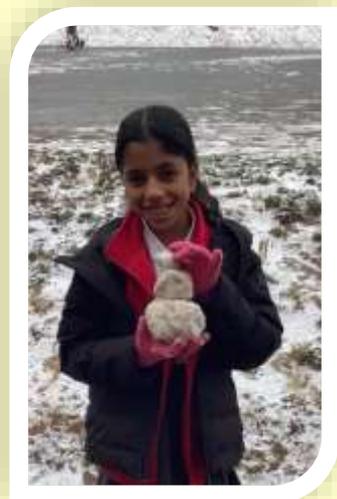


# Yorke Mead School Newsletter

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## *This week at Yorke Mead!*

Never too old to not enjoy exploring the frost and icy!



### *Items this Week*

- Thank you
- Thinking of Malvern Way
- Parent Workshop
- Children's Mental Health Week
- Opal Play
- Congratulations
- Caring for books
- FOYM
- Yorke Sport
- Eco Minute

## Walking Wednesday

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

**Green & Red**



## Dates for the diary

### This week

**Tue 13<sup>th</sup> Jan**

Y5 to Rickmansworth Play

### This month

**Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan**

Y3/Y4 Parent Maths  
Workshop

**Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> Jan**

Y6 Indoor athletics

### Next month

**Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> /Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb**

Reception screening

**Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Feb**

Year 4 Dance Rehearsal  
Rickmansworth  
Children's Mental Health  
Week

**Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Feb**

Y4 Anglo Saxon Workshop

**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb**

Y5 DT Rickmansworth

**Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

Author Visit

**Wed 4<sup>th</sup> March**

Parent Peer Meeting

**Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> March**

World Book Day

**W/b 9<sup>th</sup> March**

Parent Consultation week

**Wed 18<sup>th</sup> March**

Year 5 to PGL

**Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> March**

Electric Umbrella visiting

**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

Y6 to Hampton Court

Y5 DT Rickmansworth

**Tues 24<sup>th</sup> March**

Y1 to Bhaktivedanta Manor

**Fri 27<sup>th</sup> March**

Term ends 1:45pm

## Thank you for your generosity

Happy New Year everyone. It has been a chilly start to 2026, and not the nicest for the community with such sad news to start the year.

However, I wanted to take the chance to say a huge Thank you to those parents, grandparents and family members who donated to the Christmas charity collection at the end a last term... a fabulous £1255 was raised and will be donated to Herts Young Homeless.

[Homeless Charity Hertfordshire | hyh](https://www.homelesscharity.org.uk/)

Thank you!

## Thinking of Malvern Way

Many of you will have heard the sad news about Emma Cole, the head teacher at Malvern Way.

The news will have been a shock to everyone, as few people knew the extent of the illness. Mrs Cole sadly passed away on 31<sup>st</sup> December. She spent the past few days surrounded by her family and loved ones.

Mrs Cole was an inspirational and exceptional leader who I personally have enjoyed working with for many years. She will be greatly missed by people within and beyond the Malvern Way family.

Our thoughts are with Mrs Coles' family, friends and our colleagues at Malvern Way at this sad time. The positive way that Mrs Cole approached her final weeks is a message to us all to embrace life and make the most of everyday.

