

A word from the Headteacher

Welcome back to the second half of the spring term. This week has seen the return of the extracurricular activities after school that children have been enjoying. We welcome a new pupil to Oak Trees class, and we are looking forward to the weather getting warmer so we can all thoroughly enjoy the garden area and sensory garden that Miss Cooke and her gardening club are going to work on this half term.

At the end of last half term, the children in Oak Trees took part in the Young Voices Choir at Sheffield Arena and had the most fabulous time. I hope the parents enjoyed it too. Mrs Stockill was tremendously proud of the children, their behaviour and their effort with learning all of the songs and performing to such a high standard. I would like to express my thanks to Mrs Stockill, Mrs Bennett, Miss Mitchelmore and Miss Woodcock who all went along to support this visit. A long day for all, but truly worthwhile.

Have a lovely weekend

My best wishes

Sian Mitchell

Upcoming exciting Easter events at Leavening School!

Friday 10th March

Non uniform day in exchange for bringing in a Chocolate Prize for the Friends of Leavening Bingo event

Wednesday 15th March

FoLs Chocolate Bingo event at 5.30pm to 7pm. Adult: £5/each Child: £3/each.

This entertaining evening will take place in the school hall and is sure to be lots of fun! There will be 6 games lasting around 10 minutes each. We encourage parents to bring their own snacks/nibbles for their table. We will be having a 'donation bar' with various refreshments on offer, in return for a donation towards FoLS.

We would kindly ask that admission is paid for in advance please via ParentPay (available soon).

Tuesday 28th March from 3.15-5pm £4/child

We will be holding our annual **Easter Movie afternoon.**

Price includes a drink and popcorn/snacks. Movie choices will be decided by the children in the coming days. Payment via ParentPay please (available soon).

Thursday 30th March

Non-Uniform day in exchange for prizes for the tombola (held at the Spring Concert)

Friday 31st March- Easter Day. Please join us for a fun morning!

Easter egg competition. £1 entry. Payment via ParentPay (soon). Prizes to be won!

There will three class categories for Acorns, Conkers and Oak Trees.

9am-9.30am- Easter café with tombola

9.30-10.15am- Spring Concert

10.30-11am- Egg rolling/Playtime (parents to join)

11am-12pm- Easter Crafts in class- **Please let me know if would like to sign up to join your child in their classroom for the Easter Crafts session.**

We look forward to you joining us at as many of these events as you can support.

School Attendance

Last week our school attendance was 98.0%

This is *above* the primary national average attendance of 93.7%

Attendance **this week** so far: **96.7%**

Attendance **this term** so far: **92.6%**

DIARY DATES

MARCH

Wednesday 8th

Basketball/netball tournament (Yrs3-5)

Friday 10th March-

Non uniform day in exchange for bringing in a chocolate prize for the Friends of Leavening Bingo event

Monday 13th-Friday 17th

Science week

Wednesday 15th

FOLS Chocolate Bingo event
5.30pm-7pm in the school hall

Thursday 16th

Popup library at school 1pm

Friday 17th

French Breakfast Café

Tuesday 21st 3.20pm-new date

E-Safety Parent Session held by police. Childcare provided. Please let us know if you are able to attend.

Wednesday 22nd

Football tournament (Yrs 1&2)

Friday 24th

Fire safety day

Monday 27th

Roman Workshop (Oak Trees)
Payment via ParentPay. Thank you!

Tuesday 28th

Easter movie afternoon 3.15-5pm
£4/child inc drink, popcorn/snacks.

Thursday 30th

Non-uniform day in exchange for tombola prizes for the tombola to be held at the Spring Concert.

Popup library at school 1pm

Friday 31st

Easter Day! Parents/carers are invited to join us for a fun morning!

9am-9.30am- Easter café with tombola

9.30-10.15am- Spring Concert

10.30-11am- Egg rolling/Playtime
(parents to join)

11am-12pm- Easter Crafts in class-

Last day of term

APRIL

Monday 17th

Staff training day

Tuesday 18th

Start of term

Recent highlights from across school



Late last term, the Key Stage One children participated in a fun afternoon of 'multi - skills' sports at Malton School.

The children participated with gusto and were a credit to our school.

Children designed their own butterflies to represent their favourite book or story character. These are proudly displayed in Kemps Bookstore in Malton if you would like to pop by and look for yours! You can also spend the £1 book tokens at Kemps stores (which will be issued today-World Book Day)



Free to a good home!

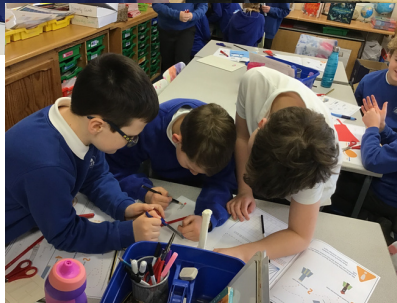
We have a baby change unit spare that needs to go.

If you would like this please let us know.

Free to a good home if you can collect it.



Year 5 & 6 having fun with the Road to Riot space challenge!



