



27th March 2026

Headteachers Update

What a lovely week it has been in school! It was fantastic to see so many parents and carers joining us on Monday and Tuesday for our parents' evenings. These are always such valuable opportunities for our teachers to share just how well the children are progressing, celebrate their successes and showcase the brilliant work taking place in classrooms every day. We are incredibly proud of how far the children have come already this year and with another term still to go, there is plenty more to look forward to!

We hope you found the meetings helpful and that you were able to have meaningful conversations with staff. As always, please remember that communication doesn't stop here, if you ever have a question or would like an update, feel free to message via Class Dojo and teachers will be more than happy to arrange a chat.

Alongside parents' evening, it was great to see so many of you supporting our book fair, both before and after school. Thank you for your support, it really does make a difference. Every purchase helps us to invest further in books and resources for school, which in turn benefits all of our children.

On the subject of resources, I would also like to extend a huge thank you to our wonderful PTA. They have very generously gifted each class a sum of money to spend on resources for their classrooms, whether that be books, games or other learning materials chosen with the children in mind. This is a fantastic gesture and is only possible because of the continued support from you, our families, at PTA events throughout the year so thank you to everyone involved.

Looking ahead to next week, we have an exciting one in store with our annual Made in the North East week. This is always a highlight of the year, where we celebrate everything that makes our region so special. Each class will explore a different aspect of the North East and I know there are also some exciting trips planned to bring learning to life. Please keep an eye on Class Dojo for updates and photos as the week unfolds as it promises to be a great one!

This week also saw our final Hot Chocolate of the term, well done to all of our winners! It's always a pleasure to celebrate those children who consistently go above and beyond. We also held our celebration assembly which again recognises those amazing achievements!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend, and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school 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.**

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The following infographic provides 10 top tips for parents and educators on how to use technology to boost reading skills. The tips are:

- 1. CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT**
- 2. READING ON-SCREEN**
- 3. ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS**
- 4. INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES**
- 5. VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS**
- 6. SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONING**
- 7. USING AUDIOBOOKS**
- 8. TEXT-TO-SPEECH TECHNOLOGY**
- 9. SPEECH-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING**
- 10. SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS**



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	97.1%	96.9%
Maple	97%	95.1%
Alder	95.8%	94.1%
Oak	99.6%	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

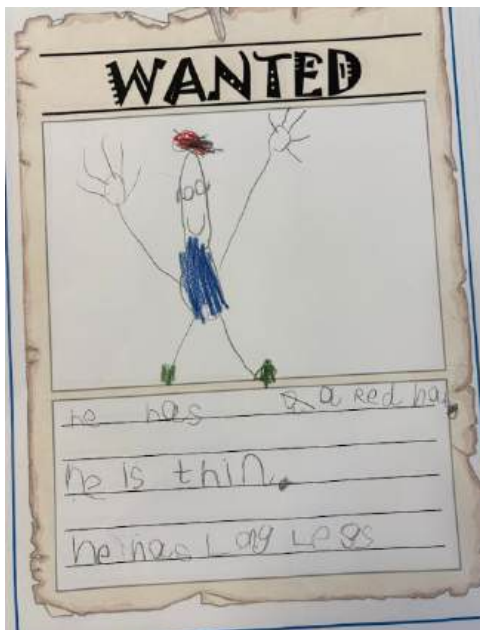
Absence Procedures if your child is ill, please keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school. Please notify us by phone call or email before 9.15am if your child is to be absent, and continue to inform us on a daily basis if they continue to be ill.

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

This week the children have thoroughly enjoyed our work around *What the Ladybird Heard*. As part of the story, the class has been creating their own wanted posters for the characters Hefty Hugh and Lanky Len. It has been wonderful to see their creativity and storytelling develop, and the children were very proud to share their ideas with one another.



Thank you to everyone who attended parents' evening. It was a pleasure to meet with you and share so many positive moments about the children's learning, progress and achievements. Your continued support makes a real difference.

Next week we will be focusing on "Made in the North East" and exploring what this means for our local area. The children are excited to learn about things that are created and celebrated in our region. We are also looking forward to making our own packed lunch together and visiting Belsay Hall, which promises to be a very special experience for the class.

Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

This week in Maple Class, we have been busy exploring measurement in Maths. Year 1 children began learning how to measure using objects and centimetres, while Year 2 built on their knowledge by measuring in both centimetres and metres. As a class, we worked together to measure our classroom and discovered that it is 10 metres long! Towards the end of the week, we challenged ourselves with stretch problems, applying our new skills to solve a range of tricky measurement questions.

In English, we explored what makes a poem and practised using alliteration and similes to make our writing more exciting. The children used their creativity to write fantastic Spring-themed poems, which they confidently recited to their classmates. It has certainly helped us get into the spirit of the season, and we are all feeling very excited for the Easter holidays ahead—thinking about chocolate eggs, sunshine, and special time with our families.

In Geography, we learned about the seven continents and five oceans of the world. Using fun and memorable songs, we were able to learn their names and locations. The children then worked independently to locate and label them on a world map. The songs have really helped us remember this important knowledge, and we were very proud of our work!



We also had a wonderful time in Forest School with Mr Atkinson, Miss Cook and Mr Shaw toasting marshmallows as a special treat for working so hard!

Miss Dixon



Classroom updates- Alder class

It has been another fantastic week in Alder Class full of creativity, collaboration and lots of enthusiasm.

