

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Thursday 24th September 2026

Autumn 1 Term

Hello everyone

As we approach the half way mark for this term, I would like to celebrate a positive and productive start to the new school year. The topic of 'Evolution- in the beginning' is thoroughly capturing the interests of the children in many different ways.

I am also delighted to share the results of last terms parent survey for both acorns nursery and the whole school. Staff and Governors place high value on parent and carer surveys as our partnership with you is our most important one. We are pleased you recognise the strengths in our school and agree that Leavening provides a good quality of education with an integral focus on wellbeing and care. We will be working on developing areas that were identified over the coming months. The survey analysis for both nursery and whole school can be found in this newsletter.

Our nursery, reception and other new members of our school family are settling in very well. It would be wonderful if any of our new families were keen to be involved in the Friends of Leavening School (FoLS) helping to fundraise for extra opportunities for our marvellous little school. If you are interested please speak to either Susie in the office or Emma Isaacs who is both a staff member and a governor. We are really keen to welcome new faces. I would also like to welcome Miss Curtis into Oak Trees class for the autumn term, who is completing her PGCE with the University of York.

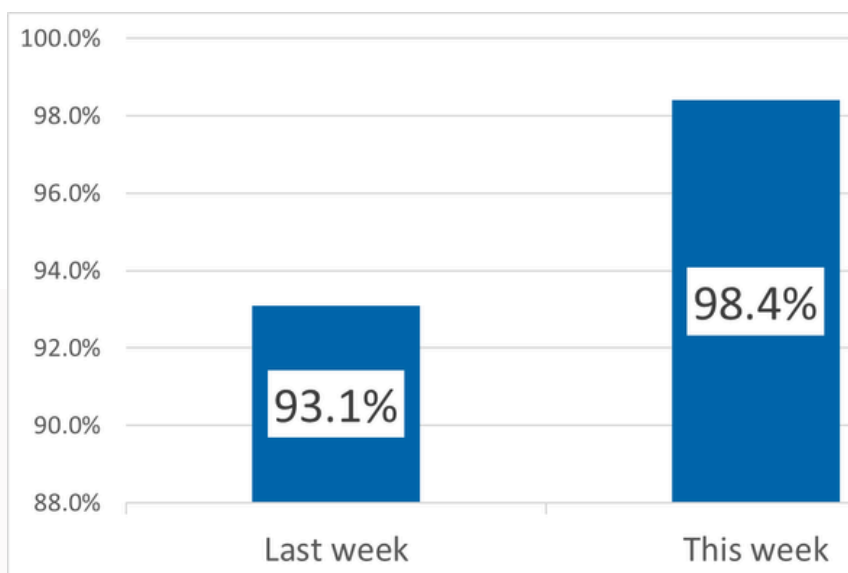
Finally, we are looking for a parent governor to join our supportive and dynamic governing body. Communication has gone out about this and if you are (even in the slightest bit) interested in finding out more then please do chat to me about it. Alternatively you can chat to our chair of governors, James. You can make an appointment with either of us through the school office.

As we head into week 4 I would like to thank you for a supportive start to the school year. As for parents old and new to school, my door is always open, metaphorically, to have chat about any school or child issues you wish. Please do not hesitate to chat to me on the playground or make an appointment to see me.

Have a lovely weekend. My best wishes.

Sian Mitchell

School Attendance



DIARY DATES

SEPTEMBER

Thurs 24th

Flu vaccinations (pm) Rec-Yr6

Fri 25th

School photographer

Please bring siblings to the school hall at 8.30am

Mon 28th

EYFS (Nursery & Reception)

Stay & Play session AND

Seeing is Believing (Conkers & Oak Trees). Parents are invited to join their child in class from 9am

Please email the office to sign up

OCTOBER

Thurs 1st

Reading Cafe: 2.30-3.10pm

Parents & Carers are invited to join their child in class for some reading fun! Refreshments will be available.

Reading for pleasure workshop (for KS2 parents)

and Early reading workshop (for EYFS/KS1 parents) will take place straight after school

Please email the office to sign up

Fri 9th

Hello Yellow Day (wear yellow for World Mental Health Day)

Thurs 15th

Open day for

Reception 2027 & Nursery

Fri 16th

Harvest Assembly 9.30am

All welcome!

