

Leavening Community Primary School

Oak Trees Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn Term 2 2025



Hello families,

Welcome back everyone! I hope everyone had a nice break and you are ready for the new term (and the run up to Christmas!!!). As always, we have a fun packed term with lots of exciting learning opportunities for our children.

Our overall, whole school topic is **Heroes and Villains** which will be launched with our dress up day. We look forward to exploring the challenges and trials that our super counterparts face!

Homework grids will be attached to the bottom of this newsletter and launched in class with a give it a go homework session. There was some fantastic interaction with the homework last term – let's keep it up this term! Our in class celebration will be the 15th of December, following the Rock Steady end of term concert.

PE will remain on a **Friday afternoon**! No forest school this term.

Spellings are continuing to be set on a Wednesday morning – with in school practise being supported on Mondays. We send home a paper copy of the spelling practise to support the children's Ed Shed use.

Please continue to follow the key dates and information in the fortnightly school newsletters, online and outside the school gates.

Online safety and supporting our children to keep safe in the growing world of technology and AI usage is continuing to be a key focus of our school. Each school newsletter is supported with resources to help continue to support the online safety of our students at home.

I look forward to seeing you at parents evening – book appointments through Ms Kemp's email – admin@leavening.n-yorks.sch.uk

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Miss Templeman

English:

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In line with our science topic of “electricity”, we will be exploring the life and achievements of Nikola Tesla through writing biographies.

We will be reading “A life electric” to gather facts about his groundbreaking inventions.

We will also be continuing to read “Can you feel the noise?” by Stewart Foster and learning different BSL signs to support communication and collaboration.

Maths:

We will be continuing our maths journey following a range of topics.

Year 3 and 4: Multiplication and division, Area and fluency times table practise

Year 5 and 6: Multiplication and division, fractions, square and cubed numbers

Science:

In Science, we will be learning all about electricity. We will be using our comparative and fair testing skills to build different ways to make circuits. Some super sparks will be created!

Working Scientifically:

- Systematically identifying the effect of changing one component at a time in a circuit.
- Designing and making a set of traffic lights, a burglar alarm, or some other useful circuit.
- Observing patterns, for example, that bulbs get brighter if more cells are added, that metals tend to be conductors of electricity, and that some materials can, and some cannot be used to connect across a gap in a circuit.

Year 3/4	Year 5/6
Which appliances run on electricity? What is a circuit? What is a series circuit? What are conductors and insulators? Y3/4 What is the function of a switch in a circuit?	What are the major discoveries in the field of electricity? How are symbols used in a circuit and what are they? What is voltage? What are some reasons for variations in how electricity components function?

History:

This term, the children will be learning about the ancient Maya civilisation. They will explore who the Maya were, where they lived, and what life was like in their cities. The children will investigate Maya achievements in writing, mathematics, and astronomy, and consider how these ideas influence us today. They will also

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compare the Maya with other civilisations they have studied to understand how societies change over time.

Computing:

Our computing topic this term will first recap our online safety skills as a class, with a particular focus on protecting the children on online gaming, AI usage and staying alert.

In computing, year 3 and 4 focus on their topic “audio production” and year 5 and 6 will be working on “webpage creation”.

Year 3 and 4	Year 5 and 6
Recording sound Editing audio Planning a podcast Creating a podcast Behind the scenes Evaluating podcasts	What makes a good website? Becoming a web designer Copyright or copyWRONG? How does it look? Follow the breadcrumbs Think before you link!

Art:

This term, all children in Oaks will explore how drawing can be used to tell stories. They will study the work of an illustrator and a graphic novelist to inspire their own ideas, using sketchbooks to experiment with line, shape, colour and composition. The children will then choose to create either an accordion book inspired by a piece of literature or a comic strip based on a poem, developing their ability to communicate meaning and emotion through drawing. This will be a fantastic link to our overall topic “Heroes and Villains”.

PSHE:

In PSHE, we will be exploring “celebrating differences”.

Year 3/4	Year 5/6
• Know why families are important	Know what culture means.

- Know that everybody's family is different.
- Know that sometimes family members don't get along and some reasons for this.
- Know that conflict is a normal part of relationships.
- Know what it means to be a witness to bullying and that a witness can make the situation worse or better by what they do.
- Know that some words are used in hurtful ways and that this can have consequences.

