2017 and March 2023, UK police received nearly 1A,000 online grooming offences – an 82% increase in just five years.

**EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**

Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while browsing and by using content – especially via TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 40% of children aged 8 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or upset.

**PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS**

Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 15-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they'd only spoken to online.

**COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY**

Meeting an online 'friend' in real life risks placing a child in serious danger. From medication to weapons, the consequences can be devastating. Reports of children being harmed and other such incidents are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.

**PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS**

Cyberbully – such as cyberstalking, grooming or exposure to disturbing content – can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. 'Seclusion' gangs, who threaten to release secret information about a person unless they pay them money, have reportedly targeted children as young as 11, leaving them traumatised and ashamed.

**LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS**

Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent, or self-worth. In a recent case, a 15-year-old posed as a girl on Snapchat to lure in children aged 10 to 16, manipulating them into sexual activity and causing profound emotional distress. One 15-year-old tragically died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological harm on-line friendships with strangers can cause.

**26 FRIENDS ONLINE NOW**

**Advice for Parents & Educators**

**TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS**

Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning. Use pressure tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share – and whom they're talking to.

**ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS**

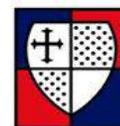
Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.

**KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN**

Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from speaking up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to discuss problems before they escalate.

**USE PARENTAL CONTROLS**

Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.



## 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.

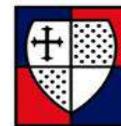
**Current Whole School attendance is 95.00%**. Our **NEW** target for Whole School Attendance is 96%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	91.43%	96.80%
Maple	91.54%	95.62%
Alder	97.60%	93.07%
Oak	87.39%	95.95%

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.

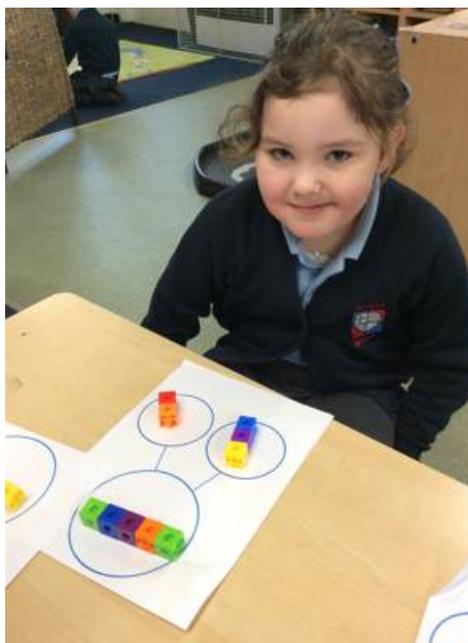


## Classroom updates - Willow Class

It's been another busy week in our classroom! Nativity rehearsals are now in full swing. The children have been practising their songs and actions with great enthusiasm. We can already see their confidence growing and we're very excited to share their hard work with you soon.

Reading is really accelerating and we are so proud of the children's effort with their blending skills this week. Their perseverance is shining through and it's wonderful to see them becoming more confident with their reading. Thank you for all of the support at home with this. It really does make a difference!

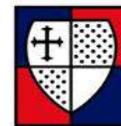
In maths, we have been focusing on the number 5 and exploring different ways to make it using the part-part-whole method and Numicon. The children have enjoyed discovering number combinations and building a strong understanding of early number concepts.



Looking ahead to next week, we are excited to put up our Christmas tree and decorate the classroom as we begin the countdown to Christmas. It truly is the most magical time of year to be in a primary school and we can't wait to experience all the festive fun together.

Wishing you all a great weekend!

**Miss Houghton**



## Classroom updates - Maple Class

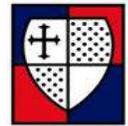
This week Maple Class has been full of hands-on learning and exciting discoveries. In Maths, Year 1 have been developing their understanding of 2D and 3D shapes, exploring their properties and spotting them around the classroom. They also braved the frosty Wednesday morning for some outdoor Maths, using natural objects to create repeating patterns, an activity they thoroughly enjoyed despite the chilly weather!

Year 2 have been busy tackling mixed addition and subtraction, working hard to present their calculations to *Gold Standard* in their Maths books. They impressed us with how well they applied their knowledge from last term to some particularly tricky problem-solving tasks. Their determination and focus have been fantastic to see.

In English, both year groups explored the features of fact files and worked collaboratively to create detailed and beautifully presented fact files all about Belsay School. We were so proud of the teamwork and creativity that went into them. In Geography, the children learned about the differences between rural and urban areas. They identified key features of each and used this knowledge to create clear Venn diagrams. It has been a wonderful, productive week of learning!



Miss Dixon



## Classroom updates- Alder class

Wow! It's hard to believe that another week has passed. There has been so much hard work going on in Alder Class that the time has just flown.

In English, we have been creating poetry around different types of matter (solids, liquids and gases). The children worked hard to create word banks and add as much description as possible to their poems. We used actions to help us remember the words of our class poem. Using a range of poetic techniques (cinquain, limerick, free verse and acrostic), we have written a number of poems. In maths, we have finished our addition and subtraction unit this week and started looking at multiplication arrays. We will continue with our new topic next week.

One of the highlights of this week was celebrating Thanksgiving on Thursday as part of our PSHE lessons. We have been learning about diversity and how different families and cultures celebrate different things. We were very lucky that Esther's family made some typical Thanksgiving food to share with us and sent some fantastic videos from Esther's old school in America which helped to teach us all about Thanksgiving. At the end of the afternoon, we all shared what we were thankful for and without fail everyone mentioned their wonderful families!

