

NEWSLETTER

Thursday 13th March 2025

Spring 2 Term

Hello everyone.

You will have seen that we have been chosen to become an early adopter school in the pilot of the roll out of free 30 minute breakfast clubs by the Government. There was a survey sent out last week to gauge families interest in this and the deadline for this is **Monday 17th March**. In order for this pilot to be a success we would strongly encourage our families to make use of this free provision from 8.05am until 8.35am. But of course we need to know accurate numbers to enable us to recruit staff accordingly so filling out the survey is essential for our planning. There will be a healthy breakfast on offer as well as an active and engaging activity for all children during this time.

I appreciate there are families who come in shared taxis and we will try and work with school transport, specifically Station Taxis, to facilitate this if we have the interest.

I would like to share with you some positive feedback I received from a school leader colleague visiting school last week. They were overwhelmingly impressed by the culture of 'Belonging' at Leavening. They commented on the nurturing, mutually respectful and positive relationships in school. They were also very impressed with the high standard of behaviour and the level of excellence we uphold here. As a school community, we know this and we embrace this but every now and then it is reassuring to have experienced professional comment on this. Well done to all of the children, staff, governors and parents for building and sustaining such a strong community here at Leavening.

As we head into another weekend, I would like to wish you a bright and restful time. Next week we will enter week 4 of this half term...

All my very best wishes



Sian Mitchell
Headteacher

School Attendance

03 March 2025 - 07 March 2025

Our school weekly attendance was: 94.6%

This was below the primary national average of **95.6%**

Attendance **this week** so far: **97.6%**

Attendance **this term** so far: **94.0%**

TERM DATES

MARCH

19/3/25 Yr5/6 Basketball
Tournament. Leaving school 12.30pm
W/C 24/3/25

Parent/Teacher Consultations

26/3/25 FOLS Easter Movie

Afternoon. 3.15pm-5pm. £5/child

27/3/25 Popup library in school

28/3/25 Spring concert-all welcome.

31/3/25 RockSteady concert. 9.15am.

Arrive at 9.10am for a 9.15am start

APRIL

2/4/25 Malton School Science Bus

3/4/25 Non-uniform day

3/4/25 FOLS Chocolate Bingo

4/4/25 End of term

7-18th Easter break

21/4/25 Bank holiday

22/4/25 Start of term

24/4/25 Swimming starts for

Yrs 3&4

30/4/25 KS2 Cross Country &
Rounders. Leaving school 12.30pm

MAY

2/5/25 Tea & Talk Event at Leavening
Allotment. Meet at school at morning
drop-off time.

W/C 12/5/25 KS2 SATS Week

22/5/25 FOLS Family Quiz

5pm-6.30pm. All welcome!

W/C 26/5/25 Half term week

JUNE

W/C 9/6/25 Year 1 Phonics
Screening

12/6/25 Sports Day

18/6/25 Yr3/4 Basketball

Tournament. 1pm start

19/6/25 Reserve Sports Day

JULY

3/7/25 Reports out

W/C 7/7/25 Transition week.

Children move classes in preparation
for Sept 2025.

11/7/25 End of year show

Performances at 9.30am & 2pm

16/7/25 Yr 1/2 Summer Sports

Tournament. 1pm start

18/7/25 End of year celebration
assembly followed by rounders &
parents lunch for Yr6 pupils

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**

Important notice regarding parking outside school-

Drivers **MUST** leave space for 3 taxis at the start of school and after school.

Taxis take priority at these times. Thanks for your understanding.

SCHOOL REMINDERS

Piglets Trip: 21/03/25.

Please ensure you have made payment for your child/ren via ParentPay.

Note- We will *not* be doing anything for Comic Relief this year as it falls on the same day as the trip.

Peat Rigg information session: 18/03/25 | 3.20pm

Please use this link to sign up- if you wish to attend <https://forms.gle/KRVvZpKKbJNMD7QH6>

Parent/Teacher Consultations: W/C 24/03/25

Please contact the office if you have not already made an appointment for your child/ren

FOLS Easter movie night: 26/03/25 | 3.15pm-5pm.

We are very excited to let you know about the upcoming FoLS Easter Movie Afternoon.

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

The film choices will be:

Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway (PG) or Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory (U).

