



For more information or to arrange a visit, please contact  
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**"You are well taught and your teachers are good  
at making sure you spend most of your lessons  
working on interesting, practical tasks.  
You go to a good school. It helps you  
make good progress."**

**Ofsted Inspector's letter to pupils, 2012.**



Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for the interest you have shown in Leavening Community Primary School. I hope that the information in this profile will give you a helpful introduction to our school and a good understanding of its activities, aims and values.

Located on the edge of the beautiful Yorkshire Wolds and within easy reach of Malton, Norton and Stamford Bridge, our school caters for up to 90 pupils aged between 3 and 11. In many ways Leavening is the ideal village school! Indeed, the phrase 'Small school, big learning' sums up perfectly our aim to combine excellence in learning with a wide variety of opportunities to enrich pupils' childhood. Our school community also shares a deep sense of belonging and we work hard to nurture strong relationships between school and families.

A child's primary education is a precious, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and, as a Headteacher, I feel very privileged to be involved in the education of children during this vital period of their lives. We are fortunate at Leavening in having a team of dedicated and committed staff all of whom are passionate about making these important years the best possible experience for the children in our school. Furthermore, as part of our thriving Early Years Stage provision we also offer a happy, secure and stimulating part-time nursery environment, with funded provision, for children from three years old.

We understand that every parent wants their child to be safe and happy at school and to be encouraged to do their best. At Leavening we all share these feelings. Our priority is to provide excellent academic standards in a caring and supportive atmosphere, an aim that is reflected in our school's overall purpose: 'Together We Can...'

This purpose is supported by our three values:

1. Aim high so everyone can achieve
2. Look and learn beyond the classroom
3. Care, share and belong

Taken together, our purpose and values highlight the aspects of school life that we believe are most important in running a successful, secure and happy school. They make Leavening a unique school and one that we are all proud to be part of.

I would be very happy to discuss with you any questions you have about Leavening. If you would like to talk to me, or arrange a meeting, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Sian Mitchell



# Together We Can .....



## Aim high so everyone can achieve

**E**xcellent learning and teaching is at the heart of every successful school.

At Leavening we have developed a strong team of 12 skilled teachers and support staff who have high aspirations for themselves and their pupils. Furthermore, we encourage confidence, self-belief and a 'can do' attitude throughout the whole school community.

Our school is organised into three classes: Early Years Foundation stage; years 1, 2 and 3; and years 4, 5 and 6. With very small class sizes and experienced, caring staff we think of our school as a large, supportive family in which every child is able to reach their potential and focus on their strengths.

We offer a rich and exciting curriculum that is organised around themes to help learning come alive. If we're learning about the past, for example, we try to recreate it by providing children with meaningful experiences using our local area and opportunities further afield.

When we explored the theme of 'Planet Ocean' we 'launched' the topic with a titanic-themed week and 'landed' with a whole school production of 'Pirates of the Currybean', as well as a fantastic visit to the seaside.

Our pupils perform well in national tests at the end of Key Stage 2 (year 6) and our Foundation stage was described as 'thriving' in our last Ofsted inspection (please see our website for more details).

We are an inclusive school, having achieved the North Yorkshire enhanced inclusion Quality Mark and therefore our curriculum and opportunities for learning are rich for all of our children. Children with SEN (special educational needs) thrive within our small and nurturing environment.



**'Teaching is consistently good with some that is outstanding. Lessons are lively, interesting and fun.'**

**Ofsted Inspection report, 2012**



**'My child has thrived at Leavening School and loves coming to school and likes and responds well to the style of teaching.'**

**Parent of Year 1 pupil, 2013**

**'Our class is fantastic because we all learn together, on our own and in groups. Everyone is friends with everyone which makes it such a nice place to learn.'**

**Year 6 pupil**

**'The curriculum is outstanding - it helps you turn into articulate, ambitious young people who are keen to do well and work hard in lessons.'**

**Ofsted Inspector's letter to pupils, 2012**



# Together We Can ....



## Look and learn beyond the classroom



**W**e believe it is important that a small, rural school like ours encourages its pupils to explore the wider world.

So we offer our children opportunities to do this through residential trips to London, visits to local mosques and by focusing on diversity in our curriculum.

We have extensive sporting facilities including a large school field and our own multi-user games area for football, netball, basketball and tennis. We use specialist sports teachers to teach the PE curriculum. We regularly use our own set of mountain bikes during PE sessions to help children develop concentration, stamina, co-operation and leadership skills.

We have our own school garden where we grow plants and vegetables and a wildlife area and pond which give children hands-on learning experiences.

We are currently working towards achieving FOREST school status to reflect our commitment to bringing learning to life through interesting and exciting outdoor education experiences. Our outdoor resources are phenomenal, providing children with stimulating

opportunities in the heart of the countryside.

We have our own school kitchen where dinners are cooked on site. Our pupils will, in future, be using this facility to create their own 'cook school' where they will experience the life skills of preparing and cooking our own home-grown produce.

