Leavening Community Primary School

Oak Trees Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn Term 2 2026

Hello all,

I hope you had a nice half term! It's the run up to christmas! Sorry for mentioning the word! It becomes a super busy time in the school calendar so keep an eye out for key dates, information emails and things to be aware of! All dates are kept in the school newsletter – now sent termly.

PE is now on a **Thursday and Friday** - Please ensure your child wears their PE kit to school on Thursdays. PE kit should consist of: a plain white T-shirt with or without school logo and navy blue, black or grey PE joggers or shorts, with trainers. They may also bring a plain jumper or jacket for colder weather.

Spelling checks are on **Wednesdays** – We use EdShed to teach our spelling curriculum and pupils all will have access to a log in to practise spellings at home. Little and often is the best way to ensure your child has enough practise of the spellings we learn each week. EdShed offers a fun and engaging way to get the practise in!

Homework: We have recently sent out a change to our usual homework, in reponse to feedback and engagement. Here is a reminder of the homework we will now be sending out:

- Weekly spellings either through the red book in bag or EDshed
- Year 5/6 Vocabulous engagement
- Reading for fluency and for pleasure on a regular basis
- Year 3 and 4 maths- Timestable practice
- Year 5 and 6- White Rose Maths CGP practice book weekly

There are always things to be cracking on with at home – the most important being reading for pleasure, spellings and timestables.

Our topic this term is **"We are Yorkshire"**, which we launched on our first day back with some unique Yorkshire themed learning opportunities! Thanks for your on going support.

Please remember **coats** and items to keep your child warm at play times!

There is **no forest school** this term.

From Miss T and Team Oak Trees

English:

This term, we will continue to develop our narrative writing skills, building on our previous learning and exploring how stories can be told from different perspectives. We will be focusing on writing in the third person, using The Snowman as inspiration to retell a story with descriptive language, varied sentence structures and carefully chosen vocabulary to engage the reader.

Alongside this, we will be exploring Yorkshire folk tales, discovering traditional stories, local legends and the rich storytelling history of our region. This will link to our overall topic, 'We Are Yorkshire', giving the children opportunities to explore local culture, develop their storytelling skills and create their own imaginative narratives.

Our key texts this term will include Yorkshire Folk Tales for Children, The Snowman and, for Year 5/6, The Animals of Farthing Wood.

Maths:

This term, we will be developing our multiplication and division skills, building confidence and fluency when working with larger numbers and applying written methods to solve problems. We will also be exploring fractions, developing our understanding of equivalent fractions and how fractions can be compared and calculated.

Year 5/6 will also be focusing on prime numbers, learning how to identify prime numbers and explore factors and multiples. Throughout the term, we will continue to develop our mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills, encouraging children to explain their thinking and apply their learning to a range of different challenges.

Some helpful sites to support timestable learning at home:

timestables.co.uk

URBrainy – MTC (multiplication tables check)

Science:

In Science, we will be exploring the different states of matter: solids, liquids and gases. The children will investigate the properties of each state and discover how materials can change from one state to another through processes such as melting, freezing, evaporation and condensation. We will carry out practical investigations to explore how temperature affects materials and look at some unusual materials that don't behave in the way we might expect!

We will also be learning about the water cycle, exploring how water moves around our planet through evaporation, condensation and precipitation. The children will discover how the Sun provides the energy that drives this continuous cycle and how changes of state play an important role in the movement of water around the Earth.

History:

As part of our overall topic, 'We Are Yorkshire', we will be travelling back in time to discover the impact of the Vikings on Yorkshire. We will explore the Viking invasion and settlement of Britain, with a particular focus on Jorvik (modern-day York). The children will investigate what life was like in Viking York, exploring homes, jobs, trade, beliefs and everyday life. We will also use historical sources and archaeological evidence to discover what the Vikings left behind and how their influence can still be seen in Yorkshire today.

