

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Friday 27th March 2026

Spring 2 Term

Hello everyone

As we come to the end of another busy and successful half term, I would like to thank our children, staff and families for the continued support, positivity and commitment shown across our school community.

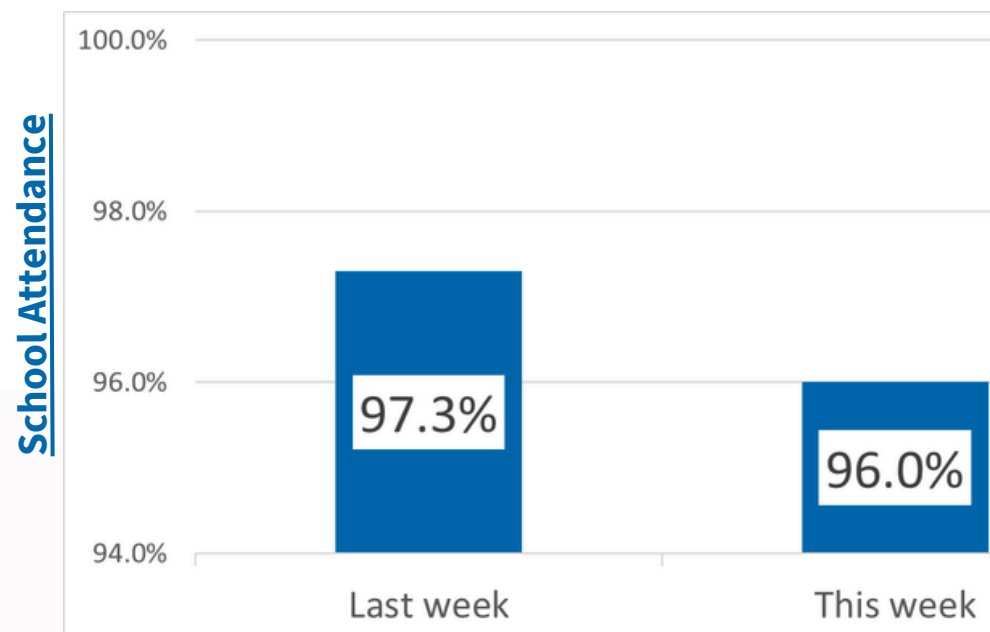
It has been a term full of learning, enrichment and memorable experiences, and it is always a pleasure to see our pupils growing in confidence, resilience and enthusiasm.

We are incredibly proud of all that has been achieved and the way our children continue to live out our “Together We Can” ethos each day.

Wishing all of our families a happy, restful and enjoyable Easter break.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back for the summer term, ready for another exciting chapter of learning together.

Mrs Mitchell  
Headteacher



## DIARY DATES

### MARCH

**Fri 27th**

Last day of term

### APRIL

**Mon 13<sup>th</sup>**

Training day

**Tues 14<sup>th</sup>**

Summer Term 1 begins

Launch of topic

'The Enchanted Woodland'

**Thurs 16<sup>th</sup>-Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> May**

Year 3 and 4 swimming ev wk

**Mon 20<sup>th</sup>**

AI & digital literacy -

family workshop. 3.30pm

**Thurs 30<sup>th</sup>**

Yrs 5&6: Big School Clean Litter

### MAY

**W/c Mon 11<sup>th</sup>**

KS2 SATS Week

**Tues 19<sup>th</sup> May**

Landing of the topic - whole

school Forest School Day

### JUNE

**Mon 1<sup>st</sup>**

Extra Curricular clubs start

**Tues 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Topic launch of 'Natural Disaster'  
with a Science themed day

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Sports Day** (Reserve date: 12<sup>th</sup>)

**Thurs 25<sup>th</sup>**

Yr 5 Taster Day: Malton School

### **Pop-Up Library Dates:**

**30/04, 21/05, 11/06**

### **Sports Fixtures/Tournaments:**

**15/04:** Basketball, Handball,  
Netball (Y5&6)

**29/04:** Quick Rounders  
& Cross Country (Y5&6)

***Please ensure ParentPay balances  
are cleared across your account.***

## 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**

### SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Esme has been working incredibly hard recently, taking part in a number of extra dance sessions to ensure she has learned all of the dance steps.

