

A word from Mrs Mitchell

Hello everyone!

Welcome back to our second half of the autumn term and our whole school topic of 'We are Yorkshire'. I always find this half term the most energetic and magical of the school year. We have lots to look forward to with some rich learning experiences for the children, such as our upcoming inter faith week, our theatre visits and craft afternoon. This is all before the Christmas festivities even begin!

Thank you to those EYFS and KS1 parents who have made an appointment to see your child's teacher this week. For those who have not, the staff will be in contact to ensure that you do arrange a meeting with them to discuss your child's progress. We value effective home school communication at Leavening and it is our aim to ensure our teachers meet with each of you. Thank you to the parents of children in Oak Trees for your understanding regarding the delayed parent meetings- these will be rearranged in due course.

We have been working hard to improve playtime experiences for all pupils, with leadership from the schools' young leadership team, Miss Mitchelmore and Mrs Raines. The children have opportunity at playtime to access a wide variety of play. Our playworkers (formerly MSA's or lunch time supervisors) are working collectively to ensure this is a positive experience for all. We always pride ourselves on the good behaviour and attitudes of our pupils but more recently we are seeing even happier, calmer and engaged children at playtimes.

Attendance at school is on a positive upward trajectory in recent months, which is a positive and we thank you for your support in ensuring that your child attends well. If your child's attendance is still causing concern, then I will be in touch over the coming weeks to discuss this, with the aim of working together to support and improve. I appreciate that sometimes this is unwelcome communication for some parents, but I assure you that school leaders are following national legislation, policy and procedure and we have a duty to ensure all children attend well. In line with this, we are monitoring lateness of pupils from this half term and if persistent lateness is becoming an issue, then I will be in contact to discuss ways forward. Again, with the good intention of improving outcomes for the pupils at school.

Thank you for reading our newsletter and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible over the coming weeks.

My best wishes

Sian Mitchell

DIARY DATES

NOVEMBER

Mon 6th Bags2School collection 9am

Mon 14th-Fri 18th Interfaith week

Tues 29th Charlie & The Chocolate Factory theatre trip to Leeds Playhouse (Oak Trees class only)

DECEMBER

Thurs 1st Christmas Craft afternoon with parents/carers

Fri 2nd Christmas production and Christmas fayre

Mon 5th Last Hawkes after school club

Fri 9th Peter Pan theatre trip (whole school including Nursery)

Thurs 15th Christmas lunch followed by parties

JANUARY 2023

Mon 2nd Bank holiday

Tues 3rd Training day

Weds 4th School term begins

FEBRUARY 2023

Fri 3rd Feb Young Voices Concert (Oak Trees class)

IMPORTANT NOTICES:

Children are NOT to bring any toys from home into school.

Punctuality

School starts promptly at 8.45am:

All children should be in school for this time.

You will now be required to sign your child in as LATE in the office if they arrive after this time.

Nursery opens at 8.55am

School Attendance

- Our school attendance last week (before half term) was **94.9%** vs National attendance last week of **93.4%** This was above national average.
- Attendance this week so far: **91.0%**
- Attendance this term so far: **91.0%**

Recent highlights from across school...

Children enjoyed making chocolate crispies in Baking Club at the end of last term, along with toppings of their choice...



Kevin Hollinrake MP visited Oak Trees class

Some Year 6s then took him on a tour around the school and our outside areas.



"We really enjoyed our visit from Mr Hollinrake. We walked him around the school, showed him Nursery, Conkers and Oak Trees classes as well as to the school field and MUGA. He asked us lots of questions and he had a nice time meeting the school staff and guinea pigs! Our class found it really interesting when we were talking about Ukraine and Russia. It was a really good day."

-Noah B and Aiden C

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

AMIGO

Amigo is a social platform which purports to connect strangers from around the world – and, with built-in translation software, it reduces the expected language barriers. Focusing heavily on one-to-one chat, video calls and live streams, Amigo encourages its users to build up online relationships and unlock exclusive features such as private video and audio calls: essentially, the more that people chat, the more functions become available to them. This is an app designed with mature users very much in mind and is therefore definitely not recommended for children.