Computing:

Year 3/4: Stop-Frame Animation

In Computing, Year 3/4 will be exploring stop-frame animation and discovering how a series of still images can be brought together to create the illusion of movement. The children will investigate how animations are made, experiment with moving objects in small steps and capturing each movement using digital devices. They will then plan, create and edit their own short animations, developing their understanding of sequencing, timing and digital creativity.

Year 5/6: Video Production

Year 5/6 will be developing their video production skills, learning how to plan, film and edit their own digital videos. The children will explore different camera angles, movements and filming techniques, considering how these can be used to communicate a message and engage an audience. They will also learn how to edit their footage, adding transitions, titles and other features to create a finished video. Throughout the unit, pupils will consider how to produce effective videos and make thoughtful choices about the content they share.

RE:

Year 3/4: Why are festivals important to religious communities?

In RE, Year 3/4 will be exploring why festivals are important to different religious communities. We will investigate how Christians, Hindus, Muslims and Jewish people celebrate important festivals, discovering the stories, beliefs and traditions behind celebrations such as Christmas, Easter, Diwali, Eid and Hanukkah. The children will explore how festivals bring communities together, help people express their beliefs and provide opportunities to remember important events. We will encourage children to consider the meaning behind different celebrations and reflect on what makes special occasions important to individuals and communities.

Year 5/6: What do religions say to people when life gets hard?

In RE, Year 5/6 will be exploring how religious beliefs and teachings can help people through difficult times in life. We will investigate how different religions offer guidance, comfort and hope when people face challenges such as loss, suffering or difficult decisions. The children will explore religious stories, teachings and examples of how faith can influence the way people respond to challenging situations. We will also consider how beliefs can provide strength and support, while recognising that people may find comfort and guidance in different ways, whether they are religious or not.

PSHE:

In PSHE, students will explore the topic of Celebrating Differences, discussing the importance of embracing diversity, understanding different cultures, and respecting

individuality in our community. They will reflect on how we can support one another and celebrate what makes us unique.

Picture news
Each week we will learn about our British Values through current affairs in our world. We will explore: Tolerance of other faiths and beliefs, Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty and will understand characteristics of being a good and fair citizen.

PE:

This half term, we will be focusing on Gymnastics and Dance, developing our flexibility, strength, technique, control, balance and coordination.

In Gymnastics, the children will learn and practise a range of movements, including different jumps and leaps, rolls, vaulting movements, lunges and cartwheels. They will combine their individual skills to create sequences of movement, thinking carefully about how to link movements together smoothly and creatively before performing their own routines.

In Dance, the children will explore how to use movement to express ideas, feelings and actions. They will experiment with different movements, patterns, levels, directions and speeds, learning how to move in time with music and work together to create and perform their own dance sequences.

Art:

In Art, we will be exploring how artists create the illusion of movement in their work. The children will experiment with different techniques, materials and artistic styles to capture movement, energy and action in their artwork. We will look at how artists use line, shape, colour and composition to suggest movement and bring their creations to life. Through experimenting and developing their own ideas, the children will create artwork that explores how something static can appear to move. We will also have a go at making flip books!

Music:

As musicians we will be learning about the evolution of notation understanding that Guido d'Arezzo devised the system of staff notation. Treble clef pitch mnemonics will help us to read pitch to learn part of Do-Re-Mi on glockenspiels. We will read traditional rhythm notation learning note values - names and lengths. Performance and composition work will involve performing Rapping Rhythms and creating a similar piece of music based on word rhythms linked to animals. We will explore notating the rhythms and add pitch to at least one part. We will also listen to music to develop our ability to feel the pulse, recognise rhythms and instruments considering a range of styles. We will prepare the songs for the Christmas Production.

French:

As French linguists we will be learning the alphabet in French. We will be learning and revising family members vocabulary. We will also work on the French vocabulary for parts of the body and facial features. We will learn a little bit about traditions in France at Christmas. We will be using our listening, speaking, reading and writing skills alongside singing songs and playing games in French.