

15th May 2026

Headteachers Update

What a fantastic week it has been! Firstly, I would like to say a huge well done and congratulations to our Year 6 children, who have completed their national SATs tests this week. Sitting formal tests at such an early stage in education is a huge sign of maturity and resilience. I have been incredibly proud of every single one of our Year 6 pupils for the way they approached the week, coming into school each day focused, positive, ready to learn and determined to give 100%.

Most importantly, regardless of the outcomes, we are immensely proud of you all. Well done once again for getting through the week with such maturity and determination.

I would also like to say a big thank you to our Year 5 children. As they normally share the classroom space with Year 6, this week brought a change to their usual routines. However, they have adapted brilliantly, showing great maturity and understanding in support of their peers.

This week it has also been lovely to see Reception and Key Stage 1 enjoying their Forest School sessions and spending valuable time in our garden area. A few weeks ago, we were very fortunate to have some parent volunteers help tidy and develop the garden spaces and the challenge now is to keep building on that fantastic work. It has been wonderful to see the children planting, caring for the area and already beginning to see the fruits of their labour starting to bloom.

Today, I also had the pleasure of taking a small group of children to the Belsay Horse Trials to take part in the 'Healing Power of the Horse' masterclass, which took place in the main arena. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to meet therapy horses and learn more about the positive impact these experiences can have on wellbeing. It was wonderful to experience the atmosphere of the Horse Trials, which was already incredibly busy this afternoon.

A reminder that next Friday will be a non-uniform day in support of our PTA Summer Fair. If possible, we kindly ask children to bring in a bottle donation of some description to support the fair preparations. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

This week we had a Celebration Assembly but we decided to break with tradition slightly. While we still enjoyed our hot chocolate celebration, we chose to celebrate all of our Year 6 children collectively in recognition of the fantastic effort and attitude they have shown throughout SATs week.

We hope you all have a wonderful weekend, whatever you may be doing, see you Monday.

Mr Shaw



SEND

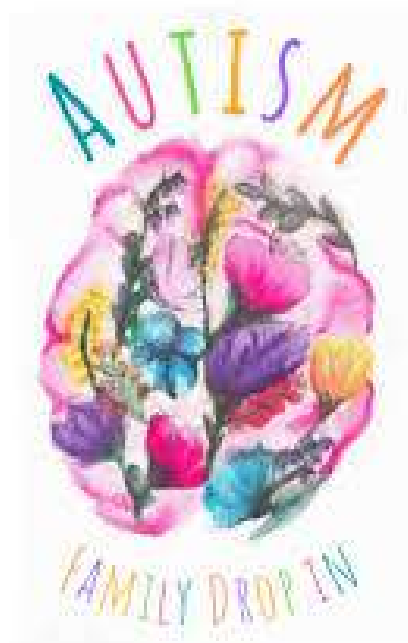
Autism Family Drop In Sessions

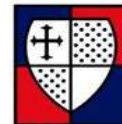
For any families interested in attending an autism family drop in session, please see below. These sessions are run by the Northumberland High Incidence Needs Team:

Do you have a child aged 0-19 years? Come along for a cuppa and chat and to meet other parents. No diagnosis needed!

- Monday 18 May 2026, 1pm - 3pm: Morpeth Golf Club, Loansdean, NE61 2BT
- Evening session: Tuesday 19 May 2026, 5pm - 6:30pm: Morpeth Golf Club, Loansdean, NE61 2BT

If you have any questions, please email: hint@northumberland.gov.uk





ASK Psychology

An organisation of Educational Psychologists called ASK Psychology will be facilitating some parent workshops on different themes over the year ahead at locations across the trust. The first session will be after the May half term and will be hosted in three locations (Swansfield, Ponteland Primary and Heddon) for parents to access from any school. The first session will be delivered by ASK's Occupational Therapists and will cover one of these issues :

- toileting(primary),
- eating and drinking (primary),
- sensory differences and sensory lifestyles (primary and secondary)
- sleep (primary and secondary)
- neuro-affirming play (primary and secondary)

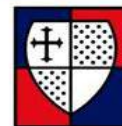
Below is the link to a google form, please could you indicate the session that would be of most interest to you:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSftGNhbfJangcJSTVtX4i4Pls3xPDFcDg-q9YZVn5y2BU5KQg/viewform?usp=publish-editor>

The results of this survey will determine the session to be delivered.

Once the survey results are gathered, we will advertise the parent session which has been chosen and the timings and location of the delivery.





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

EDUCATING CHILDREN ON SPENDING AND SAVING

Evidence shows that children's spending habits begin to form as early as seven years old. With primary schools in England not required to teach financial literacy, many young people are reaching adulthood without knowing the basics of budgeting. This guide explains how to teach young people about money in a practical way, giving them the understanding to become savvy spenders and savers.

