



Yorke Mead School



Newsletter

Friday 27th February 2026

This week at Yorke Mead!

Mud, mud glorious mud!

Thank you Mr Thompson for the tremendous mud kitchen!



Items this Week

- Staffing
- OPAL Project
- Peer Newsbites
- Early Years Garden Area
- Readathon
- World Book Day
- Opportunity for children
- Eco Minute

Walking Wednesday

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

Green



Dates for the diary

This week

Mon 2nd March

Author Visit

Wed 4th March

Parent Peer Meeting

Thurs 5th March

World Book Day

Next week

W/b 9th March

Parent Consultation week

Tues 10th -RW Y1SB Y2C

Y3L Y4M Y5A Y5R Y6RO

Wed 11th - All**Thurs 12th N RL Y1E Y2HC**

Y3S Y4P Y6WO

This month

Wed 18th March

Y5 to PGL

Thurs 19th March

Electric Umbrella visiting

Mon 23rd March

Y6 to Hampton Court

Y5 DT Rickmansworth

Tues 24th March

Y1 to Bhaktivedanta Manor

Thurs 26th March

Dance Morning

Fri 27th March

Term ends 1:45pm

Staffing

You will recall that Miss Welsh Welling is taking maternity leave from the end of this term. I am thrilled to announce that after the Easter break we will be welcoming back Mrs Richards who will be taking over as the nursery teacher...

Mrs Richards will be joining us as a permanent member of staff as sadly Miss Buckman has decided that she wants to spend a little time exploring the world. We will be incredibly sad to say goodbye to Miss Buckman, who is such a valued member of our team and very much part of the Yorke Mead family, but we must also be excited for her knowing that the chance to explore the world is so special and something many of us would love to do.

As Miss Buckman departs us, we are very happy to know that the wonderful work she does as the school SENDCo will be handed to the safe hands of Mrs Walke. Mrs Walke will be the school SENDCo from September.

We know these times of change can be unsettling ... how lucky are we that we know the team that will continue the wonderful work.

OPAL project

Mr Thompson has been busy over half term and managed to make a messy kitchen which is based on the Year 1 and 2 playground. As a result, children have been out enjoying themselves this week making a whole host of delicious mud meals! We learnt very quickly that to have a messy kitchen, you also need to have a digging area, and this is proving very popular with the children too. It has been agreed when it is wet coats must be worn when playing with the messy kitchen, but you may well notice your child coming home a little muddier than normal if they are on the Year 1 and 2 playground. However, I am sure you will agree, the smiles make it worthwhile! (See photos on the front page)

Just a reminder we are still collecting the following:

- Crates
- Kitchen utensils (plastic)
- Old dressing up clothes
- Lego/Duplo
- A giant chess board (for giant chess pieces)
- Tarpaulin for den building