She recently performed at the Milton Rooms alongside the York Youth Orchestra in The Three Cornered Hat. Esme performed beautifully and continues to grow in confidence with every performance.

We are all very proud of her dedication and progress.



### CHICAGO: TEEN EDITION AT MALTON SCHOOL



“All the Year 5 children went to see a production of Chicago at Malton School. The music was very varied, with lots of different instruments played by a band hidden at the back of the stage. There were many different actors, including prisoners and jail staff, as well as some brilliant dancers wearing colourful costumes with feathers....

There was always something exciting to watch, from trapeze artists to lots of singing and dancing.

The lighting was amazing, flashing all around the stage and adding to the atmosphere.

Overall, it was a fantastic performance. I really enjoyed it, and so did all my classmates who went.”

— Sophia (Year 5)

### SPRING CONCERT

Thank you to everyone who attended the Spring Concert. We are delighted to celebrate such a wonderful event, which is always a special experience for our pupils.

Performing as part of something so significant helps them to **build confidence, develop teamwork, and foster a genuine love of music.**

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the parents/carers who supported the event, and in particular to Mrs Stockill for the time, care, and dedication she consistently puts into preparing the children. We are also very grateful to Mr Smith from the Music Service for his expert violin teaching and support, which contributes so much to the pupils' success.



### THANK YOU TO THE LEAVENING EVENTS COMMITTEE

Many thanks to the **Leavening Events Committee** for their generous donation recently.

We are incredibly grateful for their continued support.

I would like to express our sincere gratitude to all members of the Events Committee and reiterate that it is a pleasure to work together as a **community**. Our school vision of “**Together We Can**” truly embodies the strength of our wonderful community, and we are always keen to work collectively to support our children.

The donation will go towards enhancing our **extra-curricular provision for all pupils**. This includes funding for clubs such as Book Club and Sports Club, as well as investing in additional sports resources, including badminton equipment and other materials to support extra-curricular activities during the summer term and beyond. These opportunities allow our pupils to **learn, develop, and enjoy a wide range of experiences** outside the classroom.

# SCHOOL NOTICES AND REMINDERS

## SWIMMING LESSONS

In the Summer 1 term, swimming lessons will take place for children in **Years 3 and 4**.

The cost of the lessons is funded by the school; however, we kindly ask for a **contribution of £84 per child** to help cover transport costs. Payments can be made either in instalments or as a full amount via ParentPay. The total amount should be paid by 18/05/26.

Lessons will take place **every Thursday**, from 16th April and continuing up to and including 21st May 2026.

## EASTER EGG HUNT

A big thank you to the Allenby-Wood family for **their very generous donation** of chocolate eggs for all the children, which made our School Egg Hunt possible. Everyone had a fantastic time!



## TRAINING DAY

**Please note-** the first Monday after Easter (Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April) is a **staff professional development day**.

The school will be closed to children. The Summer 1 Term begins on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April**.

## PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Thank you to those who attended Parents' Evening and made an appointment. If you were unable to attend, please arrange a meeting or phone call with your child's teacher.

Kindly contact the school office to organise a mutually convenient time and date.

## HELP YOUR CHILD STAY SAFE ONLINE

Find practical information from trusted places to help you feel more confident on the steps you can take to protect your child online. With so many apps, games, and websites out there, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. But the good news is you're not alone. Here is a great website from Gov.uk with brilliant advice:

<https://kidsonlineafety.campaign.gov.uk/>



# Recent highlights

## House Gardening Afternoon

The House Gardening Afternoon for all children (including Nursery) took place on Thursday 19th March. The children visited the **school allotment** in their house groups and enjoyed a range of exciting gardening activities. Everyone had a fantastic time, getting hands-on with **planting and exploring the outdoors together.**



## Litter Picking

Riley took part in the Great British Spring Clean on Sunday, helping to tidy up around the village. **Well done on getting involved** and making a positive difference in the community!



The Great British Spring Clean is the **UK's largest mass-action environmental campaign**, taking place from March 13th to 29th 2026.

Organised by Keep Britain Tidy, it **encourages volunteers** to pick up litter in their communities.

