

# NEWSLETTER

Thursday 9th January 2025

Spring 1 Term

Hello everyone!

And a very happy new year to all of our families. We hope you managed some relaxation and quality time together over the festive break and are ready for the routine and adventures that 2025 will bring. This week we have welcomed back our pupils with their usual enthusiasm, positivity and happy and smiling faces. We are all looking forward to the topic 'Tomorrow's World' this half term and each class newsletter will detail further information about the curriculum as well as class routines.

We will be continuing with our Rock Steady band lessons each Monday throughout this term, starting on Monday and the children will continue in the same groups and same instrument as last term. The sessions are such an exuberant start to the school week. At the end of the term there will be an opportunity for the children to showcase their talents to their families.

We look forward to the new year and the wonderful opportunities we will provide for our children, while working alongside you as parents, carers and families.

Wishing you a happy and healthy 2025.

My best wishes.



Sian Mitchell  
Headteacher

## Winning House of last half term

Well done to 'Pickering' house team (the blue team!) who were the winning house of autumn term 2. They will have a reward of non-uniform day tomorrow (Friday 10th January)

## Reminder about uniform and jewellery

We have noticed an increase in children wearing jewellery, nail varnish/false nails and accessories in school last term.

Please ensure your child does not attend school wearing any of these. They are not practical or safe and are not part of the school uniform. We will ask/help children to remove any jewellery (including earrings) and accessories.

In addition, children should not be bringing toys into school. Again, these will be collected in and given out at home time if this is the case.

## School Attendance

16 December 2024 - 20 December 2024

**Our school weekly attendance was: 90.9%**

This was below the **primary national average of 91.9%**

Attendance **this week** so far: **98.9%** | Attendance **this term** so far: **98.9%**

## TERM DATES

### JANUARY

**Mon 13th-Fri 24th**

Careers/Aspire Fortnight

**Weds 15th**

Yr3/4 Dodgeball Tournament

**Thurs 16th**

Popup library in school

### FEBRUARY

**Thurs 6th**

Popup library in school

**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

### MARCH

**Thurs 6th**

Popup library in school

**Weds 19th**

Yr5/6 Basketball Tournament

**Mon 24th, Tues 25th**

**and Thurs 27th**

Parent/Teacher Consultations

**Weds 26th**

FOLS Easter Movie Afternoon

**Thurs 27th**

Popup library in school

**Fri 28th**

Spring concert for Parents/Carers

### APRIL

**Weds 2nd**

Malton School Science Bus visits

Leaving School!

**Fri 4th**

End of term

**Mon 7th-Fri 18th**

Half term

**Mon 21st**

Bank holiday

**Tues 22nd**

Start of term

**Weds 30th**

KS2 Cross Country & Rounders

## **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**

### **Start Small Dream Big...**

#### **...Career related learning Curriculum at Leavening**

There is an increasing body of research which highlights the importance of “starting early” with career-related learning and engaging with primary aged children. As such, the careers and enterprise company came up with the motto 'You're never too young to dream big' and sought primary schools to take part in their project. At Leavening we were extremely keen to be involved in this as we felt our community of learners would benefit from making connections with what they are learning in the classroom in different lessons and developing the skills they would need in the workplace.

We also believe passionately that Primary schools can play a crucial role in helping their pupils to raise aspirations, broaden horizons, challenge stereotypes and develop the skills and sense of self to help reach their full potential. This epitomises one of our school values of 'aiming high'.

#### **Our strategic vision over the next year is:**

- To work with the careers and enterprise company project to build a modern, 21st century careers education programme suited to our community.
- To plan Career Related learning opportunities across the whole school curriculum that engage pupils, inspire pupils and lead to aspirational careers choices.
- To reduce bias and challenge stereotypes allowing pupils to have aspirational career choices.
- To develop relationships with diverse employers who represent our local community and whose regular engagement with pupils has measurable impact
- We are working with national and local employers to offer guidance and knowledge on different careers and this is enhancing our already popular 'aspirations week' where we invite people in to talk about different careers and interests to instil a passion for learning in our pupils. This has soared in popularity and opportunity this year, as such we will be dedicating two weeks to this alongside our usual core curriculum.  
It will run from Monday 13th January until Friday 24th January.