In summary, a creative and innovative approach together with a positive attitude to risk is woven into our activities across school.



**'After visiting four schools, Leavening definitely came out on top - very friendly, happy and secure.'**

**We were delighted to be offered a place for our son.'**

**Parents of Year 1 child**



**'You learn it yourself, it's not just the teachers talking to you. It's a better way of learning.'**

**Year 6 pupil**



# Together We Can ....



## Care, share and belong

Children learn best when they feel secure, safe and happy. So developing a close and caring community is an important part of life at Leavening.

We are proud of the friendly and welcoming atmosphere within our school and of the positive relationships between our staff, pupils, families and school governors.

We also play an important role in bringing the local community together. Whether it is working with the local council to develop our woodland or inviting parents and the community into school for our 'Seeing is believing' days and Dads' Week or joining forces with other schools to offer additional sports and arts opportunities to our pupils, we are truly a school at the heart of our community.

Creating a safe and secure environment is a priority for every school and at Leavening we have a range of policies and procedures, regularly monitored, to address all safeguarding and health and safety issues.

We treat every child as an individual and work

hard to promote pupils' social development including respecting and caring for each other. As part of this activity, we are currently working towards achieving 'Investors in People' status which reflects the importance of pupils' voice in their education.

Good communication between school and families is vital to a child's education and so we hold regular events including drop-in sessions, open evenings and parent/teacher consultations to foster strong links between school and home. Some of our recent community highlights include:

- the village fete
- the village show where our children get involved by entering produce grown at school and arts and crafts made at school
- working with Ryedale Council to develop the picnic site at the top of Leavening Brow
- opening up our school to the community during our open evenings
- inviting the community to our school production of 'Pirates of the Currybean'
- participating in the opening of the Ryedale Festival and performing in the opera Noah's Fludde
- Writing our own cookbook which we sold from our stall at Malton's Food Lovers' Market.



**'My child has enjoyed their years at Leavening school. We feel lucky they have had this experience and are ready to move, with confidence, to secondary school.'**

Parent of Year 6 pupil, 2012



**'Leavening school is a fantastic learning environment for our daughter. She enjoys the creative curriculum delivered by caring, professional staff'**

Parent of Year 5 pupil, 2012



# Additional Information

Detailed information about our school procedures is given as families join school. However, the following notes provide a summary of our routines and arrangements:

- **School routine**

Our school day starts at 9am and ends at 3.15pm. Children can come onto school grounds from 8.45am when the playground is supervised until the children are allowed into the school building at 8.55am. We have morning and afternoon breaks at 10.30am and 2pm. Our lunchtime break runs from 12pm to 1pm.

- **Attendance/family holidays**

All children must attend school and from September 2013 schools must not authorise holidays taken within school time except in exceptional circumstances.

- **Uniform**

School uniforms are available from local shops and supermarkets and clothing featuring our school logo can be bought online - please ask in the office for details.

- **Lunchtime arrangements**

Children may either bring a packed lunch or have a cooked meal at lunchtime. Payment for cooked meals should be made weekly to the school office.

- **Friends of Leavening (FoLS)**

We have a very active Parent & Teachers Association which organises a range of fundraising and social activities throughout the year. Details of forthcoming events and how to get involved are included on our website and in regular FoLS newsletters.

- **School governors**

Our governing body comprises 11 governors who are collectively responsible for managing the finances and deciding the policies of the school. Full details of our governors can be found on our website.

## FAQs

### **What is the admissions procedure for Leavening?**

We have one admission date for all children following their fourth birthday: September. This is consistent with many other schools in the area and has proved to be the best option for our children's learning. We take children from outside our catchment area too.

Parents should be aware that;

- parents can request that the date their child is admitted to the school is deferred until later in the school year or until the child reaches compulsory school age in that school year
- parents can request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age

Admissions are governed by the Local Authority and parents have the option to appeal against their decisions. More information can be found at: <http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/admissions>

### **How do children get to and from school?**

Most children who live close to the school walk or their parents share lifts to make transport easier. Children who live further away within our catchment area are brought to school by bus provided by North Yorkshire County Council.

### **Do children make friends given the small class sizes?**

Absolutely! The children mix together really well within and across class groups. We often see friendships form between older and younger children. The junior children involve infants in their games at playtime and are encouraged to help look after the younger pupils.

### **How do the children from a small primary school like Leavening get on at secondary school?**

The confidence and skills that children develop here mean that they generally thrive at secondary school. Indeed, feedback from Malton Secondary School and Norton College school suggests that Leavening children perform very well both academically and in playing an active role in school life.

### **Do you have an after school club?**

While we do not have an official after school club that provides childcare, we have a variety of fun and informal after school clubs which run for 8 weeks each term from 3.15pm to 4.15pm every school day. Examples include the school newspaper, theatre studies, arts and craft and various sports clubs.