Weds 21st

FOLS Halloween Disco 5.15pm-6.30pm. Further details to follow!

Fri 23rd Training day

Sports Dates: ALL children in the specified year groups are to take part

Weds 30th Sept:

Year **5 & 6:** Football & Benchball

Weds 4th Nov:

Year **3 & 4:** Football & Benchball

Parent/Carer volunteer drivers needed to help with transport please! Please contact the office if you can help - THANK YOU!

Pop-Up Library Dates:

24/09, 15/10, 12/11, 5/12 (collection)



Parent & Carer Survey Feedback – Summer 2026

Thank You for Your Feedback

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our Parent & Carer Survey this term. We were delighted to receive responses from approximately 80% of families. Your feedback is incredibly valuable and helps us celebrate strengths whilst continuing to improve our school further.

Overall, feedback was overwhelmingly positive and we are incredibly proud of the many strengths identified by families.

What You Said We Do Well

- Children are happy, safe and well cared for at school
- Leavening has a strong sense of community and belonging
- The school is inclusive and values all children
- Staff know children well and build strong relationships with families
- SEND support is personalised and effective
- The school offers a wide range of enrichment opportunities, trips and experiences
- Outdoor and hands-on learning opportunities are highly valued

Parents particularly praised:

- The nurturing ethos of the school
- The support provided for children with SEND
- The variety of experiences available despite being a small school
- The caring and approachable nature of staff

Thank you for your kind comments and continued support.

You Said... We Will...

- | | |
|---|--|
| You said: You would welcome even more enrichment opportunities and wider experiences for children, including suggestions such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional sports clubs• Swimming opportunities• More cultural or city-based trips• A wider variety of visits and residential experiences | We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to review and expand our enrichment offer where possible• Explore additional sporting and cultural opportunities• Continue building partnerships with external providers and local organisations• Look at ways to further develop curriculum-linked visits and experiences |
| You said: Behaviour and expectations are positive overall, but some parents would value continued consistency and clarity around behaviour expectations. | We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to maintain high expectations for behaviour across school• Ensure routines and expectations remain clear and consistent• Continue promoting our positive culture of respect, kindness and belonging |
| You said: You value the school's inclusive ethos and strong SEND support. | We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue prioritising inclusive practice and adaptive teaching• Maintain strong communication and partnership working• Continue ensuring children's individual needs remain at the heart of our provision |

Thank You

We are incredibly grateful for your continued support and partnership. Your feedback reflects the caring, inclusive and ambitious culture we work hard to create together as a school community. One parent commented that we "punch above our weight" with the opportunities we provide for children – and we feel this really captures what we strive to achieve for every child at Leavening.

Nursery Parent & Carer Survey Feedback – Summer 2026

Thank You for Your Feedback

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our Nursery Parent & Carer Survey this term. We were delighted to receive responses from approximately 76% of families. Your feedback is incredibly valuable and helps us celebrate strengths whilst continuing to improve our provision further. Overall, feedback was overwhelmingly positive and we are incredibly proud of the many strengths identified by families.

What You Said We Do Well



- Children are happy, safe and settled in nursery
- Staff are warm, caring and approachable
- The nursery creates a strong sense of belonging and community
- Children are known well as individuals
- Outdoor learning opportunities are highly valued
- Activities follow children's interests and encourage a love of learning

Parents particularly praised:

- Outdoor play and allotment experiences
- Farm visits, village walks and outdoor adventures
- The nurturing "family feel" of the nursery
- The positive relationships between nursery staff, children and families
- The integration of nursery children into wider school life

Some lovely comments included:

"Strong community feel across the whole school."

"The team knows him inside out."

"Wide range of activities provided and encouragement to enjoy the outdoors and messy play."

"Roo is happy, settled and asks to come every day."

Thank you for your kind comments and continued support.

You Said... We Will...

- You said:** You would welcome even more communication and updates about your child's day, activities and development.
- Parents suggested:**
- More daily updates about activities completed
 - More photographs and observations shared
 - More information about routines and friendships
 - Greater visibility of children's progress and development over time

- We will:**
- Continue reviewing how we share children's learning and experiences with families
 - Explore ways to increase communication and shared observations where possible
 - Continue strengthening home-school communication and partnership working

- You said:** You value the nursery's outdoor learning and enriching experiences.

