

19th December 2025

Good afternoon everyone 🌲 ✨,

Here we are at the final Friday Flyer of the Autumn Term at Belsay – a brilliant moment to pause, reflect and celebrate just how much has been achieved over the past few months.

It really has been a fantastic term and I am incredibly proud of the children and the effort they continue to show day in, day out. This has been our longest term of the year and the resilience, focus and positivity shown by the children right the way through has been wonderful to see. As we've reached the end of it, we've also seen some excellent progress across school, which is a real credit to both the children and the staff who support them so brilliantly.



This week has been great fun and a perfect way to finish. Our pantomime trip on Tuesday was a real highlight – full of laughter, big smiles and plenty of very funny jokes! A huge thank you must go to our families and the PTA for your generous support and fundraising over this term (and last). Your donations have helped to cover transport costs and make trips like this accessible for all children, ensuring everyone could fully enjoy the experience. The children had a wonderful time and it was a joy to be part of.

As always, there is plenty to look forward to as we move into the rest of the year but for now it's time to enjoy a well-earned break, so slow down, wrap up warm, eat a few too many mince pies! I hope you all have the most magical Christmas and a very happy New Year. I also hope Santa is especially kind to all of our wonderful children - they have most certainly earned it.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 5th January 2026, refreshed, recharged and ready for another exciting term ahead.

Once again, thank you for everything you do for us at Belsay and for your continued support. We'll see you in 2026.

All the very best for the New Year,

Mr Shaw



Safeguarding

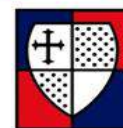
Belsay Primary School is committed to keeping all children safe. Our staff regularly participate in safeguarding training and are fully aware of how to keep our pupils safe and what signs to look out for. Our pupils know they can share any concerns and we have robust policies and procedures in place 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 OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, travelling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

- 1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY**
Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Monitoring screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.
- 2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS**
The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, caddies and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.
- 3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS**
More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and advice to seek help. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.
- 4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES**
Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or Epipen. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.
- 5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS**
Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.
- 6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD**
Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can compromise road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety principles, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.
- 7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS**
Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and tripping hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, tapping Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.
- 8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS**
Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and age-appropriateness can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.
- 9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE**
Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision-making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Knowledge activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.
- 10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY**
Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide non-alcoholic alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modeling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.



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.

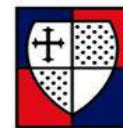
Current Whole School attendance is 94.94%. Our **NEW** target for Whole School Attendance is 95%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	100%	95.27%
Maple	97.31%	94.99%
Alder	96.80%	93.15%
Oak	99.13%	96.72%

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 final week we have had! The children thoroughly enjoyed making cards, calendars and a wide range of festive crafts, showing creativity, enthusiasm and pride in their work. I hope everyone's creations make it home safely.



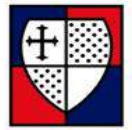
The Willow and Maple class party was a truly joyful celebration. There was lots of singing, dancing and games, with plenty of smiles and laughter throughout the afternoon. The children embraced the festive spirit and it was lovely to see them celebrating together. A sincere thank you to everyone who contributed food your generosity helped make the party such a memorable and special occasion.

We have had a fantastic first term together. The children have learned so much and grown in confidence, independence and curiosity. It has been a pleasure to see their progress and to share in their achievements. Thank you to everyone who has embraced the first term of Reception and supported with settling the children into school, attended events, supported trips and ensured that your child has the best start to school life that they possibly could. It really is appreciated and makes such a difference to work together.

Now it is time for some well-needed and well-deserved family time creating magical memories that will last a lifetime.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, healthy New Year. I look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the Spring term ahead.

Miss Houghton



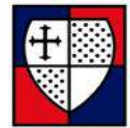
Classroom updates - Maple Class

It has been a wonderfully festive and busy week for Maple Class as we enjoyed our final school traditions of the term while finishing off our topics. In Geography, the children explored and compared the amenities of Newcastle city and Belsay village, thoughtfully discussing where they would prefer to live and explaining their reasons. In RE, we learned how light in the Christmas Story reminds Christians that Jesus guides and comforts them. The children reflected on times when light or love has helped them and created beautiful candles for our class book to represent these ideas.

We also had a magnificent time visiting the Tyne Theatre to watch the pantomime *Cinderella*, which was a real highlight of the week. Back in school, we celebrated the last days before Christmas with a class party full of dancing, games, and lots of smiles. It has been a busy term filled with wonderful memories and excellent progress across all subjects. Thank you for all your hard work and effort this term, Maple Class. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and we look forward to seeing you all again in January.



Miss Dixon



Classroom updates- Alder class

What an amazing week we have had this week in Alder Class. The children completed their non-chronological report about an animal type in English. They worked incredibly hard to add all the key features of a report and some of the amazing animal facts that they have been learning in Science.

