

Yorke Mead School

Newsletter



Friday 9th September 2022

This week at Yorke Mead!

Enjoying Reading Together



This week our children have met their new reading partners and begun the process of enjoying reading together. We will be looking at the book given to children earlier this year to celebrate The Queen's life; I am sure many of you will be doing the same as a family.

Dates for the diary

This week	This Month	Next Month
<p>Mon 12th September Author visit Y1-3 (postponed by author following the death of The Queen – a new date will be organised soon)</p> <p>Wed 14th – Fri 16th September Y5 to PGL</p> <p>Fri 16th September Jeans for Genes Day * donations of your own choice</p>	<p>Fri 23rd September Phonics workshop for parents (R/Y1)</p> <p>Sat 24th September FOYM Welcome Picnic for new Rec/Nur families</p>	<p>October Black History Month</p> <p>W/b 3rd October Dyslexia Awareness Month</p> <p>Tues 18th October Flu vaccinations</p> <p>Thur 20th October Y6 height/weight</p> <p>Fri 21st October Break for half term</p>

Learning Next Week

Nursery- Acorns Focus: Focus-Settling into our new environment. Learning how to use areas of the classroom inside and outside. Sharing favourite stories and songs. Learning the 'Tidy up' and 'Goodbye' song.		Reception-Lime & Willow Focus: Meeting all members of the class and building our class community. Talking about 'people who help us' at school and creating our 'helping hands'. Continuing to learn how to use all areas of our indoor and outdoor environment. Singing nursery rhymes and counting songs. Reading favourite stories. <i>Phonics: learning the phase 2 sounds s, a, t, p</i>	
Year 1 – Elder & Silver Birch English: book –'Plenty of love to go around' Phonics & spelling: - reviewing phase 3 sounds Maths: positional language Science: changes over time Wider Curriculum: changes in how we listen to music/ establishing routines P4C/Growth Mindset: our class is a family		Year 2 –Cedar & Horse Chestnut English: The Magic Finger persuasive writing Phonics & spelling: - reading longer words/ adding 'ing' and 'ed' to root words Maths: securing number knowledge to 20 – doubling, regrouping & equivalence Science: animals including humans and their young Wider Curriculum: using sliders and levers to create moving pictures P4C/Growth Mindset: hopes and fears this year	
Year 4 – Maple & Pine English: narrative - The Secret of Black Rock Phonics & spelling: - high frequency Y3/4 words Maths: place value Science: using Venn and Carroll diagrams Wider Curriculum: 4 digit grid references/using symmetry (Levon Biss Topic) PE: golf P4C/Growth Mindset: Mind Up, the brain and mindfulness /Equality and Equity		Year 5 –Ash & Rowan English: free form poetry Phonics & spelling: - homophones Maths: place value and rounding PE basketball P4C/Growth Mindset: Our class is a family - we will continue to talk about this and the Yorke Mead Way Year 5 are visiting PGL this week for their residential stay	
		Year 3 – Laurel & Sycamore English: introduction to fables / understanding the features Phonics & spelling: - long 'a' sound Maths: place value of 3-digit numbers Science: how different animals need different nutrients Wider Curriculum: understanding the composition of artwork produced by Arcimboldo / comparing Islam and Christianity P4C/Growth Mindset: facing new challenges/ stimulus 'Are children too busy?'	
		Year 6 –Red Oak and White Oak English: Ice Trap- Shackleton's Incredible Expedition- writing speech Phonics & spelling: - commonly used words Maths: place value Science: the circulatory system, heart and blood vessels Wider Curriculum: exploring biomes PE P4C/Growth Mindset: Should we accept people in our school family, even if we don't get on with them	

Welcome back!



A warm welcome to our new families and welcome back to those who have been with us previously. The children have returned to school so positively and every time I visit classrooms they are so settled and focused. I hope they are coming home buzzing with excitement for their learning; most importantly I hope they are coming home happy. Please remember that if anything is worrying your child to let one of the classroom team know so that they can do all they can to support your child.

Thank you for your positive response to the change of timing for the school day and for arriving in school promptly. The work your children do in the first few minutes of the day is so important in helping their progress, and also in enabling them to reconnect with their friends. A really positive start to the day sets the children up well and supports their well being and their learning.

Our Queen

Queen Elizabeth II
1926 -2022

We are at a turning point in history and as the country mourns the death of our Queen, the message we will be giving the children is that, along with the sadness that inevitably comes with the loss of someone who has been a guiding light to our nation and such a positive role model of how to behave and conduct ourselves, at these times we celebrate life and all that has been achieved in a lifetime.

We will be observing the period of national mourning, but simply and in a way that is appropriate to the children. Our job is to help them to understand the circle of life, and that grief and mourning when we lose someone important to us is normal.



Seeking Volunteers

This year it is important that we get fully back to 'normal' and that Covid does not stop us in our tracks any further. This year, therefore, we want to welcome back volunteers (parents/ grandparents etc.) to help with reading or in the classroom, and in particular, would like to have a volunteer librarian or two, who can work in the library helping children change and choose their library books. If you are interested please email Mrs Dawkins schoolsecretary@yorkemead.herts.sch.uk. As this would be regular support we



would need to complete a DBS prior to volunteers starting. If you are interested and want to know more, please do ask. If you are wondering whether working in school is for you, volunteering is a great way to find out whether you enjoy this.

Twitter



Adults in school Tweet regularly to share with you some of the activities your children enjoy in school. In addition to the class Twitter pages, this year we have introduced a 'Sports' focused page. Mr Furlong will be using a school iphone to take the pictures and upload them – we thought informing you of this may reduce any concern if the children told you Mr Furlong was using a phone in school.