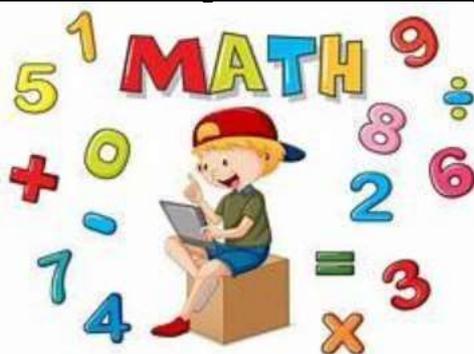


*Learning Next Week*

<b>Nursery – Acorns</b> <b>Focus:</b> Key text - <i>Car Car Truck Jeep</i> by Katrina Charman Continuing phonics with the phoneme 'g' and our rhyme of the week 'The wheels on the bus' Talking about how we travel to school and creating a class pictogram to show our results Playing games in small groups to practise our subitising skills up to 3		<b>Reception – Lime &amp; Willow</b> <b>Focus:</b> Key text - 'Ticket to Ride': learning more about London and London buildings using our key text 'All aboard the London Bus'; Phonics: learning new Phase 3 digraphs - oo (as in 'moon'), oo (as in 'hook'), ar and or; Literacy: reading and handwriting practice; Maths: counting sets of items and matching them to the correct number (numeral), using mathematical language more than, less than, equal; Expressive Art and Design: finishing our London skyline silhouette pictures; PHSE: learning to overcome challenges by persevering, PE: gymnastics
<b>Year 1 – Elder &amp; Silver Birch</b> <b>English:</b> <i>The Last Noo-Noo</i> <b>Phonics &amp; spelling:</b> Phase 5 /y/ /ow/ /g/ /ph/ <b>Maths:</b> Measuring and comparing <b>Science:</b> How many different materials can you find? <b>Wider Curriculum:</b> What is a Christening? How are textiles used in toys? Old and new toys - How do we know? <b>P4C/Growth Mindset:</b> What is a goal? <b>Reading for Pleasure:</b> <i>The Last Noo-Noo</i>	<b>Year 2 – Cedar &amp; Horse Chestnut</b> <b>English:</b> writing a free verse poem <b>Phonics &amp; spelling:</b> <b>Maths:</b> finding the part or whole unknown and money <b>Science:</b> What is a habitat? How do cactuses survive in the desert? <b>Wider Curriculum:</b> Why is the Arctic and Antarctica cold? How do devices connect to the internet? <b>P4C/Growth Mindset:</b> How can I achieve a realistic goal? <b>Reading for Pleasure:</b> Cedar have been reading a short story everyday; Horse Chestnut - <i>The Twits</i>	<b>Year 3 – Laurel &amp; Sycamore</b> <b>English:</b> <i>The Stone Age Boy</i> - Developing story using time adverbials, verbs and direct speech <b>Phonics &amp; spelling:</b> revision of -al endings <b>Maths:</b> shape and perimeter <b>Science:</b> How could you test the properties of different rocks? <b>Wider Curriculum:</b> What is the role of a religious leader in a Christian and Islamic community <b>P4C/Growth Mindset:</b> P4C <b>Reading for Pleasure:</b> <i>The Great Crisp Robbery</i> (Laurel) <i>Charlie changes into a Chicken</i> (Sam Copeland)
<b>Year 4 – Maple &amp; Pine</b> <b>English:</b> <i>Travel Brochures Sicily</i> – Using persuasive language. <b>Phonics &amp; spelling:</b> Prefixes: super- auto- re- <b>Maths:</b> : Symmetry and discrete and continuous data <b>Science:</b> Can sounds travel through solids, liquids and gas as vibrations? <b>Wider Curriculum:</b> Who were the Anglo-Saxons? What is belief for a Sikh? What are primary and secondary sources in Art, and how do artists use these? <b>P4C/Growth Mindset:</b> What is disappointment and how does it feel? <b>Reading for Pleasure:</b> <i>The Creakers</i> by Tom Fletcher <i>Pine: The Fart that Changed the World</i> – by Steven Mangan	<b>Year 5 – Ash &amp; Rowan</b> <b>English:</b> <i>William Shakespeare</i> - conduct detailed research about a significant author. <b>Phonics &amp; spelling:</b> <b>Maths:</b> equivalent fractions. <b>Science:</b> How can I group the materials according to their properties? <b>Wider Curriculum:</b> Why is there a time difference around the world? What are the stories of Moses/Jesus and what key events today do they teach us about? What are the features of English folk music and how does it compare to other music I have listened to? <b>P4C/Growth Mindset:</b> Dreams and goals - Why is it important to have a plan to achieve a goal? <b>Reading for Pleasure:</b> <i>The Wild Robot</i>	<b>Year 6 – Red Oak &amp; White Oak</b> <b>English:</b> <i>Stone Girl, Bone girl</i> - Writing a biography <b>Phonics &amp; spelling:</b> Suffixes tion soon <b>Maths:</b> Percentages <b>Science:</b> How are the skeletons of apes, Neanderthals and humans similar and different? <b>Wider Curriculum:</b> What were the key periods of British History from 1066 to Modern Day and who were the monarchs? <b>P4C/Growth Mindset:</b> What are the steps I need to reach a goal? <b>Reading for Pleasure:</b> <i>Skellig</i> by David Almond

# Parent Workshop

## Times tables workshop for Y3 and Y4 parents



**Thursday 22nd January 2026 2:30pm**

We hope that you are able to join us. The focus will be:

- The importance of times table to your child's mathematical understanding
- How times tables are taught
- How you can support your child at home

# Our OPAL Play Project

We started this term with the training linked to the OPAL play. As the term and rest of this academic year progresses we will be giving you more information and hopefully you will see the development of the project.

A key thing will be introducing the children to this so Mrs Walke will be leading Opal assemblies every three weeks.

# Children's Mental Health Week



During the week of February 9th-13th 2026, we will be supporting children's mental health week. Please email Mrs Elliott if you can support during this week. This may be with an activity or session that encompasses the theme of 'This is my place' and having a sense of belonging – a dance session, yoga, art work. Anything you feel able to support us with.

Thank you



# New Year; new baby

Congratulations to Miss Welsh Welling and her partner who are expecting their third child later this year. All being well Miss Welsh Welling will work until Easter. We are currently advertising for a maternity cover. If you know a teacher who may be interested, please do tell them about our lovely school.

# Reading Books

We are increasingly finding that the care and love reading books deserve and need, is at times lacking. This means books are getting wet, having pages torn, etc making them unreadable.

Books are expensive. Reading books even more so as to replace one book you usually have to buy a full set!

Please take care of the reading books. Do not put water bottles in book bags and if the book does get damaged, please tell us. This prevents a book being sent out to another child and spoiling their love of reading.

Thank you





# Eco Minute

## **TRY VEGANUARY**

Embrace plant-based eating for the month of January. This global event encourages people to try a vegan diet, which can have significant environmental and health benefits. Challenge yourself to find new plant-based recipes or explore local vegan options.



*Lucille Pollard*

Head teacher

## **Letters this week!**



*Spring newsletters  
Year 3 Indoor athletics  
PGL Information  
Parent calendar spring term  
Year 1 Toys from the past*