



Yorke Mead School



Newsletter

Thursday 27th November 2025

This week at Yorke Mead!

The Mayans



New Items this Week

- Christmas Café
- Toy Swap
- Parking
- Christmas Cards
- Handwarmers
- PEER
- FOYM
- Yorke Sport
- Eco Minute

Walking Wednesday

Well done to everyone who is making the most of 'Walking Wednesday' – the winners this week are.....

REDS



Dates for the diary

This week

Fri 28th Nov

Occasional Day School Closed

Mon 1st Dec

Y6 Height and weight

Weds 3rd Dec

Y6 Theatre visit

Thurs 4th/Fri 5th Dec

Rec Christmas plays (am

Thur/pm Fri)

Sat 6th Dec

FOYM Family Fun Day

This month

Mon 8th Dec

Nursery Nativity play

Y3/4 panto

Tues 9th Dec

Y2 Christmas play pm

Wed 10th Dec

Y2 Christmas play am

Christmas Lunch KS2

Thurs 11th Dec

Christmas Lunch FS/KS1

Fri 12th Dec

Y1 Christmas songs

FS Christmas parties

Mon 15th Dec

Music concert

Tues 16th Dec

KS1 Christmas party

Wed 17th Dec

KS2 Carol service pm

Thurs 18th Dec

Christmas Café

Fri 19th Dec

Term ends 1:45pm

Christmas Café

As part of our Christmas celebrations we enjoy a Christmas café. As the world moves more away from cash, we are trialling giving the children a card with their credit on. This will be for children in Year 1 to Year 6 only, as the experience can be overwhelming for the early years.

Please could you make your donations for your children to have their spending money by Friday 12th December – the donation will be £1.00. Items will cost 20p, 40p or 60p

You will see a £1.00 payment charge on your Parent Pay account for Christmas café – this will be converted to a 'credit card' for your child.

TOY SWAP

Eco-Council will be holding a Toy Swap on Friday 12th December, after school from 3:15pm to 3:45pm in the school hall. This is a great opportunity to bring in any unused or unwanted toys and exchange them for something new-to-you.

How it works:

- Children may bring up to 3 toys that they no longer want.
- All toys must be clean, in good working order, and have no missing pieces.
- No electronic toys, please.
- Suggested items include:
 - Teddies
 - Books
 - Dolls

On arrival to school:

- Toys will be handed in at the entrance to the hall on Friday AM between 8.40am- 8.50am.
- Children will receive one token per toy (parents can take these tokens to keep them safe)
- During the swap:
 - Children can look around and choose another toy to take home, paying for it with their token(s).
 - Children must be supervised by an adult and must attend during this half-hour period in order to use their tokens.

Please prepare your child that they may not always find a toy they want, and that another child may choose the toy they handed in.

Christmas Cards

For those of you who have been with us for a few years you will know the stance I take around Christmas cards. Whilst these are lovely to receive, often they prove to be a popularity contest and are often simply discarded without going home. They impact your purse strings and the planet, as any glitter etc cannot be recycled. We do not 'ban' them... we leave the choice to you and your child, but our preference is **one** nice, preferably homemade card for the class.



