

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Thursday 25th September 2025

Autumn 1 Term

HELLO FROM MRS MITCHELL

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a positive and wonderful couple of weeks here at Leavening, with lots of exciting opportunities for our children and families. We were delighted to welcome back our **Stay and Play sessions** for families with children aged 0–4 years, running every Monday in nursery from 9.30–11.00am. It has been lovely to see both familiar faces and new families joining us.

Music has been a real highlight too, with **Rocksteady lessons starting again** and the **Music Service teaching violin to Oak Trees class** – the enthusiasm from the children has been fantastic. We also enjoyed a visit from a **motivational speaker who shared an inspiring talk about neurodiversity,** and a high-energy **skateboarding workshop** that encouraged children to try something new and build confidence.

Finally, tomorrow is **National Teaching Assistant Day,** and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our hardworking, committed, enthusiastic and caring teaching assistants. They do a tremendous job supporting all of our pupils, and we are very lucky to have such a skilled and passionate group as part of our team here at Leavening.

As always, I am incredibly proud of our children and grateful to our staff and families for making Leavening such a vibrant and inclusive place to learn and grow.

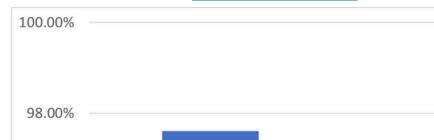
School Attendance

Together We Can

My best wishes

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Sian Mitchell Headteacher



96.00% 97.60% 97.10% Last week This week

DIARY DATES

OCTOBER

Weds 1st Reading workshop for parents of KS2 at 3.20pm

Thurs 2nd Reading workshop for parents of EYFS/KS1 at 3.20pm

Mon 6th Open day for reception 2026 & Nursery

Fri 10th Harvest Assembly 9.30am then Tea & Talk. All welcome!

Mon 13th(pm) & Fri 17th (am)

EYFS(Nursery&Reception)

Stay & Play AND Seeing is

Believing in Conkers & Oak Trees

Thurs 23rd School photos(am)

FOLS Halloween disco (time tbcplease look out for parent poll

coming VERY soon!)

Fri 24th Last day of term
W/C 27th Half term

NOVEMBER

Mon 3rd Training day
W/C Mon 3rd Extra-curricular
clubs start-details to follow
W/C Mon 10th Parent/Teacher
Consultations-Contact the office
to book your slot
W/C Mon 10th Anti-bullying
week.Wear odd socks day(Mon)
Fri 14th Children In Need day

DECEMBER

Thurs 4th Christmas Craft
afternoon with parents/carers
Also Christmas dress-up day in
exchange for tombola prize
Fri 5th Christmas Fair after school
Fri 12th Christmas production
performances at 9.30am & 2pm
Tues 16th Pantomime visit (Conkers
& Oak Trees). Details to follow!
Weds 17th FOLS Movie night
3.15pm-5.15pm
Thurs 18th Christmas parties
Fri 19th Village carol singing 2pm.

All welcome. End 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

CONKERS HIGHLIGHTS

Last week, we were delighted to welcome Ryan Swain into our school! Ryan is the founder and head coach of Ryedale Skate School. He is a Skateboard GB coach and a strong advocate for making skateboarding accessible, safe, and inclusive for all. He also campaigns for mental health awareness, neurodiversity, and community development through skateboarding. Ryan led our workshop, teaching the children the fundamentals of safe skateboarding. All children fully embraced the opportunity and had a great time! The Conkers demonstrated such fearless attitudes that the grown ups felt incredibly proud! Such resilience - well done Conkers!

"The skateboarding workshop was so much fun! I loved trying to balance on the board and zooming along, even when I wobbled and nearly fell off. The instructor showed us cool tricks and helped us feel brave to have a go. It made me feel really proud when I managed to ride a little further each time.

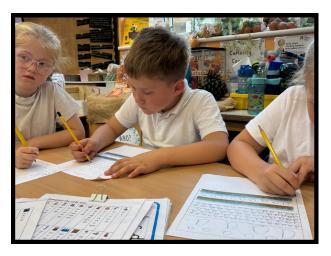
Skateboarding made me feel fast and really happy—I didn't want it to end!" - A Year 2 pupil

This week we also welcomed the lovely Miss Page into our classroom. Miss Page is a post - graduate teaching student from York University who will be with us until Christmas. Miss Page has slotted into our little classroom beautifully and is proving to be such an asset to our children already.

We are delighted to have her!

We have been working very hard on our handwriting skills...









