

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Friday 10th October 2025

Autumn 1 Term

HELLO FROM MRS MITCHELL

Dear Parents and Carers

It's been another busy and productive fortnight in school, and I'd like to start by welcoming Miss Page to Conkers Class. Miss Page is joining us from the University of York and will be working alongside Mrs Bennett until Christmas. We're very pleased to have her as part of the team.

The children have been working incredibly hard across the school. I've had the pleasure of spending time in classrooms recently and have been particularly impressed by their problem-solving skills and focus during lessons. It's always a joy to see their confidence and curiosity in action.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

My best wishes



Sian Mitchell
Headteacher

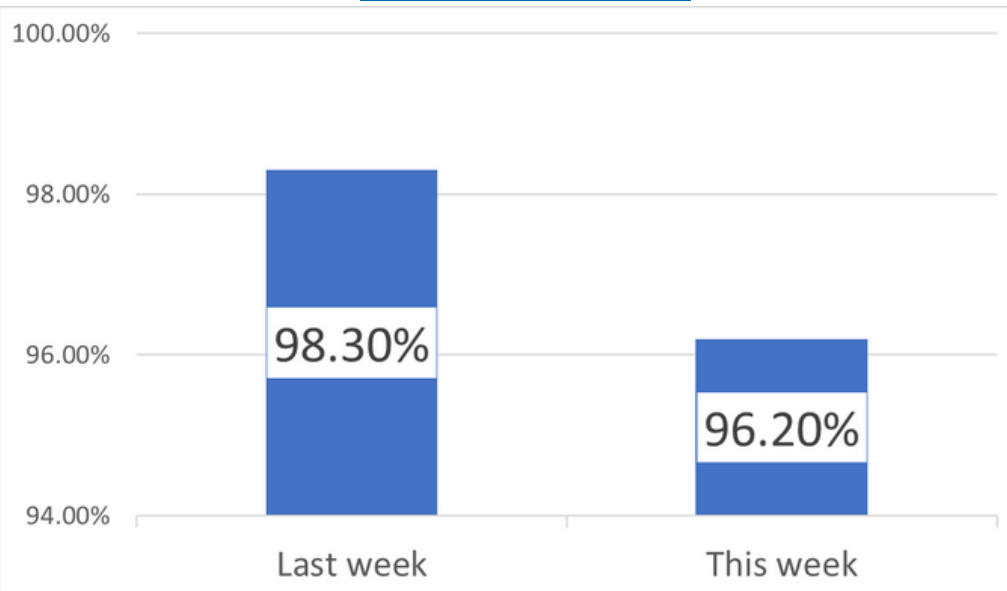
Parking Reminder

We kindly ask all parents and carers not to park opposite the school car park or within the car park itself. Unfortunately, this is causing significant congestion and blocking access for both staff and vehicles needing to drop off safely. The situation is becoming increasingly difficult in the mornings and poses a safety risk for children and families.

To help ease congestion and keep everyone safe, please use the village parking areas, including the Jolly Farmers pub car park, and walk the short distance to school wherever possible.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping to keep our school environment safe for all.

School Attendance



DIARY DATES

OCTOBER

Mon 13th (2.15pm) and Fri 17th (9.30am / 10.45am)

Seeing is Believing sessions
Parents/carers to join their child in Conkers & Oak Trees classes.

Thurs 16th (2.15pm)

Stay & Play: Acorns Nursery
Please email school if you wish to attend the above events

Thurs 23rd School photos (am)
FOLS Halloween disco 5-6.15pm

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 - Fri 14th

Parent/Teacher Consultations & Census Week for Breakfast Club
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

Mon 15th Rock Steady Concert 9.15am

Tues 16th Pantomime visit (Conkers & Oak Trees)

Weds 17th FOLS Movie night 3.15pm-5.15pm

Thurs 18th Christmas parties

Fri 19th Village carol singing 2pm.
All welcome. End of term

Pop-Up Library Dates:

6th November

27th November

11th December (collection only)

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**

ACORNS NURSERY HIGHLIGHTS

This past week, Nursery have been super busy, preparing the schools allotment for our next growing year. Nursery, with the help of Conkers class and their Forest School session, have made incredible progress, pulling up all of the old plants and many many weeds. Our next step in our allotment progress is creating some raised beds. **Help to build these would be highly appreciated.**

We are currently on the look out for: - Wood/pallets to create our beds and some lovely adult helpers!

If you have some wood or would love to help, please contact:

admin@leavening.n-yorks.sch.uk to arrange. Thanks for your support!



