

# Leavening Community Primary School

## Conkers Newsletter

Summer Term 2 2026



Hello families,

I hope that you have had a lovely half term holiday and enjoyed the wonderful weather it brought! Please ensure that if the weather continues, your child brings in a suitable hat and is wearing sunscreen. Children may also bring in additional sunscreen for reapplication during the day. Our topic this half term is 'Natural Disasters', launched on Tuesday with an afternoon full of volcanoes, earthquakes and shelter building! P.E will be outdoors on **wednesday** afternoons with Mrs Mitchell (bat and ball skills), Forest schools will be on **Tuesday** afternoons with Mrs Mitchelmore. Children will need the appropriate kit for both. Learning at home guides for the half term are attached with this letter. As always, please try to read at home with your child – every little helps - and also encourage your child to practise the spellings sent home. Please get in touch if you have any questions or concerns – my door continues to be wide open!

Mrs Bennett.

### This term we are learning about:

#### English

**Reception** - In English, we will continue our Drawing Club sessions, using stories and imagination to inspire our ideas. We will be writing dictated sentences and compose our own simple sentences, using phonic knowledge to help us sound out and write words. We will also continue to name letters of the alphabet, building confidence with letter sounds and formation.

**KS1** - In English, we will firstly study persuasive writing, working towards writing our own persuasive leaflet for a new theme park 'Ice Planet'! We will then study the Michael Morpurgo book 'Wombat goes Walkabout' – writing our own story based on the text.

#### Maths

##### Reception –

In Maths, we will continue to develop a strong understanding of number. We will begin by exploring numbers to 20 and beyond, building confidence in counting, recognising, and ordering numbers. We will then move on to manipulating, composing and decomposing shapes and amounts, helping us to understand how numbers can be made and broken apart in different ways. Finally, we will learn about sharing and grouping, developing early ideas of division through practical, hands-on activities. We will continue to work on careful number formation.

**Year 1** - In Maths, Year 1 children will develop their understanding of number and measure. They will begin by working on place value within 50, building confidence in counting, reading, writing and representing numbers using practical resources. The

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

children will then extend their learning to place value within 100, deepening their understanding of tens and ones and how numbers are structured. Finally, they will move on to study the time, where they will learn to tell the time to the hour and half past the hour, and begin to sequence events in their daily lives.

**Year 2** - In Maths, Year 2 children will develop their fluency and understanding across a range of key areas. They will begin with the time unit, strengthening their ability to tell the time to the nearest five minutes, including quarter past and quarter to, and to understand the relationship between hours and minutes. The children will then move on to statistics, where they will collect, organise and interpret data using pictograms, tally charts and simple block diagrams. Finally, they will explore position and direction, using mathematical language to describe movement, turns and locations

**Science** - In Science, the children will be learning about the uses of everyday materials. They will explore different materials such as wood, metal, plastic, glass and fabric, and investigate why certain materials are used for particular objects. Through practical activities, the children will compare the properties of materials and learn how choosing the right material helps us in our everyday lives.

**Geography** - In Geography this half term, we will be learning about extreme weather and how it affects people and places around the world. The children will explore different types of weather, including storms, floods, heatwaves and droughts, and will learn how people can stay safe during extreme weather events. Through maps, photographs and discussion, they will develop their understanding of the world and the impact weather can have on our environment and daily lives.

**RE** - In RE this half term, we will be exploring the question: "How should we care for others and the world, and why does it matter?" The children will learn about how different religions and worldviews encourage people to show kindness, care for others, and look after the environment. Through stories, discussion and reflection, they will think about how their own actions can make a positive difference to the people and world around them.

**Art** - This half term, the children will be introduced to the idea that making a drawing is a physical activity, which uses the whole body and connects head, hand and heart. Children will use their whole body to create large scale 'spiral drawings', experimenting by using different materials. We will make spiral drawings to music using graphite, work in the playground using chalk and juxtapose emotions into our artwork eg 'create a quiet spiral... then create a LOUD spiral.'

