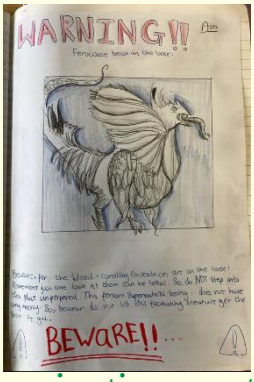
Yorke Mead School Newsletter

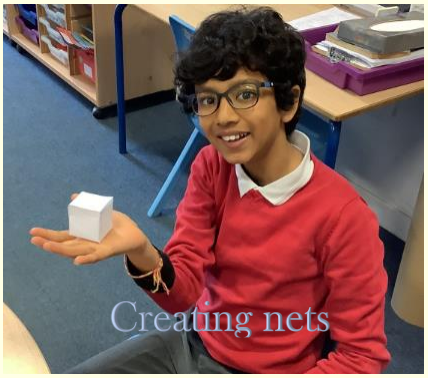
Friday 26th April 2024

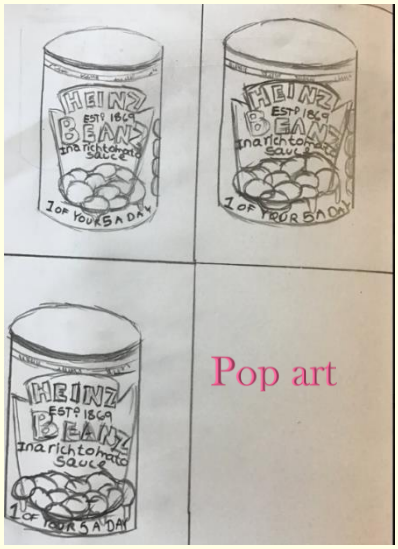
This week at Yorke Mead!

Learning in so many ways



Imaginative creation





Dates for the diary

This week	This Month	Next Month
Tue 30th April – Y5 Girls football tournament		Mon 6th May – Bank Holiday Wed 8th/Thur 9th – Year 4 Road Safety Thur 10th May – Year 2 Africa Day w/b 13th May – Y6 SATs week Wed 15th May – Yr 5 WW2 Theme Day Thur 16th May – Y2 Woburn Trip Fri 17th May – Y3 local walk Tues 21st May – Y1 Superheroes Day Yr 6 to Chessington Thur 23rd May – 50th celebrations Fri 24th May and 3rd June- INSET DAYS

Welcome

This week we have welcomed another Miss Fox to Yorke Mead. Our new Miss Fox will be joining the Admin Team. Her role replaces the work done by Mrs Jowers who has worked for many years at the school supporting the leadership team in managing the school budget. Mrs Jowers, whose children attended Yorke Mead many years ago and who has been at the school for well over 20 years, has decided to retire and enjoy a well-earned rest.

Our new Miss Fox will work in the back office and may be someone your children are more likely to meet than you, though it is nice for you to know who they are talking about.

Learning Next Week

Nursery – Acorns

Focus: *' Long, Long Ago' - all about dinosaurs. Story: Dinosaur Roar! Talking about opposites. Phonics: focus on the sound 'j'. Rhyme Time: '1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I caught a fish alive', tapping syllables. Literacy: Practising mark making and writing our names. Maths: recognition of up to 3 items without counting (subitising). Listening to and creating our own dinosaur music.*

Reception – Lime & Willow

Focus: '*Long Long Ago' Reading 'A Girl called Mary' and learning about Mary Anning. Looking at fossils using magnifying glasses. Creating shell impressions in clay Maths: 'Ten and some more' Learning about teen numbers as '14 is 10 and 4 more'. Phonics: CCVCC words. Reading longer words. Sentence writing focus.*

