

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Thursday 13th November 2025

Autumn 2 Term

Dear Parents and Carers

Hello everyone

This week marks **Anti-Bullying Week 2025**, and we have joined schools across the country to celebrate this year's inspiring theme – **"Power for Good."** The week reminds us how small acts of kindness and courage can make a big difference. We began with **Odd Socks Day** on Monday – a fun way for children to celebrate individuality and remind ourselves that everyone is unique and valued.



Thank you to all parents and carers who have booked and attended **parent consultation appointments**. I hope you've enjoyed hearing about the progress your child has made and the wonderful learning taking place across school. I'm incredibly proud of how our pupils are demonstrating **high expectations of themselves** this year – it's evident every time I visit classrooms, whether I'm teaching or observing. Their enthusiasm, pride, and determination truly reflect our "Together We Can" ethos.

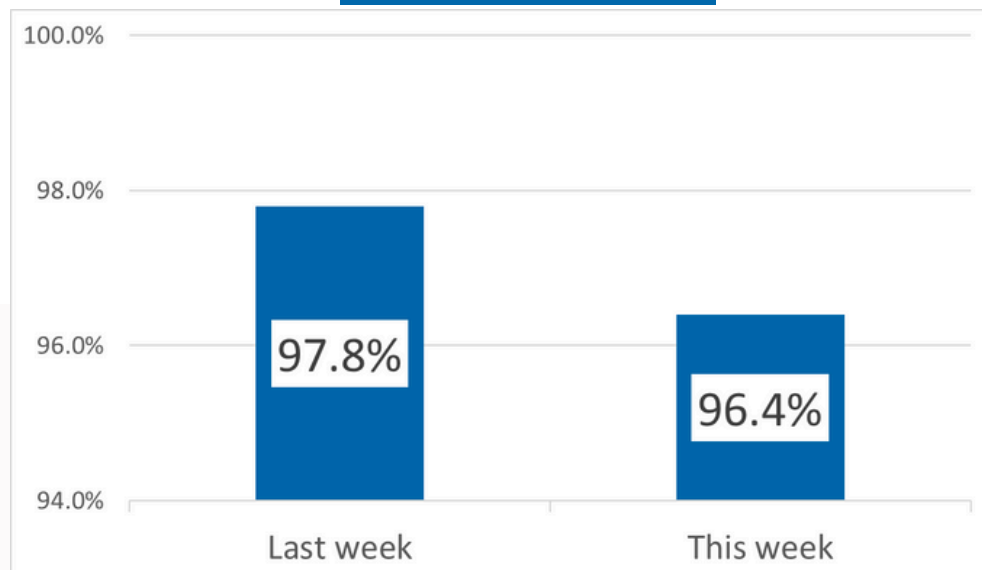
A special **well done to our Year 3 and 4 footballers** who represented the school brilliantly this week, and to our **Year 5 and 6 pupils** who took part in the Tag Rugby tournament, showing fantastic teamwork, resilience and sportsmanship throughout. **Our extra-curricular clubs** continue to be very popular and are running smoothly. There are still a few spaces available, so if your child would like to join in the fun, please contact the school office to sign up.

As always, thank you for your continued support in making Leavening such a positive, inclusive and vibrant place to learn.

My best wishes

Mrs S. Mitchell

School Attendance



DIARY DATES

NOVEMBER

Fri 14th Children In Need day
(Wear home clothes)

Fri 21st **Heroes and Villains**
dress up day

DECEMBER

Weds 3rd

Yr5 & 6 Dodgeball Tournament

Thurs 4th Christmas Craft
afternoon with parents/carers
Also Christmas dress-up day in
exchange for tombola prize

Fri 5th Christmas Fair after
school 3.30pm–5pm

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

JANUARY

Mon 5th

Training day (closed to pupils)

Tues 6th

Term begins

Thurs 15th

Deadline for applications to
start Reception 2026

Pop-Up Library Dates:

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**

Top tips on how to keep your child healthy at school

Article from Gov.uk: <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2025/10/top-tips-how-child-healthy-school/>

For many, the start of the school term will mean mixing with different groups of people, which is why the autumn term is also known for its colds and bugs. While it's usually safe for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild illnesses, like a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat, there are steps you can take to ensure your child is better protected against illnesses, so they don't miss out on vital time in school. Here we take you through what you can do to reduce the chances of your child getting ill.

Make sure your child is up to date with their vaccinations

Childhood infections such as measles are picking up again across England. And in 2024, there was a large outbreak of whooping cough across the country.

These infections can have a huge impact on your child's life, including missing out on school due to illness, being hospitalised, and even experiencing life-long complications and disability.

The best protection you can give your child is to get them vaccinated. If your child isn't vaccinated, they're not protected.

It is important for parents to take up the offer of the NHS' free childhood immunisation programme as soon as they are offered ensure your child has the best protection.

However, if you or your child have missed a vaccine, it's never too late to find out if you can catch up. Parents and carers should check their child's Red Book to find out if they have missed any vaccines or contact their GP if unsure.