**PE** - In PE this half term, the EYFS and KS1 children will be developing their bat and ball skills through a range of fun and engaging activities. The children will practise key skills such as throwing, catching, rolling, aiming and striking a ball, while also developing teamwork, coordination and control. Activities will be carefully adapted to suit different ages and stages, helping all children to build confidence, resilience and enjoyment in physical activity

**Music** - As musicians we will compose music to represent different characters in the Gruffalo story. We will think carefully about the sounds that we choose alongside the pitch, dynamics and duration of the notes. We will listen carefully to a piece about the Gruffalo and describe how the composer represents his character, we will then sing it with actions. We will also learn a simple rap telling the story of Little Red Riding Hood and develop our performance skills and reading of notation to add a glockenspiel part. Later in the term we will focus on the songs for our end of year musical. Listening skills will be developed exploring the songs we have been challenged to prepare, increasing our musical vocabulary and developing our abilities to use our inner ears. We will use our inner ear and musical memory to recall all the songs. We will develop our performance skills - singing with accuracy of pitch and expression and interpreting the songs through actions.

**French** - As French linguists we will explore where France is and learn the surrounding countries. We will learn how we can travel to France. We will learn about the capital city and the main landmarks of Paris. We will also revisit colours and practise recognising these in drawing activities linked to ice creams. We will learn how to order an ice cream. Throughout the tasks we will be completing speaking, reading, listening and written activities.

**Computing** - This half term the children will be introduced to on-screen programming. They will explore the way a project looks by investigating sprites and backgrounds. They will use programming blocks to use, modify, and create programs. The children will also be introduced to the early stages of program design through the introduction of algorithms

**PSHE** - In PSHE the children will be exploring the jigsaw unit *Changing Me*. Through age-appropriate discussions and activities, the children will learn about how they grow and change over time, both physically and emotionally. They will explore life cycles, understand how to stay healthy and safe, and develop an awareness of how change can bring new opportunities and feelings. The unit encourages children to build confidence, respect themselves and others, and understand that growing up is a natural part of life

### Learning at home

#### Years 1 & 2

#### Science & Geography

Design a Safe House

Draw or build a model of a house that could withstand a natural disaster. Think about the **materials** you would use and why.

## R.E

My Promise to the World:

Write or draw one promise about how you will help care for people or the environment. Be ready to share your promise with the class.

Complete three acts of kindness for family, friends or neighbours. Record them with pictures or simple sentences.

## Maths

### Year 1

Can you spot and record three times during your day?

Draw a clock showing:

- The time you wake up.
- The time you eat your evening meal.
- The time you go to bed.

Label each clock with:

- O'clock or half past.
- What you are doing at that time.

### Year 2

Over the week, record four important times from your day.

For each time:

- Draw the clock face.
- Write the time using words (e.g. quarter past 3, half past 6, quarter to 8).
- Write what you were doing at that time.

For example:

7 o'clock - Eating breakfast.

Challenge:

Can you find out how many minutes there are in:

- 1 hour
- Half an hour
- Quarter of an hour

## Reception

## R.E

Go on a walk with your family and look for things that make our world special.

Can you find:

- Something colourful
- Something living
- Something beautiful
- Something that makes you happy

### Maths

Collect up to 20 small objects, such as buttons, toy cars, leaves or pasta shapes.

Can you:

- Count them carefully?
- Check your count by touching each object once?
- Arrange them in a line or a group?
- Find a group with more objects and a group with fewer objects?

Challenge:

Can you make a collection with more than 20 objects?

Take a photo or draw a picture of your collection to share with the class

### Understanding the World

With an adult, talk about the weather each day. Can you notice if it is:

- Sunny 🌞
- Rainy 🌧️
- Windy 🌬️
- Snowy ❄️
- Stormy 🌩️

Draw a picture of the weather you see everyday in a 'weather diary'

