

# NEWSLETTER

Thursday 18th January 2024

SPRING 1 TERM

Hello everyone

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

We welcome Miss Normington, student teacher, into Conkers Class this term as well as Bunny the rabbit, our new pet in Acorns class.

Our whole school topic this (short) half term is 'Media Makers' and we will be enjoying a visit from both YO1 radio and YorkMix over the next few weeks to enrich this topic. This half term also sees us host our annual 'Aspiration' Week where we invite adults into school to share their profession/hobby with our pupils with the aim to inspire them. Please do contact the office if you think you can support this.

We are excited for the new year and the opportunities it will bring to Leavening. Particularly around our new offer for nursery provision for children aged 2 ( from April 2024) If you know anyone with children of this age who are looking for term time only, nurturing and flexible childcare for their child, within a highly effective nursery, please do ask them to contact the office for more information. We will be advertising this offer in due course.

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

My Best Wishes



## School Attendance

08 January 2024 - 12 January 2024

**Our school weekly attendance was: 97.04%**

This was above the **primary national average of: 94.7%**

Attendance **this week** so far: **93.61%**

Attendance **this term** so far: **95.44%**

## DIARY DATES

### JANUARY

**Friday 26th**

Kevin Hollinrake MP to visit Oak Trees to discuss UK Parliament

**Monday 29th (NEW DATE)**

FOLS Meeting 2pm - all welcome!

### FEBRUARY

**Friday 2nd**

Bake sale to raise money for the participation of Young Voices

**Monday 5th-Thursday 8th**

Inspire/Aspire Week

**Tuesday 6th**

Swimming Gala (Oak Trees)

Safer Internet Day

**Wednesday 7th**

Valentines Disco (5.15-6.30pm)

Payment via ParentPay please

**Thursday 8th**

Pop-Up Library Visit (afternoon)

**Friday 9th**

Young Voices Trip (Oak Trees)

Last day of term

**Monday 12th-Friday 16th**

Half term break

**Monday 19th**

Start of term

Nursery open afternoon

Extra-curricular clubs to start,

running until w/c 18/03/24

**Friday 23rd**

Dress up for

NSPCC Maths Number Day

**Monday 26th**

Nursery open morning

### REMINDERS

#### PARENTPAY:

Please check your child/s account and clear any overdue balances

ASAP. Thank you.

#### **OAK TRESS INSTRUMENT**

#### **LESSONS:**

These have now recommenced.

Please ensure your child brings

their instrument to school with

them on every Wednesday.

## Recent highlights from Acorns Class

Acorns nursery are welcoming a new member of their family, Bunny the Rabbit. The Guinea Pigs are having a great time on holiday at Mrs Raines house whilst the Acorns children take great care of Mrs Raines' baby rabbit. During our morning carpet area, Bunny loves to explore and 'Binky' around getting all excited.



## Recent highlights from Conkers Class



Welcome back to all of the Conkers and their families!

We are so excited to welcome everyone back and start the New Year raring to go with some fun learning opportunities!

This term, the Conkers will enjoy learning about tag rugby and football (Mondays and Fridays) in their P.E lessons (Mrs Bennett is looking forward to sharing her vast football knowledge and skills....)

We will attempt to craft and sew our own soft toys in DT and inspire some reflective writing in our diary focused Literacy sessions.

We also welcome our student teacher Miss Normington into the fold. She will work closely alongside class teachers to hone her craft and will really be an asset to our class! Roll on the new year!

# Recent highlights from Oak Trees Class

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a lovely break and are having a happy new year!

We have kick started the term with some fantastic effort, work and discussions.

Last week we began our new topics of the term.

We explored light sources and reflections in science, began our discovery of the Shang Dynasty and wrote brilliant limerick poems.

Spellings are restarting this week and will be handed out on Fridays ready for a following Friday test. Homework will be released at the end of the week, so keep an eye out for some fun projects to try at home. We will also be starting the young leadership award very soon. Have a lovely week!

