

NEWSLETTER

Thursday 4th July 2024
Summer 2 Term

Hello everyone

Last week you should have received your child/ren's end of year report. If you have got any comments or questions about the report, please do make an appointment to speak to your child's class teacher.

Thank you to all of you who completed our parent survey. We are pleased to share the very positive results. Please see further in the newsletter for the analysis of this.

Rehearsals for our end of year school production are in full swing. We are looking forward to sharing it with you on a Friday 12th July. The first performance will be at 9.30am until 10.30am, with refreshments served from 9am for a small donation to FOLS. The second performance of the same production, will be at 2pm-3pm. We would politely ask that you only come to one of the performances for capacity reasons.

Finally, on behalf of the staff and children, I warmly invite everyone to join us for our end of year celebration on the last day of term, Friday 19th July at 9.30am until about 10.45am. We will be saying goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 team Zak, Poppy, Olivia, Nathan, Jacob, Betty, Bella and Bailey as well as celebrating achievements and the school year involving all our children. There will be singing performances from the whole school, choir as well as musical showcases. It is always a great celebration, and we welcome parents from across the school, not only Year 6, to join us.

Thank you for an incredibly supportive year. Staff really value the partnerships we have to ensure success for our pupils; your children.

My best wishes



Sian Mitchell
Headteacher

School Attendance

24 June 2024 - 28 June 2024

Our school weekly attendance was: 86.6%

This was below the **primary national average of 94.1%**

Attendance **this week** so far: **85.2%**

Attendance **this term** so far: **93.3%**

DIARY DATES

JULY

Mon 8th-Fri 12th

Transition week

All children to their new class

Weds 10th at 1.15pm

Dress rehearsal for show

Thurs 11th

Crucial Crew event (Yr 6 only)

Fri 12th

Summer production

Tues 16th

Flamingo Land trip
(Conkers and Oak Trees)

Weds 17th

Yr5 Taster Day (Norton College)

Weds 17th

Yr 6 treat day: Allerthorpe Lake

Fri 19th Last day of term

End of year celebration assembly (9.30am-11am)
Yr 6 vs parents rounders (11-12)
Yr 6 parents stay for lunch (12-1)

Pop-up Library Dates;

11th July (Collection only)

Please ensure you clear any ParentPay balances

Our Safeguarding Team at Leavening CP School:

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is: **Mrs Mitchell**

Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: **Mrs Bennett** | Our Safeguarding Governor is: **Dr Neil Audsley**



Important information from North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

Summer is here, and in just a few short weeks, children and young people across the Country will begin their summer holidays. Living in North Yorkshire, our children have the privilege of enjoying the beautiful countryside and visiting various tourist attractions.

Our goal is for children and young people to be Happy, Healthy, Safe, and Achieving in life. These principles are the foundation of our Partnership. We want children and young people to enjoy their holiday time and remain safe. This July, we aim to raise awareness of common issues that may expose children and young people to danger, much of which is preventable.

One popular pastime for families is visiting open water, whether it's a lake, reservoir, or the sea. However, many children, young people, and even parents and carers are not aware of the dangers open water can pose. These dangers include diving into shallow water, unpredictable undercurrents, water temperature, and deep water, all of which can lead to potentially fatal accidents that are often preventable.

We urge all professionals to familiarise themselves with our water safety advice for parents, available [here](#), and to promote awareness with families throughout July and August. With children and young people at home during the holidays, they are more likely to spend time with family pets, including dogs. Nobody expects their dog to bite, and we often underestimate the potential danger our beloved pets may represent. Shockingly, 91% of bites to children happen at home with a dog they know.

We, again urge professionals to promote how to keep children, young people, and family pets safe and happy together. Please familiarise yourself with and promote our information for parents available [here](#).

These are just two of the many risks children and young people could be exposed to over the summer period. Remember to always be professionally curious and advise parents and carers of these and other risks such as road, cycle, and pedestrian safety; burns and scalds; and the swallowing of harmful substances and items (e.g., button batteries and super strong magnets).

