

# NEWSLETTER

Thursday 6th February 2025

Spring 1 Term

Hello everyone!

We are very much looking forward to our Key Stage 2 participation in the BIG SING next week to mark the end of a successful musical half term. Mrs Stockill has organised this event in partnership with Mr Lee from Malton School to promote music across small schools in our locality. I would like to thank Mrs Stockill for her effort and commitment to an excellent music education and offer at Leavening.

I would like to extend further warm welcomes to our new families who have joined us in the last few weeks. We are delighted to grow our school family and welcome you all.

Next week is our last week before the half term break. Look out for communication regarding extra curricular clubs after half term. I would also be very grateful if you could reply to the consultations about KS2 residential and the review of our behaviour and relationship policy and curriculum. We really appreciate your feedback.

All my very best wishes



Sian Mitchell  
Headteacher



There are some excellent resources available as part of **Children's Mental Health week** on this website :  
[childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/](https://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/)

## School Attendance

27 January 2025 - 31 January 2025

Our school weekly attendance was: 93.8%

This was below the primary national average of 94.3%

Attendance **this week** so far: 92.8% | Attendance **this term** so far: 93.2%

## TERM DATES

**Tues 11th**

Lego Workshop-See ParentPay

**Weds 12th**

Oak Trees Roman Workshop (P'Pay)

Yr1/2 Dodgeball Tournament

Leaving school 12.30pm prompt

**Thurs 13th**

FOLS Valentines Disco

5.15pm-6.30pm. £5/child

**Fri 14th**

Big Sing Event Malton School

Refer to letter 13/1/25

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

Leaving school 12.30pm prompt

**Mon 24th, Tues 25th, Thurs 27th**

Parent/Teacher Consultations

**Weds 26th**

FOLS Easter Movie Afternoon

3.15pm-5pm. £5/child

**Thurs 27th**

Popup library in school

**Fri 28th**

Spring concert all welcome. 9.30am

Refreshments available from 9am

**Mon 31st**

Rock Steady concert 9.15am. All pupil bands to perform. Everyone welcome.

**APRIL**

**Weds 2nd**

Malton School Science Bus visit

**Fri 4th** End of term

**Mon 7th-Fri 18th** Half term

**Mon 21st** Bank holiday

**Tues 22nd**

Start of term

**Thurs 24th**

Swimming starts for Yrs 3&4

**Weds 30th**

KS2 Cross Country & Rounders

Leaving school 12.30pm prompt

## 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**

### SCHOOL NOTICES AND REMINDERS:

Our extra-curricular clubs will begin after half term (w/c 24th February)

We will offer these every *other* half term. More details to follow, once we have finalised the details.

#### Playground Playoffs

YorkMix radio have teamed up with PE Pro to find 12 schools to compete in a variety of sporting challenges and battle it out for the top prize - a whole year's membership of the PE Pro app and facilities for the whole school! Leavening School are now in the final three of this competition alongside Lord Deramores and Escrick Primary.



We are awaiting a visit from the YorkMix team next week for the finals and to find out if we will be winners. We will keep you posted...!

#### Swimming Gala

Six Year 4/5/6 pupils represented our school in the local schools swimming gala this week. Amelia, Jenny, Cobi, Maisie, Fergus and Sophia displayed some splendid swimming skills to secure a position of 8th out of 12th overall. Amelia got 1st place in the 25 meters front crawl race for the girls.

Well done team!



#### Open The Book

We are delighted to welcome the 'Open the Book' team back to Leavening this year.

Steve and his team will be visiting the school each half term with their fun packed and engaging bible story assemblies.









# FOLS VALENTINES DISCO

**Price includes a drink and a snack.**

**Games and prizes to be won!**

**Children in Conkers and Oak Trees  
classes are welcome to join**

**Due to space and capacity in the school hall,  
we would encourage parents/carers to drop their child  
off and return to school at the end of the event.**

**Thank you for your support! 😊**

**MAIN SCHOOL HALL**

**5.15pm-6.30pm  
Thursday 13th February 2025**

**Dance games & prizes!  
£5/child via ParentPay**



# NURSERY PLACES AVAILABLE

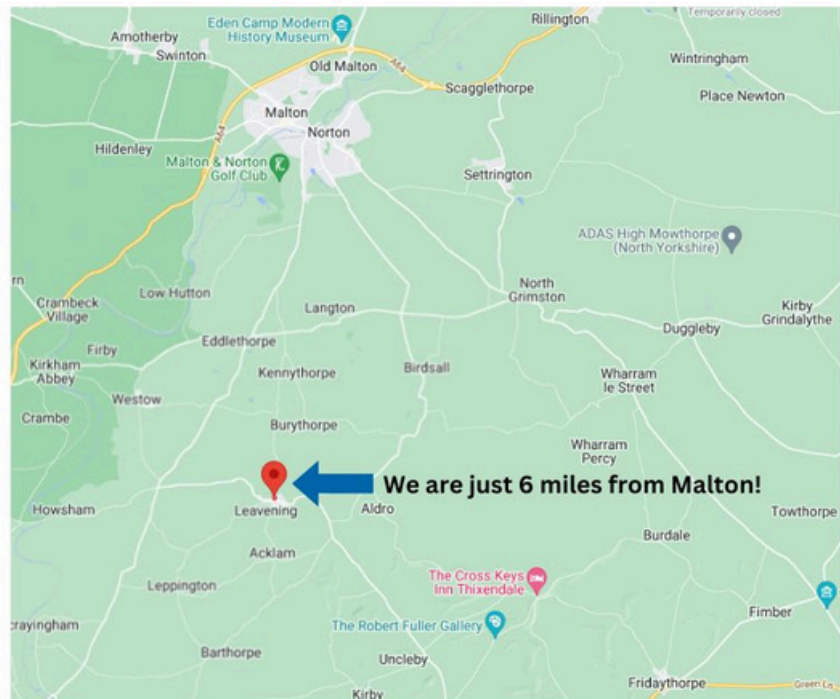
Our supportive nursery has extended its provision to children aged 2 years