In English, our Viking research has culminated in the production of some fantastic fact files. Everyone has stretched themselves to use ambitious vocabulary, include more complex conjunctions and get their presentation spot on! It has been wonderful to see the creative layouts some of the children have chosen and the huge pride everyone has taken in their work.

This week in Maths, it has been all about fractions. The class is building a strong foundation by exploring parts of a whole and mastering numerators and denominators to create fractions. Year 4 has also embraced the challenge of working with mixed numbers to understand fractions greater than one. Tackling new maths concepts isn't always easy, but the children have shown incredible resilience and determination.

In Science, we undertook an enquiry into how we can group living organisms found in our local environment. Last week, we explored the school grounds to identify what plants and animals we could find. This week, we became scientists and explored how we could group the plants and animals with common features. In Geography, we investigated why some parts of the earth have more earthquakes than others. The children plotted the world's plate boundaries and then found out about major earthquakes around the world. They plotted the earthquakes on a map, along with their epicentre and Richter scale score. Finally, the children evaluated where the most serious earthquakes had occurred.

It was lovely to see so many of you at parent's evening this week and share the wonderful progress that the children have made this year. We have an exciting final week of term next week with our trip for Made in the North East week. Have a great weekend everyone.

Mrs Aynsley and Mrs Rutter





Classroom updates - Oak class

It has been another brilliant week in Oak Class and it has been lovely to see the continued effort and enthusiasm across all areas of the curriculum.

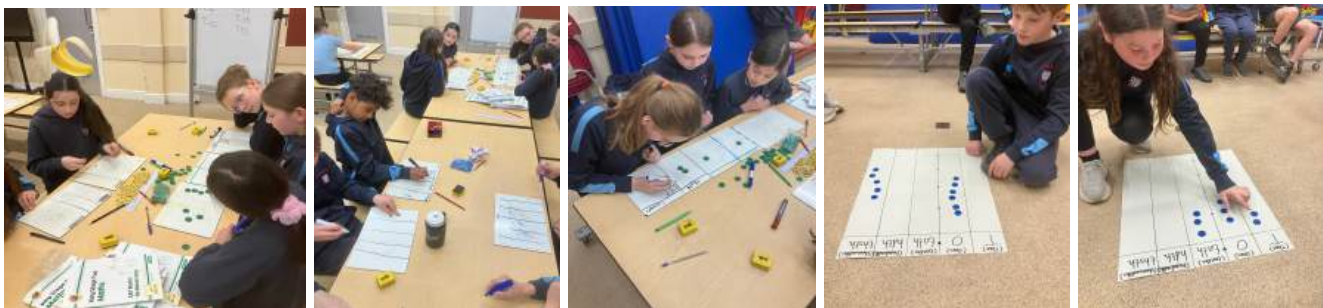
In English, the suspense story unit with Mr P has really gathered momentum and the quality of writing has been a joy to read. The children are using increasingly ambitious vocabulary to build tension and create atmosphere, and it has been fantastic to see how confidently they are applying the techniques we have been working on. There is a real sense of pride in their writing and they are enjoying sharing their ideas with one another.

In Maths, Year 6 have been applying two of our four operations to decimals and have shown a strong understanding of place value beyond the decimal point. They are becoming much more confident in aligning numbers correctly and explaining their reasoning. Year 5 have continued to develop their fluency with fractions and are showing great progress in applying their knowledge across a range of calculations.

In Science, the children have been exploring microorganisms with Mr P. They have learned about the importance of microscopes in helping us to see things that are too small for the naked eye and have been fascinated to discover that microorganisms can be found almost everywhere around us. There have been some brilliant discussions and lots of curiosity shown.

In RE, we spent additional time this week exploring the concept of the Kingdom of God. The children considered what people might have expected from a leader and compared this with the way Jesus led others. They thought carefully about how his leadership often focused on serving others and what this might mean for people today and in Geography, engagement has been excellent as we continued our work on natural disasters. The children explored how human actions can increase the risk and impact of disasters and were able to make thoughtful links between environmental change and the safety of communities around the world.

Thank you to everyone who attended Parents Evening this week. It was a real pleasure to speak with you and share the children's progress and achievements. We now look ahead to Mr P's final week with us as we take part in our trust wide Made in the North East week. It promises to be a special and emotional week for the class. We hope you all have a lovely weekend and thank you, as always, for your continued support.



Mr McLeod & Mr Pritchard



Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Tuesday 31st March	All day	Maple class MITNE trip
Tuesday 31st March	All day	Alder class MITNE trip
Wednesday 1st April	All day	Oak class MITNE trip
Thursday 2nd April	All day	Willow class MITNE trip
Thursday 2nd April	3.15pm	School closes for Easter
Monday 20th April	8.45am	School opens for Summer 1
Thursday 23rd April	9am	Class photos
Monday 4th May	All day	School closed for bank holiday
Monday 11th May	All week	SATs week
Wednesday 13th May	TBC	Reception vision screening
Friday 22nd May	3.15pm	School closes for half term
Monday 1st June	8.45am	School opens for Summer 2
Wednesday 17th June-Sunday 21st June		Year 6 France trip
Tuesday 7th July	1pm	Sports Day
Friday 17th July	1pm	School closes for the summer holidays



Friday Flyer

EASTER Competition

Wednesday 1st April

Decorate an egg, a bonnet, or a basket... and if you're feeling extra creative, why not try all three!

50p per entry - Cash or payment to PTA account (ref easter).
Children's creations only, please.





Friday Flyer

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