Payment will be available via ParentPay soon. Once you have paid, you **MUST** use the link below to give consent and to select the film choice for your child: <https://forms.gle/gCvuS6D8uxV7FFfn7>

Springtime concert: 28/3/25

All welcome. 9.30am start. Refreshments available from drop off. Duration approx 70mins

FOLS Chocolate Bingo event: 03/04/25 | 5.30pm to 6.30pm

Tickets for this fun event will be on sale from the office *very soon* - *watch this space!*

Adult tickets: £5/each | Child tickets: £3/each.

This entertaining evening will take place in the school hall. We encourage parents to bring their own snacks/nibbles for their table. We will be having a 'donation bar' with various refreshments on offer, in return for a donation towards FoLS.

Can we please remind parents to bring in a chocolate donation (which will be the prizes for this event) in exchange for the **non uniform day on the same day (3rd April)**. Prizes should be brought in on the day. Please support the school with this event if you can. It has proven to be very successful and entertaining every year! 😊

A reminder that **jewellery should NOT be worn**. On PE days-**earrings should be removed for school**

Oak Trees: PE-Outdoors on Friday afternoons. Forest School-Wednesday afternoons

Conkers: PE-Wednesdays. Forest School-Tuesday afternoons

Children should come to school in their PE kit on their day. Forest School kit should be brought in a bag.

Please ensure water bottles are brought to school **every day**

Thanks for your support.

Recent Highlights from Acorns

As spring is trying to make an entrance, Acorns nursery have been busy prepping the outside ready for planting as well as watching potatoes inside start to chit before we plant them in our garden. The constant rain and sunshine has been great fun as the children are always searching the skies for rainbows when we are inside and outside.



Recent Highlights from Conkers

Last week, the children welcomed Ed Rowett from Trinity Church, York into school. To support our topic of Christianity and 'sacred books', Ed talked to the children about the Bible and its importance as a sacred text. The children listened impeccably and came up with some fantastic, informed questions for Ed. A huge thank you to Ed for his time; visits such as these really enhance and support our curriculum and the children benefit greatly!



In Conkers class this week, the children practised their careful cutting techniques in 'Design and Technology' lessons by preparing a delicious fruit salad.

After learning about fruit seasonality, the children carefully prepared different fruits to combine and then sampled their delicious dish. Yum!



World Book Day Highlights

On Thursday 6th March, children across the whole of school and nursery enjoyed celebrating World Book Day. They were invited to come to school in pyjamas or non-uniform.

There were various special events planned throughout the day; including an assembly from our very own parent and local author Neil Clark, as well as a visit and fun-filled afternoon from one of our Governors, Jan Lomas. It was a very enjoyable and informative day for all.

Many thanks to Neil and Jan (and, of course, not forgetting Mrs Raines - the bee!)





T1 RUGBY (TOUCH RUGBY)

FREE YEARS
5 (U10)
6 (U11)
7 (U12)



RUGBY TASTERS

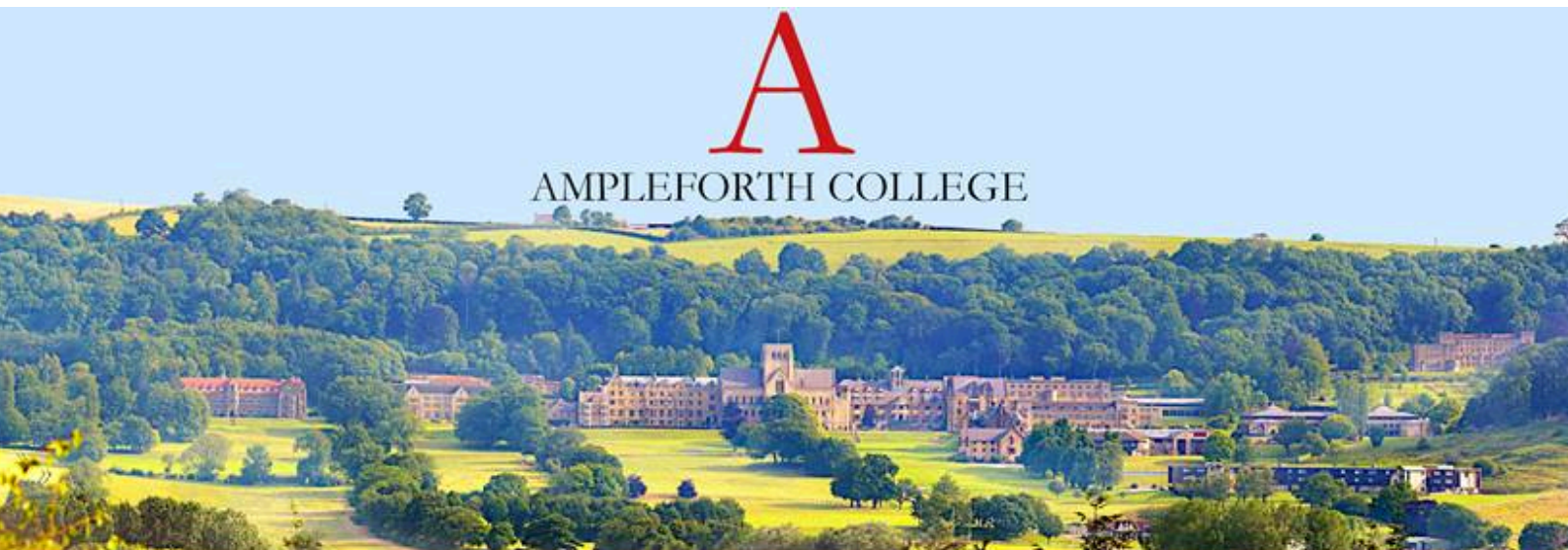
SATURDAY'S 9.30 - 11AM
26TH APRIL
3RD MAY
10TH MAY
17TH MAY