Participants can pledge to pick up bags of litter, helping to **improve local environments and boost civic pride.**

**For more information, check out their website:**  
<https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/our-work/eliminating-litter/great-british-spring-clean>

# Reading for Pleasure at Leavening – Building Lifelong Readers

This year has been nationally recognised as the **Year of Reading**, highlighting just how important reading is for children’s learning, well-being and future success. At Leavening, developing a genuine love of reading continues to be a key priority. We believe the most powerful readers are those who are **intrinsically motivated** – children who read because they enjoy it, are curious, and find meaning and pleasure in books, rather than reading simply for rewards.

This half term, every class has enjoyed dedicated **daily class reading time**, where staff model enthusiasm for books and create calm, engaging spaces for children to become immersed in stories and information texts. Alongside this, we have continued to strengthen our reading environments, share high-quality texts across the curriculum, and encourage rich book talk between pupils.

The photos show each class enjoying these shared reading moments. By nurturing reading for pleasure now, we are helping to develop confident, motivated readers who will carry a love of books with them throughout their lives. **Together We Can create a community of readers.**



## CONKERS CLASS

At our school, we follow the 'Little Wandle' approach to reading, where children build their skills through daily phonics / fluency sessions, carefully matched books and frequent opportunities to practise and succeed. Phonics is the way that we unlock reading for your child, with our ultimate goal being for the children to master these skills, so they become confident readers who loves books!

When our children choose to read, they increase their vocabulary, knowledge of the world around them and develop empathy. So much more than simply reciting the words on the page! We share books with your children every day and would love it if you did the same. Reading with your child really is the best possible way to inspire a love of books.

To support children at home, we suggest that you read to your child daily – any books that you can enjoy together. Listen to your child practise reading their phonics book, even if they are familiar with the text, as this develops their fluency. Making reading a special, positive part of your daily routine—even for just a few minutes per day—helps your child to foster a lifelong love of books.

It’s a joyful journey, as children grow in their confidence as readers and your child would love for you to be a part of it!

# Reading for Pleasure at Leavening – Building Lifelong Readers

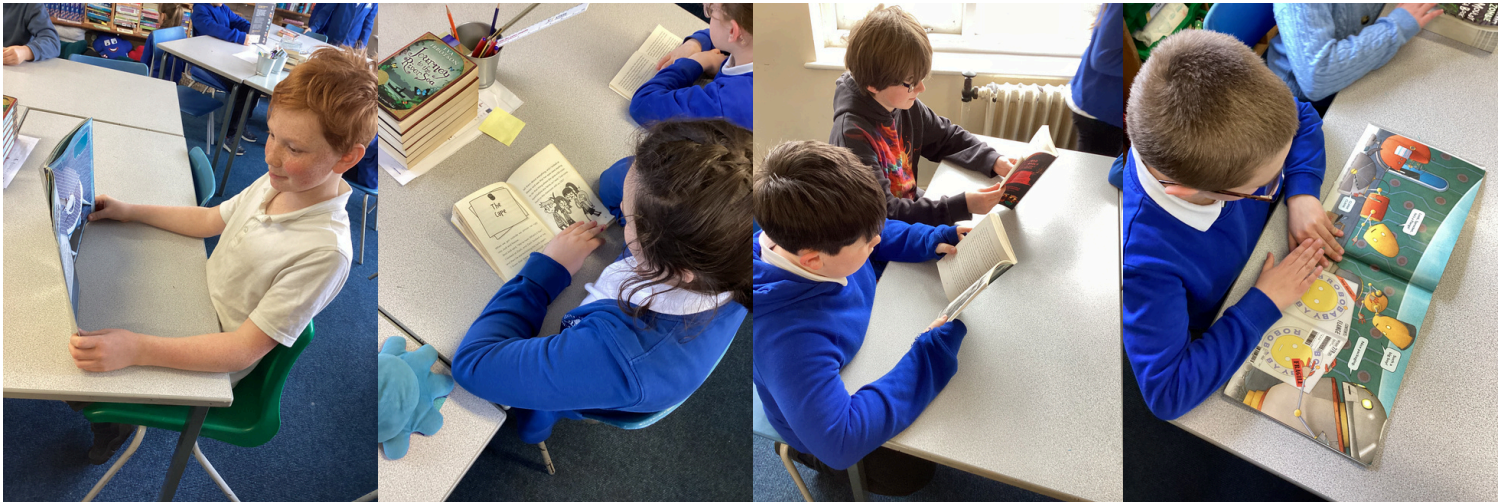
## OAK TREES CLASS

In Oak Trees Class, we are passionate about promoting a love of reading for both pleasure and understanding. We encourage children to read daily, whether it's to relax after a busy break time or to share and discuss stories with their peers. As a class, we enjoy exploring a carefully chosen book linked to a topic or theme that sparks curiosity and imagination.