CONKERS AND OAK TREES HIGHLIGHTS

‘Help your child love maths’ workshop

This year, Leavening School is working with the independent charity National Numeracy on an exciting project which encourages children and families to do maths together.

As part of this, we invited parents and carers to a unique workshop on 25th September.

The workshop focused on fostering positive attitudes towards numeracy. The session covered the importance of maths in the real world, being positive about maths and how to boost number skills.

Thank you to those who attended. We hope that, following the workshop, you feel more able to support your child with maths learning, and that it has given you a more positive view of maths.



Nurturing Nurses in Conkers...

“In keeping with our whole school theme of 'blood, bottoms and burps', our historical study this half term focuses on the 'nurturing nurses' of the past and the wars they served in. The current batch of Conkers are really developing into a bunch of 'history buffs' which is thrilling for their equally history obsessed teacher!

The children request history books they wish to read, ask fantastic, insightful questions and really want to 'deep dive' into every topic we touch upon! The Conkers have really developed a fascination with the idea that history is about stories that are real and exciting - just fantastic to witness! Here, the Conkers are sequencing and 'freeze framing' different aspects of Florence Nightingale's story, bringing history to life! ” - Mrs Bennett



YEARS 5 AND 6 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Wednesday 8th October

Our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils had a fantastic time at the recent tournament held at Malton Community Sports Centre. There was a lot of great teamwork on display and an amazing effort put in from all the children.

Congratulations to the boys who managed to get to the semi-finals... and came 3rd.

A huge well done to all the boys and girls who took part!



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.

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-ill-for-school/>

Seeing is Believing Sessions

We are delighted to welcome parents and carers to our termly 'Seeing is Believing' sessions, where you can spend time in your child's class and join in with their learning.

This term, sessions will take as follows in October:

Acorns Nursery: Thurs 16th at 2.15pm | Conkers: Fri 17th at 9.30am |

Oak Trees : Mon 13th at 2.15pm and Fri 17th at 9.30am or 10.45am

These sessions are always a wonderful opportunity to see first-hand how your child learns and to share in their classroom experiences.

Please email the school office if you wish to attend, so we can book your slot.

School photos

The photographer will be coming to school on the morning of Thursday 23rd October.

If parents/carers would like group/family photos including younger siblings that don't attend our school or nursery, please arrive at school for 8.30am before the school day begins, for these to be arranged.

Hot Chocolate for sale!

Hot chocolates will be on sale after school this Friday as a wintery alternative to our summer ice lollies!

All proceeds will go towards educational opportunities and resources for the children.

**£1 with or
without whippy
cream!!**



The School Library

The library is now open to pupils every **Thursday morning.** We look forward to children using this fantastic resource.

Thank you to staff for helping to create this provision.

Any book donations from home are most welcome.

Please drop off at the school office.

Thanks for your support!

Invitation to attend our **FREE breakfast club** during **Census Week**

10th-14th November

Leavening School has become an 'early adopter school'. This means we get access to government funding to deliver a FREE daily breakfast club provision. This is available to all children in

Reception to Year 6 from 8.05am-8.35am.

After this time, they are supervised until the start of school at 8.45am.

Children can enjoy a healthy breakfast **at no cost.**

This includes a choice of **cereal, toast with preserves, fruit, yoghurt, fresh juice and water.** Food allergies are catered for.

Engaging activities are planned each morning and led by our existing school staff- Miss Woodcock, Mrs Isaacs and Mrs Taylor.

Why choose Breakfast Club?

- 🍌 A healthy breakfast sets children up for a successful day of learning.
- 😊 Children arrive at class settled, calm and ready to learn.
- 🤝 Helps children build friendships across different year groups.
- 🧠 Boosts concentration, memory and focus in lessons.
- ⌚ Gives families a stress-free start to the day with a reliable childcare option.
- ⭐ Children enjoy fun activities in a safe and welcoming environment.
- 🍏 Starting the day positively improves attendance, punctuality and wellbeing.

Attending the Early Adopters Breakfast Club from 8.05am during Census Week, will help our school to provide data to the Government to support our funding.

To book your child's place and take advantage of this scheme, please email the office admin@leavening.n-yorks.sch.uk

Remember, you may book in for the **occasional morning or just for a couple of mornings a week**; it does not have to be a regular commitment.



★ FANCY DRESS ★

HALLOWEEN DISCO!

