

A word from Mrs Mitchell

Hello everyone

It is a brief one from me this fortnight as there is lots of interesting content on the curriculum in this newsletter. It has been a productive fortnight at school, and I have had the good fortune of visiting a number of schools lately to see various aspects of the reading curriculum being taught. It is important to visit other schools to share practice and quality assure our own good work at Leavening. I come away from other schools feeling a sense of pride and fortune at our own. An aspect of Leavening that really stand out to me is our curriculum offer. Small rural schools face challenges, as do all schools- but our challenges are our own and boy, do we own them. It always heartens me to know that our staff are always at the forefront of the latest ideas, innovation and practice. My team are always striving to develop their own pedagogical practice and continue to improve outcomes for our pupils. Someone once described Leavening as a 'small school but with BIG learning' and this never fades. The second thing that always makes me want to rush back to Leavening is the personal development that we offer our pupils. The school's ethos and values are the heartbeat of us all and Leavening really is a special place where each individual child is nurtured, developed and cared for on a personal level. I think it is important, from time to time, to celebrate our school community.

On that note, I hope you have a wonderful end to the week and we will see you next week (when the Christmas Nativity play rehearsals will really be in full swing...)

My best wishes



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 was:
87.9% vs National attendance last week of **94.4%**
This was **below** the national average.
- Attendance this week so far: **87.4%**
- Attendance this term so far: **89.3%**

DIARY DATES

NOVEMBER

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 - Please email school if you intend joining us

Fri 2nd

Christmas productions (9.30am and 2pm) 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 only)

IMPORTANT NOTICES:

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

Recent highlights from across school...

Acorns children enjoyed their Halloween party and celebrating Bonfire Night with lots of baking and party games.

They had a great time dressing up!



Conkers Class had a fabulous time celebrating the launch of our new topic 'We are Yorkshire' by dressing up as their chosen animal and enjoying a Yorkshire Tea Party together! It was a fun and sociable day!



Since September Oak Trees class have been working on their Young Leader Award. They have participated in a number of activities to support local and global communities. This culminated in their Bags2School project where we were able to raise funds to improve our school Eco rating. This enabled us to equip the school with better recycling facilities which in time can hopefully be used by the whole community.



Interfaith Week

Leavening School have enjoyed celebrating Inter Faith Week this week. The purpose of the week is to

- increase our awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK and around the world
- celebrate the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society.

We have been exploring how some people have religious and non-religious beliefs as well as learning about some of the similarities and differences between different faith groups.

We were thrilled to welcome visitors from **Bradford Inter Faith Centre** on Monday 14th November.

They gave the children a flavour of religious diversity by getting them to explore different faiths and beliefs, including learning about people who have non-religious beliefs.



"On Monday, the Conkers welcomed two visitors from the Sikh community in Leeds. They talked to us about their faith and let us ask lots of questions. We were excited to find out that the Sikh faith is based around three 'golden rules' - just like the ones we have here in our school! Manjit told us that Sikhs try hard to be kind, truthful and helpful; again, values that we strive to achieve here in Leavening Primary School! After our question and answer session, we learnt a traditional song and performed it with accompaniment from a traditional Indian 'serod' instrument. We had a really fun and informative afternoon!"



A few reminders and requests...

Children In Need day - Friday 18th November

Children can come to school wearing 'spotacular' items of clothing, fancy dress, yellow clothing or own clothes. Donation payments are via ParentPay please. There will NOT be a bake sale this year.

Please can we ask for **donations of tombola gifts** in exchange for **Christmas jumper/Non uniform day** on **Thursday 1st December**. These will be the gifts for tombola prizes at the Christmas play.

A reminder that there will be **two performances of the Christmas play (9.30am and 2pm)**.

Please only come to one due to capacity in the hall. We will be selling the crafts made on craft day alongside the tombola. There will also be some independent stalls, so please bring cash.

Can we please ask for **volunteers to run the cafe at both events please**. We would also be very grateful for donations of cakes/buns etc- to be brought in on the day. Thank you in advance.

Christmas craft afternoon will be on 1st Dec (in the afternoon). Please sign up (don't just turn up!) so class teachers have an idea of numbers, for planning ahead of the event. Email Mrs Kemp if you wish to attend. Thank you.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2022!



#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

Anti-bullying week

Having pupil wellbeing champions increases collaboration, ownership and responsibility

WHAT IS ANTI-BULLYING WEEK? WHY IS IT NEEDED?

Anti-Bullying Week is an annual UK event, held in the third week in November which aims to raise awareness of bullying of children and young people, in schools and elsewhere, and to highlight ways of preventing and responding to it. It started in 2002 and has since grown to become a significant event in the calendars of children, families and schools.

