



*Together We Can*

**Attendance to date this term**  
**96.7%**

**Forest School  
Reminder!**



Forest schools start again in week beginning 19th September. Acorns Tues, Conkers Wed and Oak Trees Thurs. Please make sure their forest school gear is in school each week.

**Admin Hours - Mrs Mortimer**

From September, my hours of work will be 8.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am - 12 noon on a Friday.

I will be able to update the dinner and tuck shop registers on ParentPay on a Friday, instead of waiting until Monday, which will hopefully mean you have a more accurate picture of your debits and credits for the week. Please can I ask that you continue to check your ParentPay accounts regularly, and always pay for your child's lunches and tuck **in advance**.

**Your child's ParentPay account should be up to date by this Friday lunchtime.**

**Tuck Shop**

Tuck shop is available to all Conkers and Oak Trees children during morning break. All year 1 children should now have a tuck shop account on ParentPay. Please let me know if you can't see yours.

A maximum of 4 items is allowed in one day. Please discuss with your child how many items you would like them to purchase. 80p a day can soon add up! Your child's account on ParentPay must be in credit for your child to access tuck shop.

# Newsletter

Thursday 8th September 2016



## *A word from Mrs Mitchell*

Hello and welcome back to a new school year. The children have all come back to school with a spring in their step and bursting with positivity...it's going to be a great term. The teachers will be sending out class letters very soon, which will give you lots of information on what the children are learning over this next half term. You will see from the 'dates for your diary' section of this newsletter that we have got **LOTS** of things planned for both children and parents this term. New initiatives include 'stay and play' in the Early Years, regular 'Dads and Lads' sessions, parent and children fun days in school, class assemblies and hopefully family learning days. I would be really interested in knowing if you would be interested in attending any family learning days, where we put on a number of workshops and you can come to them with your child, as well as possible parent classes after school (exercise, learning, etc.) Please let me know if you have any good ideas. We are putting on a number of learning workshops for parents and we really would encourage you to come along if you can. If you are able to come to the phonics/reading and spelling workshops over the next few weeks, please let Claire know and she can add you to the list. We are going to be starting after school clubs again in the spring term, but meanwhile for this term, each Friday we have a sports club and choir running during dinner time.

**Remember that my door is always open too if you would like a chat about school or have any specific questions. Here's to the next term, dark mornings and evenings and hopefully a bit of peace and quiet for you!**

Thank you, Sian Mitchell

**Face book**

We now have our own face book page. Please add us as a friend through 'Leavening Primary' to keep up to date with all the latest news and events at school. We will use this page as a means of:

informing parents  
celebrating achievements with the local community  
advertising our wonderful little school.

It will be managed by staff at school and teachers will use it to put out any reminders or celebrations of their pupils. The face book page regulations lie in accordance with our home school agreement and permission you have given for your child to be (or not to be) photographed for the website and press. If you would rather your child did not appear on the face book page, but you have previously agreed to images on the website and press, please let Claire know.

**Contact Details**

It is imperative that I have correct email and mobile numbers for you - please ensure any changes to your details are given to the office as soon as possible.

Please email [admin@leavening.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@leavening.n-yorks.sch.uk) with any comments about this newsletter.

## Parent Forums for the Autumn term 2016

This term I would like to introduce regular parent forums. The aim is for parents to attend on an informal basis; we will meet in the staffroom or my office with a cuppa and biscuit and discuss school issues. There will be an open, honest and respectful ethos to these meetings. The aim is to involve parents more heavily in all areas of school life and development.

### Date and Time

### Specific focus

Thursday 29th September at 9am

School lunches

Friday 14th October at 9am

Reporting to parents/communication

Tuesday 1st November at 9am

Wrap around care/after school clubs

Wednesday 23rd November at 9am

Curriculum ideas/ Outdoor learning and Forest Schools

Thursday 15th December at 9am

Parental involvement

In addition to the main focus, there will also be the opportunity to discuss any other issues/questions/suggestions you may have at each meeting. I hope that many of you will be able to pop along. No need to say you are coming, just turn up and hopefully these meetings will be productive and give parents a voice. Obviously, if you have any serious or personal child concerns, this will not be the forum to express these, therefore a private meeting with myself or the class teacher would be more suitable, so please do not hesitate to ask if you would like to arrange this.

Thanks, Sian Mitchell

## WATER SAFETY TALK

On Monday 26th Sept at 9.10am Laura Adams and Rebecca Briggs from Pickering Pool will be coming in to do a whole school talk for pupils and parents on water safety. All parents are invited to this talk. It will last approx. 1 hour.

We will also be holding an E-safety talk this term—date and time TBC.



## Parents' Evening.

This term we will be holding the parents' evening over two nights - 11th & 12th October - from 3.30pm to 6.15pm. Please look out for the appointment booking forms which will be sent out shortly.

Children are welcome to attend the appointment with you if they wish, but we will also have a member of staff on hand to look after them if they don't want to attend.

## GUITAR LESSONS AT SCHOOL

The weekly cost of lessons is £7.50 for a 30-min group lesson (groups no larger than 5 pupils). Lessons will be billed the first week of each half term for the number of lessons in that half term (half terms vary from 5-8 weeks). Payment is required the following week. Unfortunately, sometimes there are not enough pupils at the same level to provide a group lesson. In this situation 15-min one-to-one lessons will be provided (at £7.50) until a suitable group becomes available.

