



27th February 2026

Headteachers Update

Welcome back to everyone, I hope you all enjoyed a restful week and managed to make the most of the blue skies - it was lovely to see a bit of sunshine at last!

We've had a really positive start back to school this week. The children have returned full of enthusiasm and have thrown themselves straight back into learning. Year 5 and 6, in particular, have been working incredibly hard, you can really see the focus and determination, especially in Year 6 as they begin to look ahead to SATs in the coming months.

That said, it's been just as heart-warming to look around the school and see our youngest children in Reception coming in each morning smiling, laughing and clearly happy to be here. That is such a powerful reflection of the culture we are building together - a school where children feel safe, valued and genuinely enjoy coming to learn each day.

On Monday, staff took part in a teacher training day, which was a really valuable opportunity for high-quality professional development. It was great to come together with colleagues from our other trust schools, working with an ASK Psychology on the role of movement in learning. We focused particularly on how movement breaks can support focus and concentration.

This half term is shaping up to be a busy one, so please do keep an eye on ClassDojo for updates. If you're ever unsure about anything, don't hesitate to get in touch with your class teacher or the school office. We're always happy to help and do our best to keep communication clear and regular.

The first key date to be aware of is World Book Day, which you should have received a letter about, explaining what we have decided to do this year.

We were also delighted to jump straight back into Celebration Assembly and *Hot Chocolate* this week, a huge well done to all of our winners. It's always a lovely way to end the week and celebrate the children's successes.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Have a wonderful weekend and we look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday, ready to go again.

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 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
TEACHING CYCLE SAFETY

Cycling is an amazing way to spend quality time together as a family, as well as keeping everyone healthy and active – and it's an excellent exercise, whatever the age of your children. Getting started can sometimes be daunting, and there are obvious safety concerns over youngsters who are still getting used to a bike – so follow our top tips to help you ride with confidence.

- 1 CONSIDER CYCLE TRAINING**
 Courses like *Bicycleability* are extremely useful, and training in general has come a long way since cycling proficiency began; there are *Bicycleability* courses for adults, too. Cycle training teaches invaluable skills (such as good road positioning, braking and visibility), and can help both parents and children feel more at ease on busy streets.
- 2 USE A SUITABLE BIKE**
 Find a bike of an appropriate size for its rider and resist the temptation to buy children 'grower' bikes by buying one too large for them. A bigger bike will be heavier and more difficult to control, making accidents more likely and potentially putting youngsters off cycling forever. If your child has any specific physical needs, or has dyspraxia, then try out a trike, handcycle or other adaptive cycle to see what works best.
- 3 TRY A CARGO BIKE**
 Cargo bikes, particularly the box-bike style, are ideal for transporting small children around. Depending on the type of bike chosen – as well as the size and age of the children – it can be possible to transport up to four little ones in this way, with additional space for other cargo as well.
- 4 INSPECT YOUR CYCLE**
 It's a good idea to do some routine checks on your bike before going for a ride to make sure everything's working correctly. The '6 checks' is particularly useful: assessing the condition and position of the bike's wheels, handlebars, brakes, pedals, chain and handle, checking front to back. Online tutorial videos can also take you back to every vital basic repair if needed. For more sophisticated fixes, head to your local bike shop.
- 5 BRING SUITABLE GEAR**
 Ensure whatever you're wearing, and any accessories for your bike, are suitable for the ride. A waterproof jacket will let you cycle safely in almost any weather. Make sure any helmets are fitted correctly; if you're riding after dark, remember to fit your bikes with a white front light, or red rear light and a red rear reflector. These are required by law.
- 6 STICK TO FLAT TERRAIN**
 Take a smooth, flat route if possible, as it's more suitable for younger cyclists. You might be surprised by how many quiet roads or back streets there may be in your area. Don't be put off by an inebriated but eager postie as opposed to a shorter busker or a lock-out for the national Cycle Network, canal towpaths and even parks that you can cut through.
- 7 STAY ALERT AND IN SAFE FORMATIONS**
 For maximum protection and visibility, ride in a line with children in the middle and adults at either end. If you're the only adult present, take up a position at the rear to ensure all children remain in your sight. Don't be tempted to hug the kerb if cycling on the road – riding progressively towards the end will make you more noticeable to other road users, and you'll also stay clear of any debris in the gutter.
- 8 AVOID PARKED CARS**
 When riding past parked cars, try to stay at least a metre away, just to give anyone inside a clear unobstructed view of the vehicle headlamps to reach. This precaution will also deter anyone drifting behind from trying to squeeze past you when there isn't enough space, so don't be afraid to ride in a prominent position.
- 9 START A 'BIKE BUS'**
 Cycling to school with other families is a potentially fun experience – one which comes with the added benefit of safety in numbers. In case anything goes wrong on the way, team up with other parents, carers and educators and pick a day to cycle to school together. Who knows – maybe, in time, you'll have other kids asking to join you!
- 10 HAVE FUN!**
 Keep in mind that cycling should be fun! A good bike ride can be really enjoyable for adults and children alike, while also being a superb form of exercise. Take children into the hobby by introducing them off with shorter journeys – such as a trip to the park – and build them up to longer, more complicated outings. Some children may get bored on a longer ride, so try to keep a conversation going with them.



