Leavening Community Primary School

Conkers Newsletter
Autumn Term 2 2026

Hello families,

Welcome back to the last half term of the year! A half term filled with fun, glitter, Nativity and Christmas fervour! I hope that all Conkers have had a lovely break and are raring to go in this busy term – our whole school topic this half term is 'We are Yorkshire'. We also can't wait to get started on our Nativity this term and hope that you can join us for one of our productions! This year, the Conkers will perform the fantastic production of 'A Little Nativity'. Parts will be handed out soon and rehearsals will ensue... Please assist your child in learning their lines ahead of rehearsals – this really helps with nerves. You will also receive costume ideas – please do not worry about a 'perfect' costume – Nativities are what tea towels were *made* for!! Thank you for your support! In addition, look out for Christmas craft afternoons and of course, our annual pantomime visit. How did this all come around so *soon*?!

Please don't forget that this term also hosts parents evening – if you haven't signed up yet, please do so. I look forward to meeting with you all!

Mrs Bennett.

This term we are learning:

English:

Reception This half term, the children will commence their 'Drawing Club' study. Drawing Club is a playful and imaginative approach to story -telling and writing that uses stories, adventure and creativity to build children's confidence in drawing, mark making and early writing. Through shared tales, children are encouraged to develop their ideas, express themselves through pictures and words and let their imaginations run wild! Drawing Club is a joyful way to strengthen storytelling skills, spark creativity, and nurture a love of learning!

KS1 The Year 1 and 2 children will firstly study information texts based on the beautiful book 'Seasons' by Hannah Peng. After that, we take our writing in a completely different direction and write our own narrative based on the BBC advert 'My Christmas Star'. Hopefully, this different approach to sparking imagination will produce some fantastic stories!

Maths

Reception This term in maths, the children will explore how to find one more and one less, practise their subitising (being able to see how many items there are in a small group without counting them one by one) skills and explore the composition of the numbers 1-5. They will then move on to looking at shapes with four sides – naming, combining and finding these shapes in the environment.

Year 1 This term in maths, our Year 1 study will continue looking at Addition and Subtraction within 10. We will use practical resources, drawings, and number lines to solve problems, building fluency and confidence with number bonds. This will provide strong foundations for future maths learning and help us to see the links between counting, adding, and taking away.

After this, we will move onto studying shape – we will learn to recognise, name and sort 2D and 3D shapes and recognise patterns with the same shapes.

Year 2 This term in maths, the Year 2 children will also continue their study on Addition and Subtraction. They will explore different strategies to add and subtract, including using number bonds, number lines, and practical resources. They will also begin to solve simple problems and explain their thinking, helping them to develop fluency and flexibility with numbers. After that, the children will move on to studying shape. They will count sides, vertices and faces on 2D and 3D shapes. They sort shapes, complete patterns and will also use lines of symmetry to complete shapes.

Science In Science this half term, we are learning about Animals, Including Humans. We will be exploring the similarities and differences between humans and other animals, identifying and naming different parts of the body, and learning how our body parts help us to see, hear, smell, taste and touch the world around us

Geography In Geography this half term, we are exploring our local area and discovering what makes Yorkshire special, learning to identify physical and human features, use maps and aerial photographs, and compare our village of Leavening with other places, including the city of York

R.E In RE this half term, we will be exploring special and sacred times. Our Reception children will be thinking about which times are special to them and why, while our Key Stage 1 children will be investigating how and why Christians and Jewish people celebrate important festivals. We will learn about some of the traditions, stories and celebrations associated with Christian and Jewish festivals, and consider why these times are meaningful to the people who celebrate them

D.T In Design and Technology this half term, we will be exploring food and nutrition by designing and making our own fruit smoothies. We will investigate different fruits, consider their tastes and textures, and learn how to prepare ingredients safely. We will then design and create our own smoothie packaging, thinking carefully about how to make it attractive and appealing to customers.

P.E In PE this half term, the children will be developing their movement skills through gymnastics and dance. On Wednesdays, they will explore dance, using different movements, rhythms and actions to express themselves. On Thursday afternoons, all of the children will continue to benefit from PE lessons delivered by Jack from Malton Sports Partnership. This half term, they will focus on gymnastics, developing their balance, coordination, flexibility and ability to create a range of shapes and sequences

Music As musicians we will be exploring long and short sounds linking to rhythm as well as learning about pulse. We will be making long and short sounds using our voices and percussion instruments. We will be exploring rhythm grids and learning about crotchets and quavers. We will be singing lots of songs to explore duration and building our repertoire of nursery rhymes. We will also prepare the songs for the Christmas Production.

French As French linguists we will be recalling and learning numbers up to 12 in French and playing games to use and recognise them. We will greet each other in French and ensure we know the days of the week. We are securing our knowledge of colours and learning a wider range of colours. We will learn some French words for parts of the face and body and link these into Christmas characters. We will be using our listening, speaking, reading and writing skills alongside singing songs and reading some stories.

Computing In Computing this half term, we will be learning about Digital Painting, following the Teach Computing curriculum. The children will explore how to use digital tools to create pictures, experiment with different brushes, colours and effects, and learn how to select and use tools to achieve different results. They will develop their creativity and confidence when creating artwork using technology.

PSHE - In PSHE this half term, we will be following the Jigsaw theme Celebrating Difference. The children will explore what makes each of us unique, recognise and celebrate similarities and differences between people, and learn the importance of being kind, respectful and accepting of others. We will also think about friendships, how our words and actions can affect others, and how to make everyone feel valued and included.