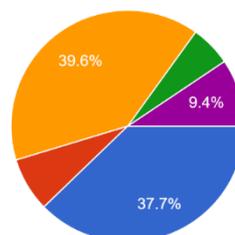
Learning Next Week

Nursery – Acorns Focus: New phoneme - 'i'; Rhyme of the week - <i>twinkle twinkle little star</i> ; Key text - <i>The Nativity Story</i> ; Practising songs, actions and words for our Christmas performance; Comparing the length of Christmas tree branches and using them to create a Christmas card for our family to		Reception – Lime & Willow Focus: Christmas; Phonics: learning words ending in 's'; Literacy: Reading in our reading groups and enjoying the Christmas story; Maths: continuing to explore 2D shapes; Expressive Art and Design: practising for and performing in our Christmas play and make Christmas decorations; PSHE: celebrating differences; Understanding the World: Forest School fun.			
Year 1 – Elder & Silver Birch English: Explanation text - <i>Hannukah</i> Phonics & spelling: Phase 5 Grow the Code Maths: Numbers to 20 - estimating and ordering Science: What is a carnivore, herbivore and omnivore? Wider Curriculum: What is the meaning of Hannukah? What are the names of the seas around the UK? P4C/Growth Mindset: How can you make new friends? Reading for Pleasure: <i>Voices in the Park</i>	Year 2 – Cedar & Horse Chestnut English: <i>Claude in the City</i> (inferences, sequencing and using different sentence types) Phonics & spelling: swap the y for an i when adding-ed, and drop the e before adding -ing, Maths: add and subtract mentally Science: How have materials we use changed over time? Wider Curriculum: How do you create a fiery background? Christmas play practice P4C/Growth Mindset: Can I recognise what is right and wrong? Reading for Pleasure: <i>Malory Towers</i> by Enid Blyton (Cedar) and <i>The Big Bad Wolf</i> by Ben Miller (Horse Chestnut)	Year 3 – Laurel & Sycamore English: looking at what makes a good set of instructions Phonics & spelling: : adding -er and -est Maths: Problem Solving Science: What happens when I bend my arm? Wider Curriculum: What is the story of Christmas and why is it important to Christians? P4C/Growth Mindset: What is bullying and what should I do if I witness bullying? Reading for Pleasure: <i>Mr Ape</i> by Dick King Smith (Sycamore) / <i>The Twits</i> by Roald Dahl (Laurel)	Year 4 – Maple & Pine English: planning own persuasive letter Phonics & spelling: : suffices -sion and -ssion Maths: measure and conversion of units (focus on 7 times table) Science: Does a food chain always have to start with a green plant? Wider Curriculum: How can I safely prepare vegetables for a vegetable parcel? Pupils will make a decoupage picture in the style of Matisse. To understand what a search engine is, how it works and how to use simple keywords to find information online. P4C/Growth Mindset: Why is it good to accept people for who they are? Reading for Pleasure: <i>Pine: The Christmasaurus</i> , <i>Tom Fletcher Class book Maple: The Day I Fell Down The Toilet</i> by Stephen Mangan	Year 5 – Ash & Rowan English: debate and argue a point by listening and responding to the viewpoints of others. Identify where and how to use paragraphs successfully Phonics & spelling: endings tial and cial Maths: formal written methods for multiplication Science: Do all objects fall through water in the same way? Wider Curriculum: How can we use tools accurately and safely? What are axles and how do we make them? How are we going to make our Mars Rover stable and mobile? P4C/Growth Mindset: Reading for Pleasure:	Year 6 – Red Oak & White Oak English: Skellig- writing speech in a narrative Phonics & spelling: suffix ent ant Maths: comparing and ordering fractions Science: How would you make a classification key for organisms? Wider Curriculum: What can we learn about the Mayans from evidence? P4C/Growth Mindset: Do I have a choice as to how I behave? Reading for Pleasure: <i>Skellig</i> by David Almond

Harvest Festival Parental Questionnaire Responses

Thank you to all those parents who took the time to respond to our recent survey about the Harvest festivals. These are the results of the survey which we will use to plan future events. As you can see the two most popular options are very close in votes however both are for the morning so next year we will ensure this happens.

Our harvest festival has to be split into two assemblies. Which of the following do you prefer?
53 responses



- Harvest assemblies to be on two different days - both straight after drop-off in the morning
- Harvest assemblies to be on two different days - both just before pick up in the afternoon
- Have both assemblies on the same day in the morning
- Have both assemblies on the same day in the afternoon
- Have one assembly straight after drop off in the morning and the other just before pick up in the afternoon

Many of the parents who responded also added additional comments which have all been helpful in gauging opinion – thank you. There were some very positive comments which were appreciated too. Overall there seems to be a feeling that the hall was too crowded and/or it was difficult to see the children. There were also requests for more notice of the date and timings. In the future we will look at how we manage this better. All your comments have been shared with the school leadership team and we will do our best to take on board as many as we can. Thank you for your time and support.

Handwarmers

The weather has turned cold very quickly and we have seen a number of children bringing hand warmers into school. Unfortunately, one of these split previously and the result was a chemical burn to the pupil's hand.

We have therefore decided that we will not allow these in school. A good pair of gloves will keep hands warm in a much safer way.

Please do not send hand warmers into school.