Photos and updates on the impact will follow.

# Aladdin Pantomime Trip

On the last week of term, Conkers and Oak Trees classes had a wonderful time exploring the “whole new world” at the pantomime!

From magic carpets to a sparkling genie, the children loved every minute of the show!  
Many children ended the coach journey curious about next year.

Everyone was a fantastic representation of our school and we all had a wonderful time!  
(oh yes we did!)



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about JUSTALK KIDS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

JustTalk Kids is a child's version of the JusTalk app – a highly popular social networking platform – designed for users up to 13 years of age, allowing them to video call, message and participate in group chats. While adults can link their own JusTalk account to their child's and make use of parental controls, it's important to understand the risks associated with the app.

## SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS

While JusTalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a kids' premium account or a premium family account. At a cost, this feature allows children to have access to more fun features such as games they can play with others in a call; exclusive stickers; a badge denoting them as a premium subscriber; and exclusive ringtones and themes.

## RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS

JusTalk Kids endeavours to allow children the sense of having a chat-based app while allowing parents to set controls (within the app or from their own adult JusTalk account). The basis behind this is positive; however, some children are challenging their parents by refusing to use JusTalk Kids, preferring to use the adult version without any restrictions in place.

## KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE

After downloading JusTalk Kids, parents can set a passcode which users must enter to add contacts. The parental controls help to manage which content can be viewed and who children can add as a contact: this then allows children to chat with friends in a controlled environment. However, prospective contacts don't have to know a specific username. In theory, someone could type in a random name and then add them as a friend.

## POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS

JusTalk and JusTalk Kids claim to be secure and encrypted, going so far as to state that even the developers themselves won't access your data. However, a security lapse in 2022 highlighted that messages were not in fact encrypted – leading to concerns around the security of the app and the transparency of the development team.

## CYBERBULLYING

Online chats can provide a sense of anonymity, leading some users to post things which they wouldn't normally say in person. Combined with the option of group chats, there's a risk that young people might join in with this kind of behaviour, escalating it further and potentially turning what should be a fun experience into something deeply negative.

## TOO MUCH SCREENTIME

A report by the UK Parliament Education Committee highlighted a 52% increase in children's screen time between 2020 and 2022 – as well as finding that 25% of children used their smartphones in a manner consistent with screen addiction. Introducing children to social networking apps when they're too young can lead to bad digital habits and a reliance on technology from an early age.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS

If parents allow their child to use JusTalk Kids, they should explain that they're putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to put their full name on the account and doesn't use a photo of themselves as their profile picture. This type of open discussion will help to ensure that a child is aware of the app's potential risks and knows how to reduce them.

### TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS

Young children could be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they must do so in a positive, respectful and responsible manner. While it can be easy to get caught up in a group chat, it's important to talk to others politely and call out any unpleasant behaviour. Discuss the importance of limiting their contacts to people they know in real life and use parental controls to enforce this.

### DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING

Some children might not understand the potential dangers of oversharing online. Set clear guidelines around what *is* and *isn't* safe to share on the internet, and discuss the concept of a digital footprint. Children need to understand that the things they say and share online can never be completely erased. Even if they delete it themselves, it can be saved and distributed by others.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Apps like JusTalk can sometimes lend themselves to bullying behaviours. Parents should monitor what their child is sending and receiving, check in with them regularly and encourage them to share their feelings (both positive and negative) at home. Remind them that they can block a contact if someone is treating them disrespectfully.

## 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.



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

Get comfortable and start  
talking about mental health

JOIN US THIS TIME TO TALK DAY

**Thurs 6th Feb**  
**9am-10am School Hall**  
Parent/Carer Well-being Session

All welcome!  
Leavening Community Primary School



#TimeToTalk

**time to  
talk day**

**06/02/25**



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