

# NEWSLETTER

Thursday 1st February 2024

SPRING 1 TERM

Hello Everyone

Thank you for all of your positive comments following the publication of the schools Ofsted report. On behalf of the staff I would like to thank you for your positivity and praise as it means a lot to know that parents and carers are generally happy with the school and the education their child/ren are getting.

The children have enjoyed a visit from YorkMix radio and soon, Y01 radio, to support the topic of 'Media Makers' and we are grateful to Laura, David and the team at YorkMix for taking time to support education within the community. Next week we will welcome parents, carers, governors, family and friends of the school to support our aspiration week and talk to the children about their passion for their vocation, career or hobby. We look forward to learning about being a jockey, an author, a sculptor, a poet, an expert in morse code among many more.

As you will already know, we are extending our nursery provision to 2 years olds from the start of the summer term. We have been busy preparing the learning environment in nursery for this exciting development. We would like to express a huge thank you to Rob Allenby, a parent at school, who has worked with Miss Cooke to ensure the nursery building has been transformed to enable a more appropriate space to facilitate our change. Thank you also to Emma Isaacs for all her painting efforts.

The nursery room is looking bigger, brighter and homely and we are extremely grateful for their time, generosity and support.

One more week of this very short half term and then we wish you a wonderful half term break.

My Best Wishes



## School Attendance

22 January 2024 - 26 January 2024

**Our school weekly attendance was: 96.5%**

This was above the **primary national average of: 93.5%**

Attendance **this week** so far: **84.7%**

Attendance **this term** so far: **94.1%**

## DIARY DATES

### 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,

**Thursday 22nd**

School visit to the Spencer's Farm

**Friday 23rd**

Dress up for

NSPCC Maths Number Day

**Monday 26th**

Nursery open morning

**Thursday 29th**

Pop-Up Library Visit (afternoon)

### MARCH

**Thursday 7th**

World Book Day. Dress in PJs and bring your favourite book to school

Pop-Up Library Visit (afternoon)

**W/C Monday 18th**

Parent/Teacher Consultations - email the office to sign up ASAP

**Friday 22nd**

Spring Concert 9.30am

with refreshments. All welcome!

### REMINDERS

**PARENTPAY:**

Please clear any balances ASAP.

## Recent highlights from Acorns Class

Acorns and Reception children have started their monthly trip to Beechwood Place Care Home this half term. Whilst there the children introduce themselves to the residents, playing with duplo in front of the residents and drawing with them or pictures for them. The children's confidence grows each time we arrive at the Care home and it is lovely to see the relationships that they are building with the residents there.



### Next visits:

- 07/02/24
- 20/03/24

## Recent highlights from Conkers Class

Conker children were inspired to learn more about toys and games from the past by a visit from Gan on Friday afternoon! She brought in a selection of toys including; solitaire, marbles, Jacks, snakes and ladders as well as some elastic to teach us French skipping and Cat's Cradle.

The children enjoyed exploring an old button tin and compared three different versions of the story 'The Snow Queen,' one of which was Gan's childhood copy printed in 1910!

The children in year 1 and 2 had prepared questions to ask to find out more about the materials used to make toys in the past, as well as wanting to find out which toys and games were Gan's favourites.

The children listened really well, considering it was nearly home time on a Friday, and said thank you before rushing off home. But we want to say a huge thanks to Gan for giving up her time and preparing such amazing toys to share with Conkers.



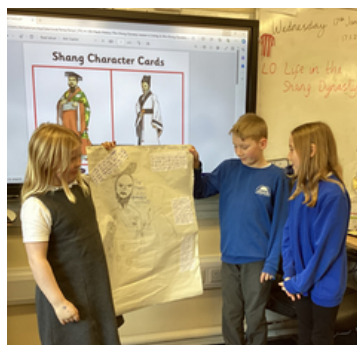


## Recent highlights from Oak Trees Class

This week we had a fabulous visit from the York Mix Radio team. The whole school were able to enjoy an interesting and exciting assembly where we all learnt lots about how a radio station is run behind the scenes. KS2 were then lucky enough to participate in a workshop where the children got their thinking hats on to create some fantastic adverts! Well done to the children for asking some thought-provoking questions and contributing some great ideas to the radio team. Thank you, York Mix Radio!