Thurs 23rd Oct
5pm–6.15pm

ALL CHILDREN FROM RECEPTION TO YEAR 6 ARE INVITED

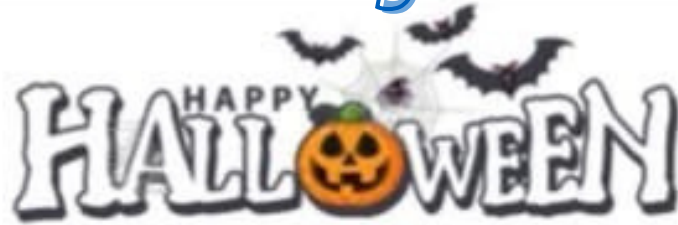
£5/child includes drink and snack

★ PARTY GAMES WITH PRIZES TO BE WON! ★

Payment via ParentPay please



Community Events



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.





BONFIRE NIGHT

**Sat 8th Nov
from 6pm**

Field opposite The Rise

///captive.lawns.cackling

**Bonfire
Firework Display
Hot Food & Drinks**

Wanted

**Wood (no nails please) and old carpets
Please leave outside your home by the roadside for
collection on 8th November at 10am**



**Catering for the event kindly provided by the Jolly Framers, a great
location for a post bonfire drink.**

No entry cost, donations collected by cash or card on exit.

No sparklers please

Half term at Helmsley Arts Centre

Little Seeds Music :Cinderella IceCream Seller

Sat 1 November, 2.30pm



Get your dessert spoons ready for a tale of perseverance, princes, palace balls, glass slippers and, um, ice cream?

Over the last four decades, Cinderella's has become the kingdom's most beloved ice cream company, with a parlour on every street corner. But how did a humble ice cream maker with not a penny to her name end up as a multimillionaire business woman with her own ice cream empire?

In this new musical for families and children, join Talvi and Caldwell, loyal employees of Cinderella's, as they share her rags to riches tale, and confront their own desires, hopes, and the magic that lies within each scoop of Cinderella's legendary ice cream. Perfect for children

and families alike, this exciting musical retelling of a fairytale classic promises a delightful blend of storytelling, stunning live music, and theatrical magic that will capture your heart and tickle your taste buds. TICKETS - [Little Seeds Music: Cinderella Ice](#)

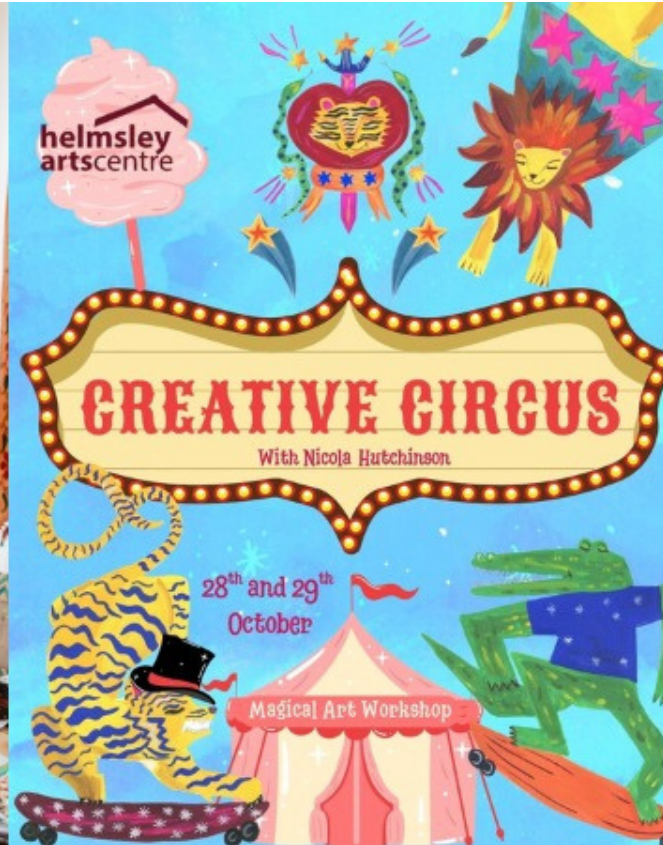
[Cream Seller - What's On - Helmsley Arts Centre](#)

TRAILER - [Cinderella Ice Cream Seller - Official Trailer - YouTube](#)

Half term at Helmsley Arts Centre

Creative Circus - Art Workshops

Tue 28 October - Wed 29 October, 10am / 1pm



Roll up Roll up. Attention all budding artists! The Creative Circus is landing at Helmsley Arts Centre this October half term for a series of exciting workshops with local artist Nicola Hutchinson.

