

# NEWSLETTER

Thursday 12th January 2023

SPRING 1 TERM

## A word from Mrs Mitchell

Hello everyone

Welcome back to the spring term and a very happy 2023 to you all.

This term we will be exploring our topic 'Once Upon a Time' so please look out for the detailed curriculum information in each class letter. The children thoroughly enjoyed the launch of this topic last week.

We are delighted to be making the link with Norton Library this year, through the Rural Library scheme and know the children will benefit from the opportunity to access a wide range of books. We have focussed relentlessly on developing a love for reading and reading for pleasure across the whole school this last year and we feel this will enhance this even further.

In nursery this term, we welcome Edward and Esme to our school family. We also welcome Neil Clark (Dad to Nola in our nursery) as our new parent governor.

I hope you have had a positive start to the new year and we look forward to working together in 2023.

My best wishes



### Reminder about punctuality

**School starts promptly at 8.45am.**

All children (except nursery) should be in school for this time.

**Your child/ren will be signed in as LATE if they arrive after this time.**

### **Nursery opens at 8.55am**

If it is raining, parents can enter school via the office and wait in the undercover area near Nursery.

### School Attendance

**Last week our school attendance was 98.8%**

This is above the national average attendance of 94.0%

Attendance **this week** so far: **89.6%**

Attendance **this term** so far: **93.5%**

We believe that regular attendance at school is key to enabling pupils to thrive socially, emotionally and mentally as well as progress and enjoy learning.

See visit the school website for further information on attendance and to view our attendance policy

## DIARY DATES

### JANUARY

**Friday 13th**

*CANCELLED: Norton Library visit*

**Thursday 26th**

Popup library at school 1pm

### FEBRUARY

**Monday 6th-Thursday 9th**

Aspiration week

**Monday 6th**

Yorkshire Pudding Day!

**Tuesday 7th**

Safer Internet Day

**Thursday 9th**

Popup library at school 1pm

FOLS Valentines Disco 5.30pm

**Friday 10th**

Young Voices Concert

(Oak Trees class only)

**Monday 13th-Friday 17th**

Half term week

**Monday 20th**

Love Your Pet Day

Oliver Hind (British paralympian athlete) in school

**Thursday 23rd**

Popup library at school 1pm

Oak Trees STEM Challenge

### MARCH

**Thursday 2nd**

World book day

**Monday 13th-Friday 17th**

Science week

**Thursday 16th**

Popup library at school 1pm

**Friday 17th**

French Breakfast Cafe

**Friday 24th**

Fire safety day

**Thursday 30th**

Popup library at school 1pm

**Friday 31st**


Last day of term

### **IMPORTANT NOTICES:**

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

# Parent Governor Appointment

We would like to welcome our newest parent governor to the team- **Neil Clark**.  
Neil is the parent of Nola in Nursery.



*"I grew up in Bishop Wilton and later moved to Manchester to study illustration and animation. I went on to live in Leeds, building a career in design for over 15 years. I've now got my dream job, working from home as an author and illustrator of children's books. I moved to Leavening in 2022 and live with my wife, Dalia, and our daughter Nola, who attends the village school. When I find the time, I enjoy playing and listening to music!"*

## Safeguarding

**Our school is committed to ensuring the safeguarding and promoting the welfare and safety of all children and expects all staff, governors, visitors and volunteers to share this commitment.**

### We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child is paramount
- all children regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm and abuse.
- working in partnership with children, young people and their parents, carers and other agencies, is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

For further details on safeguarding, details of our designated safeguarding leads and other related information, we strongly encourage parents and carers to visit this area on our website

<http://leavening.n-yorks.sch.uk/safeguarding/>

## Friends of Leavening School

**Next meeting: Thursday 19th Jan at 2.15pm-3.15pm held at school. All welcome!**

Thank you to all who have supported our recent events. Here's how much has been raised so far for 2022/23:

- **Halloween disco: £148**
- **Pumpkin Carving Competition: £6**
- **Christmas fayre inc craft sales and play programme donations: £280**
- **Christmas Movie Afternoon: £68**
- **A FANTASTIC TOTAL OF: £502**

Our next event is the: **FOLS Valentines Disco**

**Thursday 9th February. 5.30pm-7pm. £4/child including a drink and a snack. Available soon on ParentPay!**

All children/classes (including nursery) are welcome. Please can we ask for any parent helpers to contact the office. If we do not get sufficient offers of volunteers then such events will not be able to go ahead. Thanks.

