



**26th June 2026**

## Headteachers Update

The sunshine has certainly made a welcome appearance and it has been wonderful to see the children making the most of the warm weather. Whether learning outdoors, enjoying playtimes with friends or taking part in sporting activities, the children have approached the week with enthusiasm and positivity. We have also been impressed by how sensible they have been in keeping themselves safe by wearing hats, applying sun cream and drinking plenty of water throughout the day.

Welcome back Year 6 - The trip was an incredible experience and the children were an absolute credit to our school from start to finish. They embraced every opportunity, whether that was learning new language skills, exploring new places or sampling foods. I was especially proud that every child gave escargot (snails!) a try!

Wednesday brought another exciting opportunity for our children. Thanks to the generosity of our wonderful PTA, we welcomed a specialist football coach who amazed us all with his incredible football skills. The control, precision and tricks on display were genuinely mesmerising and it was fantastic to see the children so engaged and inspired throughout the day. Every class had the opportunity to take part, develop new skills and challenge themselves. We certainly discovered that we have some very talented footballers at Belsay and a few children may even have surprised themselves. Experiences like this are only possible because of the support of our families and the hard work of our PTA, so a huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to fundraising throughout the year.

On Wednesday evening, staff continued their Makaton training. As a school, we are committed to ensuring that all children feel included, valued and able to communicate effectively. Developing our understanding of Makaton is another important step in helping us support every child and further strengthen the inclusive culture that we are so proud of here at Belsay.

Finally, congratulations to all of our children who were recognised in this week's Celebration Assembly and Hot Chocolate. Whether recognised for effort, kindness, resilience, improvement or achievement, every award is thoroughly deserved. Well done to all of this week's winners.

Have a wonderful weekend and let's hope the sunshine stays with us for a little longer!

**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

## SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BUILD EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE

With increasing societal pressures, many children struggle with managing emotions, facing challenges and processing failure in a healthy way. This is why building emotional resilience in young people is vital for their mental health and personal success. This guide provides practical strategies for parents and educators to help children develop resilience and foster confidence, adaptability and a positive mindset.

- 1 ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION**  
Regularly engaging children in open dialogue helps build their emotional awareness. Encourage them to share their thoughts and feelings freely without judgement. Set aside time daily, perhaps during dinner, to ask open-ended questions such as, "What's made you happy today?". This encourages children to express themselves openly.
- 2 MODEL POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR**  
Children often learn how to manage emotions by observing adults. By exhibiting calm and positive responses to challenges, you can teach them valuable emotional management skills. If you're told a difficult day, verbalise how you're feeling and explain how you plan to handle it, such as "I'm a bit worried 'cos I'm going for a walk to clear my mind".
- 3 TEACH PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS**  
Helping children break down challenges into manageable steps encourages a growth mindset. Explain that every problem has a solution, even if it's not immediately obvious. For example, if a child is stuck on homework, suggest them to break the task into smaller steps. Asking things like "Let's focus on just this first question for now".
- 4 FOSTER A GROWTH MINDSET**  
Encourage young people to view mistakes as learning opportunities. A growth mindset helps them see setbacks as part of the process, rather than something to be upset about. After a child loses a game or performs poorly in a test, for example, ask them what they've learned from the experience. This reinforces the idea that effort – and even failure – leads to improvement.
- 5 PROMOTE SELF-CARE PRACTICES**  
Teaching children about self-care helps them understand the importance of balancing work with relaxation. Encourage activities such as reading, hobbies and outdoor play. Establish a routine that includes positive affirmations. The family engages in relaxing activities like reading, setting an example for the child to follow.
- 6 BUILD HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS**  
Strong relationships with peers and adults provide a support system that fosters resilience. Encourage positive, respectful interactions to develop social skills. Playdates or group activities can be instrumental in teaching children how to resolve conflicts with friends by listening and practicing calm communication.
- 7 SUPPORT EMOTIONAL AWARENESS**  
Helping children to identify and name their emotions allows them to manage those feelings more effectively. When a child's upset, encourage them to talk to you about what they're feeling in an open-ended and supportive manner, and ask them why they might be experiencing these emotions.
- 8 ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENCE**  
Giving children opportunities to make their own decisions builds confidence and problem-solving skills. A good example of this would be letting children choose and give their own homework for school, guiding them with support but allowing them to assume responsibility for the task to help them take ownership.
- 9 DEVELOP COPING STRATEGIES**  
Teaching children techniques like mindfulness, deep breathing or journaling can help them to manage stress. Show them how to perform breathing exercises when they're feeling anxious, and practice this regularly. Encouraging this behaviour in young people will make it easier for them to use these techniques of their own accord during stressful moments.
- 10 CELEBRATE SMALL WINS**  
Recognising effort, no matter how small, reinforces perseverance and encourages children to keep trying. After a child completes a difficult task, make a progress jar or poster to track their level of personal goals, praise their effort. Emphasise the hard work they've put in and be sure to let them know how proud you are.