Protecting those who are most vulnerable

Getting vaccinated also means you are helping protect others around you. For example, infants under one year, and those with weakened immune systems, can't have the Measles Mumps Rubella (MMR) vaccine and they are also at greater risk of serious illness and complications from measles, including death. Some individuals may have been fully vaccinated in the past but have since developed a medical condition and/or are receiving treatment, such as cancer therapy, that can wipe out their previous immunity, leaving them at much greater risk.

We all have our part to play in helping protect those who are more vulnerable by ensuring all children and family members are fully vaccinated and helping stop the spread of the disease to those at greatest risk. They rely on the rest of us getting the vaccine to protect them.

Remind your child of basic hygiene measures

Some basic hygiene practices go a long way in preventing infections. Remind your child to:

- Wash their hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water.
- Use tissues for coughs and sneezes then throw them in the bin.
- Avoid touching their face, particularly their eyes, nose and mouth.

You can use the free [e-Bug](#) resources to explore hygiene topics with your child.

Know when your child is too ill for school

It's usually safe for you to send your child to school with mild illnesses, like a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should stay at home if they have a high temperature of 38C or above.

The NHS has published [guidance](#) to help you decide whether your child is well enough to attend school, including information on a range of common childhood illnesses and conditions, such as coughs, colds, chickenpox, measles and headlice.

OAK TREES HIGHLIGHTS

Year 3 and 4 Gymnastics

We have started our gymnastics unit off with learning about different jumps and leaps and performing these in sequences. We learnt the cat leap, pike jump, star jump, straddle jump and straight jump half turn. We really enjoyed learning these new skills.



Violin Lessons (Wider Opportunities)

Oak Trees are currently enjoying learning the basics of playing the violin. We have been learning songs about all sorts, from fish and chips to gnomes! Mr Smith makes lessons super enjoyable. We have been learning the Italian terminology, such as piano meaning quiet and forte meaning loud. Plucking and bowing are also great skills we are learning. We can't wait to bring them home!



Year 5 and 6 Tag Rugby Tournament

It was the first attempt for most of the Year 5 and 6 pupils playing Tag Rugby.

The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

A big thank you to Mr Myers at Norton Primary for organising the tournament.

Out of the six teams in our league, Leavening School **WON!** It was a fantastic display of resilience, sportsmanship and determination. Well done to all involved and a big thank you to our transport volunteers.



Children In Need

It is Children in Need this Friday! Along with it being a non-uniform day, we will also be taking part in various "25 Challenges." (The "25 Challenge" is a BBC Children in Need fundraising campaign that encourages people to do something 25 times to raise money.)



Oak Trees have the immense challenge of trying to be silent for 25 minutes! Acorns and Conkers will be completing their own epic challenges throughout the day too. If you would like to join us in raising awareness and donating to this wonderful cause, please follow the link below:

<https://donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/>

Thank you for all your support, from The Young Leadership Team 😊

Interfaith Week at Leavening – Learning from and about each other

Inter Faith
Week



Over the next couple of weeks, our pupils will be exploring the theme of Interfaith Week, learning about the beliefs, values and traditions of a range of world religions, and the importance of respect, understanding and kindness in our diverse society.

We will reflect on how, even though people may believe different things, many of the same messages run through every faith – to treat others as we wish to be treated and to work together for the common good. Celebrating Interfaith Week helps our children to see the world through different perspectives, to challenge stereotypes, and to appreciate the rich diversity that makes our communities so special. It also links beautifully to our school motto, "Together We Can" – reminding us that understanding and cooperation make our world a better, kinder place.

A Polite Reminder About Parking Considerately

As you know, we have recently had a visit from Traffic Enforcement Officers from North Yorkshire Council following concerns about unsafe parking outside school during drop-off and pick-up times. We would like to remind all families to park courteously and considerately each morning and afternoon.

While the school itself cannot enforce parking restrictions, we do ask that everyone respects our requests to keep our pupils, parents, and staff safe.



Please remember:

- Avoid stopping or parking on the zig-zag lines or directly outside the school gates.
- Do not block the school car park entrance or neighbours' driveways.
- Park a little further away and walk if possible – it makes the area safer and calmer for everyone.
- Always prioritise the school transport vehicles which need clear and safe access at all times.

Unsafe or inconsiderate parking can obstruct visibility, endanger pupils, and create unnecessary risk at busy times. Together, we can help to ensure that arrival and collection times remain safe and positive for everyone.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support in keeping our school community safe.