A highlight of the week was our trip to the pantomime on Tuesday and there were plenty of smiles and laughter around helping to get us all into the festive spirit. On Wednesday, we had a wonderful party celebrating all the hard work and effort you have put in this term. There was singing, dancing and laughter all afternoon. A huge thank you for all the fantastic contributions to food.

While some of our classmates represented the school at a truly memorable Pele Trust carol concert showcasing their singing and playing, the rest of us joined with UKS2 for a day of Commando Joes activities. The children worked together in teams to complete challenges that helped to build resilience and collaboration skills. It was a great way for them to think outside the box to complete fun challenges whilst working with one another to achieve their goals. We all had a lot of fun!

We have had a fantastic term together. The children have all stepped up to a new year group and grown in confidence as the term has progressed. It has been fantastic to see all of their achievements and we can't wait to see where Spring term takes us all!

Enjoy your break Alder Class - you have worked so hard and we are incredibly proud of each of you. Wishing you all a magical Christmas and a great start to the New Year. We look forward to seeing you all in January and hearing about what you've been up to.



Mrs Aynsley & Mrs Rutter



Classroom updates - Oak Class

We have been completing our end of term assessments in English and Maths and the children showed great resilience and focus even though we are nearing the holidays. They have taken real pride in showing what they know and what they can do

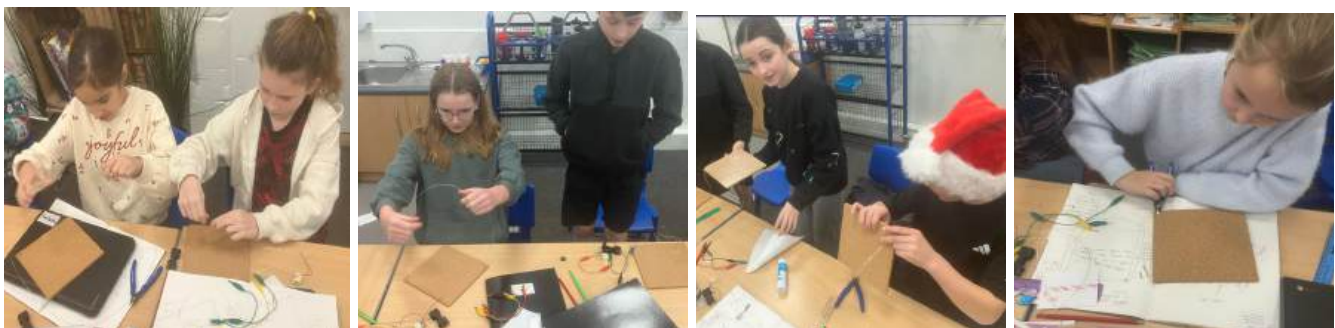
On Tuesday, the children represented our school with outstanding respect during our trip to the pantomime at the Tyne Theatre. Their behaviour was superb throughout and they were a credit to you and to the school

Earlier this week we hammered Design and Technology. Over Monday afternoon and all day Wednesday, we started from scratch and researched, designed, built, improved and evaluated our very own buzz wire games. Children explored how circuits work and how steady hands can make all the difference. They tested prototypes, adapted designs and solved problems together before assembling their final products. The sense of achievement was immense and the children were genuinely buzzing with pride.

Thursday saw a good chunk of us represent Belsay at the Ponteland PELE Trust Primaries Carol Concert, hosted by Mrs. Wigham. Beautiful singing, outstanding musicianship and even better behaviour ensured there was not a dry eye left in all of St. Mary's Church!

Thank you as always for your amazing support. The children have been fantastic all term and have made awesome progress. We are so proud of their effort and enthusiasm and can not wait to keep them flying in January.

Peace out and Merry Christmas to all of you.



Mr McLeod

Friday Flyer


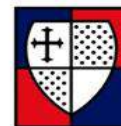


Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Monday 5th January	8.45am	School reopens
Thursday 29th January	All day	Year 5/6 attending a performance at the Theatre Royal
Thursday 12th February	3.30pm	Newby Wiske Information evening
Friday 13th February	3.15pm	School closes for half term
Monday 23rd February	All day	School closed for teacher training day
Tuesday 24th February	8.45am	School reopens
Tuesday 10th March	All day	Shakespeare performance at Northern Stage
Wednesday 11th March	All day	Newby Wiske residential
Thursday 12th March	All day	Newby Wiske residential
Friday 13th March	All day	Newby Wiske residential
Monday 23rd March	All week	Scholastic Book Fair in school
Monday 23rd March	Various times	Parents evening
Tuesday 24th March	Various times	Parents evening
Friday 3rd April	3.15pm	School closes for Easter
Monday 20th April	8.45am	School reopens


Friday Flyer



**Happy Birthday to those who
celebrated this week and over the Christmas break**

**Flynn (Maple)
Charlotte (Oak)
Ruairidh (Maple)**

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