**Here is a list of our planned upcoming events this year:**

**Bingo night:** Wednesday 15th March 5-6.30pm

**Easter movie afternoon:** Tuesday 28th March

**Non uniform day:** Thursday 30th March

**Easter fayre:** Friday 31st March

**Summer sausage sizzle:** Friday 7th July 3.30-5.30pm

**End of year disco:** Thursday 13th July

We will also be doing our amazing **Summer raffle** to include some brilliant prizes once again. Watch this space!





## Reminder to fill out the school survey

Can we please remind parents/carers to complete and return the school survey *for each child* in your family that attends Leavening School. If you have misplaced your copy, please let us know and we will send this out again. Please can we have all surveys returned to us by **Monday 23rd January**. Thank you.

## The Christmas Parties & Visit From Father Christmas

Children across all classes very much enjoyed the Christmas parties at the end of last time with lots of food and party games! We had a very special visit from Father Christmas too!



## Recent highlights from Oak Trees class...

Last half term, we were studying the drawings of Henry Moore and reproducing his shelter drawings.



We were investigating solids, liquids and gases during last half term's Science topic...



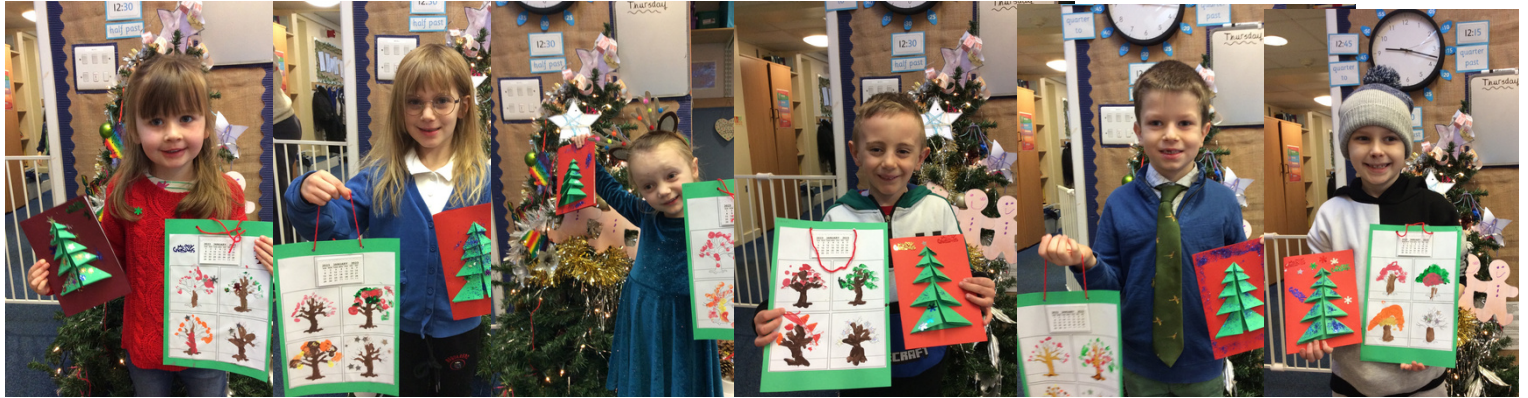
Oak Trees had a mad day attending the Mad Hatter's tea party on the Topic Launch Day! They enjoyed a cuppa, cake and biscuits during the day. They also had the opportunity to take part in drama activities resulting in a fabulous performance of a scene from Alice in Wonderland...





## Recent highlights from Conkers class...

As part of our Christmas festivities, we enjoyed getting creative by engaging in a range of crafts, such as making the fabulous cards and calendars shown in the photos. Making these was also valuable for helping us to develop our ability to follow step-by-step instructions. We are sure the Christmas card took pride of place at home, and that you are finding the calendar useful now that we have entered 2023!



Last week, we had a fun and imaginative day to launch our new topic 'Once Upon a Time.' The children looked wonderful and they certainly brought their chosen characters to life! Throughout the day, we engaged in a variety of Literacy and story-telling activities, such as sharing traditional tales/fairy tales, baking/decorating our very own Gingerbread People, participating in character hot-seating and exploring our new rhyme and story spoons! Here are some photos showing highlights from the day.



## Recent highlights from Acorns class...

Acorns have had the pleasure of gaining two new friends, Esme and Edward and have loved showing them our nursery. We have been enjoying learning about the 3 little pigs, building our own houses and creating masks.





# STAY SAFE ON NEW DEVICES

Whether you're an internet newbie or a pro at surfing the web, it's always important to keep online safety in mind. We've pulled together a list of top tips to make it easier for you to protect yourself and your devices in the digital world - helping you steer clear of hazards like misleading information and vicious viruses. There's never a bad time to refresh your internet safety knowledge, but it's an especially smart thing to do before you start using any shiny new devices!