- We will:**
- Continue prioritising outdoor learning opportunities
 - Continue building engaging, child-led experiences linked to children's interests
 - Maintain our strong focus on exploration, creativity and hands-on learning

- You said:** You appreciate the nursery's nurturing and inclusive environment.

- We will:**
- Continue ensuring children feel safe, valued and included
 - Maintain the strong relationships between staff, children and families
 - Continue promoting a strong sense of belonging across the nursery and wider school community

Thank You

We are incredibly grateful for your continued support and partnership. Your feedback reflects the caring, nurturing and inclusive environment we work hard to create for every child. We are especially proud that so many families highlighted the strong sense of community, outdoor learning opportunities and the warm relationships that make our nursery such a special place to learn and grow.

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**

Hello Yellow - World Mental Health day - Friday 9th October

Brighten up the school! On Friday 19th October, pupils are encouraged to wear yellow to celebrate World Mental Health Day. To support YoungMinds and this vital cause, please donate here:

<https://fundraise.youngminds.org.uk/fundraisers/leaveningcp/hello-yellow>



Wear yellow, say hello.

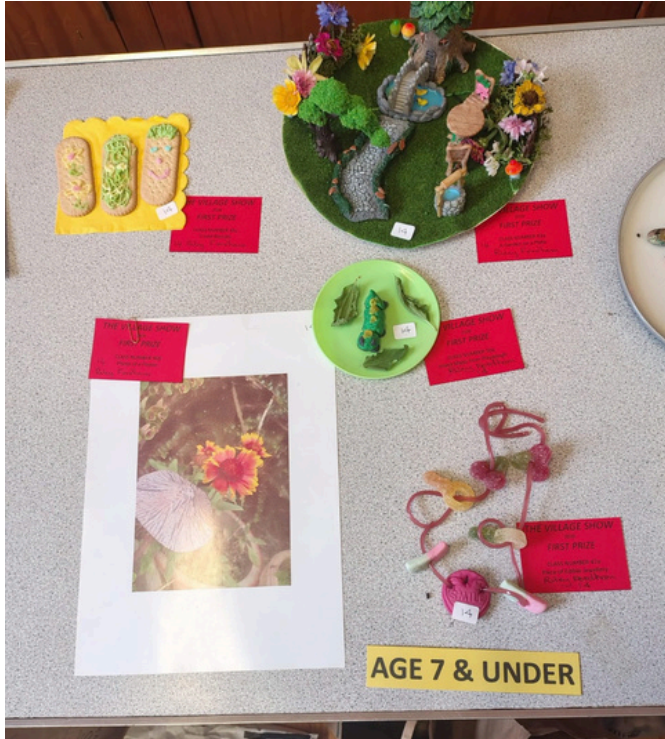
RECENT SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Celebrating success in the recent village show

A huge congratulations to all our pupils who took part in the Leavening Show at the start of the month!

We were thrilled to see such a wonderful variety of creative entries from across the school.

A special shout-out to Riley, who was delighted to win the trophy for the most points in the Under-7s Class Group! Well done to Riley and to everyone who got involved and showcased their talents.



RECENT SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Forest School Fun in Oak Trees Class

Oak Trees class have had a fantastic start to the term! As you can see from these great photos, the children have loved exploring and having fun during their Forest School sessions.



TENNIS
PEOPLE
COMMUNITY
OPPORTUNITY
FOR ALL

ALL
EQUIPMENT
CAN BE
PROVIDED!

OVER THE NET TENNIS FOUNDATION

PLAY
LEARN
BELONG

- ALL AGES
- ALL ABILITIES
- ALL WELCOME

INCLUSIVE • COMMUNITY FOCUSED • BRIGHTER TOMORROWS

TENNIS CHANGES LIVES

WEEKLY TENNIS TIMETABLE

MONDAY

BISHOP WILTON TENNIS CLUB

- 4.30 – 5.15pm** Mini Red & Orange (4-10yrs)
- 5.15 – 6.00pm** Mini Green & Teen Yellowball (11yrs+)
- 6.00 – 7.00pm** Adult Coaching, Drills, Doubles and Tactics