OAK TREES HIGHLIGHTS

Ryan Swain Inspirational Talk and Skateboard Workshop

"When Ryan Swain came to our school to talk about You, Me and ADHD, it felt like he really understood what it's like to be inside our heads. He spoke honestly about the challenges and the amazing strengths that come with ADHD, and it made me feel like I wasn't alone. One of the best parts was when he shared funny stories from his own life—it made me laugh and also realise that ADHD can be a superpower as well as a struggle. It was inspiring to see someone who has ADHD achieve so much and still be himself.

One of my classmates said, 'It was like Ryan described exactly how I think and feel.'

The next day, we did the skateboarding workshop. Everyone loved it!" - A Year 6 pupil



The Digestive System

"Miss Templeman did a really fun lesson about the digestive system.

We used a pair of old tights and mashed up a banana and some biscuits. We mixed it with orange juice to represent acid in the stomach and water to represent saliva.

It was then put into the leg of a pair of tights.
The liquid was squeezed out.

We then snipped off the end of the tights and squeezed the 'poo' out. It was disgusting but really interesting!"

- A Year 5 pupil



OAK TREES HIGHLIGHTS- CONTINUED

WOPPS North Yorkshire Music Service - Free weekly violin tuition

Children in Oak Trees class are learning to play the violin as part of the Wider Opportunities scheme from North Yorkshire Music Service. This is made possible thanks to funds from FoLS.

All children in Oak Trees class, from Years 3-6, will have FREE lessons (with instruments provided) which will take place every Monday afternoon **for the whole academic year!**

"Learning the violin has been really exciting! In the first lesson, I found out how to hold the violin properly and how to use the bow. It felt a bit strange at first, but I liked making my very first sounds, even if they were a bit squeaky. In the second lesson, we started to play some simple notes and even tried a little tune. It was amazing to hear how the sounds began to turn into music. I feel proud that I can already play something, and I can't wait to get better and learn more songs."

- A Year 2 pupil



Wellbeing Champions

"I am so proud of our Oak Trees class for becoming our school's new Wellbeing Champions. This role is all about looking after themselves and each other, helping to make sure our school is a kind, supportive and happy place for everyone. As Wellbeing Champions, Oak Trees will be learning how to promote positive mental health, encourage friendships, and remind others about the importance of being active, eating well and taking time to relax. They will also help share ideas in assemblies and support younger children to feel confident and cared for. It is a big responsibility, but I know they will do a brilliant job!" -- Mrs Peel, Well Being Champion

Young Leadership Team (YLT)

Our latest Young Leadership Team comprises of **Everlie, Cobi, Scarlett, Robin, Charlotte, Ivy and Riley.** This term, the YLT are focusing on looking after our wonderful sensory garden, continuing to champion our weekly 'calm club' and saying 'Hello to Yellow' in support of World Mental Health Day.

FOLS AGM

Thank you to all those who attended the FOLS Meeting on Monday. Minutes from the meeting will be made available on our website soon. A warm welcome to our new committee members: Katie Townsend, Steph Preston, Brett Deadman and Kate Wylie. 'Welcome back' to Mrs Isaacs, Ms McEvinney, Ms Kemp, Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Stockill, who will continue with their roles on the team, as in previous years.

The Friends play a vital role in planning and running fundraising events that raise much-needed funds to support our children and school community. If you can volunteer your help at any event, please do get in touch.

Oak Trees parent/carer workshop on English (reading, writing and spelling curriculum and homework)

We're excited to invite Oak Trees parents and carers to a 'Help Your Child Love English' workshop on Wednesday

1st October, 3.30–4.15pm here at school. This relaxed after-school session is designed to give you a clear picture of how English is taught in Key Stage 2, with a focus on reading, writing and spelling.

You'll also discover simple, practical ways to support your child's learning at home.

Children are very welcome to join you, and the atmosphere will be friendly, informal and hands-on -

Children are very welcome to join you, and the atmosphere will be **friendly, informal and hands-on –** a chance to see English through your child's eyes and celebrate the joy of words together.

Please let us know if you will be attending.

Conkers phonics and reading parent workshop

We warmly invite parents and carers of children in **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 t**o join us for a 'Help Your Child Love English' workshop on **Thursday 2nd October, 3.30–4.15pm** in school. This **friendly after-school** session will guide you through how your child will begin their reading journey in Reception, how this develops through Years 1 and 2, and how we introduce spelling and writing along the way.

The workshop will be **practical, welcoming and interactive**, giving you the chance to see how early reading and writing are taught and how you can support and encourage your child at home. Children are welcome to attend too, making it a great opportunity to explore and enjoy English together.

Please let us know if you will be attending.