Year 1 – Elder & Silver Birch

English*: character descriptions and making a plan for a story*
Phonics & spelling: *Spelling - ue ew u-e /yoo/ aw /or/*
Maths: *twice as many / solving problems*
Science: *use our observations of spring weather to answer questions*
Wider Curriculum: *What will your moving toy look like and how will you use a winder to make it move up and down? What is the Qur'an and why is it special?*
PD/P4C/Growth Mindset**:**

Book of the moment: Traction Man

Year 2 – Cedar & Horse Chestnut

English*: Kennings, what is a Kenning? Writing a Kenning.*
Phonics & spelling: *adding suffixes - ness, -ment, -ful, -less and -ly*
Maths:
Science: *Sort seeds and bulbs and predict what might be in them.*
Wider Curriculum: *What are the different techniques for shaping clay? Digital footprints, what is a digital footprint? Why is Africa hot? Exploring 'silhouettes' on our African sunsets*
PD/P4C/Growth Mindset**:** *What causes conflict with my friends?*
Book of the moment: Chitty Chitty Bang Bang – The Race Against Time & Quick- Let's get out of here.

Year 3 – Laurel & Sycamore

English*: write up of our explanation texts*
Phonics & spelling: *- suffix - sion*
Maths: *scaling worded problems*
Science: *comparing and grouping material which are magnetic*
Wider Curriculum: *What is the impact of authority leaders on individual believers? What is the effect of volcanoes on people's lives?*
PD/P4C/Growth Mindset**:** *What is important to remember about friendships online?*
'Sharing a Shell' Book by Julia Donaldson
Book of the moment: The Creepers & Lightning Girl

Year 4 – Maple & Pine

English*: writing our own biography*
Phonics & spelling: *adding the suffix - ing to root words*
Maths: *equivalence in fractions & formal multiplication*
Science: *functions of the key parts of the digestive system*
Wider Curriculum: *How can historical items and artefacts be used to build a picture of the past?*
PD/P4C/Growth Mindset**:** *How can we manage difficulties in our relationships?*
Book of the moment: The night we got stuck in a story & The Last Bear

Year 5 – Ash & Rowan

English*: writing a monologue*
Phonics & spelling:
Maths: *translation and angles*
Science: *to conduct investigations and observations into how plants reproduce sexually and asexually*:
Wider Curriculum *WWII day*
PSHE: *What is important to understand about online friend requests?*
Book of the moment: Who Let the Gods Out & Once

Year 6 – Red Oak and White Oak

English*: Spiderwick - diary writing*
Phonics & spelling: *hyphenated words*
Maths: *measures including time*
Science: *electricity: circuits and symbols*
Wider Curriculum *How did Lichtenstein create an impact?*:
PD/P4C/Growth Mindset**:** *Art stimulus*
Book of the moment: Spiderwick's Field Guide to the Fantastical World Around You

Punctuality

We have seen a number of pupils regularly arriving late to school. For many this is just five minutes a day, and many parents will think that 5 minutes doesn't really count. Let's take a look at how quickly 5 minutes adds up:

- In one week 5 minutes /day= 25 minutes of lost learning (the equivalent to a guided reading lesson)
- In one month 5 minutes/day = 1 hour 40 minutes (the equivalent of 3 maths lessons)
- In one term 5 minutes/day = 5 hours lost learning time (the equivalent of one day of lessons)
- In one year 5 minutes/day = 15 hours lost learning time (the equivalent of three days of lessons)

Five minutes really does count!!! Very quickly, your child is losing much learning time.

Yorke Mead 50th Anniversary

As you may be aware, Yorke Mead turns 50 this May. We thought it would be interesting to invite the Yorke Mead families to mark the event by entering a competition. The competition theme is **'Yorke Mead in Fifty Years Time'**. Pupils could create a storyboard, model, poem, or piece of artwork linked to the theme, which imagines how Yorke Mead will look in another 50 years time.

The official anniversary date is 13th May – this is the first day of the Year 6 SATS (something the children didn't have to do 50 years ago) and therefore, we have decided we will celebrate week beginning 20th May. There will be a party and we will be finding ways to mark this very special event.