By following Twitter you get a chance to be a fly on the wall in your child's classroom for a moment in time.

Many of you may still be following the Twitter pages from last year – remember to also follow your child's current year group. The Twitter handles to follow are:

@SportYorkeMead @NYorkeMead @RYorkeMead @1YorkeMead @2YorkeMead
@3YorkeMead @4YorkeMead @5YorkeMead @6YorkeMead @YorkeMead

The main Yorke Mead Twitter does feed through to Facebook but to see these you must click on the link – they do not show as a normal Facebook page shows.

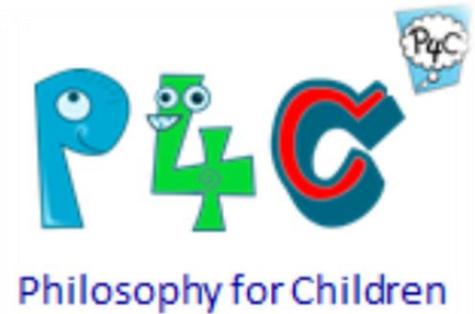
The Yorke Mead Way

Over the next few weeks, I will be sharing with you what we call 'The Yorke Mead Way'. This will include the approaches we take and the language we introduce to the children. The aim of the Yorke Mead Way is to develop the children into positive and effective learners who can overcome the challenges that modern life brings us. We will start this week by talking about Mindfulness and Philosophy for Children (P4C).



Mindfulness: we teach the children the value of mindfulness to calm our minds and prepare them for learning. Taking the time to calm our thoughts 3 times a day, we teach the children a strategy that cannot only help their learning, but also help them at times when they feel worried or anxious.

Philosophy for Children (P4C): P4C offers a way to open up children's learning through enquiry and the exploration of ideas. Children learn that their own ideas have value, and that the ideas of other children have value too. Through Philosophy for Children (P4C) children realise that they don't always have to be right, but they gain the confidence to ask questions and learn through discussion.



New Phonics Scheme

We have this year introduced a new phonics scheme 'Little Wandle' which we hope will enable ALL children to develop their confidence and fluency in reading. Reading is the backbone of education and to read with meaning, you must read with fluency and ease. There is no part of academic learning that is more important.

Little Wandle will be used to teach phonics to all children in Reception and Year 1; children in Year 2 and in Key Stage 2 will continue with the scheme until they have developed the confidence with phonics to be able to read with fluency and understanding.

A key change will be that children in Reception and Year 1 will be given access to electronic books so that they can practise reading at home the books they have been introduced to in school – this is because re-reading books is an important part of establishing the fluency needed to fully comprehend and read with understanding and meaning.

Part of the scheme means we will be asking that reading books that come home in Reception, Year 1 and for children throughout who have not yet developed the necessary fluency, to be read three times. If your child is in Year 2 or above and needs to read their book three times to develop the fluency, staff will let you know with a note in the reading record. Children in Reception and Year 1 should do this please.

The new scheme means we are having to adapt our practise in a number of ways; although staff have all completed the necessary training, please bear with us as we iron out the organisational issues.

We will hold a number of meetings to help you to understand the scheme and approach:

Reception Meeting: Friday 23rd September at 9:00am

Year 1 Meeting 23rd September at 2:00pm

Year 2 and above 3rd October 9:00am

School Dinner Update

We have been able to take the next steps now towards the change in the school meals system; this will allow the flexibility parents and children want to combine school meals and packed lunches, allow parents to prebook meals and children to make decisions in school if a meal isn't pre-booked.

Mrs Gavin will send you more details in the coming weeks; the current plan is to get this in place for the start of October. Thank you for your patience.



Playgrounds after school

Whilst we understand that the children like to play in the playground when school finishes, and it is lovely that they don't want to go home, we do need to get the gates locked ready for the afterschool club. We therefore politely request that parents do not allow their children to stop and play. Apologies for any upset this may cause.

Could you or your child be getting more financial help?

We will all feel the pinch that the rising energy and food costs are bringing to us. Many people are entitled to further financial help but do not apply because they assume that a 'free school meals' application only means that. It means far more. This year, I was able to offer additional support for school uniform and some children also had support with music lessons or other opportunities. Many people think that because they do not pay for meals until Year 3, they do not need to apply, but the school is able to access funding to support your child in many ways if they are entitled to free school meals.

If you receive any of the following benefits your child may be entitled. **Please apply today!**

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than £16,190 a year)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (with annual earned income of no more than £7,400 after tax and not including any benefits you get).

Jeans for Genes

On Friday we will support Jeans for Genes Day. Children should wear school uniform top and jeans/denim bottoms. Donations as you see fit. This is an important charity for one of our families, as it is genetic research that will bring about the important life changing treatments that help.

If you can support please do.



Parking outside school



Week One and already an upset neighbour who has had their drive blocked and a parent concerned about safety due to parents stopping cars on a bend/in the middle of the road to drop children or driving onto the pavement to park. Please, please, please... do not put other people's lives at risk because you are not willing to walk a short distance. Do not drop your children right outside of school – if they are old enough to walk into school themselves, they can be dropped further down Fuller Way and walk safely along the street with no road to cross.

Walking to school is by far the best thing for your child! We are all busy – but the few minutes you save will never be worth the harm it could potentially cause.

Letters sent out this week

Year 4 Forest School (Maple)
Year 6 Forest School
Year 6 Height and weight
Year 5 PGL Kit list and letter
Author Visit Year 1- Year 3
Welcome Letters (all year groups)
Secondary Transfer Information Y6
After School Club Information

Lucille Pollard

Head teacher