- 1 PROVIDE POCKET MONEY**
Giving children money - even a small amount - can help them learn to make their own budgeting decisions about how to spend or save it. Research shows that youngsters who receive pocket money are more likely to become adults with strong financial skills and significantly less debt.
- 2 USE A PREPAID CARD**
Being able to pay by card is essential these days, with some retailers not accepting cash since the pandemic. Prepaid debit cards are available for children from the age of six, allowing them to get used to spending like they will be adults with no risk of slipping into an overdraft. Learning about money in this way is fun - you need to get to the point and have a go!
- 3 PRACTISE BORROWING**
Although official borrowing is only available to over 18s, kids need to understand how debt and interest work before they become adults and are exposed to credit cards or buy now, pay later schemes. For a safe means of teaching them about this, parents could offer their kids pocket money but explain that it needs to be paid back by a certain date, plus an extra couple of pounds as interest.
- 4 ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATION**
Chatting about money and how much things cost with teach children their finances is a part of ever into the real world. Parents can involve them in budgeting for the weekly shop, for example, working together to get everything on the list while keeping the total below a certain number. Letting young ones make spending decisions in a safe space can build up their confidence regarding money.
- 5 DISCUSS THE PRESSURE TO SPEND**
Whether it's YouTube ads or a kind of envy at a friend's recent purchase, spending triggers are everywhere. Encourage children to notice how their own desires (the pleasing sounds of the checkout) and their own self as a consumer can lead to spend more. Challenge them to resist impulse buys by getting them to sleep on it before deciding to spend.
- 6 TELLING 'NEED' FROM 'WANT'**
Learning how to prioritise spending is an important life skill: the difference between what's essential and "nice to have". It may be confusing to children, so you can help while shopping. It's the perfect time to say "That's a want. We're getting our needs first." You could show how you budget for food, electricity and so on before buying fun things.
- 7 ENCOURAGE SAVING**
Getting children saving early can set them up with a useful habit for their adult life. Suggest that they set something aside every time they receive money and help them set a target for how much to put away, so they feel motivated to continue. For instance, encouraging them to save for a friend's birthday gift can get children much more invested in what they buy.
- 8 SPARK INTEREST IN INTEREST**
Motivate children by telling them about interest: you can describe it as it needed for saving money. Explain how everything they put away will grow over time. An on-line tool, for example, reports that 10 minutes every day for a month would amount to approximately £100 interest. Some prepaid cards for young people also offer interest, parents and carers could also ask it time to supplement what their child saves and show how it works.
- 9 PAYING FOR CHORES**
This is a common debate with no right or wrong answer: it depends on what works for each individual family. However, it can be one of the best ways to teach children that money needs to be earned and helps to create more monthly spending. If parents aren't keen on paying for everyday chores, they could ask the children to suggest their own ideas for earning a little extra.
- 10 PROTECT CHILDREN FROM SCAMS**
Scams are a terrifyingly easy way to lose money, and children are generally more likely to be taken in due to a lack of experience with these financial criminals. At a minimum, make sure they're aware of the most common scams they could be exposed to - by text, email and phone. For instance, young people should not be trusted with any unsolicited message or call and never give out their personal information.



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.

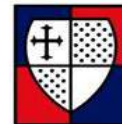
Current Whole School attendance is 94.94%. Our **NEW** target for Whole School Attendance is 95%.

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	98.6%	96.3%
Maple	93.9%	95.5%
Alder	94.4%	94.5%
Oak	98.3%	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 in Reception, we have been enjoying the traditional tale of *Little Red Riding Hood*. The children have listened carefully to the story and have been developing their understanding through a range of exciting activities. We worked together to create story maps, helping the children to sequence the main events and retell the story using key vocabulary and repeated phrases. The children also had great fun making their own jam sandwiches to take to Grannie's house, carefully spreading the jam and talking about the ingredients and instructions needed. This activity supported both our communication skills and our independence while linking closely to the story.



In Maths, we have been focusing on different ways to make 10. The children have explored number bonds through practical resources, games and group activities, learning that numbers can be combined in many different ways to total 10. We have encouraged the children to explain their thinking and spot patterns within number pairs. This has helped to build confidence with counting, addition and early mental maths skills in a fun and engaging way.

In Art, we learned about the artist Andy Goldsworthy and explored how he creates artwork using natural materials found outdoors. The children collected leaves, sticks, stones and flowers before using them to create their own transient art pieces. They showed wonderful creativity and teamwork while discussing textures, shapes and patterns in nature. The children were very proud of their artwork and enjoyed seeing how everyday natural objects can be transformed into beautiful creations.

Another great week for us all in Willow class. Well done everyone! Have a lovely weekend and get ready for the last week of Summer 1. Time really does fly when you have fun!

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple Class

This week, Maple Class have been busy with lots of exciting learning across the curriculum. In Maths, we began our new unit on fractions. Year 1 children have been learning to recognise and find a half of shapes, while Year 2 have been developing their skills by finding halves and quarters of amounts. In English, we were inspired by the story of *The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch* and wrote letters from Mr Grinling to Captain Bill. We worked very hard to use the correct tenses in our writing and include conjunctions to join our ideas together clearly.