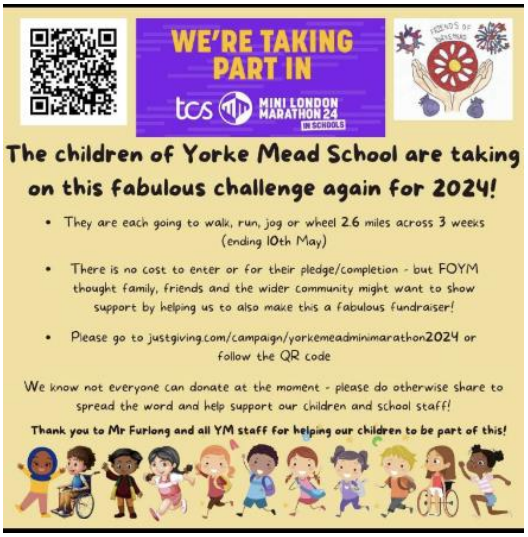
The planned celebrations will look like this:

On **Thursday 23rd May** we will invite children to come to school dressed in the fashion from a decade or as a key figure/event from the time period during history of the school. So much has happened – the birth of the mobile phone; Queen Elizabeth's jubilee parties; Britain joined and left the EU; the birth of Harry Potter; the opening of the M25; England nearly won the Euro's at football!
We have allocated the decades/themes as follows:
Year 6 – 1970's
Year 5 – 1980's
Year 4 – 1990's
Year 3 – 2000's onwards
Year 1 & 2 – Significant people/events from the past 50 years (fictional and real)
Early Years – Book and Disney Characters from the past 50 years
We will be organising a tea party and there is of course the competition that is explained at the top of this article. We may have a few surprises up our sleeve too!

Congratulations to Miss Welsh Welling and her partner on the birth of their new baby daughter on Monday this week. Mummy and baby all doing well.

It's a girl!

Yorke Sport: The Mini Marathon



Inspired by the London Marathon last weekend, and the marvellous effort of Mrs Brown (Y5 Rowan) the children will again be taking part in the Mini Marathon. The TCS **Mini** London **Marathon** invites schools to bring their children and young people to run, jog, walk, or wheel one mile or 2.6K in the heart of the capital.

Most importantly it helps inspire the children to have a goal in their minds and to work towards this goal – hopefully encouraging them to keep enjoying exercise as they do so.

FOYM use the Mini Marathon as a fundraising opportunity. You can show your support to the children at https://justgiving.com/campaign/yorkemeadminimarathon2024

Inspiring Reading

Each month teachers take turns to choose a new book to share with the children. The children listen to the story, or an extract from it, and they then take a copy of the book back to the classroom with them. The aim is to inspire the children's reading and also keep new books going into the class libraries. We have done this for a while, but thought sharing these with you will help you if you want inspiration of books to buy.

The books shared this month are:
EYFS – The Wonkey Donkey by Craig Smith
KS1 – Wishes by Muron Thi Van
Lower KS2 The Last Bear by Hannah Gold
Upper KS2 Who Let the Gods Out by Maz Evans

Eco-Minute

The Big Battery Hunt.

Great work so far – Year 2 are currently heading the leaderboard for the battery collection but there is still time to catch up and take that trophy! Batteries collected are recycled – another step towards protecting our precious earth.

Plastic Art Competition

If your children enjoy something creative and have a passion for the environment, why not encourage them to take part in a local art competition. The deadline of 19th May means the exhibition of entries can take place during Great Big Green Week in June. Further details on how to get involved in Great Big Green Week can be found here - https://greenwatford.uk/climate/south-west-herts-great-big-green-week-2024/.

Letters sent out this week.

Year 5 World War II day

Year 2 Africa Day

Year 3 Athletics

Lucille Pollard

Head teacher