

## Upcoming School Events

### *'Wriggly Nativity'*

#### Christmas play: Friday 13th December

##### Morning

Parents/carers can come to school straight from drop-off. There will be refreshments available- including Christmas coffees and hot chocolate- before the play begins. All money raised will go towards Friends of Leavening School.

**The play will start at 9.30am**

##### Afternoon

**The play will start at 2.30pm**

The middle doors to school (opposite the hall) will open at 2.15pm. Parents are not to arrive before this time please.

Do not come to the main door- use the middle doors only.

The play will finish at 3.10pm.

Staff will take children back to class for usual home time routine and parents will wait in the playground.

### *Christmas Movie Afternoon*

We are very excited about our upcoming Christmas Movie Afternoon! This will take place on

**Tuesday 17th December 3.15pm-5pm.**

Children in **Conkers and Oak Trees class** are invited to this event. The cost is **£5 per child**, which will include a drink and a snack.

**The film choices will be:**

**Home Alone (PG) or Arthur Christmas (U).**

Once you have paid via ParentPay, you **MUST** use the link below in order to give consent and to select the film choice for your child.

PLEASE COMPLETE ONE FORM PER CHILD.

<https://forms.gle/Lzpz6mU7dbREsivM8>

**Thanks for your support!**

## School Attendance

**02 December 2024 - 06 December 2024**

**Our school weekly attendance was: 93.0%**

This was below the **primary national average of 93.9%**

Attendance **this week** so far: **83.6%**

Attendance **this term** so far: **93.1%**

## TERM DATES

### DECEMBER

**Fri 13th**

Christmas Show  
9.30am & 2.30pm

**Tues 17th**

Christmas Movie Afternoon  
3.15pm-5pm

**Weds 18th**

Pantomime trip  
(Conkers & Oak Trees only)  
Acorns Christmas Party (am)

**Thurs 19th**

Christmas lunch & parties  
End of term

**Fri 20th**

Training day.

**Mon 23rd Dec-Fri 3rd Jan**

Half term

### JANUARY

**Mon 6th**

Training day.

**Tues 7th**

Start of term

**Mon 13th-Fri 24th**

Careers/Aspire Fortnight

**Weds 15th**

Yr3/4 Dodgeball Tournament

**Thurs 16th**

Popup library in school

### FEBRUARY

**Tues 11th**

Lego Workshop

**Weds 12th**

Yr1/2 Dodgeball Tournament

**Fri 14th**

Big Sing Event Malton School

End of term

**Mon 17th-Fri 21st**

Half term

**Mon 24th**

Start of term



## 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: **Mrs Isaacs**

# Recent School Highlights

## Christmas Craft Afternoon

Our Christmas Craft Afternoon was an enormous success thanks to all for the support. Thank you to everyone who came, we were overwhelmed with family support.

We love having this Leavening Christmas tradition!

Thank you to all the staff who organised this and to Miss Templeman's Dad, Chris, for the lovely gingerbread person decorations.





# Recent School Highlights continued...

## Carol singing in the community

Last Friday, Oak Trees went community carol singing around the village. This annual treat was as wonderful as it always is and it was a pleasure to bring so much joy to people. Thank you to our wonderful community for braving the cold to come out and celebrate the start of Christmas and for your generous donations. Thank you to Mrs Stockill for arranging this event and to Mrs Russell for joining us too.





# School Reminders

## Christmas Parties: Thursday 19th December (Conkers & Oak Trees)

Please can we ask that food be brought in (on the day) as follows:

**Conkers** - to bring **sweet** items

**Oak Trees** - to bring **savoury** items.

**Acorns** will have their *own* Christmas party on the morning of **Wednesday 18th December**.

Miss Cooke will organise the food for this.

It will be **non uniform/Christmas party clothes** ALL day, across ALL classes on the day of your child's party.

**The Christmas school lunch will also take place on Thursday 19th December.**

## Aladdin Pantomime: Wednesday 18th December

Children in Conkers and Oak Trees classes will be going to see the Aladdin pantomime show at York Theatre Royal. The cost of the trip including transport, ticket and ice cream is **£20** per child.

The payment deadline was 2nd December via ParentPay.

