

# Leavening Community Primary School

## Oak Trees Curriculum Newsletter

Spring Term 1 2026



Hello families,

Happy new year! I hope you have all had a nice break and are ready to spring into the term. We have a busy start to the year full of lots of learning opportunities and we can't wait to be back into the swing of things again.

Our overall, whole school topic is **Memory Box** which will be launched on Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> with our memory museum – an email has been sent to remind you of this. We will also be landing our topic with a trip – information to follow.

We will be continuing with our termly homework grids, please do encourage your children to have a go at taking on a task. Getting creative at home and making links to school learning really supports your child's understanding. Homework tasks will be at the bottom of this newsletter. Remember they are low pressure tasks meant to be a short burst of fun! Due **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February**.

**PE** will remain on a **Friday afternoon** – keep coming into school with the appropriate kit. **No forest school this term** (it will resume in the 2<sup>nd</sup> spring term).

Spellings will continue to be set and retested on a Wednesday, continue to use Ed Shed for home and school practise. An at home sheet will also be sent home to complete if you would like to take an extra step in supporting spelling learning outside of school.

Please keep up to date with the school's fortnightly newsletter for dates, events and reminders. These are posted online and outside the school gate.

We are also lucky to be invited back to participate in the sports fixtures again through Malton Schools. This is part of our curriculum focus for PE this year – all children in the allotted year groups will be required to attend.

28th Jan	Y3/4	League 2	Dodgeball
4th Mar	KS1	League 2	Dodgeball
15th Apr	Y5/6	League 2	Basketball, Handball, Netball
29th Apr	Y5/6	All schools	Quick Rounders & Cross Country
3rd June	Y3/4	League 2	Basketball, Handball, Netball
1st July	Y5/6	All schools	Olympics
15th July	KS1	League 2	Mixed Sports

I look forward to seeing you all very soon!

From Miss Templeman

## **English:**

We will be exploring writing narrative stories this term inspired by the story of The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse by Charlie Mackesy. This beautiful book will be a lovely inspiration as it follows the tales of friendship, kindness and bravery.

We will also be exploring some limerick poetry and writing our own.

Our class stories will take the form of Norse mythology to link to our history topic of Vikings. We will explore two books: legends of Norse mythology by Tom Birkett and Isabella Mazzanti, and the dragon's hoard by Lari Don. From how Thor's hammer was forged to the zombie on the roof, we will get a taste of Viking sagas and how they were passed on through the art of storytelling.

## **Maths:**

We will be kicking off the new term with a focus on fractions, decimals and percentages!

Year 4s will also be continuing to focus their timestable practise – check out [timestables.co.uk](https://www.timestables.co.uk) for some fun ways to learn your timestables!

## **Science:**

This term in science, the children will be learning about plants. They will identify and name different types of plants, explore the structure of flowering plants, and learn about the functions of roots, stems, leaves and flowers. Pupils will investigate what plants need to grow and stay healthy, including water, light and nutrients, and will develop their skills in observing, recording and explaining scientific changes over time.

## **History:**

This term in history, the children will investigate whether the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons got on, with a particular focus on the city of York. They will learn who the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings were, when they lived, and why York was an important settlement for both groups. Using historical sources, pupils will explore conflict, cooperation and everyday life to understand how these two cultures interacted. They will also consider how Viking and Anglo-Saxon influences can still be seen in Britain today.

## **Computing:**

Our computing topic this term will first recap our online safety skills as a class. In computing this term, the children will focus on coding. Year 3 and 4 pupils will use Scratch to create and debug simple programs, developing their understanding of sequencing and logical thinking. In Years 5 and 6, children will use micro:bits to code solutions to real-life problems, applying their skills to inputs, outputs and decision-making. Throughout the unit, pupils will develop problem-solving skills by designing, testing and improving their programs.

**DT:**

In DT this term, the children will explore recipes that are connected to memories, linking to the overall topic of the memory box. They will look at how food has been prepared differently over time and how methods and ingredients have changed. Pupils will also consider how recipes can hold special meanings and memories, particularly within families and communities.

**PSHE:**

Personal, Social, Health Education In Personal, Social, Health Education the children will explore the unit 'Dreams and Goals'. We will also continue with Picture news enabling children to learn about British Values, Protected Characteristics and the Rights of a Child all linked in with current and relevant news and popular culture stories. Children will also watch BBC Newsround each week to keep them informed of current affairs in an age appropriate way.