There are 2 main types of guitar I teach, Classical (nylon strung) and Electric. Classical guitars tend to be easier on the fingers for beginners, and the books I use (The Guitarist's Way) are a great way to learn music theory as guitar playing progresses. Learning Electric guitar takes a different approach, more focused learning by ear and playing in time (with other musicians or backing tracks). I use the Rockschool books as well as popular rock, pop and blues songs for Electric guitar lessons. As the 2 different types of guitar are tuned the same and used the same notes, skills are transferable between them. Group lessons are best suited to classical guitar, if electric guitar is preferred please enquire about one-to-one lessons.

Practise is important. Pupils should have regular practise sessions (10-15mins, 5 times a week is recommended) and should be encouraged to play for family and friends. They will also get an opportunity to play in assemblies and school concerts.

For further information please contact Daniel Hardcastle Tel. 07921845692 [daniel.hardcastle@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:daniel.hardcastle@hotmail.co.uk)

## Dates for your Diary

10th Sept - Leavening Village Show  
13th Sept - Launch of theme for term 'What is computing'  
19th Sept - Forest School starts  
20th Sept - Seeing is Believing day  
21st Sept - Phonics info day for parents  
26th Sept - Water safety talk for all,  
27th Sept - Spelling info day for parents  
29th Sept - Parent Forum  
30th Sept - McMillan Coffee Morning  
6th Oct - Harvest Festival 9.15am  
10th Oct - Beaumont Recycling  
11th & 12th Oct - Parents' evenings  
14th Oct - Dads & Lads day  
14th Oct - Parent Forum  
14th Oct - Cross country event  
18th Oct - Landing of 'What is computing' theme  
1st Nov - Parent Forum  
23rd Nov - Parent Forum  
24th Nov - Maths info day for parents  
1st Dec - Seeing is Believing day (craft day)  
9th Dec - Dads & Lads day  
9th Dec - Nativity 10am  
12th Dec - Community Carol Singing 4.30pm  
15th Dec - Christmas Lunch

### Curriculum theme for this term.

The whole school theme for this half term is 'What is Computing?' We will be launching this theme with all the children next week by setting up a crime scene in school. The landing of the theme will take place on 18th Oct with a crime solving party for all the children.

### Dads + Lads Days 14th Oct + 9th Dec

For our new 'dads + lads' days, we are inviting any male member of the family to come along, join in the fun Friday lessons (art, sport or music) and join us for lunch if they wish. You are welcome to dip in and out of the day as you please. Please let us know if you intend staying for lunch, and make sure it is paid for on ParentPay beforehand.

### Seeing is Believing days - 20th Sept & 1st Dec.

These will carry on in the same format as before. Everyone is invited to come along, at any time of the day to join your child in their lessons and have a good look at what they do in school. If you wish to join us for lunch, please let us know beforehand and pay on ParentPay.

1st December is also a parent and child Christmas craft day.

## Writing Competition

*This half term's writing competition will be to write and illustrate your own detective story.*

*This is based on our whole school theme of 'What is computing?'*

*There will be a winner and a runner up in these categories:*

*\* EYFS and Year 1 who will create a comic strip or story board to tell their story,*

*\* Years 2-4 who will produce a short story.*

*\* Years 5-6 who will produce a story with a clear structure and dialogue.*

*The deadline for the entries is Monday 17th October 2016.*

*Please hand in your entries to your teacher.*



## Phonics, Spelling and Maths Information Sessions for Parents. See dates above.

These sessions are to give parents a better understanding of how we teach these subjects and to enable parents to support their children at home. We have a new spelling scheme this term, too.



The sessions will take place on the dates mentioned above - Nursery, Reception and Year 1 sessions will be at 9am in Acorns and Yr2—Yr6 sessions will be at 3.15pm in Oak Trees.



**There will be a crèche available if you need to bring children with you.**

# McMillan Coffee Morning

This year we will be supporting McMillan by hosting a coffee morning on **Friday 30th September at 10am.**



You are invited to join us for coffee/tea and lots of cake.

To raise extra funds we will also be holding a bottle raffle (prize every time!) and a book sale.

Please can we have donations of any books you no longer want, any bottles (doesn't have to be wine; it can be anything in a bottle—shampoo, oils, syrups, soft drinks/cordials, bubble bath, moisturiser etc etc etc)

We would also really appreciate lots of donations of cakes, tray bakes etc to sell on the day.

Also, the theme for this year is 'Brave the Shave' So if there are any brave dads (or mums? pupils?) who are willing to have their heads shaved during the coffee morning, please let us know so we can prepare the clippers! And tip off the press!

## Harvest Festival

Our harvest festival assembly will take

place on **Thursday 6th October** at 9.15am. Everyone is invited to join us. We will be collecting tins and donating them to Hope Central's food bank.



## Yet to be confirmed -

**Panto.** We will be going to the panto this year but we will be

asking for numbers before we order the tickets as last year we had several tickets unsold. Letter to follow.



## Christmas (yes, really!)

Our **Nativity** this year will be led by EYFS and KS1, with KS2 providing the choir. It will take place at 10am on

**Friday 9th December** and last approx.

45mins.

On **15th December** we will be having **Christmas lunch**, followed by the **Christmas parties** in the afternoon (Nursery will have their party in the morning). This day will also be '**Wear a Christmas jumper to school/work**' day for a £1 donation to school funds.

On **Monday 12th December** we will be trialling a '**Community Carol Singing**' evening around the village. We will meet at school at **4.30pm** for hot chocolate & marshmallows, then sing around the village from 5—6pm.

**All children must be accompanied by an adult.**