Be suspicious of new information

SHOW RESPECT TO OTHERS

TELL A TRUSTED ADULT IF SOMETHING UPSETS YOU

DON'T CHAT WITH STRANGERS

BE HONEST WITH PARENTS & CARERS

TAKE BREAKS FROM BEING ONLINE

ASK PERMISSION before downloading anything

AVOID SHARING PRIVATE PHOTOS

Stick to trusted apps

TAKE NOTICE OF AGE RESTRICTIONS

DOUBLE CHECK YOUR NEWS SOURCES

Don't give away personal information

**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# WORLD OF WARCRAFT

AGE RESTRICTION

12+

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

World of Warcraft originally launched way back in 2004, and since then the game has blossomed into a major entertainment property. It's spawned spin-off novels, merchandise and even a Hollywood movie adaptation... but why are we still talking about it in 2023? World of Warcraft's most recent iteration, Dragonflight, launched last November and marks the game's ninth major expansion. This latest addition has attracted a whole host of lapsed players back to the game – as well as newcomers jumping into the realm of Azeroth for the first time.

## ALWAYS ONLINE

World of Warcraft is an MMORPG, which stands for Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game. Players create a character and head off on mythical quests to earn rewards and become more powerful. The game's environment is absolutely vast, and it can only be played online on PC or Mac – so there's a high probability of young Warcraft fans wanting to monopolise the family computer.

## REGULAR EXPANSIONS

As is common with many MMORPGs, World of Warcraft's developers, Blizzard, release regular expansions for the game (usually every 18 months to two years). So although there's still plenty of content for young players to experience right now, there will almost inevitably be a requirement to continue buying future expansion packs, which tend to cost around £50.

## IN-GAME PURCHASES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Just like its genre contemporary Final Fantasy XIV, World of Warcraft requires a monthly subscription fee to play. It's currently £9.99 per month (although you can get it cheaper by signing up to a longer subscription). There are also many items which can be purchased from the in-game store that don't affect gameplay, but instead offer cosmetic alterations to a player's character.

## VOICE AND TEXT CHAT

Because World of Warcraft is played exclusively on PCs and Macs, it's easy for users to type out text messages if they aren't comfortable using voice chat. If you'll forgive the pun, that's a double-edged sword because – although there's less chance of them being harassed verbally – it puts young players at increased risk of being trolled or receiving spam through the in-game messaging function.

## SIMULATED VIOLENCE

The fact that World of Warcraft is almost 20 years old means that even its most violent battles look slightly cartoonish compared with the level of authenticity in many more modern games. The exception tends to be Warcraft's in-game cutscenes: animated sections which move the plot onto the next stage. These offer more realistic visuals, but they still aren't overly gory or scary.

## POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

World of Warcraft can trigger a powerful "just one more quest" mentality in players (especially young ones) as they rush to secure the next dopamine hit from levelling their character up or earning a new item or weapon. It's also a game that doesn't have a definite 'end' – because as soon as a player finishes levelling up one character, they can start afresh with another one.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### MANAGE PLAYTIME

World of Warcraft can be an extremely enjoyable game to play with friends, but it's important that your child doesn't let their adventures crowd out school work, socialising or anything else they also enjoy. You could, for example, consider imposing playtime limits – such as a set number of hours to play Warcraft per week, or restricting it to particular days or just weekends.

### MAKE IT A REWARD

If your child is excited about getting the next World of Warcraft expansion, you could consider using it as a reward for completing their weekly tasks (you could even call them 'quests') like tidying their room or doing their homework. This will demonstrate that you're happy for them to play the game but will also help them to build good, productive habits, reinforcing that hard work earns rewards.

### SIGN UP FOR THE FREE TRIAL

Warcraft's monthly subscription effectively 'pays' for the regular new content, but there's also a sizeable free trial that lets new players explore the world of Azeroth without paying a penny. Players can play up until Level 20 for free, which is easily several hours' worth of gameplay. If your child does take this option, we'd suggest minimising in-game spending by not linking a bank card to their account.

### REMEMBER THE AGE RATING

Due to mild violence and the occasional use of offensive language, World of Warcraft has been rated as appropriate for players aged 12 and over by PEGI (the Pan-European Game Information system, which gives games their age certificate). It isn't really suitable for anyone below that age, so you may potentially have to explain this reasoning to your younger children if they want to play it.

### ADVENTURE TOGETHER

Warcraft can certainly be addictive, but playing it together is also a great way to spend time with your child. The game's focus on cooperative questing and battling enemies can make it feel like you've accomplished something as a team, and you'll also be in a prime position to spot any early signs of addiction. Just remember to apply gaming time limits to yourself as well as your young ones!

## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor of technology and entertainment website Dexerto and has been working in the gaming media for three years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have also been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar, among others.



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