Parent Survey Analysis (Summer 2024)

Thank you to all of you who completed our parent survey. We are pleased to share the very positive results:



Parent and Carer survey

58% return

	Agree strongly	Agree	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A
1. My child is happy at this school.	76%	24%			
2. My child feels safe at this school.	84%	16%			
3. The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	72%	28%			
4. My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.	4%	16%			80%
5. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.	72%	28%			
6. When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.	60%	4%			36%
7. a: Does your child have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)? b: My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.	32%				68%
8. The school has high expectations for my child.	64%	36%			
9. My child does well at this school.	84%	16%			
10. The school lets me know how my child is doing.	68%	22%			
11. There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.	76%	24%			
12. My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.	76%	16%			8%
13. The school supports my child's wider personal development.	76%	24%			
14. I would recommend this school to another parent.	76%	24%			

Comments:

"Nursery is fab. We love it. We love that you have wrap around care for nursery"

"Great support from nursery upwards"

"Very aware of spotting minor difficulties in learning and finding ways to help children develop and flourish"

"My child enjoys going to this school. They are thriving in this stimulating and nurturing environment"

"Fantastic school, amazing staff. So honoured to have my child at this school."

"Brilliant school- a real family feel for my daughter. Would recommend to others (and have done)"

Strengths of our school:

- All children are happy and safe at school.
- All parents agree that pupils are well behaved.
- There is good communication about the school curriculum.
 - The parents all agree the curriculum offer is strong.
- Parents are well informed about their children's progress.
- For a small school and small staff, the extracurricular offer is good.

We will consider:

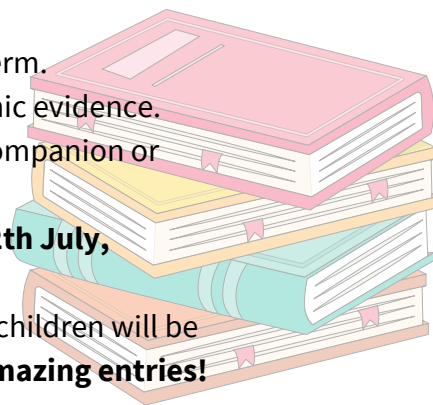
- A more thorough communication of curriculum to our nursery parents by way of half termly curriculum newsletters.
- Further parents voice on how the school can ensure it has higher expectations for children- we will hold parent forms and focus groups and survey in the autumn term.
- Further parents voice on how the school can ensure we make sure our children behave well- although all parents agreed, we had a higher number of parents who only agreed rather than strongly agreed compared to other statements. As above we will hold parent forums and focus groups and survey in the autumn term.

Reading Competition Reminder!

Don't forget Mrs Raines is running a competition for our final school term. She is challenging EVERYONE to be 'caught reading' and to send in photographic evidence. You could be 'caught reading' in your favourite reading spot, with a reading companion or somewhere rather different!

Please can all entries be sent in or emailed to the school office by **Friday 12th July**, ready for the prize finale on the final week of term.

All teachers are being challenged to join in the competition too, which the year 6 children will be looking at to decide who will get a prize! **We are really excited to see all of the amazing entries!**



Please support our Summer ice lolly sale!

Every Friday: Large Ice Pops: 50p each

Raising funds for Friends of Leavening School



Recent highlights from Oak Trees class

Murton Park -

Oak Trees had a blast at Murton Park going back to the beginning to the stone age! We had a fantastic day which comprised of learning the stone age timeline, dressing up like cavemen and cavewomen, researching artifacts, grinding flour, hunting animals, making clay pots, farming the land and more! The children were fantastic and had some brilliant stone age knowledge to show off! This trip was a great link to our school show of rock bottom, and many of the jokes began to make more sense with some cavepeople context! We were even treated to a real murder mystery story at the end! Thanks again to the adult helpers for the support on the trip.