In History, we explored the bravery of Grace Darling by working in teams to role play her famous rescue mission on the school yard. The wet weather certainly helped us imagine the stormy conditions Grace and her father faced back in 1838 as they battled huge waves during the sea rescue. Afterwards, we discussed how Grace Darling's courage inspired improvements to sea rescues, including more lifeboat stations, better boats and improved equipment. To finish our learning, we designed our own lifeboats to make rescues even safer and quicker!



Miss Dixon



Classroom updates- Alder class



It has been another fantastic week in Alder Class, and we could not be prouder of the children. This half term, we have had a real focus on attitude to learning and behaviour in class, and the children have responded brilliantly. Visiting teachers have commented on the positive atmosphere and the excellent behaviour they have seen. We have added many stars to our star jar and handed out a record number of dojo points — well done, Alder Class!

In English, we have begun an exciting new writing task linked to our class text, *The Day I Fell Into a Fairytale* by Ben Miller, which continues to completely captivate the children. Over the next two weeks, we will be preparing, planning and writing our own non-chronological reports explaining how the mysterious portal works. To make things even more exciting, the Fairytale Council has written to us with concerns that humans have been entering the fairytale world and causing damage! They have asked us to investigate how the portal works so they can prevent any further disruption. The children have loved immersing themselves in the story and are already full of imaginative ideas and theories.

In Maths, we have had a big focus on times tables. The children have approached this with fantastic enthusiasm, enjoying songs, games and challenges to help improve their fluency and confidence. It has been lovely to see such determination and teamwork as they support one another in their learning.

In Science, we learnt all about food chains and how they show the transfer of energy between living things. We took our learning outside to look for examples of real-life food chains within our environment. During our exploration, we discovered a beautiful tiny frog hiding under a log—much to everyone's excitement! The children quickly identified the many food sources surrounding it and discussed how it fitted into a food chain.

In Art, we continued exploring Islamic art by using collage techniques to create our own geometric designs. The children showed great care and creativity, producing some beautifully detailed pieces of artwork.

We are also very excited that the children's LEGO man art figures are now on display at One Strawberry Lane. This has been a fantastic project that the whole class thoroughly enjoyed taking part in, and the children are incredibly proud to know their artwork is displayed at an art exhibition.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mrs Aynsley and Mrs Rutter



Classroom updates - Oak class

What a week it has been in Oak Class. Firstly, a huge and heartfelt well done to our Year 6 children, who have conducted themselves brilliantly throughout SATs week. No matter what opinions people may have about SATs themselves, we could not possibly be any prouder of the resilience, maturity and determination our children have shown each morning. They have approached every paper with positivity, courage and real effort and have represented both themselves and our school wonderfully. SATs week can feel like a long and demanding one for children and families alike, so we are incredibly grateful for all of the support, encouragement and reassurance given at home too. It genuinely makes such a difference. Thankfully, the tests are now complete and the children were more than ready to enjoy a slightly more relaxed end to the week with water fights, a movie afternoon and a very welcome visit from Tony's Ices! Well done Year 6. You have been absolutely fantastic and deserve a very restful weekend.

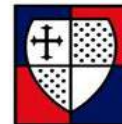
Meanwhile, Year 5 have had a brilliant week of their own, completing an excellent Newby Whisk research project which combined both Literacy and ICT skills impressively. They have also thoroughly enjoyed an outdoor team building project helping to construct the new Chicken Coop area, which brought plenty of problem solving, teamwork and practical skills into the outdoors. A huge thank you to Mr. A and Mrs. Hayes for taking such good care of the children and giving them such an enjoyable and memorable week while Year 6 completed SATs.

Afternoons have continued as normal across the week with lots of excellent learning taking place right across the curriculum. In RE, children have been exploring Christian and Humanist values and discussing how beliefs can influence the way people choose to live their lives. In Science, we have continued learning about the benefits of exercise on the human body, while in History we explored what life was like on the Home Front during WWI. In PSHE with Miss Cook, the children focused on healthy eating and making positive lifestyle choices and in Art we have continued developing our sculpture skills and creative techniques.

Huge thanks as always for all of your continued support and wonderful work this week. Have a fantastic and very well deserved weekend everybody!



Mr McLeod



Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Time	
Friday 22nd May	All day	Non-uniform- bring a bottle to support the PTA Summer Fair
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
Wednesday 17th June-Sunday 21st June		Rec-5 Transition week-
Tuesday 7th July	1pm	Sports Day
Wednesday 15th July	3.15pm	Summer Fair
Friday 17th July	1pm	School closes for the summer holidays

**Happy Birthday to:
Toby (Willow) & Sybil (Maple)**

  **Wishing you both a fantastic time celebrating**  



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