**If you have not yet paid- please do so urgently. Any problems with this, do get in touch.**

Children should **wear uniform** as usual and bring a **packed lunch and water bottle** to school.

**NURSERY CHILDREN NEED TO BRING A PACKED LUNCH TO SCHOOL ON THIS DAY. THANK YOU.**

## Training days: Friday 20th December 2024 & Monday 6th January 2025

Please note the above dates will be training days. Children are not to attend.

School will reopen on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

## Reminder that all children need warm coats in school for playtime!

### Careers week: 13th January-24th January 2025

As part of our planned 'Start Small, Dream Big' career related learning curriculum next half term, we are holding our annual Inspire/Aspire Fortnight. During this time, we would like to warmly invite parents/carers and family members to share with our children the jobs they do or interesting hobbies that they have. This can in person or via a pre-recorded video.

Please sign up here by 19th December: <https://forms.gle/mpRXgDGCZ763cfBM9>

### Plea for dress-up clothing depicting jobs...

We are making a plea for dress-up clothes for reception; of different jobs people do (police, fire, medics, construction etc). We would be really grateful for any donations of these. Thank you!

## Christmas Fundraising Totals

**£92.22** bag packing in Morrisons

**£114** Carol singing money

**£250** Christmas Fair money

**£167.41** Asda cashpot for school



**A HUGE thank you to everyone for their support and to all the staff and volunteers who have helped at these events.**





# DO YOU HAVE A CHILD STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2025?



Look and learn beyond the classroom | Have high aspirations and fulfil our potential  
Care, share and belong | Lead, teach and learn with passion

## We warmly invite you to visit our school over December and January

### before the deadline of applying for a school place on 15 January 2025.



**Further information about school admissions  
(via North Yorkshire Council's website) can be found here:**

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-admissions/starting-primary-school-and-junior-school>

**Ofsted**  
Good



"There is a positive culture of learning and development for all.  
Children thrive and flourish at this nurturing school."

LEAVING COMMUNITY  
PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Together We Can

- Meet the staff
- Chat with our Headteacher
- See the pupils learning first hand
- Experience our outstanding outdoor learning provision
- School rated 'Good' in latest Ofsted inspection



## All welcome!

### Please contact the school and make an appointment:

**PHONE: 01653 658 313 | EMAIL: ADMIN@LEAVING.N-YORKS.SCH.UK**

Leaving Community Primary School. Back Lane, Leavening, Malton. YO17 9SW  
[www.leaving.n-yorks.sch.uk](http://www.leaving.n-yorks.sch.uk)



# Malton Library

Mon 9.30-5 Tues 9.30-7 Weds 9.30-5 Thurs CLOSED Fri 9.30-5 Sat 9.30-12.30

## What's on in January

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

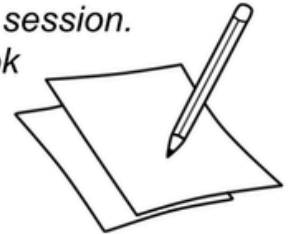
**ALL FREE!**

### LIBRARY EVENTS AND PROMOTIONS

- **READ, WRITE, DRAW: Creative Club - launch session!**

**Saturday 18th January, 10am-12noon Ages 7+**

*Our new creative club for ages 7+ starts in January with an exploratory session. So if you're interested in reading, writing or drawing make sure you book in to come and join the fun!*



- **Police Property Marking Event**

**Saturday 18th January, 10am-12noon**

*Come along to speak to PCSO Wynn for security advice and to get your property marked to deter burglars.*

- **Sight Support Drop In**

**Tuesday 28th January, 10am-12noon**

*Do you or someone you know experience sight problems?*


*Pop in to chat with Sight Support for advice on how they can help you.*




### REGULAR SESSIONS

- **Children's Stay and Play Session**, Mondays during term time, 10.30am-11.30am
- **Children's Storytime and Crafts**, Tuesdays during term time, 10.30am
- **Junior Book Club\***, Tuesday, monthly 4pm-5pm 21st of January, 8-11yrs
- **Pins & Needles Craft Club**, Tuesdays 5pm-7pm
- **IT Help Appointments\***, Wednesdays 1pm-3pm, Fridays 12pm-2pm
- **Lego Club**, Wednesdays 1pm-3pm and Saturdays 10am-12noon
- **Next Steps Drop In**, Last Friday of the month 10am-12noon
- **Dungeons and Dragon Club\***, Saturday 25 January, 10am-12noon, 11-18yrs