TASTERS ARE PERFECT FOR NEWER GIRLS
AND BOYS TO EXPLORE RUGBY AT THEIR
OWN SPEED.

INFO OR BOOK - ROB maltonandnortonrufc@outlook.com



AMPLEFORTH COLLEGE



Open Morning: Saturday 10 May
Register to join upcoming events

There are places at Ampleforth College in their Junior House for Year 7 entry in September 2025. They would be delighted to speak with any of our parents for whom this might be a consideration.

Here are some short videos about Ampleforth college which may be of interest to families; thinking ahead to next year.

<https://sites.google.com/view/know-more-ampleforth-college/home>

All families whose children receive benefits-related free school meals have been issued vouchers to access free places on **FEAST** activities this Easter. You should have received this via email or text, from a platform called Holiday Activities. Follow the link in your email/text to redeem your voucher and book your child's place on some of the fantastic activities on offer in our area.

To learn more about FEAST, and for information on activities, eligibility, paid-for places and how to manage your bookings, [visit the website](#).

feast

Free activities

for

**children and young people
this school holiday.**



**Packed with sport, art, fun
and food, there's something
for everyone**

Everyone in North Yorkshire can join in, with **FREE** places for those from Reception to Year 11 who receive benefits-related free school meals.

Discover what's on offer at
feastNY.org





Holidays

just got better



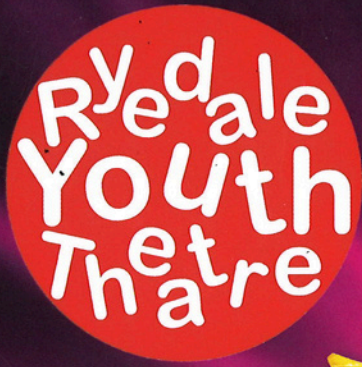
Looking for something fun to do in the school holidays? FEAST has got you covered!

There's sports, art, food and loads more going on. If you're 16 or under and live in North Yorkshire, you can join in on the action, with free places for those who get benefits-related free school meals.

Get involved, try something new, and make the most of your holidays!

Discover what's on offer at feastNY.org





PRESENTS

ROALD DAHL'S
CHARLIE
AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Book by
David Greig

Music by
Marc Shaiman

Lyrics by
Scott Wittman
Marc Shaiman

Based on the novel by Roald Dahl

Songs from the Motion Picture by
LESLIE BRICUSSE and ANTHONY NEWLEY

THE MILTON ROOMS, MALTON

9th – 12th April, 2025

Evenings at 7.15pm | Thursday & Saturday Matinee at 2pm

Tickets will be available online from Monday 24th February 2025

Visit WWW.YOURBOXOFFICE.CO.UK

Adults £16.00 Concessions £14.00



This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International.
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.co.uk

Ryedale Youth Theatre is a registered Charity No. 1053362 www.ryedaleyouththeatre.co.uk



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
7

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGbible.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



The National College®