Learning Next Week

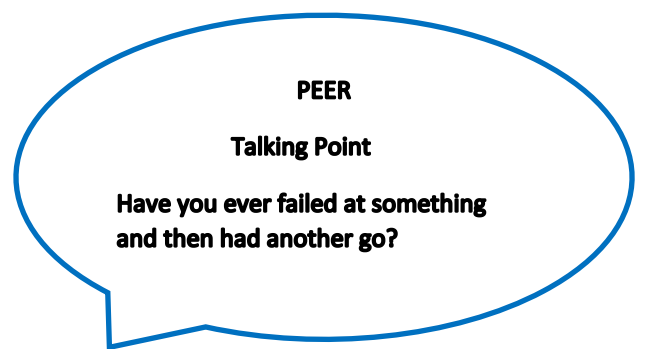
<p>Nursery – Acorns Focus: Key text - <i>Ready, Steady, Grow!</i> Key text, <i>Erol's Garden</i> - Gillian Hibbs. <i>Phonics</i> sound-'r'. <i>Rhyme Time</i> - 'Mary, Mary Quite Contrary'. Learning the life cycle of a plant, planting and taking care of seeds. Creating a garden centre role play. Exploring different fruits and vegetables. Writing name labels. Author visit.</p>	<p>Reception – Lime & Willow Focus: Key text - 'Long, long ago': Literacy/World Book Day: Drawing Club using the text 'The Mood Hoover' by Paul Brown and reading non-fiction fact books about dinosaurs; <i>Phonics</i>: review of Phase 3 digraphs, trigraphs, double letters and longer words; <i>Maths</i>: finding the total, using tens frames; <i>PHSE</i>: <i>Healthy Me</i>: talking about why are some foods healthier than others; <i>PE</i>: balls skills; <i>Understanding the world</i>: Making dinosaur dens in Forest School and spotting signs of Spring. World Book Day: reading our favourite stories and listening to a storyteller sharing 'The Gecko and Echo' by Rachel Bright</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Year 1 – Elder & Silver Birch</p> <p>English: How to catch a Dragon Phonics & spelling: tch/ture/al/a Maths: Numbers to 20 - comparison Science: Which weather might we see and how could we prove it? Wider Curriculum: How can we keep healthy? How is Chembakolli similar and different to Croxley Green? World Book Day! P4C/Growth Mindset: Why is art important in different cultures? Reading for Pleasure: We will explore the whole school book for World Book Day: <i>Mood Hoover</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 2 – Cedar & Horse Chestnut</p> <p>English: Role play for comprehension; Writing/asking questions; World Book Day Phonics & spelling: How do 'w' and 'qu' change the sounds that 'a', 'ar' and 'or' make in some words? Maths: Written subtraction method Science: Wider Curriculum: How has school equipment changed over time? P4C/Growth Mindset: What do I need to keep my body healthy? Reading for Pleasure: <i>Horse Chestnut</i> - Matilda by Roald Dahl; <i>Cedar</i> - reading a short story every day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 3 – Laurel & Sycamore</p> <p>English: : Writing Formal Letters of Complaint Phonics & spelling: ly suffixes Maths: Comparing and ordering fractions Science: Which conditions does a plant need to grow? Wider Curriculum: What was everyday life like in the Bronze Age and how does it compare to the Stone Age? P4C/Growth Mindset: World Book Day- <i>Mood Hoover</i> Reading for Pleasure: <i>The Danger Gang</i> by Tom Fletcher (Laurel) and <i>Charlie</i> changes into a chicken by Sam Copeland (Sycamore)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Year 4 – Maple & Pine</p> <p>English: 'Leon and the place between' - Use effective vocabulary to create a magical mood. Phonics & spelling: Sounds after 'w' and 'qu' Maths: Problem solving involving decimals to two places Science: What does a simple series electrical circuit look like and can I name the components? Wider Curriculum: Where is Europe and what countries are part of it? What are the characteristics of a leader? P4C/Growth Mindset: What's the difference between peer pressure and peer influence? Reading for Pleasure: <i>Maple: The Creakers</i> <i>Pine: Hari Kumar – Ultimate</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 5 – Ash & Rowan</p> <p>English: <i>Beowulf</i>: Recognise and create simple clauses. Phonics & spelling: words with prefixes and suffixes. Maths: Scaling Measures. Science: Are melting and dissolving the same process and how do you know? Wider Curriculum: What is Danelaw and why is it significant to the reign of Alfred the Great? How do I view Heaven through art? What shapes and movements do different cams make? P4C/Growth Mindset: What do we value about our bodies? Reading for Pleasure:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 6 – Red Oak & White Oak</p> <p>English: Using active and passive voice Phonics & spelling: morphology exploration Maths: Angles and translation Science: How have animals adapted to suit to their environment? Wider Curriculum: Who was Henry VIII and his many wives? P4C/Growth Mindset: Looking after myself Reading for Pleasure: <i>Spiderwick Chronicles</i></p>

PEER Newsbites!

INSPIRATIONAL PEOPLE

TENZING NORGAY

Tenzing Norgay was the first man to ever climb Mount Everest, he is an inspirational man- teaching children to never give up on their dreams. He was born in Nepal in May 1914. Whenever he failed, he got up again- in fact before succeeding, he had six tries to reach the top!



Written by Ayanna Kalu Manannalage, Cheryl Mulindwa and Phoebe Barry (Year 6)

Early Years Garden Area

The EY team have spent some time doing some gardening and weeding after school this week and now want to start planting some bedding plants with the children. When the garden is in full bloom, it looks so nice and people passing by often comment on it.



Please could we put out a plea for any bedding plant donations you would be able to offer? Help us, help the children to understand the beauty and value of gardening, and lets help the wildlife as we do so.

Thank you in anticipation

Readathon has started!!!



The readathon has started and this is a wonderful opportunity for you to both foster a love of reading and to give to an extremely valuable and important charity. