

Leavening Community Primary School

Conkers Newsletter

Spring term 1 2026



Hello Families,

Welcome back after the Christmas break and a 'happy new year' to you all! I hope that you had a lovely holiday and that the children are refreshed and ready to go! We cannot wait to welcome all the children back and hear their news! We are looking forward to a jam – packed half term to welcome the new year, focused on the historical theme of 'Memory Box'. To launch this theme, on Thursday 8th January, we will host our very own Leavening School 'Museum of Memories. As such, we invite all children to bring in an object or photograph (more than one if they wish!) that links to their own history or their family's history. This may be a treasured keepsake, a favourite childhood toy, a holiday souvenir, a family photograph, or anything that helps tell their story. If possible, please could your child bring a short note explaining the significance of their item? Just a sentence or two is plenty—this will help us share and celebrate each memory as part of our display this Thursday... Please join us from 2.30pm onwards (before pick up) to enjoy our 'museum'!

Warm regards,

Mrs Bennett

This half term, we will be learning about:

English – Reception: This half term, the children will continue their 'Drawing Club' study. Drawing Club is a playful and imaginative approach that uses stories, adventures and creativity to build children's confidence in drawing, mark making, and early writing. Through shared tales, children will be encouraged to develop their ideas, express themselves through pictures and words and let their imaginations run wild! The children will also practise specific activities to consolidate their phonic skills, letter formation and CVC word building.

Key Stage 1: The Year 1 and 2 children will firstly study a non- fiction text relating to the 'Great Fire of London'. They will work towards writing an imaginative diary recount of this event. The children will then move onto studying the poem 'Strange' by Valerie Bloom. We have a go at writing our own, fun version!

Maths - Reception: In maths this term, Reception children will be developing their understanding of numbers up to 5. They will practise counting, recognise numbers and finding different ways to make numbers within 5 through songs, games and practical activities. Children will also explore mass and capacity by comparing, weighing and measuring objects, and by investigating which containers hold more or less, using lots of hands-on learning

Year 1: In maths this half term, Year 1 children will be developing their understanding of numbers up to 20. They will learn to recognise, count, compare and order numbers, as well as represent them using objects, pictures and number lines. Children will also begin adding and subtracting within 20, using practical resources to help them solve problems and explain their thinking.

Year 2: In maths this term, Year 2 children will be learning about money and how it is used in everyday life. They will recognise coins and notes, practise counting amounts, and solve simple problems involving giving change. Children will also begin learning about multiplication and division, using practical resources and pictures to help them understand sharing, grouping and making equal sets.

Look and learn beyond the classroom | Have high aspirations and fulfil our potential
Care, share and belong | Lead, teach and learn with passion

Science: In science this term, Key Stage One children will be learning about light and seasonal changes. They will explore different sources of light, learn how light helps us to see, and understand why darkness is important too. Children will also investigate how the seasons change throughout the year, observing daylight, weather and how the Sun, Moon and stars appear in the sky at different times.

History: In History this half term, our enquiry question is: 'How did the Great Fire change London?'. Children will discover when and where the fire started, how it spread and what life was like in London at the time. Children will explore how the fire changed the city, learn about important people such as Samuel Pepys, and compare London in the past with London today

R.E- in RE we will be focusing on:

Reception In RE this term, Reception children will be exploring the key question "*Which places are special and why?*". They will talk about places that are special to them, such as their home, school or places they visit with their family, and share why these places are important. Children will also learn about special places for different religions, including churches, and understand that people have different beliefs and ways of showing what is special to them.

Key Stage One In RE this term, Key Stage One children will be exploring the question "*What makes some places sacred?*". They will learn about special places of worship for different religions, such as churches, mosques and synagogues, and find out why these places are important to believers. Children will talk about how people behave in sacred places and compare them with places that are special to them in their own lives

We will visit York Mosque (details forwarded soon) to enhance this study.

PSHE: In reception we will be learning about: challenges, perseverance, goal-setting, overcoming obstacles, seeking help, jobs and achieving goals.

In PHSE year 1 and 2 will be learning to: set goals, identify successes and achievements, identify preferred Learning styles, work well and celebrate achievement with a partner, tackle new challenges, identify and overcome obstacles and explore feelings of success.

DT: In DT this half term, the children will finish off their DT project of making a moving vehicle. They will then move onto:

Art: This term, the children will be exploring simple printmaking. They will learn how to create patterns and pictures by pressing, rolling and printing using a variety of materials. The children will experiment with textures, shapes and colours, and will be encouraged to talk about their ideas and the effects they create. Through these activities, they will develop their creativity, fine motor skills and confidence in using different art tools

P.E: **For your information, PE will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons this half term.** On Tuesdays, Mrs Mitchelmore will teach tag rugby. Children will practise moving safely in space, running with control and developing their throwing and catching skills. Through simple games and teamwork, children will learn how to work together, follow rules and enjoy being active. On Wednesdays, Mrs Mitchell will teach circuit training to the children. This unit is designed to build the overall fitness of your children through a circuit of eight activities, each of which is based on a different skill. Fun practices are used each week before the children are introduced to two of the circuit activities. During the final two lessons, children will complete the whole circuit and use a scorecard to enable them to see the progress that they have made. Opportunities are provided for the children to watch

others and to evaluate their own performance. This unit has a strong Health and Fitness focus and the children will learn about the effects of exercise on their body.

Learning at home

Years 1 & 2

Literacy I: Can you create a collage to reflect your reading over a period of time (eg a weekend, a week, a fortnight). Please draw, stick or write about anything you read, eg. comics, football programmes, DVD cases, TV cereal boxes, road signs, maps, apps, games etc. These collages will be shared in school!



Literacy II: Become a reading detective! Can you document your *parents'* reading at home? Maybe take pictures for a display, ask your parents to create a list or make a list of what *you* see them engaging with over a weekend. Examples might be reading a book, a newspaper, reading the post, a magazine, a recipe or lottery results!

PE: Create your own shuttle run using some obstacles to run between or round. How many times can you complete the shuttle run in 30 seconds? Ask someone at home to try your shuttle run. Can you change the shape of your shuttle run or add more obstacles to make it more challenging?

PHSE: This half term, we are learning about setting goals and celebrating our achievements. At home, please support your child to choose a small goal they would like to achieve (such as tying shoelaces, reading a book, or completing a puzzle) and have a go at working towards it over a few days. Encourage them to plan what they will do first, who can help them, and how they will keep trying if things feel tricky. Once they feel proud of their success, they can draw or write about what they achieved and how it made them feel.

Reception

Literacy: Please practise reading and writing the 'tricky words' that will be coming home this week. A 'tricky word' is a word that your child cannot 'sound out' (if you sound tricky words out and then try to blend the sounds, you will get a word that does not sound right. These are words that must be recognized by sight.)

Expressive Arts and Design: if you have paint at home can you have a go at printing a picture using found objects from your home as your 'prints'? Ideas could be vegetables, fruit, utensils such as potato mashers and whisks, corks, jar lids, sponges, cotton wool balls, kitchen roll tubes or bubble wrap. What shapes can you make? Could you make a repeating pattern?

Please sent any learning at home activities into school for the last week of term – thank you!