



2nd April 2026

Headteachers Update

Once again, we have had a fantastic week in school. We know that both pupils and staff are ready for a break at this stage of the term but everyone has continued to power on. This is a real testament to the hard work, resilience and high expectations we have for ourselves and those that the children consistently set too.

We are especially pleased to be finishing the term on such a positive note through our Made in the North East project. This has been a wonderful opportunity to celebrate everything that makes our region unique and such a special place to live. The enthusiasm from the children has been brilliant and it has been great to see them take such pride in their learning.

It has also been a particularly busy and exciting week, with all classes heading out on trips. A huge thank you to our teachers for the time and effort that goes on behind the scenes to organise these opportunities, it certainly does not go unnoticed. We are also incredibly grateful to our parent helpers who have supported these visits; your help really does make a difference and shows the strength of our school community.

We would also like to thank our PTA for organising a lovely end-of-term treat, with all children enjoying a Creme Egg, there were certainly lots of smiles! In addition, it was a pleasure to welcome Isobel's parents into school on Thursday afternoon to support a special "show and tell," helping children to learn more about the Lambing season and why it is such an important time in the farming calendar.

We rounded off the week with a fantastic celebration assembly. Well done to all of our winners and to every pupil for their continued effort across the term. Maintaining focus and determination over a long period is not always easy but our children continue to rise to the challenge, supported, of course, by our dedicated staff team who always strive to get the very best from them.

Looking ahead, we are already excited about the summer term, with lots of opportunities and experiences planned. We are very much looking forward to building on the successes of this term.

We hope you all have a wonderful Easter break. Take time to relax, recharge and enjoy time together as a family. And to our Year 6 pupils - do try to fit in a little revision over the holidays!

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 20th April.

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 JUSTALK KIDS

JustTalk Kids is a child's version of the JustTalk app - a highly popular social networking platform - designed for users up to 13 years of age, allowing them to video call, message and participate in group chats. While adults can link their own JustTalk account to their child's and make use of parental controls, it's important to understand the risks associated with the app.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS

While JustTalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a more premium account with premium family accounts. As of 2020, the feature allows children to make in-app purchases but not view ads or games that you play with friends. It also includes stickers & badge sharing. There are a variety of other free and exclusive features and themes.

RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS

JustTalk Kids encourages its users to resist the idea of having a child-proof app when allowing parents to set controls. Parents that use the app's parental controls may find their children more challenging than parents by attempting to use JustTalk Kids, pretending to use the app's social features or bypassing its controls.

KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE

After downloading JustTalk Kids, parents can set a passcode which users must enter to add contacts. The parental controls help to manage which contacts can be added and who contacts can add to a contact list. These controls are not as strict as those on other social media apps. However, parental controls aren't there to stop a child's connection to their contacts. It's important to talk to your child about how to use the app.

POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS

JustTalk Kids uses a secure encryption system to protect user data. However, a security breach could happen if the app's servers were hacked. It's important to understand the security of the app and the responsibility of the development team.

CYBERBULLYING

JustTalk Kids provides a variety of features that allow users to post things about their location and daily life. It's important to understand the risks of sharing information about your location and daily life. It's important to understand the risks of sharing information about your location and daily life.

TOD MUCH SCREENTIME

A report by the UK Parliament Education Committee highlighted a 50% increase in children's screen time between 2015 and 2019. It's important to understand the risks of spending too much time on screens. It's important to understand the risks of spending too much time on screens.

Advice for Parents & Educators

JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS

If parents allow their child to use JustTalk Kids, they should explain that they are putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to get caught up in a group chat. It's important to talk to your child about how to use the app.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS

Young children could be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they should be able to provide respectful and appropriate content. While it can be easy to get caught up in a group chat, it's important to talk to your child about how to use the app.

DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING

Some children might not understand the potential dangers of posting online. Be clear to children an account is not just a place to share photos. It's important to understand the risks of sharing information about your location and daily life.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Apps like JustTalk can sometimes lead to bullying. Parents should monitor what their child is sending, answering, liking or with. It's important to talk to your child about how to use the app.



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.

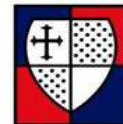
Current Whole School attendance is 94.94%. Our **NEW** target for Whole School Attendance is 95%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	98.2%	96.9%
Maple	98.6%	95.2%
Alder	96.9%	94.2%
Oak	92.2%	97.5%

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 have been taking part in Made in the North East Week. The children have been learning about some of the things our region is famous for and discussing why the North East is such a special place to live. We explored a range of local industries, traditions and landmarks, helping the children to understand more about the area around them and how it connects to our daily lives.



We also spent time thinking about Belsay and what makes our local community unique. A particular focus was on farming and why it is so important to our area. The children learned about how farms support our community, provide food and help care for the countryside that surrounds us. It was lovely to hear the children sharing their ideas and making links with what they see around them every day.

During our discussions, the children were asked what Belsay is famous for. One child responded with “respect”, which was a wonderful moment and a real testament to the values we work hard to promote in school. It was a proud reflection of how our children understand and live out our school ethos.

We also enjoyed a visit to Belsay Hall, Castle and Gardens. The children had a fantastic day exploring the historic surroundings and learning more about the local area. It was a great opportunity to bring our learning to life and the children were curious, engaged and full of thoughtful questions throughout the visit.

