



# Yorke Mead School



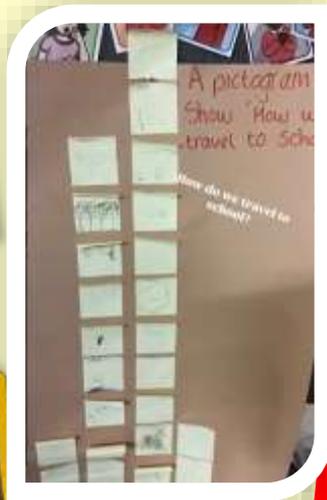
## Newsletter

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

### *This week at Yorke Mead!*

#### Scientists at work!

Posing the question; trying things out; making observations; recording our findings; drawing conclusions – we are scientists!



#### *Items this Week*

- Driving and parking around school
- Children's Mental Health Week
- Readathon
- Opal Play
- Book review
- Nursery admissions
- FOYM
- Yorke Sport
- Eco Minute

### Walking Wednesday

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

**Green & Yellow**



Great job  
Yellow – your first win!

Dates for the diary	
This week	
<b>Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	Y6 Indoor athletics
This month	
Next month	
<b>Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> / Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb</b>	Reception screening
<b>Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Y4 Dance Rehearsal Rickmansworth Children's Mental Health Week
<b>Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Y4 Anglo Saxon Workshop
<b>Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Y5 Synagogue Visit
<b>Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb</b>	Y5 DT Rickmansworth
<b>Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	Author Visit
<b>Wed 4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Parent Peer Meeting
<b>Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	World Book Day
<b>W/b 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Parent Consultation week
<b>Wed 18<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Y5 to PGL
<b>Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Electric Umbrella visiting
<b>Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	Y6 to Hampton Court Y5 DT Rickmansworth
<b>Tues 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Y1 to Bhaktivedanta Manor
<b>Fri 27<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Term ends 1:45pm

## Driving and Parking Around the School

I am in shock that it is even necessary to write this. This week I have had a number of communications expressing concern about the illegal and unsafe parking near school by parents who simply are not prepared to walk a few metres to collect their child, and even more unbelievably about a parent mounting the kerb and driving along the pavement right outside of school.

I shouldn't have to say this, but the main pedestrians near a school are children. They should be able to rely on the adults who drive to the school to behave in a way that makes walking on pavements and crossing roads as safe and easy as possible...they should not be put in danger because parents ignore the law or cannot walk a few extra metres.

These are your children; the friends of your children and they should be able to walk to school safely... they can only do this if the adults driving to school respect and follow the rules of the road.

You are all parents – please behave on the roads in a way that keeps your own child and other children safe. It really is that simple!