Harvest Assembly and Tea and Talk session for parents and carers

We warmly invite all parents and carers (nursery included) to our Whole School Harvest Assembly on Friday 10th October, 9.30–10.00am. Please feel free to arrive after drop-off—refreshments will be available.

After the assembly, we'd love you to stay for our autumn term "Tea and Talk" to mark World Mental Health Day—a relaxed session led by Mrs Peel, with time to chat, optional mindfulness activities, and a chance to unwind over a cuppa and cake. All are welcome; these mornings have been really popular in the past and we'd be delighted to see both familiar and new faces.

Christmas Craft afternoon* also suitable for parents/carers of nursery

Get ready to sprinkle some festive cheer – we're inviting all parents and carers to join us for our **Christmas Craft Afternoon on Thursday 4th December, 1.30–3.00pm.** Come and spend the afternoon with your child getting creative and making some wonderful Christmas crafts to take home.

Expect plenty of glue, glitter and giggles as we get into the holiday spirit together. Christmas jumpers, sparkly accessories and festive cheer are very much encouraged – the more the merrier! It's a lovely chance to make special memories, share the joy of the season, and start December with a smile.

Christmas Play

Children will take to the stage for two performance on **Friday 12th December at 9.30am and 2.15pm**This is always a fantastic event with the children dazzling everyone with their wonderful talents!

Due to lack of space, Parents and Carers are invited to one performance only please. Please let us know in advance which show you will be attending, to assist with our planning arrangements.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Other important school reminders

Coats: Please ensure your child has a coat with them every day.

Toys: With the exception of Teacher requests for topics or After School Clubs Teddy Bears picnic, please do not send any toys (including large keyrings) into school.

Jewellery: Under no circumstances should earrings or jewellery be worn to school. Under our Health and Safety Guidance children will be unable to take part in PE or other physical activities such as playtime and lunchtime play. The guidance states that - The wearing of personal effects, such as jewellery and watches, can present risks of injury to the person and/or others involved in an activity. Exposure to the risk of injury from such items can principally occur in Physical Education. As well as this, it states that there have been serious incidents involving jewellery in PE and physical activity and this procedure protects against that happening. It is not just about making the wearer of the earring safe, it is about keeping everyone safe.

Pupil Absence: If your child is unwell, please -

- Email or ring/leave a voicemail with the school office before 8:45am
- Please always include the reason for absence, not just stating 'unwell'.

Please see the link below to support you if your child is well enough to attend school:

https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-illfor-school/



A new app, Start Safe, Stay Safe, has been launched to improve street safety in York and North Yorkshire.

It offers a straightforward, and confidential way for members of the public to report street, town and city centre incidents. It also enables authorities to quickly identify patterns of abuse and criminal behaviour and help them to respond more effectively.

The app is free to download and available 24-hours a day to people affected by street harassment in public places to report their experiences and get independent support and advice.

It will enable users to:

·Report anonymously for information only
·Access specialist support
·Capture audio, video and picture evidence
·Report the incident for formal investigation by police or council

It also provides a route through to **Stop Hate UK 24/7 helpline** providing further guidance on support and reporting.

The Street Harassment app increases reporting from those individuals and communities who are reluctant to report directly to the police or other statutory agencies.







We love to see all the great costumes and everyone getting into the spooky spirit!

The village has a very effective method to let trick or treaters know that they are welcome at your house. Display a carved pumpkin outside to invite spooky visitors. Likewise, if there is no pumpkin, please do not disturb the house.

We will award a PRIZE for the best carved pumpkin.

After Halloween you can donate your used pumpkin to be displayed in the Pumpkin Trail for the entrance to our Bonfire Night. Please drop off at the field gate opposite

The Rise or leave out for collection on

Saturday 8th November.





Community Events



Elder's Christmas Lunch

Leavening Events Team would like to invite
Leavening's more senior residents on
Friday 12th December 2025 in
The Jolly Farmers from 12.15pm.
Leavening School Choir to perform at 12.30pm

The minimum age is 65 years, so if you are lucky enough to be over 65 then you are cordially invited!

The price will be £15.00 per person for a twocourse meal plus coffee & a mince pie. You are welcome to bring a partner or a friend.

Money will be collected on the day. Leavening Events Team will provide a complimentary FREE drink for each attendee.

If you would like to attend, please reply by Tuesday 9th December.

Call or text Ian Hazel-Gant 07977 138889 or Yvonne Fordham on 07745 553444 Or email ianhazel-gant@outlook.com

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Cundall Manor School, YO61 2RW
Ripon Grammar School, HG4 2DG
Queen Ethelburga's, YO26 9SS
Robert Wilkinson School, YO32 5UH
Henshaws College, HG1 4ED
The Mount, Malton



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAP STREAK



SNAPCHAT

erestricho 13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS? With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a semoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the annewen more often.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in–app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

Meet Our Expert

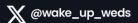
Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.





