

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Thursday 12th June 2025

## Summer 2 Term

Hello everyone

Welcome back to the last half term of the school year. As we embark on this final stretch, I am delighted to share the wonderful activities and achievements that continue to make Leavening Community Primary such a vibrant learning community.

This week, our pupils participated in a special House afternoon linked to our current topic of 'Identity'. The children produced some truly fantastic artwork, including individual bunting, self-portraits, hand print collages, and their own jigsaw pieces representing their identity as part of our whole school jigsaw. It was particularly lovely to observe pupils working and collaborating across all year groups, from nursery to year 6, helping one another, sharing laughter, and working together with such enthusiasm and care.

I am pleased to announce that our extra-curricular clubs have commenced this week, offering cooking, pop music, and summer sports activities. We currently have 60% of our pupils engaging in these extra-curricular opportunities, which is an excellent participation rate and demonstrates the diverse interests of our school community.

Next Wednesday, 18th June, marks National 'Thank a Teacher' Day, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all our staff members. Our teachers, teaching assistants, lunchtime staff, and office staff make a meaningful difference day in and day out. They are truly valuable members of our community, and we are fortunate to have such a committed and highly skilled team working with our pupils.

Looking ahead, we have numerous exciting events planned for the coming weeks. These include the village scarecrow trail on 21st and 22nd June, where we will proudly display our own scarecrow at the allotment, a readathon challenge, and our 'Seeing is Believing' morning, where parents are warmly invited to spend time learning alongside their children. Additionally, we will be presenting our school production of 'Pantastic', hosting a sausage sizzle and family quiz, and participating in summer sports tournaments for Key Stage 2 pupils, as well as basketball and netball tournaments specifically for Year 5 and 6. We will conclude the term with our special end of year celebration.

I would like to remind parents about my parent forum taking place tomorrow, Friday 13th, immediately after drop-off. We will be discussing home learning, and I am keen to gather your views and experiences on this important topic. Please join us for an informal chat over a cup of tea and biscuits.

As always, thank you for your support and engagement with us.

My best wishes



Sian Mitchell

### School Attendance

**02 June 2025 - 06 June 2025**

**Our school weekly attendance was: 96.0%**

This was above the primary national average of **92.1%**

Attendance **this week** so far: **89.5%** | Attendance **this term** so far: **94.5%**

## DIARY DATES

### JUNE

**W/C 9/6/25**

Yr1 Phonics Screening

**12/6/25** Sports Day.

Round-robin events (am).

Parents/carers are invited to the field at 1pm. Races to begin at 1.15pm

**W/C 16/6/25** Readathon week

**17&18/6/25** Yr 6 transition days

**18/6/25** Yr3/4 Basketball Tournament at Malton Sports Centre.

Leave school 12.30,

**19/6/25** Reserve Sports Day

**20/6** Class & Yr6 group photos

Oak Trees children to wear uniform- bring PE kit in a bag please.

**20/6/25** Scarecrow Festival opens

**24/6/25** Seeing is Believing

(Conkers & Oak Trees) plus

Stay & Play(EYFS). Parents/Carers

welcome. Further details to follow

### JULY

**3/7/25** Reports out

**4/7/25** Summer show 9.30 & 2pm

**5/7/25 and 6/7/25**

Leavening BBQ & Summer Fete

**W/C 7/7/25** Transition week.

Children move classes in preparation for Sept 2025.

**8/7/25** New Reception starters(Sept) parent info session 3.30pm

**10/7/25** Yr 6 Treat Day:

Allerthorpe Lake-Aqua park

**10/7/25**

FOLS Quiz & Sausage Sizzle 5pm

**11/7/25** Second-hand uniform stall

**15/7/25** Bikeability (Yr 6 pupils)

**16/7/25** Yr 1/2 Summer Sports

Tournament: Malton Sports Centre.

1pm start. Leaving school 12.30pm.

1-3pm. Whole class to go

**18/7/25 End of year celebration assembly 9.30am All welcome!**

This is followed by Yr6 Kids vs Parents Rounders and then

Yr6 Parents lunch with their child

**18/7/25** Last day of term

### SEPTEMBER

**1/9/25** Training day

**2/9/25** Term starts

**8-10/9/25** Peat Rigg Residential

## **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**

### **NAVIGATING CHILD DIGITAL SAFETY:**

## **INSIGHTS FROM NETFLIX'S ADOLESCENCE – PARENT RESOURCE**



The Netflix series Adolescence is igniting important conversations on young people's experience of the digital world and its impact on their mental health and wellbeing.

As a parent, you may be wondering how to navigate these complex topics and trends.