- Know that differences in culture can sometimes be a source of conflict.
- Know what racism is and why it is unacceptable.
- Know that rumour spreading is a form of bullying on and offline.
- Know external forms of support in regard to bullying e.g. Childline.
- Know that bullying can be direct and indirect.
- Know how their life is different from the lives of children in the developing world.

PE: In PE we will be focussing on gymnastics. Children will develop fundamental movement skills throughout their gymnastics lessons. They include: running; jumping; balancing; coordination; flexibility and strength.

RE:

Year 3 and 4 will be exploring the question 'Why are Festivals Important to Religious Communities?' including Christmas, Easter, Divali and Ramadam.

Year 5 and 6 will be exploring the question 'Why do Christians think that Jesus is the Messiah?' They will explore the idea of Jesus fulfilling expectations of the Mesiah within Christian tradition and consider the importance of this for Christians today.

Music:

As musicians, we will be exploring pulse and rhythm. We will read traditional rhythm notation and learn about ostinato and composing rhythm patterns. We will work in groups to create a piece of music based on word rhythms linked to body parts. We will use the pentatonic scale to add pitch to our compositions. We will also listen to music to develop our ability to feel the pulse, recognise ostinato and instruments, considering a range of styles. We will prepare the songs for the Young Voices performance and the Christmas Production.

Music topics will now be completed termly rather than half-termly.

French:

As French linguists, we will be securing our knowledge of French numbers and building on the range of numbers we can understand. We will be learning and revising how family members vocabulary practise being able to state names and ages of different people. We will also work on securing the months of the year

linking them to the seasons and numbers, learning how to talk about birthdays. We will explore fetes and celebrations in the French culture and learn a little more about how Christmas is celebrated in France. We will be using our listening, speaking, reading and writing skills alongside singing songs and playing games in French.

French topics will now be completed termly rather than half-termly.

Homework

My expectation is for you to attempt at least one of each row of homework across the term. On **15th of December**, we will complete our homework sharing session where we will celebrate all our achievements together! (Across 2 pages)

Dojo homework acknowledgement:

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1 Piece = 2 Dojos

5 pieces = 10 Dojos

2 Pieces = 4 Dojos

6 Piece = 13 Dojos

3 Pieces = 6 Dojos

7 Pieces = 16 Dojos

4 Pieces = 8 Dojos

8 Pieces = 19 Dojos

9 Pieces = 25 Dojos

Brilliant biography! Can you write a mini-biography about someone you look up to/aspire to be like! It could be in a written form, poster form, booklet, google slide/PowerPoint or any other way you can think of! You could include – key facts, early life, achievements, family	Poetry passion! Write your own acrostic poem: An acrostic poem is a type of poem where the first letter of each line spells out a specific word, name, or phrase when read vertically. Each line of the poem is related to the main word, which is often capitalized and written vertically to make the vertical spelling clear.	Fantastic Gymnastics Using the skills we are learning in PE, can you choreograph and perform a 2 minute routine showcasing the movement and agility. Perhaps it can be filmed to share with your class? You could even perform it to your favourite piece of music for added effect?
PSHE pal! What can we do to help people who are less fortunate than us? Can you research the charity and fundraising organisation “children in need”. What could you do to show your support, or how did we show our support in school?	Online safety wiz! Have a go at playing Interlands: Be internet awesome! *Free google game *Remember – always get permission to play any games online from your home responsible adult.	Get arty! Can you use your comic story telling skills – tell me a story through pictures and speech. It could be an interpretation of a story you have experienced, a story you have read or something you want to retell!
Word search Complete the sound word search (ask Miss Templeman for one). Can you remember what the key words mean?	Electricity! Go on a tour around your house and draw as many electrical items as you can find! *Remember electricity safety – Do not touch/plug or unplug anything electrical!	Christmas is coming Can you design your ‘perfect Christmas?’ Either in a PowerPoint/slides or a poster, showcase what Christmas means to you and how you would celebrate it if the choice was yours.

Homework ideas space! Plan your ideas from our homework launch.