## 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%	96.2%
Maple	97.1%	95.4%
Alder	98.5%	94.9%
Oak	96.7%	97.3%

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 fantastic week we've had! The classroom has been buzzing with energy, creativity and a lot of hard work. Our learning took a delicious turn this week as we dove into the classic tale of *The Gingerbread Man*. The children absolutely loved retelling the story, mapping out his run and even designing clever traps to see if they could catch the runaway biscuit. We discussed words such as sly and talked about what this means.

Alongside our storytelling adventures, we have officially started our transition activities to prepare for the upcoming school year. We know that moving on to new classrooms and teachers can bring up big feelings, so we are dedicating plenty of time to helping the children feel confident, excited and supported during this transition period. Miss Dixon really enjoyed her time with Willow class last week.

Through it all, we are so incredibly proud of the dedication the children have shown. From mastering new concepts to wrapping up their projects, everyone has been working hard and pushing through challenges with a smile. The focus and stamina they are showing at this point in the year is truly wonderful to see.

Finally, with the beautiful weather we've been having, we have been making the most of our time outside while ensuring everyone stays safe and comfortable. We've been having plenty of fun in the sun by utilizing shaded areas, taking frequent water breaks and balancing our outdoor play with cool, indoor activities during the peak heat of the day.



Have a wonderful weekend. Fingers crossed we all get to enjoy some of this lovely weather!

**Miss Houghton**



## Classroom updates - Maple class

This week, we have had another fabulous week in school and have shown incredible resilience in the hot weather! On Wednesday, we were delighted to welcome Dan for a fantastic Football WOW Workshop, where we learnt lots of exciting new tricks and skills. We have continued to practise what we learnt about balance and positioning during playtimes and lunchtimes, and our football skills are improving every day. From dribbling and keepy-ups to mastering rainbow kicks, everyone has impressed us with their enthusiasm and determination. In Maths, we completed our learning on statistics and have begun our new unit on telling the time. Year 1 have been learning about seconds, minutes and hours, while Year 2 have been recapping o'clock and half past. We are looking forward to building on these skills next week as we begin learning quarter past and quarter to.

In English, we have been exploring the wonderful world of poetry. We have learnt about different poetic features, including onomatopoeia, personification, alliteration and rhyming couplets. Together, we wrote a beautiful class poem inspired by wild summer poppies before using it as inspiration to create our own individual poems. We have been so impressed by the children's creativity, imaginative vocabulary and confidence in experimenting with different poetic techniques. It has been another fantastic week of learning, and we are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved!



Oh, pretty poppy swaying in the soil,  
Ginormous, strong roots begin to coil.  
Glittering petals shine in the golden sun,  
Ruby red poppies bathing, having lots of fun!  
The emerald green stems whoosh up into the sky,  
Beautiful birds tweeting on twisting branches high.



As winter begins to fall, poppies droop from standing tall,  
They sleep soundly, and dream softly at Belsay Hall.

By Maple Class

Miss Dixon



## Classroom updates- Alder class

What a week! A massive congratulations to all of our brilliant Alder Class students for surviving the scorching heat with their smiles and enthusiasm intact. You've all been absolute superstars. Let's hope this beautiful sunshine decides to stick around for a relaxing weekend! Here is a look at what we've been up to during this busy week:

In English, we have been channeling our inner leaders by diving into campaign speech planning. The children learned how to tug at the heartstrings by using powerful emotions to describe their viewpoints. They have also mastered the art of getting people on their side by using powerful persuasive verbs. We can't wait to read these speeches!