Set in a relaxing space, participants are encouraged to dive into their imaginations and draw inspiration from the circus creating fantastic masterpieces of their own cast of performers, expect flamingos on a trapeze, A ringleader with a lion's roar or your imagined cartoon characters on unicycles and tightropes. Will you design your own rollercoaster, or perhaps a mystical labyrinth with lurking surprises along the way. All ideas are welcome at this super exciting fun filled event and Nicola will provide plenty of inspiration to help you develop your artistic skills and leave with artwork to be super proud of.

All levels and abilities are welcome; snacks and drinks are provided; please dress to get messy!

TICKETS - [Creative Circus - Art Workshops - What's On - Helmsley Arts Centre](#)

Has your child had their eyes tested yet?



This leaflet provides important information on looking after your child's eyes and booking an eye test for children

Children in North Yorkshire should visit an optician for a free eye test

When should you get your child a free eye test?

Ideally children should start having regular eye tests from the age of 4. But they can be tested at any age, even if they can't read or speak.

How do you book a free child's eye test?

Please book your child an eye test at an opticians, even if you have no concerns about their vision. To do this contact your local opticians at nhs.uk/service-search/find-an-NHS-sight-test/location

What will it cost?

Children under 16 are entitled to NHS-funded (FREE) eye tests. If your child needs glasses, they will receive a voucher to **help with the cost.**

Why should you get your child's eyes tested?

- ✓ Being able to see clearly will mean your child is able to learn and develop at school and socially.
- ✓ Eyes are still developing in early childhood. An eye test helps pick up and treat any problems. This can help to **prevent** longer-term eye problems.
- ✓ Even if you think your child has normal vision it is still important to get their eyes tested.
- ✓ They are no longer tested in school.

How can you tell if your child has an eye problem?

Some eye problems don't show any signs, so it is always best to **take your child for an eye test**.

Signs of a possible eye problem can include:

- having one eye that turns in or out
- difficulty concentrating
- behavioural problems
- headaches
- rubbing their eyes a lot
- sitting too close to the TV
- screwing up/closing one or both eyes
- holding things close to them



An eye test is very **important** especially if there's a **history** of early glasses use, childhood **eye problems**, **squint** or **lazy eye**, in your family.

Did you know?

Short-sightedness is on the rise and has been linked to a range of factors including **screen use**. Help your child's eyes stay healthy by **managing screen use** and encouraging them to **get outside often** (this helps their eyesight).

More Information:

- NHS information: [nhs.uk/conditions/eye-tests-in-children/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/eye-tests-in-children/)
- Find an optician: [nhs.uk/service-search/find-an-NHS-sight-test/location](https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-an-NHS-sight-test/location)
- Information on Vision/Eye tests Humber and North Yorkshire ICB hnyhealthiertogether.nhs.uk/child-under-12-years/eye-screening-and-tests
- Information on Vision/Eye tests for families in Craven, West Yorkshire ICB wyhealthiertogether.nhs.uk/parentscarers/your-childs-development/vision
- Looking After Your Children's Eyes - College of Optometrists lookafteryoureyes.org/eye-care/childrens-eye-health/
- Children's eye health - Association of Optometrists aop.org.uk/advice-and-support/for-patients/childrens-eye-health

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 26

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
3

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Our guide looks at the risks surrounding EA Sports FC 26 and our top tips to minimise them. This marks the third year since EA left the FIFA licence, and the game is mostly unchanged from last year. While Kick-Off mode is great for playing with friends and Career Mode allows players to fulfil long-term ambitions as a manager or player, Ultimate Team remains the main draw for many players – and it can get out of hand in terms of how much money players can invest.

AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

As was the case with the last two EA Sports FC games and the FIFA series before it, the franchise rolls out once a year with updated squads and new features. This can make it expensive to keep up with, particularly when so many dedicated players are keen to get their hands on the latest edition.

VOICE CHAT

Voice chat can be enabled across all platforms, meaning young people can speak to anyone they play with or against. While it can be switched off, some children will no doubt want to speak to their friends while they play. This also means they may encounter strangers much older than them, which can expose them to inappropriate language or behaviours.

IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is the big draw for EA Sports FC, letting players spend real money on packs that they can open to build a squad of the world's best players. They're not always easy to obtain, and new, improved versions of players will be regularly added as limited-time offerings. Young people could feel pressured into spending money and experience fear of missing out.

SCAMMERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is managed by EA itself, but that hasn't stopped scammers from looking to dupe players out of money and in-game coins. Some scammers sell their accounts, which is a violation of EA's terms of service, while others will 'sell' coins – something the developer is still working to crack down on. Some try to gain access to others' accounts, potentially giving them access to payment information.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

While EA Sports FC is potentially addictive, thanks to its fast-paced gameplay and mirroring of the real-world skill and glamour of football, Ultimate Team's focus on limited-time rewards and the lottery of winning packs can make it feel closer to gambling than gaming, which may lead to addiction and impulsive spending of money.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR

The annual-release cadence aligns with the return of the school year, and can be a great way to incentivise good behaviour at the start of term. If children are applying themselves and preparing for a new year of school, or were particularly well behaved in the summer, EA Sports FC 26 could make a great reward.