Friday 12th January 2024

Lo: To write a polished limerick

There once was a boy called Jack,  
who unfortunately stepped on a crack,  
my cool friend called Ted,  
who likes his warm bed,  
He depressingly fell on his back



Friday 12th Jan 2024

To write a polished version of a limerick

(There once was a boy called Bobby  
who ~~did not~~ didn't  
who didn't have any hobbies  
He lived far away  
which was not ok  
And this made him not very jolly.

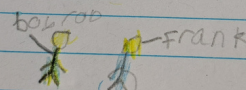
Lo: To write a polished limerick

There was an old lady from Ealing  
who did a lot of dealing  
she wasn't having sun  
because of the sun  
so her beautiful skin started peeling



To write a polished version of a limerick

There was a short boy called Bob  
who went to get a rich job  
He worked in a bank  
And  
And became friends with Frank  
And they liked catching lots of frogs.



## BAKE SALE FOR YOUNG VOICES: FRIDAY 2ND FEBRUARY

At lunchtime on Friday 2nd February, we will be selling buns and cupcakes in order to raise funds for Young Voices participation and additional costs.

Please can we kindly ask that any donations of baked goods are brought into school **on the day**.

Children can bring up to £1. Buns and baked items will be on sale for 50p each.

Thanks for your support!

## Wrap Around Care: Breakfast and After School Provision

**Breakfast club- Monday-Friday**

**After school club- Monday-Thursday**

### **The Big Breakfast!**

Breakfast Club will run every day in term time from **7.45am until 8.45am**.

For **£3.50 per day**, you can drop your child at school where they can enjoy a delicious breakfast (cereal, toast, fruit juice, hot chocolate) before embarking upon their school day.

### **After School Fun!**

In addition to our after school activities schedule, we also offer an After School Provision.

This is split into 2 sessions - **3.15pm - 4.15pm (£3.50)** or **3.15pm - 5.15pm (£6)**.

The price includes a snack.

**ALL pupils in school- from nursery to Year 6- can join our Breakfast and After School Provision!**

### **JOB VACANCY:**

**General Teaching Assistant (GTA)  
for the nursery, starting: 08/04/24**

29 hours per week, term time only.

Weekdays: 8.55am-3.10pm  
(8.45am start on Mondays)

Grade C- Spinal point 3 – £22,737  
(equating to £11.79/hr)

Closing date: Tuesday 30th January

**For further details,  
please visit our website:**

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

FRIENDS OF LEAVENING SCHOOL PRESENT THEIR:

*Valentine's Disco*

**WEDS 7TH FEB 2024 5.15-6.30PM**

£5/CHILD (INCLUDES DRINK & SNACK)

PARTY GAMES & PRIZES TO BE WON!

**ALL AGES WELCOME**

(including Nursery)

Payment via Parentpay in  
advance please

Thanks for your  
support!



We are delighted to be supporting the NSPCC by taking part in Number Day on **Friday 23rd February 2024.**

## Everything the NSPCC does protects children today and prevents about tomorrow

The NSPCC need our support more than ever. By raising money, we can help to fund their vital services such as Childline – the helpline that’s always there for children and young people whatever their problem or concern.

On average, a child contacts Childline every **45 seconds**

### Making maths meaningful

Number Day is a great way to make maths fun and bring about a positive, ‘can-do’ attitude towards it.

- We are having a fun day of maths activities and we will be taking part in *Dress up for Digits*. Pupils are asked to wear an item of clothing with a number on it (football shirt, cap, netball shirt or even a onesie!). Or get even more creative by dressing in a maths or numbers theme. To help raise money for the NSPCC, we are asking for donations, and we’d love everyone in the school to take part in this special event.

### Safe fundraising

- We’ve set up a Just Giving [www.justgiving.com/campaign/numberday2024](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/numberday2024) Please donate and share with friends so we can support the NSPCC.

### It all adds up

We’re really looking forward to all the fun of Number Day, and we really appreciate your support. All the money we raise at Leavening will make an enormous difference to children today and help the NSPCC be there for children tomorrow.

Thank you.