The Dungeons and Dragons extra-curricular club is proving to be a huge hit!

Lots of imagination and a wide range of skills on show by all the children. Well done all!

Oak Trees class at Young Voices!

What an amazing time Oak Trees class had at Young Voices 2023!

On Friday 10th February, Oak Trees class travelled to Sheffield to perform with over 5000 children at Sheffield Arena. They had worked incredibly hard to learn a wide variety of songs and groovy dance moves in readiness for their performance and did not let themselves down. Singing a medley of folk tunes, including singing in Welsh, to performing Nile Rodgers Disco classics, learning Spike Milligan poetry through songs to Reggae classics, every number was accomplished with zeal. The children (and adults) performed with confidence, energy and sheer enthusiasm. It was a delight to see them participate with such passion.

We were also joined by a range of professional artists including Urban Strides, street dance specialists; Anna Phoebe, an absolutely dazzling violinist; and The Beatbox Collective. We also performed with none other than Heather Small from M People recording the chorus of Proud to be released as a charity single very soon. It was, as always, such an excellent opportunity for the children (and teachers) to work with professional musicians and dancers - inspirational!

We are all eagerly awaiting news of Young Voices 2024, wondering what challenges lie ahead.



Oliver Hynd

To enhance our 'Dreams and Goals' focus in Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PHSCE) we were delighted to invite World Champion Paralympian Ollie Hynd into our school this week.



All about Ollie Hynd

Ollie is a British swimmer. He competed in the Paralympics as a class 8 swimmer, having neuromuscular myopathy and associated limb deformities. He made his international debut at the 2011 IPC European Championships where he won the 200m individual medley, beating his older brother Sam's previous European record. In the 400 m freestyle, he finished in second place just behind brother Sam. He won a gold medal in the SM8 200m individual medley at the 2012 London Paralympics. He also claimed a silver in the S8 men's 400m freestyle and a bronze in the S8 men's 100m backstroke.

He was appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2013 New Year Honours for services to swimming.

In 2015, He was awarded the Disabled Sportsman of the Year accolade at the Nottinghamshire Sports Awards for the second year in a row. At the Rio de Janeiro Paralympic Games in 2016, he won the gold medal in his opening event, the 400 m freestyle S8, beating the world record in the final, held on 8 September. He repeated the feat in his closing event, winning gold and setting a new world record in the 200 m individual medley SM8.

Ollie talked to all of the children about his goal of becoming a competitive swimmer and his journey to overcome the obstacles and challenges he faced with his disability. He then carried out a sports session with each class focussing on determination and perseverance.

We felt very privileged to have Ollie at Leavening and he was delighted when one of our pupils was able to answer his question correctly: " Why do you think the medals awarded at the paralympic games, have a rattle inside?' Jacob correctly guessed that it was to aid blind competitors.

Ollie said we were the first school who had got that answer correct- well done Jacob!

To add to a fantastic morning, Ollie was quick to let Mrs Mitchell know that he was overly impressed with the attitudes and behaviour of all of the children at Leavening.

He said the children were polite, hardworking, curious and engaging- how lovely!

We look forward to seeing what goals and challenges our pupils will overcome for the rest of this school year.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SOLUTIONS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AI solutions are becoming increasingly popular. Trained on vast datasets of text (such as books, articles and websites) in order to learn patterns and relationships, AI solutions can generate text, images, audio, video, code or synthetic data, and can be used for things such as crafting poems or books, creating digital imagery or delivering video content. Recently there's been significant discussion in relation to the benefits and risks of AI solutions, with many undecided on whether it will be a force for good or potentially reduce the need for some job roles.

ROOM FOR INACCURACY

AI solutions, such as language models, generate their responses purely based on the data they've been trained on, which often comes from sources on the internet. Whilst questions will often illicit relevant responses, if some of the information they've been 'fed' is incorrect, it follows that the answers too may contain factual errors or inaccuracies.

REINFORCING BIAS

AI solutions, such as those generating content or images, can perpetuate existing biases present in the data they were trained, whether through the algorithms written by humans or the content taken from the web. This could easily lead to biased responses and potentially reinforce existing stereotypes, such as those around gender, race or disability.

IRRELEVANT INFORMATION

AI solutions don't have the ability to understand the context or meaning behind a question or a user request. Although highly advanced, the AI relies entirely on the data it's been exposed to and is devoid of independent thought or reasoning, which could lead to irrelevant or even nonsensical responses to queries.

LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Fundamentally, AI solutions are machines or technology programmes that don't have the ability to take responsibility for the responses they generate. This could lead to confusion or misunderstandings in certain cases if the answers are taken as given. For instance, image-generative AIs can lead to output clearly derived from other peoples' content but without any attribution to the original source artist's work.