The children have been historians, archaeologists and researchers! We have been exploring the Shang Dynasty and imagining what life was like for the different people who live there. After looking at different sources and research the children presented their work to each other. Some children made posters, some did a role play and some discussed ideas!



In maths we have been trying out some extended critical thinking problems to challenge our minds and test our resilience.

Through open ended questions, during our morning tasks this week, we have had some fantastic conversations and pushed ourselves to continue to ask questions.

### Relax Kids with Mrs Peel...

*"Oak Trees have been enjoying Relax Kids sessions every Thursday afternoon where we have been learning different techniques to help us feel relaxed and calm. The children have used mindful body scans, positive affirmations, visualisations and breathing techniques as a way of building their brilliant wellbeing skills. It was so peaceful in the hall to see the children laid down, relaxed and calm listening to our visualisation."*





# NURSERY PLACES AVAILABLE

Our nurturing nursery is extending its provision to children aged 2 years

**FROM 9th APRIL 2024**

Mon-Fri 8.55am until 3.10pm (term time only)

- Highly skilled and experienced staff
  - Ofsted rated 'good' (November '23)
- Strong personal development opportunities
  - Our children thrive and flourish
  - Ambitious and engaging learning

**Come along to our Open Sessions:**

**Mon 19th February** (1pm - 3pm)

**Mon 26th February** (9.15am - 11.30am)

**Fri 15th March** (9.15am - 11.30am)

Phone: 01653 658313

Email: [admin@leavening.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@leavening.n-yorks.sch.uk)

Address: Back Lane, Leavening,  
Malton, YO17 9SW

[leavening.n-yorks.sch.uk](http://leavening.n-yorks.sch.uk)





## 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 runs every day from:

**7.45am until 8.45am.**

### **After School Fun!**

Our after school provision is split into 2 sessions:

**3.15pm - 4.15pm (£3.50) or 3.15pm - 5.15pm (£6).**

**ALL pupils in school (including Nursery)  
can join our Breakfast & After School Provision**



**After School  
Club fun,  
with Miss  
Cooke,  
eating  
Smores!**

"Out of 10, I  
would give it  
a 11" (Sophia)

"I like that we  
eat biscuits,  
play and have  
fun" (Esme)



## YOUNG VOICES REMINDERS!

Children should be practising the Young Voices songs at home using Music Room (*details sent out in an email previously*).

Please ensure you are **fully paid up** for any tickets and t-shirts via ParentPay.

We MUST receive contact details of the person who will be collecting their child after the concert.

Please email to the office ASAP if you have not done provided this.  
Thank you.

## PLEA FOR COMICS AND NON-FICTION BOOKS

We would be very grateful for any donations of comic and non-fiction books.  
Thank you!





# **JOB VACANCY:**

## **General Teaching Assistant (GTA) for the nursery**

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:** Friday 1st March

**Interviews:** Monday 4th March

**Starting:** Monday 8th April

**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!

## York & N Yorks Mayor Hustings on Road Safety Tues 19<sup>th</sup> March 7pm

On ZOOM:

Register here <https://bit.ly/48EWF0h>

or scan QR code



Keith Tordoff,  
Independent



Kevin Foster,  
Green Party



David Skaith,  
Labour Party



All candidates have been invited to Hustings & to take the Mayoral Pledge on aiming for zero fatalities and serious injuries on our roads by 2030.

Amy Aeron-Thomas will introduce Action Vision Zero

Chairman, Gordon 20's Plenty (North Yorkshire branch)



**13TH  
FEBRUARY**



**NORTH YORKSHIRE  
MOORS RAILWAY**

# Free storytelling sessions

Join the NYMR this February for free storytelling sessions and travel through a whole host of fairytales. From the award-winning Story Craft Theatre there will be a fun-packed interactive show, with games, music, puppets and so much more! This fun-packed adventure is aimed at 2-7 year olds, but can be enjoyed by the whole family - 4 sessions are available for up to 30 children and an accompanying adult.