Year 3 and 4	Year 5 and 6
Difficult challenges and achieving success Dreams and ambitions New challenges Motivation and enthusiasm Recognising and trying to overcome obstacles Evaluating learning processes Managing feelings Simple budgeting	Future dreams The importance of money Jobs and careers Dream job and how to get there Goals in different cultures Supporting others (charity) Motivation

**RE:**

In RE pupils will continue with the work on the topic started last half term

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 Messiah within Christian tradition and consider the importance of this for Christians today.

## **PE:**

This half term, pupils will be developing their teamwork, agility, and tactical thinking through the fast-paced and exciting sport of dodgeball.

Years 3 & 4 Pupils will be focusing on the core skills needed to play dodgeball safely and successfully. This includes:

- Developing accurate underarm and overarm throwing
- Improving reactions, dodging, and spatial awareness
- Learning how to catch safely and confidently
- Understanding the basic rules of the game
- Working cooperatively and showing good sportsmanship

The emphasis is on building confidence, coordination and awareness of others, while having lots of fun working as a team!

Years 5 & 6 For Year 5 and 6 the focus builds on prior learning with more advanced techniques and tactics, such as:

- Using strategic positioning and movement to avoid being hit
- Refining throwing power and accuracy
- Catching under pressure and making quick decisions
- Communicating effectively with teammates
- Fair play, honesty and leadership within the game

## **Music:**

As musicians we will be developing our inner ear and aural memory. We will continue working on the Young Voices songs ready to perform in Sheffield on 30th January. We will also ensure we are ready to perform at the Big Sing at Malton school on 13th February. In addition, we will develop our inner ear to explore the music of Beethoven, learning the melody and accompaniment of Ode to Joy exploring musical terms to describe what we are learning through sound.

## **French:**

As French linguists we will be securing and developing our vocabulary of animals in French building on the range of animals and adjectives we can understand. We will be working on our French grammar understanding the rules we need to apply when using adjectives. Year 3 and 5 will be working on vocabulary linked to jungle and zoo animals, Year 4 will be exploring pets whilst Year 6 will be looking at animals and their habitats. We will be using our listening, speaking, reading and writing skills alongside singing songs and playing games in French.

## Homework

My expectation is for you to attempt at least one of each row of homework across the term. On **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February** we will complete our homework sharing session where we will celebrate all our achievements together! (Across 2 pages)

Dojo homework acknowledgement:

1 Piece = 2 Dojos	4 Pieces = 8 Dojos	7 Pieces = 16 Dojos
2 Pieces = 4 Dojos	5 pieces = 10 Dojos	8 Pieces = 19 Dojos
3 Pieces = 6 Dojos	6 Piece = 13 Dojos	9 Pieces = 25 Dojos

<b>Memory Limerick</b> Write a limerick about a memory that is important to you (this could be funny, happy or meaningful). It might be a memory of a person, a place, an object, or a moment. Think carefully about rhythm, rhyme and word choice to bring the memory to life.	<b>Story teller</b> Create a short story about friendship inspired by <i>The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse</i> . Your story can be shown through writing, drawings, drama, building a model, or a short video. Focus on kindness, trust, and how memories can shape friendships.	<b>Memory sharer</b> Talk with a grownup, friend, human, teacher – gather a happy memory from them. Can you share one with them back?
<b>Vikings in York</b> Create a map, poster, or short presentation showing why York was important to the Vikings. Include key facts and explain how Viking life in York has left memories that still influence the city today.	<b>BBC Bitesize</b> Can you gather some facts from bbc bitesize about the Vikings? Present your information in any format- video, audio recording, poster, story, information leaflet!	<b>Viking Memory Object</b> Design or make an object that a Viking or Anglo-Saxon child might keep in a memory box. Explain what it is, who it belonged to, and why it would be important to them.
<b>Museum Contributor Challenge</b> Write a short paragraph about an item displayed at our Memory Box Museum Launch. This could be an object, model, artwork, written piece or explanation linked to any memory. Be ready to explain what your item represents and why it deserves a place in the museum.	<b>Plant word search</b> Ask Miss T for a plant word search. Can you remember all the meanings?	<b>Can you create?</b> Build, draw, make, model, paint or in any other way make a flower or the parts of a flower. Can you talk a friend through the different parts?

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