

Leavening Community Primary School

Conkers Newsletter
Spring Term 2 2026



Hello Families,

We are so excited to begin this half term with our whole school topic, “It’s a Wonderful World.” Throughout the coming weeks, the children will be exploring the amazing world around them — from nature and wildlife to different places and cultures. We’re looking forward to lots of creative activities, hands-on learning and thoughtful discussions as the children discover just how wonderful our world really is. We also have something very special to look forward to — at the end of the month (upon request!), we will welcome back Benben the robot dog! The children loved his previous visit and we can’t wait to see their excitement upon his return!

A gentle reminder to please sign up for Parents’ Evening. I am really looking forward to catching up with all parents and sharing how the children have been getting on.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support

Warm regards,
Mrs Bennett

This half term, we will be learning about:

English – Reception: This half term, the children will continue with their ‘Drawing Club’ study. The children will also be encouraged to apply their phonic knowledge to write simple phrases and captions independently. In class, we will be encouraging them to segment words carefully, use their sound mats to support spelling, and begin to re-read their writing to check it makes sense

Key Stage 1: After writing their own poetry based on the poem ‘Strange’ by Valerie Bloom, the children will focus on letter writing based on the book ‘The Day the Crayons Quit’ by Drew Daywalt.

Maths - Reception: This term in maths, the children will be using everyday objects to compare and describe things that are long/short and tall/short, building their understanding through hands-on play and talk. Children will also begin to use comparative language confidently and make simple measurements in meaningful contexts. After that, they will move on to ‘building 9 and 10’. The children will be learning how to find, represent and compare the numbers 9 and 10, explore the ideas of ‘1 more’ and ‘1 less’, begin to notice number bonds to 10, and use early number language to describe odd, even, and double amounts as they play and learn with counting objects and fun activities.

Year 1: This term in maths, the Year 1 children will continue their study of addition and subtraction within 20. The children will use practical resources, drawings, and number lines to solve problems, building fluency and confidence with number bonds. After this, they will move onto bigger numbers and place value to 50. (Place value simply means that the position of a digit in a number determines its value (e.g. in 24, the ‘2’ means 2 tens, not 2 ones)).

Year 2: This term in maths, the Year 2 children will continue their study of multiplication and division. After this, they will move on to study the topic of ‘length and height’. The children will build on their measurement skills by learning how to measure, compare and order

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



lengths and heights using standard units like centimetres and metres. They will then move on to look at 'mass, capacity and temperature': comparing and measuring mass using grams and kilograms, measuring and comparing capacity in millilitres and litres, and start to read temperatures using thermometers in degrees Celsius.

Science: This half term in Science, children across Key Stage 1 will be learning about plants. They will identify and name common plants and trees, explore the different parts of a plant (including roots, stem, leaves and flowers), and investigate what plants need to grow and stay healthy. Through practical activities and observations, the children will develop their scientific vocabulary and begin to understand how plants grow and change over time

Geography: In Geography this half term, children will be exploring the enquiry question: *"What makes Jamaica special and how does it compare to the UK?"* They will locate Jamaica and the United Kingdom on a map, learn about key human and physical features, and explore similarities and differences between the two countries, including climate, culture and daily life. Through discussion and map work, children will develop their understanding of the wider world and how places can be both different and similar.

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

Reception: The children will be thinking about the key question of: *"Which stories are special and why?"* They will listen to and talk about a variety of stories from different religions, thinking about what makes each story important and the lessons it teaches. Through discussion, role-play, and creative activities, children will begin to understand why stories can be special to people and how they help us learn about beliefs and values

Key Stage One: The children will be exploring the key question of: *Why does Easter matter to Christians?"* They will learn about the events of Holy Week, including Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, and begin to understand why Easter is an important celebration for Christians. Through stories, discussion and reflection, children will develop their understanding of the meaning behind these events and why they are significant to believers.

Computing: Our learning this term introduces the learners to the term 'data'. Children will begin to understand what data means and how this can be collected in the form of a tally chart. They will learn the term 'attribute' and use this to help them organise data. They will then progress onto presenting data in the form of pictograms and finally block diagrams. Learners will use the data presented to answer questions.

DT: In Design and Technology this half term, children will be learning about healthy eating and the importance of a balanced diet. They will explore different foods, discuss which are healthy, and think about how to make nutritious choices. Later in the term, they will put their learning into practice by designing and making their own healthy wraps, using their creativity and understanding of food hygiene and safety

P.E: In P.E this term, Year 1 and 2 children will focus on developing fundamental football skills. These sessions aim to enhance agility, balance, and coordination through engaging activities that promote teamwork and simple tactical understanding. Children will participate in team games, learning to apply basic movements in various activities. The football skills appropriate for Year 1 and 2 include:

- Dribbling: Controlling and moving the ball with their feet.
- Passing: Using the inside of the foot to pass the ball accurately to a teammate.
- Receiving: Stopping or controlling the ball using different parts of the foot.

- Shooting: Kicking the ball towards a target or goal with accuracy.
- Turning: Changing direction while maintaining control of the ball.
- Tackling: Safely attempting to take the ball away from an opponent.
- Understanding basic rules: Learning concepts such as handball, fouls, and the roles of different positions like goalkeeper and defender.
- Developing simple tactics: Recognizing when to pass or dribble and understanding basic attacking and defending strategies.

Here is Mrs Mitchell warming up for the UEFA Women's World Cup 2026.



Learning at Home activities:

Reception

Physical Development: Ask your child to help choose and prepare a healthy snack at home, such as fruit, vegetables, or a small sandwich/wrap. They can draw or take a photo of their snack and bring it to school to share. Encourage them to talk about why their snack is healthy and what ingredients they

used.

Understanding the World: Plant Detectives! – Go on a short walk around your garden, local park or neighbourhood and look for different plants. Can your child spot flowers, trees, leaves or buds? Encourage them to draw a picture of one plant they find and talk about its parts (roots, stem, leaves, flower) and what it might need to grow.

Expressive Arts & Design: Easter Symbols Craft – Talk about some symbols of Easter (for example, a cross, an egg, a chick or a flower). Choose one symbol and create it using craft materials at home (drawing, painting, collage or junk modelling). Encourage your child to talk about what their symbol represents and why it is special. Adults can write down their child's explanation to share in school.

Years 1 & 2

Design and Technology: Healthy Lunchbox Designer – Design a healthy lunchbox for a child your age. Draw and label the foods you would include, thinking about the different food groups and how to make it balanced. Write a few sentences explaining why your choices are healthy

Science: Plant Investigator Challenge – Choose a plant in your garden, local park or street and observe it closely. Draw and label the parts you can see (roots, stem, leaves,

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

flower). Then write a few sentences explaining what each part does and describe the environment the plant is growing in. Can you explain how that habitat helps the plant survive?

Geography: Jamaica vs UK Passport – Research Jamaica and the UK with an adult. Choose one thing to compare, such as: the weather, a famous landmark, or food/traditions. Draw a picture for each country and write 1–2 sentences explaining the difference or similarity. Bring your “passport page” to school to share with the class

We can't wait to see the children's efforts in the last week of term!