**Story Craft Theatre**

**Platform 2, Pickering Station, YO18 7AJ**

**Sessions at 10:00 am, 11:00am, 12:30pm, and 1:30pm**

**To book visit**

**<https://www.nymr.co.uk/Event/Britannia#FamilyActivities>**



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MYLOL

AGE RESTRICTION  
13-19

MyLOL is a free social networking and dating site aimed at teens. Profiles can publicly display users' images and information, including sexual orientation and personal interests. The service bills itself as "the number one teen dating website in the world", claiming to have more than a million users globally. Despite its popularity, the MyLOL app is no longer available from Google Play or the App Store, although the site is still active. In some countries, police forces and schools have previously warned parents about "sinister predators" and "inappropriate activities" on the site.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### FLIMSY AGE GATES

Although MyLOL states it is exclusively aimed at users aged between 13 and 19, there is no credible age verification system to prevent a younger child – or an older adult – from signing up to the platform. Coupled with the fact that it's impossible to establish a user's true identity on MyLOL, this raises a serious concern that the site could be used for grooming.

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

MyLOL maintains that it monitors all uploaded images for nudity or sexual content. It also claims to be able to detect suspicious keywords. However, there have been numerous reports of explicit content being found on the platform, with users often posting provocative, semi-nude pictures of themselves and engaging in flirty or sexually explicit conversation.

### POTENTIAL CYBER-BULLYING

MyLOL lets users 'vote' on other people based solely on their appearance, much in the same vein as the now-defunct site Hot or Not. This feature could easily lead to distress and bullying, especially if a young person's profile pics receive an unfavourable response. Various reviews of MyLOL have noted that bullying frequently becomes an issue in the platform's chat groups and private messages.

### IN-APP SPENDING

MyLOL is free to join and use, but it also offers paid-for memberships. Users who have paid money get their profile promoted at the top of the site and in search results. They can also earn additional credits for increased engagement with the platform – such as sharing, replying to messages and voting. At the time of writing, the monthly membership fee was \$9.95 (just under £8).

### DATA COLLECTION

According to its privacy policy, MyLOL collects user data including email addresses, contact details and interests. While the company says it is committed to protecting users' privacy, the small print states that information may be shared externally. MyLOL claims to follow procedures to keep data secure, but does not specify what these procedures are, or whether such information is encrypted.

### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

MyLOL makes it easy to connect with strangers. In fact, the site's rewards feature encourages users to send private messages to people they don't know. There have been several media stories of adults posing as teens on MyLOL to connect with minors, which could lead to extremely dangerous situations, such as a young person meeting up with someone who has been posing under a false identity.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### DISCUSS ONLINE DATING

It's vital to talk to your child about the possible dangers of platforms like MyLOL – particularly the threat of online predators. Remind them of the risks of sharing intimate images and information with strangers and emphasise that most people don't realise they're being 'catfished' until it's too late – it really isn't wise for a young person to meet up with someone they've only spoken to online.

### EXPLAIN PRIVACY RISKS

Before your child begins using a service such as MyLOL, it's important that they understand the potential pitfalls of giving out their personal data on this type of platform. Explain to them, for example, that they shouldn't divulge any personally identifying information to people who they don't know, as scammers can be quite convincing when attempting to steal someone's identity.

### RESTRICT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child has access to a bank card or other payment method, they may be enticed into signing up for MyLOL's premium features. Having their profile boosted and receiving more attention could be especially tempting if their friends also use the site. You could consider altering their device's settings to disable internet purchases, or at the very least keeping an eye on their online spending.