STIFLING CREATIVITY

One of the potential risks of children and young people continually using AI solutions for things (such as their homework) is that eventually, they might become reliant on it. In the long term, this could potentially impact their development and hamper their ability to think creatively or solve problems independently without the aid of an AI tool.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If possible, try to be around when your child uses any type of AI solution and employ content filters to try and reduce the chance of profanity or age-inappropriate subjects appearing in responses. As with any kind of technology, it's important to ensure that children are using AI solutions responsibly and to be there to enable opportunities to discuss their use as part of a safe environment.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Explain to your child that AI solutions can be used as one of many tools to help them research and learn, but that they shouldn't simply accept the responses they receive as the truth. Encourage them to question, verify and think critically about the information they get back – all of which apply equally to any website or platform they use.

DISCUSS BIAS

Talk to your child about the potential biases that may be present in the data that AI solutions are trained on, and how these viewpoints might find their way into the responses that AI generates. Again, with many things children might read online, it's healthy for them to consider whether the information is factual and presented fairly.

ENCOURAGE HUMAN INTERACTION

Not only should children supplement any use of software like AI with additional resources such as books and reputable internet sites, but they also should remember what they can learn from interaction with other people. Discussing things with teachers, relatives and friends isn't just an important and often invaluable aspect of learning – it's an essential part of life, too.

CHECK SCHOOL RULES

Make yourself aware of any rules or guidance your child's school might have about the use of AI solutions. Most software is still extremely new, so many schools may not yet have a policy, however, it's important to make sure your child is aware of how to use it appropriately and will be using it for the right reasons.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that adults and children alike become more aware of the risks associated with technology, as well as the many benefits.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

NGL

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

NGL (which stands for 'Not Gonna Lie') is an app through which users share a link to their Instagram story or Twitter account, inviting their followers to give anonymous feedback. The app includes some prewritten questions (such as 'if you could change anything about me, what would it be?'), plus the option to ask followers to simply 'send me anonymous messages'. All replies go into the user's NGL inbox, with the sender remaining anonymous – although subscribers to the app can receive hints about who each message was from.

ANONYMITY AND OVERSHARING

Anonymous messaging gives rise to the 'online disinhibition effect', which causes users to feel detached from their words and actions in the digital world. This can make young people in particular (as they tend to act more impulsively online) far more likely to disclose personal information on the internet, as well as making ill-advised confessions or revealing their fears and insecurities.

PROTECTION FOR BULLIES

Having their identity hidden makes bullies feel safe from repercussions, so anonymous chat sites are a major avenue for cyberbullying. NGL claims to use AI to filter out insulting terms, but our expert sent a range of such phrases (starting with 'cow' and 'ugly', and becoming progressively more offensive) to a 'dummy' account. All of these trial messages were delivered to the recipient's inbox.

COSTLY SUBSCRIPTIONS

NGL offers a subscription where – for a weekly fee – users can unlock hints about who's been messaging them, including the sender's approximate location and which device they used. Young people will naturally be extremely curious about who sent which message (especially if they have a lot of Instagram or Twitter followers) and may be unable to resist spending money to find out.

INFLATED ENGAGEMENT

1K

In June 2022, NGL had to revise its terms of service: informing users if a message was sent by the app's developers as opposed to genuine followers. It emerged that, previously, NGL's makers had attempted to boost engagement with the app (as well as enticing users to pay for subscriptions) by sending fake anonymous messages from bots. This update was rolled out very quietly by the team.

QUESTIONABLE SUPPORT

NGL does have a 'report this message' button for users to flag upsetting content. After sending a message, however, an automated reply arrives stating "... NGL is 100% anonymous and we have no way of knowing the identity of the user and would not be able to find out, even if we tried." This did not fill our expert with confidence that the app can address bad behaviour adequately.

ACCIDENTALLY GOING VIRAL

The messages on NGL itself are anonymous, but users can share these messages via their Instagram story or Twitter feed – enabling all their followers (or anyone, if their accounts are set to 'public') to see them. If a young person has disclosed something embarrassing or identifiable on NGL without realising, this information has the potential to be re-shared very quickly to a far wider audience.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DEALING WITH NEGATIVITY

Blocking another user on NGL will prevent them sending anonymous messages to your child in the short term – although a determined abuser could get around that obstacle simply by setting up a new Instagram account. If your child continually receives negative messages that upset them, it might be worth encouraging them to consider whether they really need to use the app at all.

EXPLAIN ANONYMOUS APPS

We understand that a conversation with your child about the risks of anonymous messaging may seem difficult to initiate (especially if you aren't that comfortable with using social media yourself). It is vital, however, that young people understand that, for some people, having their identity obscured online can make them feel more powerful and less accountable for their actions.

BLOCK IN-APP PURCHASES

To avoid your child running up an eye-watering bill through an NGL subscription (or indeed any kind of costly in-app purchases), go into the settings on whatever devices they use to go online and either disable the ability to make purchases or protect that function with a password. If those options aren't available, it's prudent to ensure there aren't any payment methods linked to their account.

THINK BEFORE SENDING

Regardless of whether a messaging app is anonymous or not, it's a good idea to regularly talk to your child about how it's wise to think through what they're sharing before they post it. Emphasise that nothing is truly private once it's online. If the post is something your child might hesitate to say to someone face to face, then it's probably not the sort of thing they should be writing online either.

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 sending behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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