Smoothwall have developed a page where you'll find information and advice on the key issues raised in the show

<https://smoothwall.com/adolescence>

[Navigating Child Digital Safety](#).

[Insights From Netflix's Adolescence](#).

### **Tips for Parents: Guiding Teens to Use Social Media Safely**

Parents today are more concerned than ever about their teenagers' social media habits, striving to balance the advantages of digital connection with the challenges it presents, such as cyberbullying and privacy concerns. To help your teen navigate social media safely and responsibly, here are some essential tips.

### **Understanding your child's social media experience**

Do you ever wonder what your teen encounters when they scroll through their social media feeds? The online world is dynamic and ever-changing, making it important for both parents and teenagers to be well-prepared for the opportunities and challenges that come with social media use.

By actively engaging in your child's digital life, you can encourage a healthy balance in their social media habits while ensuring their online safety in an evolving digital landscape.

### **Beyond parental controls: Fostering digital responsibility**

Parental controls are a helpful first step in online safety but should be complemented with education and open dialogue. Encouraging children to be responsible digital citizens involves:

- Discussing online interactions, privacy, and cyber risks.
- Teaching empathy, social responsibility, and digital etiquette.
- Promoting positive body image and good mental health in the digital world.

***The internet is a powerful tool that will play a significant role in your child's future. By combining parental controls with ongoing conversations, you can help your child navigate the digital world safely while fostering independence and resilience.***

# VILLAGE COMMUNITY NOTICES

## Leavening Scarecrow Festival - 20/06/25

It's back this year with the theme of characters from children's literature.

School children are busy creating a masterpiece for this event, so please do come along and support!

## Leavening Community Summer BBQ and Fete - 05/07/25 & 06/07/25

Leavening Parish Council and Events team are organising this over the weekend of 5th July.

There will be a community BBQ with music on the Saturday evening and the full village fete with games, performances and stalls on the Sunday.

We are in talks with the committee for Leavening School choir to participate. Confirmed times and details TBC. We will also be selling ice lollies and running a 'hook a duck' stall raising funds for FOLS.

**If you can help with this for a short time (we can create a rota), please get in touch with the office.**

Your support would be very much appreciated.

# SCHOOL NOTICES AND REMINDERS

## IMPORTANT - Sports Tournaments

**These events take place in school time and are curriculum-related. It is expected that ALL children will attend. They are not optional (unless parents/carers have directly outlined their reason for not giving consent).**

**Please can we ask that you check your child/ren's ParentPay account/s.**

We have a lot of outstanding balances. If you have any queries/issues, please contact school.

## Seeing is believing (KS1 and KS2) and Stay and Play (EYFS) event - Tues 24th June

We are having a whole school 'Seeing is Believing' (Conkers and Oak Trees) and Stay and Play (EYFS) morning.

The sessions will run as follows:

**Oak Trees:** 1st session: 9.30am-10.30am | 2nd session: 10.45am-11.45am

**Conkers:** 1st session: 9.30am-10.30am | 2nd session: 10.45am-11.45am

**Acorns:** 1st session: 9am-10am | 2nd session: 10.45am-11.45am

Parents/Carers are encouraged to come in their child/ren in their class/es. **You MUST sign up in advance please**

## School play 'Pantastic' - Dress rehearsal (01/07/25) and Performances (04/07/25)

The dress rehearsal will take place on Tues 1<sup>st</sup> July. Please send costumes in for this day (clearly named).

Show day is Fri 4<sup>th</sup> July. There will be two performances: 9.30am and 2pm.

## FOLS Family Quiz and Sausage Sizzle Fundraising Event: 10/07/25 5pm-6.30pm

The postponed Quiz will now also include a 'sausage sizzle' with hot-dogs on sale (5pm-5.30pm), along with the usual bar for refreshments. The quiz will run from 5.30pm-6pm.

*Teams of no more than 5 people . Tickets are just £5 per team. Contact the office to sign your team up!*

**If you are able to help with this event (cooking sausages or manning the bar), please get in touch 😊**

## FOLS Second Hand Uniform Stall: 11/07/25

Please can we ask for any donated items of uniform to be brought to the school office for this fundraising event.

## Rocksteady Concert: 14/07/25 9.15am

The concert is a great way for children at school to proudly showcase all their musical skills on stage in front of a supportive audience! Please do let us know in advance if you will be attending, to ensure we have adequate seating.

## End of year celebration assembly: 18/07/25 9.30am

All welcome! This is followed by Yr6 Kids vs Parents Rounders and then Yr6 Parents lunch with their child.