LIMIT SPENDING

If you're worried about children accidentally spending real money in Ultimate Team, whether in game or on the EA Sports FC companion app, don't link a payment card to their account. Reclaiming funds can be a mountain to climb, and the dopamine hit of opening flashy packs with slick animations means one purchase can lead to another very quickly. It's also worth adding a prepaid card if you'd prefer them to make their own choices with their budget.

MONITOR VOICE CHAT

As in-game chat is open, be sure to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to call, to allow them to play without fear of outsiders.

BE VIGILANT

As with last year, there are ways to keep scammers at bay. Ensure passwords are locked down, and consider using a password manager application to keep them secure. EA will never contact players through the game itself, so be vigilant with incoming messages, and block and report suspected spam. EA will contact players by email if needed, but they will never ask for usernames or passwords. Players should also avoid buying in-game currency from unofficial websites – doing so can lead to accounts being banned and could cost players money in the process.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



The National College

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

DEALING WITH TRAUMATIC & CHALLENGING EVENTS

Children and young people may face a wide range of traumatic or challenging events – from bereavement and illness to bullying, family breakdowns, or witnessing violence. These experiences can affect their mental health, behaviour, relationships, and academic progress. With the right support from trusted adults, children can begin to feel safe, rebuild resilience, and develop healthy coping strategies. This guide offers practical and empathetic ways to provide support and promote positive outcomes.

1 A PREDICTABLE ENVIRONMENT

Children who have experienced trauma often feel unsafe or uncertain. Creating routines, setting clear expectations, and maintaining consistency can help restore a sense of security. This structure offers reassurance and helps children feel more in control of their surroundings.

2 USE LANGUAGE THAT MATCHES THEIR AGE

Speak clearly and sensitively, choosing words that are appropriate for the child's age. Avoid overwhelming them with too much information at once. Offer gentle, honest explanations and focus on reassurance, especially when talking about difficult or sensitive subjects.

3 TRAUMA AND THE BODY

Mention briefly that trauma can show up in physical ways, such as changes in sleep, appetite, concentration, or as physical aches and pains. Consider this before labelling behaviour as 'difficult' or 'lazy'. Some children may become withdrawn, while others may be more outwardly challenging. Highlight that there's no 'one way' children respond.

4 AVOID RETELLING OR RELIVING TRAUMA

Children sometimes get asked to explain or repeat their experience multiple times. Striking a balance of when to listen and when to gently redirect can help to avoid unnecessary re-traumatisation. Acknowledge, but don't probe for detail unless safeguarding procedures require it.

5 AVOID DISMISSING OR MINIMISING FEELINGS

Seemingly well-meaning comments like "It's not that bad" or "You're okay" may shut down children's emotional expression and are often not helpful. Instead, acknowledge what they're feeling, even if it seems small. Validating a child's emotions helps them feel seen and encourages open communication in future.

6 UNDERSTAND HOW THEY'RE FEELING

Many children don't have the words to express their emotions, especially during distress. Supporting them to name what they're feeling – such as angry, scared or sad – builds emotional literacy. Tools like emotion charts, drawing, or storytelling can help externalise feelings in a safe, manageable way.

7 BE AWARE OF YOUR OWN RESPONSES

Children pick up on adult emotions and reactions, often mirroring them. Staying calm, even in challenging situations, helps children feel more secure. Practising your own self-regulation is an important way to model healthy stress management and encourages children to do the same.

8 SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

While many children benefit from everyday emotional support, some will need more specialised help. If symptoms persist, worsen, or disrupt their daily life, consult with school safeguarding leads, a GP, or a mental health professional. Early intervention can prevent long-term difficulties and support healthy recovery.

9 MAINTAIN CONNECTION

Isolation can worsen the impact of trauma. Encourage involvement in group activities, praise their efforts, and ensure they feel like a valued part of the school or family community. Meaningful connection with trusted adults and peers builds resilience and a sense of belonging.

10 BE PATIENT – HEALING TAKES TIME

There's no quick fix for emotional recovery. Children may have good days and setbacks, and progress may not always be visible or linear. Your ongoing support, patience, and presence can help them move forward at their own pace, knowing they are not alone.

Meet Our Expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school by integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture, and systems. She has been a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®