Best wishes,

The Young Leadership Team

You can find out more about the NSPCC’s work at [nspcc.org.uk](http://nspcc.org.uk)

To find out more about keeping children safe online, visit [nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety](http://nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety)

# SMARTPHONE SAFETY TIPS

## for young people

You may have been lucky enough to have unwrapped a smartphone at Christmas, or you might be eagerly anticipating getting a new one at some point during this year. Whether it'll be your first ever phone or an upgrade on your old model, it's always useful to have a refresher about how to set it up and adjust the settings to keep yourself – and your valuable personal info – safe and secure. We've collected some expert tips to help you enjoy your smartphone in the healthiest way possible.

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### NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSCODE

Alongside face or fingerprint recognition, your passcode is crucial to unlocking your phone and accessing your apps and personal information. You shouldn't give it out, even to close friends – after all, you wouldn't hand them a key to your house and let them go in for a nouse around! If a friend wants to use your phone, ask them why and make sure you can see what they're doing with it.

### RESPECT PARENTAL CONTROLS

If you're allowed to have a smartphone, it's because your parents or carers feel that you're mature and responsible enough to use it safely. They might set controls and boundaries on your device – not to spoil your fun but to help you avoid hazards like too much screen time or costly in-app purchases. Following these rules means you can enjoy using your phone while respecting their wishes.

### TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT

Whether it's to listen to music, play games, create content or chat with friends, using a smartphone should be fun. If you're ever feeling anxious, worried or scared about going on your phone, then something isn't right. It's important not to ignore these feelings; instead, talk to a trusted adult about what's happening and how it's making you feel.

### STAY ALERT

Two words: look up. It might sound obvious, but it's so easy to get immersed in what we're looking at or listening to on our phones that we can become unaware of our surroundings – or who might be around us. People often walk with their head down, focusing on their phone, and forget to check for obstacles in their path, cars or other pedestrians coming towards them, which is clearly dangerous.

### DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS

Phones offer a vast amount of content and the chance to chat with friends whenever we feel like it, which can make it difficult to take time away from the screen. If that's something you struggle with, you could try setting time limits on certain apps. Putting our phones down for a while gives us more time to interact with others or do something physical that helps keep us fit and healthy.

### IGNORE UNKNOWN NUMBERS

There are some scammers who might call or text asking you to share personal data or to click on a link and provide your details. Some may claim to be from a genuine company, but trustworthy businesses don't spontaneously call or message to ask for your information. It's safest to ignore calls or texts from unknown numbers, and never give your personal details out over the phone.

### ONLY USE AGE-APPROPRIATE APPS

Before downloading a new app or game, check what age rating it has. Don't feel pressured into getting a particular game or app just because your friends are using it. If it's intended for older people, there's a definite risk that it could include content (which is violent or frightening, for instance) or language which isn't suitable and may leave you feeling upset or disturbed.

### REMOVE TEMPTATION

A good night's sleep is so important for concentration, mood and overall health. Unwinding properly before going to bed – which means not staring at a screen late at night – can often improve sleep quality. Put your phone on charge overnight, but not in your room. This means you'll have a lot less temptation to check any notifications, reply to messages or get caught up scrolling on social media.

### THINK ABOUT OTHERS

Watching videos, listening to music or calling someone can all help to pass the time while we're on the bus, waiting in a queue or walking down the street. It's important to remain mindful of other people, though: they might not want to hear your tunes or your conversation. Likewise, if you're calling from a public place then don't forget that anyone could overhear something personal about you.

### SWITCH OFF GEOLOCATION

In your phone's settings, you'll be able to disable geolocation for individual apps and photos; this means that people online (including strangers) can't see information about where you are when you share or post a pic. On the subject of images, it's also important to ask permission before taking or sharing a photo of someone – and don't share embarrassing images of your friends with others.

### 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.



The National College

NOS National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday

## Top Tips for...

# MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

### GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

### TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

### GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

### LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

### AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

### HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

### BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

### 'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

### SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

### TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

### SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

### WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

### Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



DEVICE BOX

The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

# Little Listeners:

# OPERA NORTH

## Cinderella

**WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY**

**The Milton Rooms, Malton (YO17 7LX)**

Join us for a fun, family-friendly  
magical adventure where fate  
and love triumph all!

### SHOW 1

10.30 doors open  
11.00 show starts

### SHOW 2

13.30 doors open  
14.00 show starts



For more information or to book, visit:

[www.themiltonrooms.com](http://www.themiltonrooms.com)



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