

# Yorke Mead School

## Newsletter

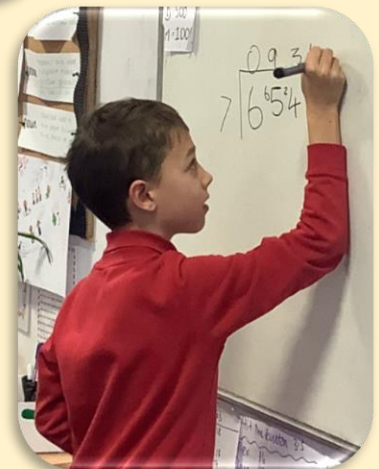
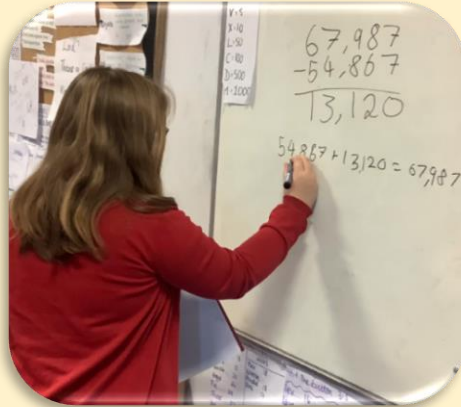
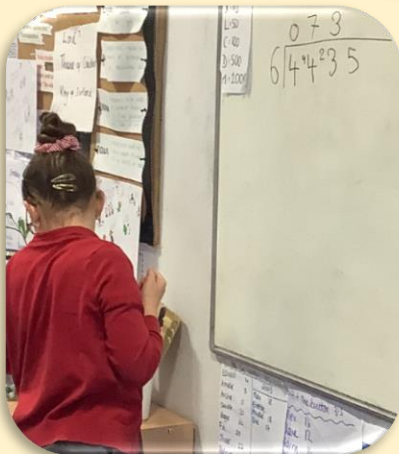


Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023



*This week at Yorke Mead!*

### Learners as teachers...teachers as learners



They say you don't really know anything until you can explain it or 'teach it' to someone else. These children are deepening their own knowledge and helping others to understand more by explaining their thinking. Great learning. Great teaching.

### *Dates for the diary*

This week	This Month	Next Month
<b>Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> January</b> – Year 1 Grandparents afternoon	<b>Mon 30<sup>th</sup> January</b> – Year 3 Healthy Heroes workshop	<b>Wed 1<sup>st</sup> February</b> – Year 4 Indoor athletics <b>Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b> – Year 4 British museum Trip <b>W/b Mon 6<sup>th</sup> February</b> – YM Wellbeing Week <b>Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> February</b> – Electric Umbrella visiting <b>Wed 8<sup>th</sup> February</b> – Year 4 Egyptian Day <b>Fri 10<sup>th</sup> February</b> – Break for half term

## Learning Next Week

<b>Nursery- Acorns</b> <b>Focus:</b> Focus- 'Ticket to Ride'. Story of the week-My World, Your World. Song of The Week- Twinkle Twinkle Little Star. Looking at a world map and naming some countries. Thinking about different types of transport. Looking at traditional transport from different countries. Celebrating Chinese New Year- the year of the rabbit.		<b>Reception-Lime &amp; Willow</b> <b>Focus:</b> 'Ticket to ride' topic. Learning about steam trains and trains in the past. Learning about Chinese New Year. Maths: positional language. Phonics: er, air, words with double letters
<b>Year 1 – Elder &amp; Silver Birch</b>  <b>English:</b> Beegu - post cards, posters and speech bubbles <b>Phonics &amp; spelling:</b> - /u/ o-e o ou some mother young , /z/ se cheese, /s/ se ce mouse fence, /ee/ ey doney <b>Maths:</b> subtraction using think 10 <b>Science:</b> human made and natural materials <b>Wider Curriculum:</b> Christianity – Christenings/Grandparent visits - toys <b>P4C/Growth Mindset:</b> Beegu - full enquiry - wanting to belong	<b>Year 2 –Cedar &amp; Horse Chestnut</b>  <b>English:</b> narrative writing using adjectives and conjunctions <b>Phonics &amp; spelling:</b> - /ar/ and /air. Sounds <b>Maths:</b> money working out change <b>Science:</b> urban, coastal, pond and woodland habitats <b>Wider Curriculum:</b> names and location of countries, capital cities and areas in the UK. <b>P4C/Growth Mindset:</b> working collaboratively	<b>Year 3 – Laurel &amp; Sycamore</b>  <b>English:</b> writing up our explanation texts <b>Phonics &amp; spelling:</b> - homophones <b>Maths:</b> multiplication and division strategies <b>Science:</b> properties of different rocks <b>Wider Curriculum:</b> - how do volcanoes affect the lives of people living around them?/ creating a branching database <b>P4C/Growth Mindset:</b> facing new challenges and working out the best ways to achieve them
<b>Year 4 – Maple &amp; Pine</b>  <b>English:</b> rewriting a version of Leon and the Place Between <b>Phonics &amp; spelling:</b> - un- / sub- prefix <b>Maths:</b> shape and symmetry <b>Science:</b> pitch and volume <b>Wider Curriculum:</b> Ancient Egyptian artefacts <b>P4C/Growth Mindset:</b> wanting to belong	<b>Year 5 –Ash &amp; Rowan</b>  <b>English:</b> creating a two sided debate <b>Phonics &amp; spelling:</b> - words ending ably and ibly <b>Maths:</b> adding and subtracting fractions <b>Science:</b> thermal insulator investigation <b>Wider Curriculum:</b> understanding dreams and goals from a range of cultures <b>P4C/Growth Mindset:</b> wanting to belong	<b>Year 6 –Red Oak and White Oak</b>  <b>English:</b> writing a description of Tudor London <b>Phonics &amp; spelling:</b> - suffix 'er' and 'ure' <b>Maths:</b> multiplication of fractions <b>Science:</b> how species are adapted to their environment? <b>Wider Curriculum:</b> periods of British history <b>P4C/Growth Mindset:</b> whole school stimulus about Belonging