More photos from our trip will be added to Tapestry so that you can see some of the highlights from our day. We hope you enjoy looking through them together at home.

This term has been really successful and the children have worked incredibly hard. I am so proud of all of them. Well done Team Willow!

I hope everyone has a wonderful Easter break and enjoys spending time with their families.

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

Maple Class have had a fantastic and busy week to round off the term! We started the week with a special visit from Ella's mum, Louise, who kindly came in on Monday afternoon to support our Geography learning. This term, we have been exploring hot and cold places, and Louise told us all about life in Karratha, Australia. We learnt a lot about living in a hot climate that experiences extreme weather. We also loved hearing about the different animals that live in Australia! Thank you, Louise, for bringing our learning to life!

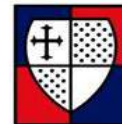
We also launched our "Made in the North East" project, focusing on inventions and how they have changed society where we live. To support this, we visited Beamish on Tuesday for an exciting class trip. The children learnt all about mining in the North East and what life was like in the past. Throughout the day, we spotted several pioneering inventions and even managed to squeeze in a tram ride back to the bus—what a highlight!

To end the week, we celebrated with an Easter egg hunt and a wonderful Easter parade. There were so many creative eggs and bonnets on display—it was lovely to see the children's imagination and effort. A huge thank you to our wonderful PTA for organising our Easter events and to our parent helpers for their support both in class and on our trip. These special experiences truly enhance our curriculum and make learning memorable.

Well done for another terrific term Maple Class! Have a lovely Easter holiday!



Miss Dixon



Classroom updates- Alder class

What a phenomenal end to an extraordinarily busy half term we have had this week! This week for our Made in the North East week topic, we took a deep dive into the fascinating world of transport and how it has shaped our lives.

The children have loved learning about the bustling hubs that keep the North East moving. We have had a specific focus on Newcastle Airport, Central Station and the Tyne and Wear Metro System. As well as exploring the history around these key networks, we have discussed how transport has shaped society in the North East, connecting communities and helping industry to thrive. Not only did we enjoy our visit to the Great North Museum on Tuesday, but our trip was an excellent opportunity to experience some of these modes of transport first hand. We navigated the city using a combination of a bus ride, walking, and catching the Metro. It was a brilliant, hands-on way to experience the transport networks we had been studying in the classroom.

We took the opportunity to tie our transport theme into our mathematics curriculum this week! Instead of our usual lessons, the children engaged in some fantastic practical maths. They have worked hard to calculate the distances between various local landmarks and transport hubs practicing our column addition, subtraction and multiplication. The children also conducted a transport survey outside of school and brought their data to life by creating excellent pictograms.

The Easter egg hunt and Easter parade on Wednesday was a definite highlight. The creativity and imagination were fantastic. It was lovely to see the children showcasing their wonderful work. Thank you to the PTA for organising this fantastic experience.

Have a wonderful, well-deserved Easter break. Enjoy the time together. We look forward to hearing all about it!

Mrs Aynsley and Mrs Rutter





Classroom updates - Oak class

This week has been a brilliant way to round off what has been another incredibly busy half term in Oak Class. Our Made in the North East focus gave us the fantastic opportunity to visit the Sunderland Maritime Heritage Museum, where the children explored the rich history of shipbuilding and industry in our region. They showed great curiosity throughout, asking thoughtful questions and making links to our wider learning about how the North East has played such an important role in Britain's past. It was a lovely trip and a great chance to bring learning to life beyond the classroom.

In English, we completed our Big Write for our Suspense Story unit, and the results were genuinely outstanding. The children have worked so hard on building tension and atmosphere, and this really shone through in their writing. There was some brilliant vocabulary on show, with carefully chosen verbs and descriptive phrases helping to keep the drama flowing throughout. It was fantastic to see so many pupils confidently using Roman settings and weaving in characters from Julius Caesar to enhance their stories. A real highlight of the week.

In Maths, it has been lovely to have everyone back together again and working as a full class. We have focused on decimals, particularly multiplying decimals by integers, and the children approached this with great confidence and determination. It has been great to see them applying their understanding of place value so effectively and tackling increasingly challenging questions with resilience.

This week also marks the end of Mr Pritchard's time with us before he returns to Ponteland Primary. We would like to thank him for everything he has contributed during his time at Belsay. He has made a hugely positive impact on the class, both in terms of their learning and their confidence, and has been a fantastic member of our team. We are incredibly grateful for all of his hard work and wish him all the very best back at Ponteland.

Finally, a huge well done to all of the children for what has been another fantastic half term. It has been full of energy, effort and achievement across all areas of the curriculum. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hope you all have a lovely and well-earned break and we look forward to doing it all again in a couple of weeks.

Mr McLeod & Mr Pritchard



Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
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

Happy Birthday to:

Lucy (Maple), Harry (Oak), Izzy (Maple), April (Alder), Jack (Alder), Esther (Alder)

  Wishing you all a fantastic time celebrating  

Belsay Primary School

Friday Flyer

Belsay School



GIRLS TEAMS
PLAYERS WANTED
SCHOOL
YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6

PONTELAND UNITED

PONTELAND UNITED

TRAINING ON THURSDAY EVENINGS
MATCHES ON SATURDAYS

CONTACT DALE
07385149423

 PONTELAND UNITED 



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