In Maths, we tackled our end of year quizzes and everyone showed incredible focus and determination. Alongside this, we continued to explore the practical world of money practicing how to calculate totals and work out change.

Our discussions turned towards the future in PSHE, where we discussed our big dreams and ambitions. We talked about how no dream is too big if we break it down into small, manageable steps, and emphasized the importance of our school's value resilience when things don't go perfectly the first time! Alongside this, in RE we thought about empathy and community. We explored various problems around the world and looked at the inspiring ways people try to help. We compared global issues to local problems exploring how people can make a real difference in the world.

The countdown is on! We ended our week with Music and practicing The Last Alien. Children have copies of their songs to learn at home - please practice if you can! The children are working incredibly hard and are excited to share this with all of you.

Have a wonderful, sun-filled weekend, everyone!

## Mrs Aynsley and Mrs Rutter





## Classroom updates - Oak class

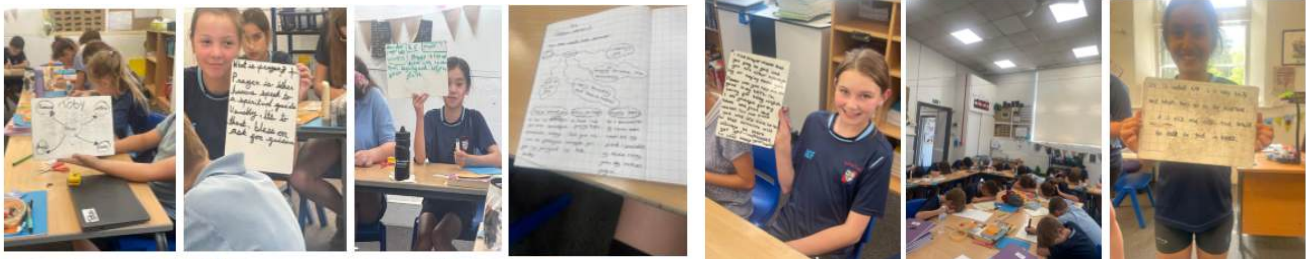
It has been wonderful to have everybody back together this week following our fantastic trip to France. Our Year 6 pupils were an absolute credit to themselves, their families and our school throughout the visit. They represented Belsay brilliantly and made us all incredibly proud.

In English, we have continued building towards our Louis Pasteur narrative, producing some superb descriptive writing and developing atmosphere, character and tension through carefully chosen vocabulary. We cannot wait to see the finished Big Writes over the next week or so.

In Geography, we have been comparing the climates of Northumberland and North America, considering how weather and climate can influence the lives of people around the world.

In RE, we have explored how prayer and worship can support religious followers and help guide them through different experiences in life.

As we move through this very busy final half term, I would like to thank all of our families for their continued support. It is very much appreciated and helps make everything we do possible.



Mr. McLeod





## Dates for your Diary

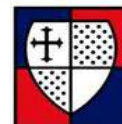
*Events could be subject to change and will be communicated if required*

Date	Time	
Wednesday 1st July	All day	Y6 end of year treat
Wednesday 1st July	Afternoon	Ray Wynd Farm trip Years 3-5
Tuesday 7th July	1pm	Sports Day 1-2pm- Reception and KS1 2-3pm- LKS2 and UKS2
Wednesday 8th July	1pm	La Petite Creperie
Thursday 9th July	All day	Whole school Science Day
Friday 10th July	All day	Non-uniform- PTA break the rules day
Friday 10th July	9am	Year 3 & 4 - Performance of The Last Alien
Tuesday 14th July	All day	Pele Trust music concert
Wednesday 15th July	3.15pm	Summer Fair- PTA event
Thursday 16th July	9am	Year 6 leavers assembly
Thursday 16th July	Afternoon	Reception and KS1 end of year party
Friday 17th July	1pm	School closes for the summer holidays

## Happy Birthday to:

Mantasha (Oak), Lucas (Oak), Tommy (Oak)

🎂 🎈 Wishing you all a fantastic time celebrating 🎁 🥳



# Friday Flyer

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Wed 22nd  
July

Week 3

Mon 3rd – Wed  
5th  
August

Week 5

Mon 17th –  
Wed 19th  
August

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Belsay Primary School

# Friday Flyer

Belsay School



# BELSAY



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Every Monday (during term time)  
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