# Readathon Event : Running W/C Mon 16<sup>th</sup> June

As part of a whole school initiative to encourage more reading for pleasure among all of our pupils, your child is taking part in Readathon – a national sponsored reading event – to encourage students to read for pleasure whilst helping children in hospital at the same time. Please encourage your child as much as possible by supporting their reading and sponsoring them as well. By taking part in Readathon, as well as encouraging reading and helping children in hospital, will also be earning free books to boost the school's library so please do support the event generously.

Click on this link to sponsor a pupil:

<http://readathon.force.com/sponsor?accountId=&type=sponsorship>



Thanks to you, children in hospital will be able to read the best new books, and listen to amazing storytellers!

## You're reading to help children in hospital



Readathon® | Track My Read® | Brilliant Box of Books | Read for Good in hospitals

Registered charity 1130309 and SC041036 (Scotland). ©Read for Good 2024. Read for Good®, Readathon® and Track My Read® are registered trademarks.

[readforgood.org](http://readforgood.org)    





# Join us for a Tea & Tell on Specialist Care

Are you a parent or carer who supports an adult with learning disabilities, mental ill health, autism, physical disabilities, or sensory impairments?

We would like to hear your views and experiences of accessing specialist care support and services for the person you care for.

Your feedback will help shape and improve our future policies and practices.

Meet us for a coffee and a catch up at your local library:

Northallerton (DL6 1PT)	Monday 9th June	10:00am - 12.30pm
Harrogate (HG1 1EG)	Wednesday 11th June	10:00am - 12.30pm
Skipton (BD23 1JX) Whitby	Friday 13th June	10:00am - 12.30pm
(YO21 1EY) Selby (YO8	Monday 23rd June	10:00am - 12.30pm
4EQ) Malton (YO17 7LJ)	Wednesday 25th June	10:00am - 12.30pm
Scarborough (YO11 2NN)	Friday 27th June	10:00am - 12.30pm
	Monday 30th June	10:00am - 12.30pm

You can also share your feedback through our online survey until Monday 30th June 2025 – please scan the QR code:





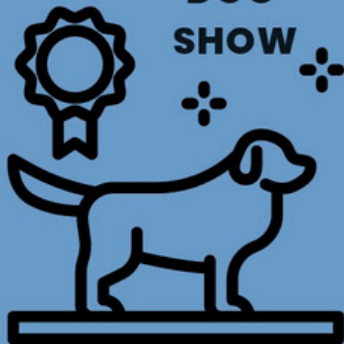
**EQUESTRIAN CLASSES  
& GYMKHANA**



**CLASSIC  
CARS**



**DOG  
SHOW**



# ACKLAM SHOW

**CREETS HILL, ACKLAM YO17 9RR**  
**WHAT3WORDS - ACTIVITY.TRANSMITS.GLIMMERS**

**SATURDAY 14TH  
JUNE 2025**

**FEATURING**



**AMERICAN OLD WEST  
REENACTMENT GROUP**

Live encampment to visit throughout  
the day, and a live gun fight at 4pm



Scan here for an online  
copy of our schedule

**Admission**

**Adult £5 - Children £1**

**Family Ticket £10 (2 Adults, 2 Children)**



**MINDFULNESS &  
RELAXATION IN  
FAMILIES  
WORKSHOP**

**Chilled  
Banana**

Improving mental health  
and dealing with stress

**19/06/25 from 10am – 12noon**  
**The Street, Scarborough**

**INTRODUCTION**

Who we are, what we  
do

**WHAT IS MINDFULNESS &  
RELAXATION**

What is Mindfulness &  
Relaxation, let's myth  
bust

**HOW CAN WE USE THIS IN  
OUR FAMILY**

Sharing techniques to  
add to our family lives

**WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT FOR  
CHILDREN TO LEARN**

let's talk child mental  
health

**WHAT'S THE SCIENCE BEHIND  
IT ALL?**

Let's prove it. Why does  
this matter to our lives

**RELAXATION TIME**

Trying a relaxation to see  
how we find it

**QUESTIONS TO END**

The chance to ask  
questions & find out  
more





# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about OFCOM MEDIA REPORT 2025

Every year, Ofcom releases its Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Report, offering fresh insights into how young people are using digital platforms. The 2025 edition highlights key safeguarding concerns as children's engagement with social media, gaming, and live streaming continues to grow. This guide pulls out the top statistics from the report, focussing on the main areas of concern for parents and educators.

## ONLINE LIVES

Children are engaging with social media and online content at increasing rates:

**37%**  
3-5s

now have access to social media platforms; however, only a small proportion use it independently of parents.

**79%**  
3-17s

have a social media profile, with 16% including a public photo.

**66%**  
3-17s

watch livestreamed videos regularly, with 16% of them streaming their own content.