We also embrace a wide range of reading materials, including magazines, non-fiction texts, poetry, stories, graphic novels, cartoons, and audiobooks, ensuring there is something to engage every reader. Alongside this, we explore different formats such as Kindle reading and traditional physical books, allowing every child to discover what inspires them most.

Reading time in our classroom is calm, enjoyable, and meaningful, helping to nurture a lifelong love of books.

We truly believe that reading unlocks children's minds and opens the door to a deeper love of learning.





helmsley  
artscentre

Easter  
**ART**  
Workshops




**TOKYO**  
sketch  
studio


WITH LOCAL ARTIST  
NICOLA HUTCHINSON

**30TH AND 31<sup>ST</sup>**  
**MARCH**

**30TH MARCH 10AM-3PM (AGES 8-11)**  
**31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 10.30AM-11.30AM (AGES 5-7)**  
**31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 1PM-4PM (AGES 12-16)**



**BOOKING ESSENTIAL: BOX OFFICE 01439 771700**  
**[www.helmsleyarts.co.uk](http://www.helmsleyarts.co.uk)**



# ONLINE WEBINAR SCHEDULE SUMMER TERM 2026

Monday 20th April 4pm - 5pm -  
Exam Stress

Monday 15th June 4pm - 5pm -  
Transitions

Monday 13th July 4pm -5pm -  
5 Ways to Wellbeing

All webinars can be accessed through Microsoft teams and are free to join. We welcome young people, parents and carers, teachers and other professionals to join. Joining information will be posted on our social media channels closer to the time.



@wellbeinginmind.mhst



@WiMT\_MHST

If you have any questions please contact  
[tewv.wimtwsa@nhs.net](mailto:tewv.wimtwsa@nhs.net)

North Yorkshire and York Music Hub

# VOCAL PROJECT DAYS



7 March  
18 April  
16 May  
20 June

10am - 3pm



Escrick C of E  
Primary School  
Carr Lane  
YO19 6JQ

## Love to sing?

## Want to perform with others?

Come and be part of our new Vocal Groups

A fun and inspiring space for young and aspiring singers from across North Yorkshire and York to rehearse, learn, and grow together.

Vocal Project Days are **FREE**, & open to all children and young people from North Yorkshire and York in Years 4 to 13

For more details, email:  
[Countyhall.Music@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Countyhall.Music@northyorks.gov.uk)

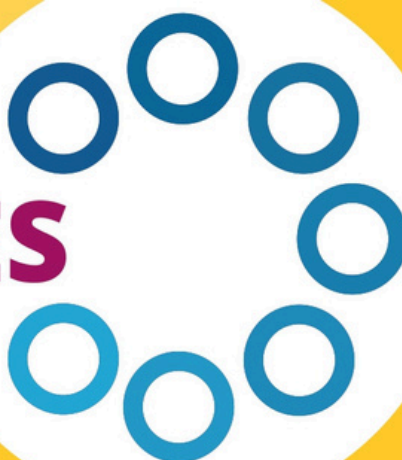


scan to register



North Yorkshire and York Music Hub

# ENSEMBLES PROJECT DAYS



15 March  
19 April  
14 June  
20 June

10am - 3pm



The Regen  
Centre  
Landing Lane  
YO19 6PW

## Play an instrument?

## Love making music with others?

Come and be part of our Instrumental Ensemble Days

A fantastic opportunity to rehearse, perform, and develop your ensemble skills with other musicians from across North Yorkshire and York in a supportive and welcoming environment.

Ensemble Project Days are **FREE**, & open to all children and young people from North Yorkshire and York above grade 2 on their instrument.

For more details, email:  
[Countyhall.Music@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Countyhall.Music@northyorks.gov.uk)



scan to register