### SET UP LOCATION ALERTS

If you're worried that your child may be planning to meet up with someone they've met on MyLOL, you could consider utilising GPS or WiFi location tracking technology to follow their whereabouts in real time. You can even set up a virtual boundary or 'fence' and opt to receive an alert to your phone if your child enters or exits a specified area.

## Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about PERSUASIVE DESIGN ONLINE

'Persuasive design' refers to the techniques that companies employ to influence our thoughts and behaviours when we're on the internet. These approaches can be spotted on websites, in apps and even as part of some video games. Persuasive design means that this content has been deliberately presented in a way that's intended to encourage you to spend your time or money (or both). These methods often prove highly effective at keeping people engaged and invested for longer than we might expect.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### POTENTIAL ADDICTION

In the digital world, persuasive design can make certain activities more addictive and harder to walk away from: some people may begin to feel anxious or irritated without access to their device or their favourite app, for example. It can also often leave users feeling isolated, as – if they spend most of their time on social media – they may start to find it difficult to talk to other people in real life.

### MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS

Scrolling online or gaming without regular breaks is proven to be harmful to our mental health. The constant bombardment of news stories (many of them negative), images and influencers' posts can create sensations of unease, uncertainty and FOMO (fear of missing out). Young people can get so immersed in this environment that they become less likely to spot misleading posts.

### PROLONGED SCROLLING

Social media can draw any of us – regardless of age – into a continuous pattern of refreshing our screen, following posts and links down rabbit holes or reading countless comments made by others. This aimless scrolling can eat up time which could have been spent on more productive activities. It could also lead younger users into areas of the online world which aren't age appropriate.

### SENSORY OVERLOAD

Repetitively scrolling, clicking on links or playing games can create an unending stream of new information and visual stimuli. Put it this way: social media isn't exactly renowned as a carefree, chilled-out environment. Such overstimulation can become too much for young people to handle, resulting in sensory overload and causing them to feel stressed, overwhelmed and exhausted.

### COSTLY ADDITIONS

Video games sometimes display offers for downloadable content or loot boxes which can be bought with real money. While these 'microtransactions' temptingly promise to improve a player's gaming experience, most of the time they are money sinks. Young people in particular, excited by the chance of enhancing their game, could spend quite a sizeable sum very quickly indeed.

### PHYSICAL CONSEQUENCES

Hours spent sitting and scrolling means far less time moving around and getting exercise: hardly ideal for a young person's physical health. Additionally, prolonged exposure to the light given off by a phone's screen can lead to eye fatigue and discomfort, especially if viewing it in the dark. Extended phone use before bed can also impact on sleep quality, affecting mood and energy levels over the following days.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### ESTABLISH LIMITS

Talk to your child about setting some time limits on how long they can use their phone, tablet or console in the evenings or at weekends – or perhaps how often they can go on a specific app, game or website. You could also decide to involve the whole family in creating this shared screen time agreement, making things fair (and healthier) for everyone.

### NIX NOTIFICATIONS

Stop knee-jerk responses at the source by turning off push notifications and alerts. Whether it's a gaming notification or a social media update, these not-so-gentle reminders are designed to catch our attention and lure us back to our device. Switching them off – or even deleting any particularly intrusive apps – can help prevent your child from being reeled back into the online world.

### ENCOURAGE MINDFULNESS

Acknowledging any addiction is key in overcoming it – and compulsive scrolling is no different. If anything mentioned in this guide sounds familiar, it could help to have an honest, open chat with your child about how much time they spend online. Get them to think about how often they scroll through social media aimlessly or habitually open it up whenever they have a spare moment.

### MAKE A CHECKLIST

Considering a list of relevant questions can be an effective way of helping children figure out why they're scrolling on certain sites or consuming particular pieces of content. A checklist can prompt young people to ask themselves if they're learning anything or benefiting from this activity – or if they're wasting their time. Taking a step back can sometimes help us to see things more clearly.

## Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings has more than 20 years' experience in the field of relationships, sex and health education (RSHE). As well as delivering workshops and training for young people, parents and schools, she is also a subject matter expert on RSHE for the Department of Education.



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