## 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

# Learning Next Week

<p><b>Nursery – Acorns</b>  <b>Focus:</b> Key text - <i>Whatever Next</i> by Jill Murphy, <i>8 Little Planets</i> by Chris Ferrie  <b>Phonics</b> - phoneme 'c' and rhyme of the week 'Down at the Station'   <i>Space adventures! Learning about space and planets, creating space theme art work for a class display, using scales to weigh 'moon rocks' and use the language of heavier, lighter or the same to describe the weight of objects.</i></p>	<p><b>Reception – Lime &amp; Willow</b>  <b>Focus:</b> Key text - '<i>Ticket to Ride</i>': learning about different modes of transport using our '<i>Amazing Machines</i>' books by Tony Mitton; <b>Phonics:</b> learning new Phase 3 digraphs and trigraphs - air (as in chair), er (at the end of digger), double letter digraphs (e.g. gg, tt, rr); <b>Literacy:</b> reading practice; <b>Maths:</b> finding one more and one less than another number; <b>PHSE:</b> <i>Dreams and Goals</i> - using kind words to encourage others; <b>PE:</b> gymnastics; <b>EAD:</b> making models of London - learning how to join materials, paint them and add detail. Enjoying playing a variety of musical instruments - playing them loudly and quietly.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Year 1 – Elder &amp; Silver Birch</b></p> <p><b>English:</b> Fiction - <i>Beegu</i>  <b>Phonics &amp; spelling:</b> Phase 5 - o-e/ou/se/ce/ey  <b>Maths:</b> Think 10 method for subtraction  <b>Science:</b> Which materials are natural and which are man-made?  <b>Wider Curriculum:</b> What is the difference between hardware and software? What happens at a Muslim naming ceremony?  <b>P4C/Growth Mindset:</b> What are you good at and what goals will you set yourself?  <b>Reading for Pleasure:</b> We will explore lots of short stories including <i>The Smartest Giant in town</i> and <i>Follow the Swallow!</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Year 2 – Cedar &amp; Horse Chestnut</b></p> <p><b>English:</b> Non-fiction writing on polar bears  <b>Phonics &amp; spelling:</b> Why do I drop the e when I add the suffixes -ed, -ing, -er, -est and -y?  <b>Maths:</b> Comparing numbers  <b>Science:</b> How would you group these plants and animals based on what habitat you would find them in?  <b>Wider Curriculum:</b> What are the physical and human features of cold countries?  <b>P4C/Growth Mindset:</b> Can I work collaboratively to complete a small task?  <b>Reading for Pleasure:</b> <i>Horse Chestnut - The Twits</i>; <i>Cedar</i> - reading a short story every day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Year 3 – Laurel &amp; Sycamore</b></p> <p><b>English:</b> Introduction to playscripts  <b>Phonics &amp; spelling:</b> apostrophes for contraction  <b>Maths:</b> Division and times tables  <b>Science:</b> What are fossils and how are they formed?  <b>Wider Curriculum:</b> What food was eaten during the Stone Age?  <b>P4C/Growth Mindset:</b> Can I evaluate my own learning process?  <b>Reading for Pleasure:</b> <i>The Great Crisp Robbery</i> by Pamela Butchart (Laurel) and <i>Charlie changes into a chicken</i> by Sam Copeland (Sycamore)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Year 4 – Maple &amp; Pine</b></p> <p><b>English:</b> <i>Book of Hopes</i> - poetry  <b>Phonics &amp; spelling:</b> Year 3 and 4 statutory words - revision  <b>Maths:</b> Perimeter  <b>Science:</b> How can you change the volume of an instrument?  <b>Wider Curriculum:</b> Where did the Anglo-Saxons settle and how did this influence the naming of areas in England? How can you present information using a spreadsheet to create a graph? Can I use the style of Gaudi in my own design?  <b>P4C/Growth Mindset:</b>  <b>Reading for Pleasure:</b> <i>Maple: The Creakers</i> by Tom Fletcher and <i>Pine: The Fart that Changed the World</i> – by Steven Mangan</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Year 5 – Ash &amp; Rowan</b></p> <p><b>English:</b> Effectively use intonation, tone, volume and action when speaking or performing.  <b>Phonics &amp; spelling:</b> Words ending in 'tious' and 'cious'  <b>Maths:</b> Problem solving using all operations.  <b>Science:</b> Which material will be the best thermal insulator for a coffee mug? - using graphs  <b>Wider Curriculum:</b> How can primary and secondary sources support my investigation? How can we change a 2D design into a 3D sculpture?  <b>P4C/Growth Mindset:</b> Why do people have different dreams and goals?  <b>Reading for Pleasure:</b> <i>The Wild Robot</i>.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Year 6 – Red Oak &amp; White Oak</b></p> <p><b>English:</b> <i>Treason</i> by Berlie Doherty Description of settings  <b>Phonics &amp; spelling:</b> Suffixes 'ure' 'sure'  <b>Maths:</b> Properties of 3D shapes  <b>Science:</b> What happened when Charles Darwin visited the Galapagos islands?  <b>Wider Curriculum:</b> How have monarchs influenced British lives? Can you design a pouch that is functional and appealing?  <b>P4C/Growth Mindset:</b>  <b>Reading for Pleasure:</b> <i>Skellig</i> by David Almond</p>

# Readathon



Did you know 2026 is the National Year of Reading? We did, and to start the celebrations, School Council (and Mrs Rann) are excited to announce Yorke Mead will be running a 'Readathon' in the second half of the Spring Term.

The main aim of the Readathon is to encourage a love of reading for pleasure. The children can read whatever they like, novels, magazines, comics, instructions, maps - whatever they will enjoy. They are encouraged to set their own challenge, and will be given an optional sponsorship form for friends and family to sponsor them if they chose to.

The Readathon is organised and supported by a charity called Read for Good. The money raised by the children will go towards providing a regular supply of books and a resident storyteller to every major children's hospital in the UK. A percentage of the total will also go towards our school to purchase books for our lovely library.