**POST**

## PARENTAL CONCERNS

Parents are increasingly worried about online risks:

**70%**

fear their child may see age-inappropriate or sexual content.

**68%**

fear exposure to content that promotes self-harm.

**72%**

worry about their child distinguishing real from fake information.

**61%**

worry about exposure to extreme views.

**69%**

are concerned about online bullying.

## ONLINE GAMING

Gaming remains popular but raises concerns:

**74%**

of children say they play with someone they know, while 32% report playing with strangers.

**62%**

of parents worry about their children talking to strangers while gaming.

**31%**

of children who game online chat with people they don't know.

## SCREEN TIME

Screen time is still a major challenge for parents:

**70%**

of parents of 13-17s say it's difficult to manage screen time.

**33%**

of 8-17s think their own screen time is too high.

**At 29% vs 24%**

boys were more likely than girls to disagree that their screen time is too high.

## HARMFUL CONTENT & INTERACTIONS

A significant minority of children continue to have negative feelings about social media and messaging apps:

**Nearly four in ten 8-17s** believe that people are mean or unkind to each other online all or most of the time.

**Girls aged 8-17** are more likely than boys to say they have experienced someone being nasty or hurtful to them online (31%).

**One third of teenagers** agree that it's important that people can say what they want online, even if it offends someone.

## ONLINE SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

Positively, the vast majority of children reported learning about online safety at school:

**92%**

of children aged 8-17 recall at least one lesson on online safety and most report finding them useful.

The top three topics covered are:

**63%**

How to recognise harmful content.

**63%**

How to keep personal information safe.

**62%**

Being kind and respectful online.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EMOJIS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

An emoji like 👍 (thumbs up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but teens often interpret it as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.

### SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE

When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar. Terms like 'mid' or 'delulu' may seem harmless, but they can be used to undermine peers in subtle ways.

### RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person standing emoji (👤) once signified awkwardness but might now be repurposed for something entirely different. This ever-changing lexicon can leave adults in the dark and young people vulnerable to misunderstanding or misuse.

### MASKING DISTRESS OR HARM

Some emojis are used to discreetly signal troubling behaviours. For instance, 🍃 (falling leaves emoji) or 💊 (pill emoji) might suggest drug use, while 🌵 (wilted flower emoji) could hint at emotional struggles. Such usage can obscure serious issues, making them harder for trusted adults to detect.

### NORMALISING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Emojis can make harmful actions seem light-hearted or fashionable. Strings like 🔥👤 (fire + 'woozy' face + pill emojis) may appear humorous but can reference partying, intoxication or dangerous challenges, which might otherwise raise red flags.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### LEARN THE LINGO

Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like [emojipedia.org](https://emojipedia.org) or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.

### ASK, DON'T ASSUME

Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted "What does 🍷 (juice box emoji) mean these days?" can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.

### CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Showing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.

### PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE

While parental controls and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to – not just someone who's watching them.

## EMOJI CHEAT SHEET - The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples – please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

### COMMON EMOJIS:

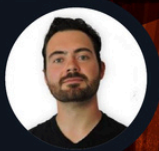
🤡 (Clown face) Foolishness or clowning around	🙄 (Pleading face) Over-affectionate or 'simping'
😎 (Cool face) Cool, stylish or ruthless	👁️ (Eyes) Watching drama unfold
😘 (Hot face) Intense attraction or excitement	🐐 (Goat) Greatest of all time (G.O.A.T.)
😐 (Moai) Stone-faced, unbothered	💅 (Nails) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference
👑 (Crown) 'Slaying', as in doing great	🚩 (Triangular flag) Red flag; a warning sign about someone's behaviour

### POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

🍷 (Ear of corn) Slang for pornography (avoids censorship algorithms)	🌵 (Wilted flower) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness
❄️ (Snowflake, snowman, snow cloud) Can symbolise cocaine	🐍 (Snake) Can represent betrayal or being 'two-faced'
🔑 (Key, lying face) Related to cocaine use	🔫 (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm
🍃 (Falling leaves, herb, maple leaf) Can symbolise cannabis	⚠️ (Warning) Used to emphasise drama, threats or emotional turmoil
💊 (Pill) May reference drug use or prescription misuse	🍜 (Steaming bowl) Refers to nudes ('noods' is an abbreviation of noodles)

### Meet Our Expert

Keith Broni is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of [emojipedia.org](https://emojipedia.org), the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.



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# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY



Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.

### EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unsuitable material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

### PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.

### REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING



Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.

### DIGITAL DEPENDENCY

Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unmanaged, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.

### UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES

Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or creative tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.

### PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.

### ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.

### ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.

## Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Eaton House Schools, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. As an author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, Brendan guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.