GREAT PEOPLE
BRIGHTER MONDAYS

TUESDAY

WHELDRAKE

- 4.00 – 4.45pm** Mini Red (4-8yrs)
- 4.45 – 5.30pm** Mini Orange (8-10yrs)
- 5.30 – 6.15pm** Mini Green & Teen Yellowball (11yrs+)
- 6.15 – 7.15pm** Adult Beginners & Rusty Racquets

NEW SKILLS
NEW FRIENDS
SAME PASSION

WEDNESDAY

BISHOPTHORPE & RICCALL REGEN CENTRE

- 9.30 – 10.15am** Tots Tennis (2-4yrs) @ Bishopthorpe
- 10.15 – 11.15am** Adult Beginners / Get Back Into Tennis @ Bishopthorpe
- 11.15 – 12.15pm** Ladies Tennis Coaching @ Bishopthorpe
- 12.15 – 1.00pm** Cardio Tennis @ Bishopthorpe
- 4.45 – 5.30pm** Mini Red, Mini Orange, Mini Green and Teen Yellowball (4+ yrs – split by age and ability) @ Riccall Regen Centre (indoors)

ALL ABILITIES • ALL GENERATIONS • ONE COMMUNITY

THURSDAY

BISHOPTHORPE

- 4.00 – 5.30pm** Junior Matchplay (8yrs+)

DEVELOP
COMPETE
ENJOY

FRIDAY

WHELDRAKE / MELBOURNE / BISHOPTHORPE

- 9.30 – 10.30am** Ladies Tennis Coaching @ Wheldrake
- 11.00 – 12.00pm** Adult Beginners Coaching & Rusty Racquets @ Melbourne
- 12.00 – 12.45pm** Cardio Tennis (family session all ages welcome) @ Melbourne
- 4.00 – 4.45pm** Mini Red & Orange (4-10yrs) @ Bishopthorpe
- 4.45 – 5.30pm** Mini Green & Teen Yellowball (11yrs+) @ Bishopthorpe
- 5.30 – 6.15pm** Cardio Tennis (family session all ages welcome) @ Bishopthorpe

FITNESS FUN FAMILY FRIENDSHIP

SATURDAY

WHELDRAKE / MELBOURNE / BISHOPTHORPE

- 8.15 – 9.00am** Mini Red & Orange (4-10yrs) @ Wheldrake
- 9.00 – 9.45am** Mini Orange & Green (8-12yrs) @ Wheldrake
- 9.00 – 9.45am** Tots Tennis (2-4yrs) @ Wheldrake
- 10.15 – 11.00am** Mini Red & Orange (4-10yrs) @ Melbourne
- 11.00 – 11.45am** Mini Green & Teen Yellowball (11yrs+) @ Melbourne
- 12.30 – 1.15pm** Mini Red & Orange (4-10yrs) @ Bishopthorpe
- 1.15 – 2.00pm** Mini Green & Teen Yellowball @ Bishopthorpe
- 2.00 – 3.00pm** Adult Beginners / Get Back Into Tennis @ Bishopthorpe
- 3.00 – 4.00pm** Adult Team Coaching, Doubles, Tactics and Drills @ Bishopthorpe
- 4.00 – 4.45pm** Cardio Tennis (family session all ages welcome) @ Bishopthorpe

MORE TENNIS • HAPPIER PEOPLE

SUNDAY

WHELDRAKE

- 9.30 – 10.15am** Cardio Tennis (family session all ages welcome)
- 10.15 – 11.15am** Teen Coaching & Matchplay (13yrs+)
- 11.15 – 12.15pm** Adult Beginners & Rusty Racquets
- 12.15 – 1.15pm** Adult Team Coaching, Doubles, Tactics and Drills

SAME COURT • BRIGHTER TOMORROWS

1-2-1
PRIVATE SESSIONS
AVAILABLE!

Individual & Family Sessions
Get in touch!

TENNIS IS
FOR EVERYONE

- ✓ ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED
- ✓ ALL AGES WELCOME
- ✓ ALL ABILITIES CATERED FOR
- ✓ FUN, FRIENDLY & SUPPORTIVE
- ✓ A STRONGER, HAPPIER COMMUNITY

SMALL
STEPS
BIG
BRIGHTER
TOMORROWS

GET IN TOUCH!



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SCAN
FOLLOW
BE PART OF
OUR COMMUNITY

PEOPLE • TENNIS • BRIGHTER TOMORROWS