The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTH WOLENCE

UNDERSTANDING YOUTH VIOLENCE

Youth violence affects one in four children in the UK, but it doesn't have to. When parents, carers, and educators understand the risks, they're better placed to support young people. The right support, mentoring, therapy, and guidance can help young people affected by violence to feel safe, manage conflict, and make positive choices.

Opportunity

Respect

WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE COMMIT SERIOUS VIOLENCE?

A recent study surveyed over 10,000 young people affected by violence, asking why serious violence occurs among their peers, such as an assault involving a weapon or sexual violence. The most common reasons given were due to a personal characteristic of the victim e.g., race, religion, sexuality, gender, a gang or school rivalry, and being provoked. While not all young people face these issues, many lack the emotional regulation skills needed to manage provocation.

WHAT ARE SIGNS A YOUNG PERSON IS AT RISK?

Children and young people often express that something is wrong through behaviour rather than words. Be alert to signs such as sudden mood changes, secrecy around friendships, excessive phone use, unfamiliar slang, unexplained injuries, fear of school, aggression, going missing, or substance use. They may also be associating with older peers. These behaviours can indicate underlying issues that can lead to violence.

ONLINE INFLUENCES

Social media plays a powerful role in normalising and escalating violence. Platforms like Tikroka and Snapchat can expose young people to harmful content, often shaped by algorithms. Many see violent material that distorts reality, leading to fear and desensitisation. A recent study found 70% had seen real-world violence online, and 80% felt less safe in their communities. Alarmingly, 39% said it made them more likely to carry a weapon. Online conflict can often spill into real life, with serious and sometimes tragic consequences.

UNCERTAINTY

Community CONFLICT
Wellbeing

FEAR

WHEN IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

For children and young people in England and Wales, the hours between 4 pm and 8 pm – just after school – carry a particularly high risk for serious violence. This can stem from conflicts that escalate during the school day, online arguments, or simply moving through unfamiliar areas on the way home. Understanding this risk helps us support safer travel and routines. Our recent report found that over one in three young people don't feel safe in the area they live in, and 36% don't feel safe walking the streets.

WHY MIGHT A YOUNG PERSON CARRY A WEAPON?

Young people may carry weapons due to fear, threats, peer pressure, or a false sense of protection. Many young people tell us they feel unsafe and carry weapons 'just in case', while others may be influenced by social media, peers, or criminal activity. Some don't realise it's illegal or may believe it earns respect.

WHERE IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

Violence often happens in certain places. Busy areas like transport hubs carry risk simply because lots of people gather there. Other hotspots, like places linked to drug activity, attract those more likely to be involved in violence. Some areas become risky due to poor supervision, such as under-resourced public spaces. Understanding where violence tends to occur helps us guide young people safely through their communities and advocate for better support and safer spaces.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT STAYING SAFE

Choose a safe moment for the conversation, emotionally and physically. If a child is upset or angry, help them settle before discussing serious topics. Listen actively without judgement, even if what they share is difficult. Avoid interrupting and offer advice when the time feels right. If you're worried, you're not alone; support is available.

AVOID CONFLICT & MANAGE ESCALATIONS

ASSESSED OF CORP.

Encourage young people to consider the 'Safe T's' – Trust instincts, Take a breath, and Talk to a trusted adult. When triggered or provoked, they may react from their 'survival brain', unable to think clearly about the consequences. Taking a breath helps calm, and helps them access their 'thinking brain'. Remind them that moments pass, and seeking support from trusted adults builds resilience and safer decision-making.

Meet Our Expert

The Ben Kinsella Trust is a UK anti-knife crime charity educating young people through immersive workshops, awareness campaigns, and community resources. Visit: benkinsella.org.uk



HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND CONSEQUENCES

Young people can be searched by police or teachers if suspected of carrying a weapon. If found with a knife, they could face arrest and criminal proceedings. A conviction can result in a criminal record. Even being present during a violent assault, encouraging it, filming, or sharing footage can lead to prosecution. Open and honest conversations can help children understand these risks and make safer choices.

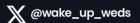
REPORT INFORMATION

We all have a role in preventing violence. If a child shares concerns, you can act. For educators, it's important to follow your school's safeguarding procedures. Other adults can report anonymously through Fearless or Crimestoppers, and speak with other parents, the school, or local police through 101. If someone is in immediate danger, always call 999. These steps help protect children and the wider community.



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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/youth-violence



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