Year 6 Friendship afternoon

On Monday, we welcomed three local primary schools to Leavening for a year 6 friendship building day. We were able to build great connections and had a great time. We started the afternoon with an outdoor picnic together, with the rain thankfully holding off! We then teamed up for some sport themed games and activities.

After this we completed team building challenges, get to know you games and friendship building activities. It was wonderful to see some secondary school friendships begin to be built and this was a brilliant opportunity for our Year 6 to get meeting new people!

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GAMBLING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Gambling can be defined as betting or risking money or something of value on the outcome of a situation involving chance. Under current regulations, gambling is legal for adults in the UK. Its potential impacts on the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities are well documented – emphasising the importance of safeguarding children and young people against these hazards.

MANIPULATIVE ADVERTISING

FREE BET!!

Adverts for online bookmakers and betting exchanges can raise concerns about targeting vulnerable groups, fostering addiction, promoting misleading expectations, impacting mental health, affecting social norms, posing regulatory challenges, influencing minors and other ethical issues. Effective regulation, responsible advertising practices and public education are essential to mitigate these concerns and address the potential harms associated with excessive exposure to manipulative advertisements.

ADDICTIVE FEATURES

All gambling products carry safety concerns, but some can be even riskier and more addictive. The frequency with which people can place bets can encourage them to do so often – with rapid spins and multiple betting options, for example. Betting on sports events, especially with live in-play betting options, can be highly engaging and habit forming. The 24/7 availability of online platforms can also increase the risk of excessive gambling, particularly among young people.

PEER PRESSURE

Exposure to gambling through friends, influencers or social circles can normalise risky behaviour and create unrealistic expectations about the chances of winning. Addressing peer influence requires support services, responsible advertising practices and effective education on the subject to minimise the impact on children and promote healthier choices.

IMPACT ON MENTAL HEALTH

Gambling can exacerbate mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, and stress – especially if it leads to financial loss. Individuals with existing mental health conditions may use gambling as a coping mechanism – but the cycle of gambling can worsen their symptoms, creating a detrimental impact on overall wellbeing. Integrated support services and treatment options are crucial to address these interconnected challenges effectively.

GATEWAY BEHAVIOURS

Certain features of other products – such as video games that offer in-game purchases – can lead to gambling among young people. These mechanisms can sometimes be designed to exploit psychological vulnerabilities, encouraging repeated spending to acquire virtual items or advantages. Such practices can normalise the associated risks and desensitise young people to putting their or their family's money in danger.

FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES

The most common impacts of online betting come in the form of financial losses and debt. This, in turn, can lead to distorted perceptions of money, deterioration of relationships, social isolation, and poor academic and career outcomes. Regular gambling can even exacerbate other risky behaviour by making it seem less significant – potentially leading to a cascade of health impacts and financial loss.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Sporting events can be a good opening for conversations about gambling, as some sponsorships may reference and even glamourise it. Talk to children about how these promotions make them feel and encourage frequent conversations about any concerns they may have. Adverts, influencers and online platforms may also feature gambling products. As a child grows, it's important to encourage their critical thinking skills to help them avoid being manipulated by this type of marketing.

MONITOR SPENDING

In-game purchases can be appealing to children, allowing them to unlock new features or cosmetic items in a fraction of the time it would take to win them by playing. Talk to children about how they spend money online; an interest in what video games they play can encourage the conversation. Consider setting up restrictions on their devices, requiring their parent or carer's permission before making any purchases. Talk about finances regularly and openly.

KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS

Parents and educators should be vigilant for signs of gambling harm among young people. Look for changes in their behaviour such as increased secrecy, unexplained money issues, mood swings or withdrawal from their usual activities. Open conversations about gambling risks and maintain a supportive, non-judgemental environment. Try to familiarise yourself with resources and helplines for assistance and guidance.

GET FURTHER SUPPORT

Support and treatment for young people is available via the Young People's Support Service at GamCare, who can be contacted at 0808 8020 133. A link to their website has also been included in the sources of this guide, along with links to several other support networks. Your GP and local NHS gambling clinic are also available if you require additional advice. Don't hesitate to reach out for help if you're concerned about a child's gambling behaviour or their financial situation.