All *eligible* working parents of **two and three year old children** can now access **15 hours of FREE childcare per week** for 38 weeks of the year.

**We are open Monday to Friday: 8.55am until 3.10pm (Term time only)**

- Highly skilled and experienced staff
- Strong personal development opportunities
- Ofsted rating 'Good' (Nov.2023)
- Our children thrive and flourish
- Ambitious and engaging learning

In our provision for two-year-olds, we focus upon the Prime Areas of learning which are: *Communication and Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Physical Development*  
Our children develop *independence, curiosity and enthusiasm for learning*, to support them on their learning journey. In our classroom and outdoor area, we learn and explore through a range of experiences.



**Parents and Carers are welcome to come and visit.  
Please get in touch to arrange a taster session for your child.**

**Leavening Community Primary School and Nursery**

Back Lane, Malton, YO17 9SW

**Telephone:** (01653) 658313

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

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



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEVELOP EMOTIONAL LITERACY

Emotional literacy refers to the ability to recognise, understand and express our feelings effectively. It plays a crucial role in strengthening a child's wellbeing by enhancing their relationships and resilience. However, emotional literacy is not necessarily an innate talent, and its development may present challenges. This guide gives parents and educators practical tips on supporting children to cultivate this essential skill.

### 1 NAME THE EMOTION

Encourage children to identify and name their emotions. This helps them understand what they're feeling and why. Use simple language and relatable examples to make it easier for them to share their emotions. This builds a foundation for emotional understanding and open communication.



### 2 MODEL EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION

Demonstrate healthy emotional expression by sharing your feelings visibly. When children see adults properly displaying how they're doing and what they're thinking, they learn to do the same. Discuss how you handle emotions in different circumstances, providing a real-life framework for young ones to follow.



### 3 MINDFULNESS ACTIVITIES

Teach children mindfulness practices to help them stay present and manage their emotions during more challenging moments. Activities like deep breathing, meditation or yoga can reduce stress and enhance emotional regulation. Regular practice can improve focus and emotional stability, which can significantly help children both as they're growing up and throughout their adult life.



### 4 USE STORYTELLING

Incorporate storytelling to help children understand emotions. Stories can offer relevant scenarios illustrating how the characters experience and manage their feelings. Discuss the emotions depicted in stories and ask children how they might feel in similar situations.



### 5 PRACTISE EMPATHY

Teach children to consider others' views and emotions – and to explore why they might think or feel this way. Role-playing and discussing various scenarios can enhance their ability to empathise. Understanding others' emotions helps children to develop compassion and improves their social interactions.



### 6 ENCOURAGE JOURNALING

Suggest keeping a journal to make note of thoughts and emotions, as writing can provide an outlet for self-reflection and emotional processing. Encourage children to write about their daily experiences and feelings, helping them gain insight into their emotional world. Do this alongside them, so they can see and experience how to do it effectively.



### 7 TEACH PROBLEM-SOLVING

Do what you can to help children develop problem-solving skills to assist in managing emotional challenges. Discuss potential solutions to emotional conflicts and encourage them to think critically about what they (and others) can do to process their feelings in a healthy way. This empowers children to handle emotions positively and build resilience.



### 8 CREATE A SAFE SPACE

Establish an environment where children feel safe to display their emotions without judgement. Encourage open exchanges and reassure them that all feelings are valid. This supportive atmosphere promotes trust and encourages children to express themselves with confidence.



### 9 USE VISUAL AIDS

Take advantage of visual aids like emotion charts or mood meters to help children identify and express their feelings. Use these tools regularly in your interactions. They provide a visual representation of emotions, making it easier for children to communicate their emotional state.



### 10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL GROWTH

Acknowledge and celebrate progress in emotional literacy, and praise children for expressing their emotions and handling them effectively. Positive reinforcement is a useful tool that will encourage continued growth and reinforces the importance of emotional literacy – encouraging young people to maintain the good habits and healthy behaviours that you've taught them.



## Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice-Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, an organisation that supports schools in improving their mental health provision.



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# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

### "CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

### SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such ploys often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

### YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

### FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

### PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

### FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

### ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit [OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk](https://OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk) for more.



### TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

### BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

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