Yorke Sport

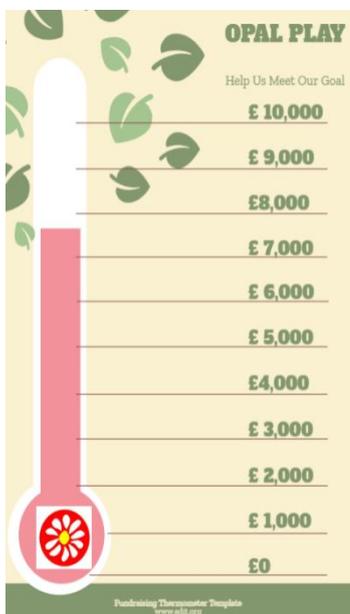
FOOTBALL FUN

What a fun afternoon of football! 🏆 Mr Furlong was so impressed with these Year 3&4 girls who took part in today's 5-a-side festival at @yorkhousesch 🙌 The girls listened to their instructions brilliantly and played so well as a team to win 2-0, draw 1-1, along with two narrow 1-0 defeats.

Great goals, heroic defending and amazing goalkeeping ★ Well played girls- you earned your post-match cookies! 🍪 #YorkeSport



FOYM Fundraising



We are doing so well with our fundraising to support the play project – training has started for the staff, with a big training session planned for the January INSET day.

I know you may not yet be seeing the work, but it is all in the background at the moment...it will come!

If you wish to support FOYM, you may notice that on the school comms pay there is a new option to make a donation.

This is of course voluntary. At the moment FOYM are ensuring the EYFS and KS1 children get a gift from Santa; will provide crackers for Xmas lunch; organise treats for the children's panto visit and theatre visit.

Any support will be greatly appreciated.

Job Opportunity

We are seeking to employ an additional midday supervisor (MSA). This role is often a first step into working with children and a teaching assistant role. Term time only, it often suits parents who want something to enhance their day and bring in a little money too. If you are interested please use this link to apply for the post: [Teacher Recruitment, Hertfordshire UK - Yorke Mead Primary School: Midday Supervisory Assistant](#)

Message from FOYM

Thankyou to all those who have signed up for the Christmas Funday. There are still a few slots that need your support. More requests will be circulated next week

FUN DAY - Saturday 6th December 2-4pm with slots for SEN children for grotto from 1.30pm. These slots need to be pre booked with Mrs Elliott.

Thank you for all raffle and teddy/soft toy donations given .

On Friday 5th December, we will do a *last bottle only donations* (no teddies or other raffle donations needed now) at morning drop off and afternoon pick up

Please provide:

- Bottles of alcohol- wine/spirits/beer
- Cans of alcohol eg beer
- Cans and bottles of non alcohol eg squash
- Bottles of bubble bath/shower gel

FOYM Upcoming Events

FRIENDS OF YORKE MEAD PRESENTS
Christmas Fun Day
Yorke Mead School
Saturday 6th December 2 - 4pm

PLEASE NOTE - RAFFLE/TOMBOLA ARE CASH ONLY DUE TO CARD PAYMENT RULES (CARD + TOKEN PAYMENT ON OTHER STALLS!)

Activities: Bottle tombola, Christmas Craft Room, Bash the Rat!, Hamper raffle, Penguin game, Lucky dip, Santa's Grotto, Warm Christmas drinks and snacks.

THANKS TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO MAKE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE AND FOR ALL DONATIONS

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP LINK TO FOLLOW
FOYM@YORKMEAD.HERTS.SCH.UK

PEER

PROMOTE; EDUCATE; EMBRACE; RELATE

The PEER parent group recently met for their first meeting of the academic year. This was a chance to talk about diversity and the important work that the school is doing in this area.

A huge thank you to the parents who attended and provided new insights which can be used to shape the work that we do.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 4th March at 9.00am. We warmly welcome anyone else who would like to join us.



Parking

We know it is cold. We know it is sometimes wet... but please, if you must drive to work please be considerate and polite to our neighbours in where and how you park. Please also remember that pavements are for pedestrians, many of which are children, to walk on and if you MUST pull your car onto a pavement, do so slowly and with care and attention. I have held my breath many times at the speed some cars have done this. Every child, every person, deserves the opportunity to be safe walking to school. Our neighbours deserve our respect.



Eco Minute

TIPS FOR AN ECO FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS

This week,

1. Make sure cards and gift bags etc are made from recycled paper – recycle the cards you get
2. Limit the amount of cards sent – 1 to the whole class rather than a card for everyone
3. Gift an experience
4. Avoid excess packaging/wrapping
5. Cut your food waste
6. Eat seasonally and British
7. Consider your crackers
8. Make your own decorations



Letters this week!



*Year 6 SATS meeting
Year 6 Lion King trip
Christmas Funday Santa for
pupils with SEND
Christmas at Yorke Mead*

Lucille Pollard

Head teacher