This week we will be:

Holding special assemblies to focus on 'reaching out'

We will be implementing the role of pupil wellbeing champions in school- all KS2 pupils have received and completed the training with Mrs Mitchell.

Wellbeing Champions

Let us congratulate all of the pupils in Oak trees class (KS2) for completing the Wellbeing Champion Training over the last few weeks.

What is a Wellbeing Champion?

A wellbeing champion is simply anyone who promotes wellbeing to others; specifically in schools it is anticipated that pupil champions will promote the wellbeing of their peers. There are many different forms of peer support operating in schools and these can be known under many different names, e.g. peer mentoring, buddying or wellbeing ambassadors.

Our pupils will take it in turns to be an active well being champ each week and will carry out this important 'peer on peer' support role across school.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about HOW TO COMBAT ONLINE BULLYING

Defined as "ongoing hurtful behaviour towards someone online", cyber-bullying makes its victims feel upset, uncomfortable and unsafe. In the digital world, it has numerous forms – such as hurtful comments on a person's posts or profile; deliberately leaving them out of group chats; sharing embarrassing images or videos of someone; or spreading gossip about them. Cyber-bullying can severely impact a young person's mental health ... so, in support of Anti-Bullying Week, we've provided a list of tips to help trusted adults know what to look for and how to respond to it.

1. GET CONNECTED

Playing online games together with your child or connecting with them on social media (providing they're old enough) is not only fun but also an excellent way of establishing some common ground to discuss things you've both seen or done online – as well as keeping an eye on who your child is communicating with in the digital world.

2. KEEP TALKING

Regular chats with young people about their online lives are good practice in general, but they can also be an excellent refresher to help prevent cyber-bullying situations. Topics you might want to revisit include why it's important to only connect online with people we know and trust, and why passwords should always remain secret (even from our best friends).

3. STAY VIGILANT

Observe your child while they're using technology and just after they've used it. Are they acting normally, or out of character? Possible signs of a problem may include seeming quiet or withdrawn, jumpy or anxious, angry or repeatedly checking their phone. When you feel it's the right time, you may want to check in with them to see if everything is OK.

4. MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE

If an online bullying incident does occur, it may take a while before your child is ready to open up about what happened. Just gently remind them that they can always come to you with any problems – and that they won't be in trouble. You might also suggest a trusted family member they could turn to, in case they feel too embarrassed to tell you directly.

5. BE PREPARED TO LISTEN

When conversations about online bullying do take place, they're likely to be difficult, emotional and upsetting for both you and your child. Actively listen to your child while they're bringing you up to speed, and try not to show any judgement or criticism – even if they haven't dealt with the situation in exactly the way you would have hoped.

FURTHER SUPPORT AND ADVICE

If you or your child need additional help with an online bullying issue, here are some specialist organisations that you could reach out to.

Childline: talk to a trained counsellor on 0800 1111 or online at www.childline.org.uk/get-support/

National Bullying Helpline: counsellors are available on 0845 225 5787 or by visiting www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/cyberbullying.html

The NSPCC: the children's charity has a guide to the signs of bullying at www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/ and can be reached on 0808 800 5000

6. EMPOWER YOUR CHILD

Depending on their age, your child might not want a parent 'fighting their battles for them'. In that case, talk through their options with them (blocking the perpetrator, deleting the app and so on). By allowing your child to choose the path they take, you're putting them in control but are also demonstrating that you're there to support them along the way.

7. REPORT BULLIES ONLINE

Cyber-bullying often takes place through a particular app, social media platform or online game. If this is happening to your child, encourage them to report the offender to the app or game in question – ideally with screenshots to support their complaint. Most games and apps have reporting tools specifically to stamp out abusive behaviour and protect users.

8. ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

Protecting themselves online is the priority, of course, but young people should also feel empowered to help if they witness other people falling victim to cyberbullying. Even if they don't feel confident enough to call someone out on their abusive behaviour online, they can still confidentially report that person to the app or game where the bullying occurred.

9. SEEK EXPERT ADVICE

Victims of online bullying frequently experience feelings of isolation and anxiety, a loss of self-esteem and potentially even thoughts of self-harm or suicide. If you think that an incident of cyber-bullying has affected your child's mental wellbeing, then seek psychological support for them. There are some useful contact details in the central panel below.

10. INVOLVE THE AUTHORITIES

If the nature of any online bullying makes you suspect that your child is genuinely in imminent physical danger – or if there are any signs whatsoever of explicit images being shared as part of the bullying – then you should gather any relevant screenshots as evidence and report the incidents to your local police force.

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
bottom of this leaflet.

**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 - reminder!

The parent portal is still open to purchase cards/tea towels/mugs/magnets and loads more items
with their children's design on. **Leavening School receives 20% commission for every purchase!**

Please use the links on the poster above. Leaflets and stickers will be going home this week with
children.

Thanks for your support!