Meet Our Expert

Ygam's mission is to prevent children and young people from experiencing gaming and gambling harms through awareness raising, education, and research. The charity was established in 2014 as a result of the lived experience of their founders.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/gambling>

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE TROLLING

The term "Trolling" refers to sending hurtful or provocative comments – often done anonymously online – to provoke a reaction or cause emotional distress. Anonymity can embolden people into saying things they wouldn't dare say in person. Euro 2024 and other tournaments tend to put an emphasis on this, with the abuse of both players and fans often increasing during such events.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ESCALATION

Many trolls begin with silly, banal comments before moving on to a broader pattern of offensive messages and posts. They can also turn their attention very quickly to a new target if they grow bored with an existing one, which makes engaging with one fruitless at best – and potentially dangerous at worst.

HIDING BEHIND A SCREEN

Because trolls tend to use anonymous profiles, they enjoy a lack of accountability. This also means they'll often have multiple profiles, potentially switching between them regularly or posting across several of them at the same time, making a target feel as though there's no escape. After all, once you block one account, what's to stop them reappearing elsewhere?

24/7 CONTACT

The internet has given us the ability to remain in contact at any time, from almost anywhere in the world. A troll having the ability to reach you whenever they want can leave you feeling like their abuse is unavoidable. While they don't see you in real life, they can message you at any time, reach out to your peers online and even try to discover your personal information to scare you.

HATE SPEECH

Sadly, many trolls resort to spewing racial slurs, homophobic attacks and awful stereotypes, as these often stand the best chance of causing emotional harm. This can add a hefty degree of weight to their attacks, moving from what might charitably be described as "teasing" into a genuine hate crime. After Euro 2020, three England footballers were racially abused, resulting in several prison sentences.

IMPACT ON VICTIMS

It's not uncommon for the victims of trolls to shut down their accounts, disappear from public life, and try to stay out of the crosshairs for a time – with some even leaving social media forever. This can have a severe impact on children and young people's connections to friends and the world at large, and may not even actually stop the troll. The victims' families, for example, may have online profiles that trolls can still access.

NORMALISATION OF TROLLING

It is, regrettably, inevitable that some people will go too far in their criticisms or comments, both online and in the real world. This can lead to many people seeing trolls and their abuse as part and parcel of social media – an inherent risk of interacting with others online. This doesn't mean, however, that it should be considered "normal" or even tolerated.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media platforms (where most trolling tends to happen) aren't always helpful when responding to abusive behaviour, parents can set up screen time limits, so children only get to use certain apps at certain times. There's always the potential for trolling to occur anyway – such as friends showing screenshots to one another – but this would minimise the likelihood of children seeing it.

DON'T ENGAGE WITH ABUSE

A well-known adage on social media is "don't feed the trolls". Fundamentally, if a child identifies a potential troll online, it's best not to engage with that individual directly. Instead, consider setting up a log to gather evidence for reporting them later on, including screenshots and quotes where possible.

ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

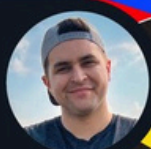
While every professional athlete aspires to maintain high standards, it's important to separate the player from the person. A player's performance doesn't make them worthy of abuse, and that can often be forgotten by younger children who simply see the colour of the shirt without considering the person wearing it. For all the rivalries between teams, it's essential children understand that players are still human beings, with families and lives outside of sport.

BLOCK AND REPORT

While anonymous accounts make it difficult to block trolls permanently – or even for very long – it's still good practice to help children learn to control who can engage with them online. It's not worth "feeding the trolls", and it's more helpful to block them, report them, and try to move on. Blocking and reporting is an anonymous process, too, so there'll be no indication of who specifically blew the whistle.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A long-time fan of Arsenal, he's a parent who understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer whose work has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and many more.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: nationalcollege.com/guides/online-trolling