Other School Reminders

- **Heroes and Villains dress up day** - This will take place on **Friday 21st Nov**- marking our current topic
- Please ensure your child has a **water bottle, coat & warm clothing** as the weather is gets colder.
- There is an abundance of **wellies** by the middle door at the front of school. Please **check and take home** if anything belongs to your child. Thank you

Community & Local Events

Malton School Events

We hold a number of events throughout the year, showcasing our talented students in all year groups. Where these events are ticketed, anyone is welcome to attend. We publish full details on our facebook and Instagram pages, but some of your parents and students may be interested in coming along. Forthcoming opportunities include:

- *Christmas Concert—8 December 7pm:* Held in the West Wing Hall, the concert brings together students from every year group whether that's dancing, singing, acting or playing an instrument. The concert is a great way to encourage younger students as they may well recognize the students on stage. Tickets will go on sale end November—do keep an eye on our social media pages for more information (Facebook: @maltonschool; Instagram: @officialmaltonschool)
- *Chicago (Teen Edition)—17-21 March 2026:* Usually around 10% of the entire school community is involved in the school show in some way. This year will be Mr Lee's 10th Show at Malton School and we're bringing back the show that got away. Last time we planned to do Chicago, Covid ruined our plans and the show was postponed. However, we're bringing it back this year bigger and better than before. Tickets to the 5 evening performances, including a gala performance on the last night, will go on sale in early March. Again, full details will be on our social media pages nearer the time.



Leavening

Yorkshire Countrywomen's
Association



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

6th & 7th December

1pm - 6pm

in Leavening Church

Entry by donation

to support the local charities of

SASH and **Carers Plus Yorkshire**



Christmas Card Competition

Message from the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire

The theme is: **"Your Favourite Place in York and North Yorkshire at Christmas"**

We are lucky to live in such a beautiful and historic region, full of incredible landscapes, landmarks, and local treasures.

Whether it's a favourite park, a historic building, a scenic view, or even a cosy café or playground, I want to see what makes York and North Yorkshire special to the children who live here.

The winning design will feature on my official Christmas card, which will be sent to key community figures, organisations, and partners across the region. The winner and runners-up will also receive a special certificate and an invitation to meet me at my office in York.

How to enter:

- The competition is open to all primary school pupils across York and North Yorkshire.
- Entries should be on A4 paper and designed using any materials or techniques (paint, crayons, collage, digital art, etc.).
- Please ensure the child's name, age, school, and a short explanation of their design are included on the back.
- Schools will submit entries by emailing scanned designs to mayor@yorkandnorthyorks-ca.gov.uk

Closing date for entries: Friday 14 November

The winning design will be announced in early December.

Good luck! 😊

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about POKÉMON TCG POCKET

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 3

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ADDICTIVE PACK OPENING

Booster packs rely on probability to provide rare or powerful cards. The excitement of opening them – and the dopamine rush when finding a sought-after card – can become addictive. Unlike purely cosmetic loot boxes, the cards here are integral to competitive gameplay, adding extra pressure for serious gamers to collect more.

QUICK BUT ABSORBING

Card battles last around five to six minutes, making it easy to fit in “just one more game”. This quick format, combined with the drive to win, can lead to prolonged play sessions and increased screen time without noticing. With limited-time Ranked Match seasons constantly being refreshed – an opportunity to accumulate points and earn profile emblems – players may find themselves drawn into this game mechanic repeatedly.

PREMIUM PASS PRESSURE

A monthly subscription gives players access to exclusive missions, rewards, and an extra daily booster pack. Missions and rewards are replaced each month, providing an incentive to stay subscribed. While some premium rewards are exclusive, others are available through free play – making the pass more about faster progression and obtaining cosmetic items than true necessity.

ENDLESS PACK LOOPS

New themed sets of cards are released each month, ranging from around 85 to over 370 cards per expansion. This constant cycle encourages players to keep opening packs in an effort to complete collections or improve their battle decks, potentially promoting unhealthy spending habits. With the introduction of limited-time booster packs, some players may feel increased pressure to collect these cards while they're still available.

COST OF BOOSTER PACKS

Although free to play, with set rewards and two free booster packs given daily, players can exchange Poké Gold if they wish to open more, and a small amount of Poké Gold is rewarded for free as the player levels up. Poké Gold is also sold in bundles that are often just short of what players need to open extra packs, encouraging them to buy additional bundles.

COMPETITIVE ONLINE PLAY

Interactions in Pokémon TCG Pocket are relatively safe – there's no messaging between players, friend requests require player approval, no real names are used, and card trading is restricted to fair trades between friends. On the other hand, the competitive nature of online play can still cause frustration, over-investment, and isolation if children spend too much time focused on the game.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR SPENDING HABITS

Set clear boundaries around in-game purchases. Treat Poké Gold as an occasional rather than routine reward, helping children develop healthier attitudes towards digital spend.

SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Talk about the unpredictable nature of booster packs and prepare children for disappointment when duplicates appear or rare cards don't surface. Understanding probability can help minimise disappointment – use the game's built-in offering rates guides to find out more about it.

PLAY TOGETHER

Card battles can help children learn tactics, problem-solving, and rule-following, as well as numeracy skills. Playing alongside them is a great way to share in their enjoyment, while also modelling balanced play and keeping an eye on how much they're investing in the game.

TEACH FAIRNESS

Losing a battle can be discouraging, especially when money has been spent on collecting the cards to build a deck. Support children in recognising the importance of fairness, learning from both wins and losses, and making considered choices when trading cards.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and children's book author with over 15 years of experience. Specialising in technology and gaming, he has written extensively on how digital platforms affect young people and has been playing games for more than three decades.



#WakeUpWednesday®

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