# Industrial Action

You will have heard in the news about the planned industrial action by one of the teaching unions. I appreciate that you are keen to know whether classes will be open or closed, but the reality is that I cannot answer that question yet. I appreciate this is hard, but there are rules around industrial action that we must respect and for many teachers the decision whether to strike or not is not an easy one.

I assure you that as soon as I know whether it will be necessary to close any classes I will tell you. This may mean information comes out in dribs and drabs, but it will ensure as much notice is given to you as possible. If you do not hear that your child's class is closed, it is because it is open as normal.

You may be in a situation where you have one child who is affected by industrial action whilst another isn't. That is difficult, I understand. If school or classes are open then attendance is important and we cannot authorise a day at home because a sibling is not able to be in school.



# Grandparents (Year 1) ... we need you!

When you are 5 or 6 years old it is very difficult to imagine that the toys we played with were so different to today's electronic games. There is nothing nicer for the children than hearing, first hand, what the toys we played with were like. That is why we need as many grandparents as possible to join us for the Grandparent's Afternoon on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January as possible. Please come along and share your memories. It will be small groups and not threatening in any way – I promise. Your support will be greatly appreciated.



# Re-use and Recycle



Following the Christmas influx of new toys, if you are having a new year spring clean and have any traditional board games such as snakes and ladders, ludo etc. we would love to take them off your hands. These games are perfect for developing social skills such as turn taking and sharing, as well as supporting maths skills. Please drop any spare games at the school office. Thank you!



# FOYM

## Pre loved Uniform;

Friends of Yorke Mead and everyone at Yorke Mead would like to say a huge thank you to Lynette Jackson and Becki Garratt for doing a fantastic job of organising and redistributing pre-loved uniform in the past and making it accessible for all. This is such an important part of the work FOYM do as not only does it raise money, but it also ensures that good

uniform does not end up in landfill; this is good for the environment as well as our pockets!

FOYM are on the lookout for two or three volunteers to oversee this aspect of their work going forward. Please get in touch with them if you are able to help or would like more information at [foym@yorkemead.herts.sch.uk](mailto:foym@yorkemead.herts.sch.uk)

## AGM

The FOYM Annual General Meeting is being held at the school on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February from 6:15-7:15pm before the quiz night. This will be followed by a quiz night. You can come along to one part of the evening or both. We made huge strides last term keeping FOYM supported and the difference you made was amazing... don't let the good work trickle away – keep up the good work!



# Being more eco-friendly

We are trying more and more to think of ways we can do more to protect the planet, without losing the fun and enjoyment that events such as theme days bring. We are therefore looking towards finding ways to recycle the costumes used for events such as Egyptian and Stone Age days. By donating your children's costumes to FOYM after you have used them we can try to reduce the landfill sites and support other families too.

FOYM need time to build the bank of costumes, but we have to start somewhere so if you do have any old costumes at home, clear out those cupboards and send them into the school office. Remember...every little helps!

## Supporting Mental Wellbeing

The importance of good mental well being is now well documented and coming out of the pandemic this is ever more important. Yorke Mead has always valued the maintenance of both physical and mental well -being. We have therefore established a second Mental Health Lead in school and now have two mental health champions who will complement the work of our pastoral team. Mrs Walke will lead the mental health work alongside myself and she will be supported by Mrs Trendell and Mrs Stack who have taken on the Mental Health Champion role. If you have any concerns about your child's mental wellbeing including anxiety, bereavement etc. please feel free to contact Mrs Walke via [admin@yorkemead.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@yorkemead.herts.sch.uk).



## Sporting Challenges

This week Year 6 boys took part in a highly competitive football tournament at the Watford Football training ground, and even had the chance to meet some of the WFC first team players. It was a great day and much fun was had by all!



The week finished with a chilly night of netball at Rickmansworth School last night. The team stayed strong and positive, taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the local league!



Another good sporting week at YM. Thank you Mr Furlong for all the support and encouragement you give the YM teams!

### *Letters sent out this week*

Updated events calendar  
Year 1 Grandparents Day reminder letter

*Lucille Pollard*

Head teacher