AGE RATING

18

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONE-TO-ONE COMMUNICATION

While online chats and livestreaming are a great way to communicate with people that children can trust (such as friends and family), Amigo encourages users to connect with complete strangers and develop a friendship through private chats, calls and videos. This will be a clear red flag for most parents, due to the possibility of a child encountering inappropriate content or an online predator.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT

Within minutes of signing up for our trial of Amigo (and without using a profile photo), users of the opposite sex were messaging with suggestive statements such as "You're just my type" and "Let's have fun". While the app's stated intent is to help people build friendships, some users obviously seek to take those relationships in a more mature and amorous direction.

MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Like many apps that are free to download, Amigo's business model is centred on in-app purchases. Users are encouraged to pay for VIP membership – enabling them to send more messages each day and boosting their profile's visibility. People can also buy coins (again, for real money) which allow them to send virtual gifts and further increase the number of messages they can send daily.

LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION

Amigo makes no secret of the fact that it's for people aged 18 or above. There's no age verification, however, so a young person could simply sign up under a false date of birth. The app's algorithm claims to match users of similar ages (making them more compatible), but either the algorithm isn't very reliable, or most users have entered a fake age which doesn't correspond with their profile pic.

REWARDS FOR REPEATED USE

Amigo gifts virtual coins to users if they reply to messages within 10 seconds, while there are also daily rewards for posting comments, sharing a video, getting likes or simply opening the app. It also encourages increasing 'Intimacy Levels' with other users to unlock extra features: once someone's online 'friendship' reaches Intimacy Level 3, they can hold one-to-one video calls with each other.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MONITOR DOWNLOADS

As well as frequent catch-ups with your child about what they've enjoyed doing online, you could consider taking the additional step of physically checking their phone every so often to see which apps they've installed. The safest option could be to enable 'ask to buy' (Apple) or 'purchase approvals' (Android) on their device, meaning your authorisation is needed to download any apps.

RESPECT AGE RESTRICTIONS

Apps have age restrictions for a reason, and Amigo is very definitely a mature content platform. Given that many of Amigo's users apparently use a bogus date of birth, you might want to remind your child about the implications of setting up a fake profile – such as being exposed to messages and videos that make them feel uncomfortable or feeling pressured into chatting with strangers.

BLOCK, REPORT, DISCUSS

Many children already know that connecting with strangers online is dangerous, but it never hurts to refresh their memory. Whatever communication apps your child uses, make sure they're fully aware that if anything online makes them feel uncomfortable, scared or upset, then they can block the user responsible, report the content, take a screenshot as evidence and come to tell you straight away.

ACTIVE LISTENING

If your child *does* approach you with a concern, make time to stop what you're doing and actively listen. Let them talk without interrupting or showing any judgement, then discuss their options and the possible solutions: this empowers them and reassures them that you're there to be supportive. If the issue is one that has put your child at risk, however, you may wish to contact the police.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



Working with Leavening Primary School

Your child has uploaded a
Christmas drawing to our website!

VIEW NOW

by logging into the

Parent Order Portal >

at www.mychildsart.co.uk/order
using the unique codes at the
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10% OFF EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

Use code **Leavening**

during checkout for 10% off your order!

One use only. Excludes VAT and P&P. Valid for 2 weeks from the portal opening date, not the date that you receive this leaflet. Not automatically applied and cannot be added once an order has been confirmed.



My Child Art fundraising project information

This week, children will be coming home with their leaflets explaining how parents can log into the portal to view their child's art (Acorns and Conkers children will be sending their art in by Friday 4th Nov).

Once parents/carers have logged in, they can then choose to order various items with their child's art on it to purchase. School will receive 20% commission for everything sold.

There is also an early bird 10% discount on all orders for the next 2 weeks!

In addition, if anyone knows of other schools/nurseries/groups who would like to do their own My Childs Art, they can use our referral code ('Leavening') and we would both get an additional £10 commission each.

Thanks for your support!