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%	96.8%
Maple	99.1%	95%
Alder	95.8%	94%
Oak	99%	97.6%

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

We have had a truly positive and settled start to Spring 2. The children have returned to school with excellent attitudes towards their learning and have quickly re-established our classroom routines. It has been lovely to see their enthusiasm, confidence and readiness to engage in new challenges. This strong start has created a calm and purposeful atmosphere in the classroom, which will support us well as we move further into the term.

In maths, we have completed some great number work, with a clear focus on understanding 1 more and 1 less. The children have explored this through practical activities, using objects, number tracks and careful counting to deepen their understanding. We have encouraged them to explain their thinking and spot patterns within numbers, which is helping to strengthen their number sense. Their confidence in manipulating numbers within 10 is developing well, and we will continue to build on this foundation in the coming weeks.



It has also been a real pleasure to spend time sharing half term adventures together. The children have enjoyed listening to one another's experiences and asking thoughtful questions. These conversations have supported their speaking and listening skills, as well as helping to rebuild our strong sense of class community. Taking time to reflect on their experiences has allowed the children to feel valued and heard, setting a positive and supportive tone for the half term ahead.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are looking forward to a busy and productive half term, filled with new learning opportunities and continued progress.

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

It has been a wonderful first week back for Maple Class as we launched into our new Spring 2 topics with great enthusiasm. We began exploring our new class text, *We're Going on an Egg Hunt*, which immediately got us excited for Easter! Before reading, we made thoughtful predictions about what might happen in the story, clarified new and interesting vocabulary, and generated our own questions about the characters. The children showed fantastic curiosity and engagement, and it was lovely to see them so eager to dive into our new book.

In Geography, we became a "human globe" to help us understand the location of the Earth's poles and the equator. Through this active lesson, we learned about where the Earth is hot and where it is cold, and began to understand how location affects climate. In PE with Mr Smith, we started our new gymnastics unit, with movement inspired by a song from *Toy Story*. The children practised key gymnastic poses, focusing carefully on balance and smooth transitions between movements. It has been a fantastic and energetic start to the half term!



Miss Dixon



Classroom updates- Alder class

What an amazing start to Spring 2 we have had in Alder Class. Everyone has returned to school with a positive attitude and ready to learn.

In English, we have completed our research on bearded dragons and started writing up our non-chronological report. The children have started this with great confidence showing their awareness of the layout of the reports and the more formal language use. In Maths, we have started looking at division and explored this through practical activities, using counters to divide into small groups and number lines. We are growing in confidence every day.

This half term, we are having a big push on learning our times tables. Please continue to practice regularly with Times Tables Rockstars at home. All of the homework this half term will focus on our times tables and include both multiplication and division tasks. Homework will be sent home on a Friday and due in on a Thursday each week.

In Science, we focused on the water cycle this week and enjoyed acting it out to support our learning. In Art, we have been using marbling to create an oceanic wave effect and will use the marbling to create a collage in our next lesson. In Geography, we were introduced to tectonic plates and the structure of the earth. We made a plasticine earth starting with the core and building our way out to the crust. The children enjoyed working together, to act out how the tectonic plates interact with each other.

It has been a busy but productive week in Alder Class. Enjoy your weekend everyone. We look forward to seeing you next week.

Mrs Aynsley & Mrs Rutter





Classroom updates - Oak Class

It has been brilliant to welcome everyone back after the half term break and the children have returned refreshed and ready to go which has been lovely to see.

In English Mr P has taken the reins of our Speech unit and the children have enjoyed some excellent lessons exploring persuasive devices and how speeches are structured to influence an audience. There have already been some powerful ideas and confident contributions in class.

In Maths Year 5 have continued building their understanding of fractions by adding and subtracting with increasing confidence whilst Year 6 have been tackling more complex work involving mixed numbers and improper fractions across the four operations. The focus on showing clear methods and reasoning has been really strong.

In Science we have begun our new unit on the Classification of Living Things and the children have enjoyed thinking about how scientists group organisms and why this helps us understand the natural world.

Geography has returned this half term and we started with an introductory lesson exploring how natural disasters form and why it is important to study them. The children showed great curiosity and asked some thoughtful questions about the impact these events can have around the world.

In Drama we have been building on our brilliant workshop with Ryan from Coram Shakespeare Schools and have been fine tuning and structuring the final elements of our Julius Caesar performance. The children are growing in confidence with their lines and stage presence every day.

It has been great to have everyone back and thank you as always for your amazing support.



Mr McLeod & Mr Pritchard



Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Friday 6th March	All day	World Book Day - Dress down day in Pyjamas
Tuesday 10th March	PM	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
Friday 20th March	All day	Comic Relief - Dress Down Day
Monday 23rd March	All week	Scholastic Book Fair in school
Monday 23rd March	Various times	Parents evening
Tuesday 24th March	Various times	Parents evening
Thursday 2nd April	3.15pm	School closes for Easter

Happy Birthday to:

Tommy (Maple)

  **Wishing you a fantastic time celebrating**  



Friday Flyer

A vibrant, artistic illustration of a spring wreath. The wreath is made of various flowers, including daisies, tulips, and hydrangeas, in shades of yellow, purple, blue, and pink. It is set against a background of a wooden wall and a soft, hazy landscape with rolling hills and a small building in the distance.

Belsay Daycare and Purple Haze
Flowers present a

Spring Wreath Making Workshop

on Wednesday 11th March
6.30-8.30pm in the School Hall

£45 per person, £5 deposit
to be paid when booking.

To book please message Laura
on 07834828524

Raising funds for Belsay Daycare

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