*\*Booking essential, please email or phone the library*

 Find us on Facebook

 01609 534565

 malton.library@northyorks.gov.uk



 Malton Library  
St Michael Street  
Malton  
YO17 7LJ



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING APPS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

When looking at options for supporting a child's mental health, the sheer volume can be overwhelming. There are many wellbeing apps available, but unfortunately not all are trustworthy. It's important to evaluate which resources are suitable, reliable and effective. This guide lets you know what to consider before installing such an app, to determine just how useful it's going to be.

### QUALITY & RELIABILITY

Mental health apps can be a useful starting point when looking for wellbeing advice and strategies and can be a useful extension to the in-person services available. However, they aren't a substitute. Information on the quality of some of these apps is scarce. They may look cute and child-friendly, but have they been designed by a mental health professional? Furthermore, do they have research to back up their content?

### PLACE RESPONSIBILITY ON CHILDREN

Some apps add the words 'kids' or 'children' to their title or use cartoon icons to make them more appealing to young people. When signing up for some of these apps, some will speak to the parent directly, saying something along the lines of "Your child is good to go. Let them take it from here". It's important to remain involved in the child's mental health journey, so regular check-ins are recommended.

### DISREGARDING APPROPRIATE SUPPORT

Young people who feel anxious and have trouble sleeping may download a mindfulness app to help. While this is a good strategy initially, it's not addressing the root of the problem. A child could simply try managing these symptoms themselves (as opposed to speaking out and seeking professional help), which could potentially worsen their anxiety in the long run.

### LACK OF PERSONALISATION

Mental health or wellbeing apps are useful tools for the short term, teaching users several helpful habits to manage their condition – such as keeping an illness diary, improving nutrition and practising mindfulness exercises. As every person is unique – and children especially will grow and develop in different ways – these apps struggle to tailor themselves to users' individual needs. For example, many apps don't distinguish between the ages of users and can offer extremely generic advice.

### DATA SECURITY

As with any other app – not just those for mental health and wellbeing – it's wise to check out the privacy policy before downloading it. Some of these applications may share data with third parties for numerous reasons (such as targeted advertisements), and if a user is sharing personal and sensitive information within the app, they probably don't want it ending up elsewhere without their consent.

### IN-APP PURCHASES

Many apps will provide their most basic features for free but will require you to pay for other aspects – such as a more tailored experience or access to additional resources. This could be a one-off fee or a regular subscription. Consider whether this is actually required. Is it benefiting the child, or could they receive the same support from a medical professional?

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CHECK THE CREDIBILITY OF THE APP

Before you download a mental health and wellbeing app, investigate the developers. Have they consulted with qualified mental health professionals to create their resource? Also check whether the app is affiliated with any government or mental health organisations, as these are solid indicators of legitimacy. Reviews can also be a useful signpost to the app's quality. There are many good apps out there, but there are just as many that miss the mark.

### READ THE PRIVACY POLICY

Look into the app's terms of service – especially its privacy policy. Do so by yourself first, then go over it with the child who is considering using the app, to ensure they know what data will be collected and how exactly it will be used. Use all of this information to make an educated decision on whether or not to download that particular app.

### 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.



### SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

Trusted mental health and wellbeing apps designed by qualified, reputable organisations can be used alongside the personalised advice and support of fully trained professionals. These apps should never be considered a substitute for counselling or other tailored medical help. If you have real concerns about a child's mental wellbeing, you should seek appropriate advice from a suitable source, such as their GP – or Childline, who can be contacted by calling 0800 1111.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Mental health and wellbeing apps can be useful for writing down feelings, tracking your own health and other such activities. These can help if the problem is short-term and temporary – such as a child getting stressed about approaching exams – or if you're currently waiting for professional support. Nonetheless, it is important that children aren't solely reliant on the app and have a safe space to talk about their feelings and experiences in the real world.



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# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

### 1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

### 2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

### 3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

### 4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

### 5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

### 6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

### 7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

### 8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

### 9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

### 10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

## Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



#WakeUpWednesday

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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>