Children can be sponsored per book, for reading for a set amount of time, or even for just picking up a book and taking part. You and your child can decide, there is no pressure to raise anything at all. The most important thing is that they enjoy their Readathon, put down their screens and pick up a story.

There will be a launch event in assembly before half term, neatly planned to coincide with the Eco Council book swap, which will be held in February (details to follow) to help the children get off to a flying start.

# Yorke Sport



We are so proud of the Yorke Mead football team who this week competed in @wfctrust @utilitafootball EFL Kids Cup at the Watford FC training ground 🏆 ⚽ 🙌

This tournament is always such a high standard and these boys gave absolutely everything they had.

Yorke Mead played brilliantly in the group stage and progressed to the semi-finals after 3 wins and a narrow defeat- finishing as the best runners up.

We faced familiar faces in the semi-final against Ricky Park which was ultimately decided after extra-time with Yorke Mead winning 3-1 and into the final for the second year in a row! 🤩

Despite their best efforts and heroic defending, Yorke Mead had to accept 2nd place after 1-0 defeat to a very strong Brookmans Park 🙁

The boys were obviously disappointed but showed fantastic resilience and sportsmanship. A truly incredible effort.

On Monday, Yorke Mead played The Russell School in a great friendly game despite the boggy conditions. Both keepers were on top form meaning that the game ended in a goalless draw 🤝 Lots of positives with players trying new positions and their attitude was faultless ★ Well played boys! #YorkeSport



## Nursery Admissions

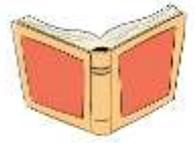
The time of year when the focus is on Nursery admissions is now with us. Our nursery offers all parents the flexibility of between 15 and 30 hours, and is the perfect way for your children to begin their education. School settings offer the benefit of being lead by a qualified teacher and also help the children settle into the routines so they are ready for school in September.

If you, or anyone you know, are looking for a nursery place from September 2026, please contact Mrs Dawkins, our admissions secretary, to register for a place.

### Mrs Cook – Long Lost Family - Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> Jan

Back in July we informed you that Mrs Cook will be appearing on the ITV programme Long Lost Family. We can now confirm the show will be aired on ITV this Thursday 29th January at 9pm. A lovely story with a happy ending!

# Book Review



To celebrate the year of reading we thought it would be good to encourage children to support other children's reading by sharing a book they have loved through a book review. Mrs Rann has decided to kick the event off by writing her review:

*This week I picked up 'The Imaginary' by A.F Harrold from the yellow label 'family and friendship' shelves in the library. I had such a good time reading this and struggled to put it down. This book was an adventure and managed to be scary, funny, magical and it made me cry so it really could be enjoyed by anyone who has eyes or ears.*

*I was drawn in by the front cover and the blurb which said:*

*'Rudger is Amanda's best friend. He doesn't exist. But nobody's perfect.'*

*I've never read a book about an imaginary friend and I didn't have one as a child but always wanted one, so I was intrigued.*

*I don't want to say too much and give away the story, but I will tell you my favourite part was when Rudger went into a library for the first time. He said he had been told the library was 'the best sort of indoors there is for a rainy day. Every book is an adventure'. I definitely agree with this and thought it was a wonderful description, although I'd leave out the rainy day bit, personally. The library is the best sort of indoors for any day, in my opinion.*

*I would recommend this book to confident readers, or to anyone with a confident grown up happy to read it to them. It was a bit scary in parts so you have been warned, especially when accompanied by the brilliant illustrations by Emily Gravett. Try to be brave though, because it has a happy ending.*

*I have reluctantly put this one back on the shelves, so come and see me in the library at lunchtime if you'd like to borrow it.*

*Mrs Rann*

If your child has a book they have loved ... please encourage them to write a review of their own and we will feature this in a future newsletter. Together let us share the love of reading



## Eco Minute

### THE BIG BIRD WATCH

Support Garden Birds: The Big Garden Birdwatch runs from January 23-25 this year (typically the last weekend of Jan each year). Take one hour to watch and record the birds in your garden or local park. Submitting your results to the RSPB helps them gain insight into how garden birds are faring.

The Big Garden Birdwatch is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers like you take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring.

## Letters this week!



Y2 indoor athletics

Y5 PGL

Y4 Dance Festival

Y5 Fun Run rescheduled

*Lucille Pollard*

Head teacher