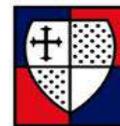
In Geography, we have been creating Venn diagrams to explain the differences between rural Belsay and urban Newcastle. The children came up with some great examples of how the settlements differ but also found some similarities. Well done everyone.

Christmas performance rehearsals are in full swing and we have enjoyed singing together as we learn all the songs. Thank you for all of your help with costumes! We're excited to perform for you all next week.

Have a lovely weekend.

**Mrs Aynsley & Mrs Rutter**





## Classroom updates - Oak Class

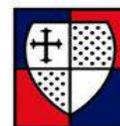
It has been another lively and productive week in Oak Class. In Literacy we have continued building up to our monologue writing by exploring emotive language, figurative language and how varying our sentence length can shift the tone of a piece. The children have shown real confidence when explaining why certain choices make their writing more powerful and it has been brilliant to see them take more risks with their ideas. In Maths we have taken time to use concrete and pictorial methods as we move steadily towards formal written multiplication. This slower build has really helped everyone feel secure and there has been a noticeable improvement in how pupils talk through the steps.

Science has been great fun as we dug deeper into how light behaves in different situations. This week we investigated reflection and even built a human periscope using ourselves as the mirrors which created plenty of laughter and curiosity. In RE we explored passages from Matthew and Mark as well as the Beatitudes as we thought about how Jesus' words guide Christians to live with love, honesty and fairness. The children have had some thoughtful discussions and showed great maturity in how they explained their ideas.

Our Christmas performance is really starting to look and sound wonderful. Rehearsals have been in full flow and the children have thrown themselves into every moment. Their enthusiasm is infectious and the songs are now becoming impossible to get out of our heads. Costumes need to be in school by Tuesday please. Thank you for all of your support. Have a lovely weekend and we will see you on Monday.



Mr McLeod



## School Council Update

School Council Meeting 25th November 2025

Today in our meeting we updated our notice board to include:

A poster about the Shoe Box Appeal which ends on Friday 5th December.

A reminder about Christmas Jumper Day which takes place on Christmas Lunch day on Friday 12th December, we are asking for a donation of £1 to go to Save the Children.

We also counted up the money from our Children in Need donations and this raised £67.15.

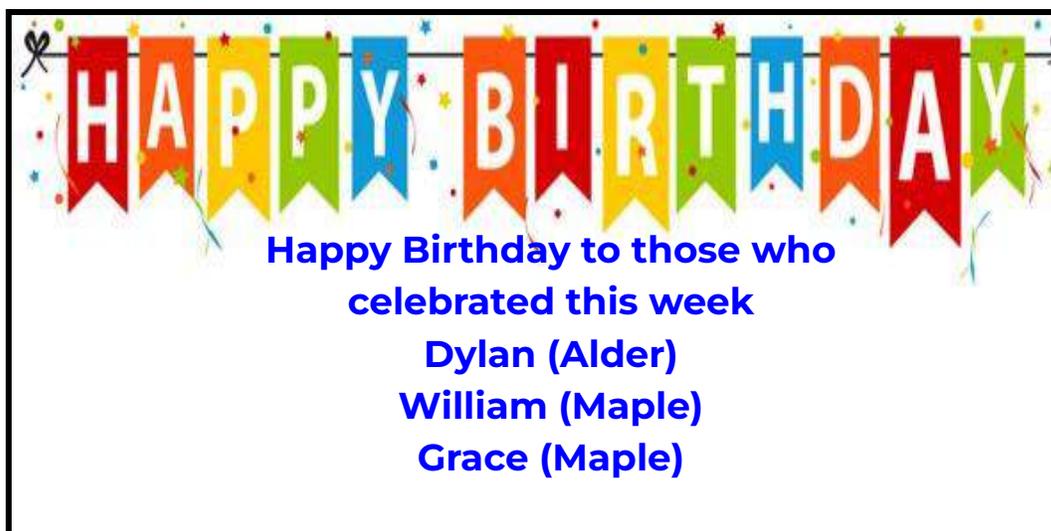




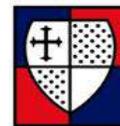
## Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Friday 5th December	9am	Christmas Nativity Performance
Wednesday 10th December	All day	Non uniform day - bring a bottle for the PTA Christmas Jingle
Friday 12th December	All day	Christmas lunch and jumper day
Monday 15th December	3.15pm	PTA Christmas Jingle
Tuesday 16th December	8:30am	Whole school trip to the Pantomime
Wednesday 17th December	Afternoon	Alder and Oak Christmas party
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
Friday 19th December	1.15pm	School closes for the holidays



# 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 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: 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 flyer has a red background with two white cars, one on the left and one on the right, each with people inside. The text in this 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

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

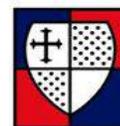
**EVERYONE WELCOME**

**£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

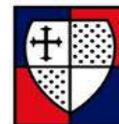
£35

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



# Friday Flyer



## LOVE RUGBY SERIES

A nationwide series of **girls-only** festivals, joining up girls aged 8-11 new to rugby with those already playing for a fun, friendly and positive experience

### Key Information

- 40+ festivals taking place from November to June
- Girls in U9-U11s (Year 4-6)
- All abilities welcome
- Coaching workshops and game play

### Kick-off Events

Date	Location	Time
13/12/25	Kingston Park Stadium – Home of Newcastle Red Bulls	10am-12pm

### Want to join in?

1. Find an event you are interested in
2. Sign up using the link below
3. Keep an eye out for upcoming events on [findrugby.com](http://findrugby.com)



Sign-up to your local event here !

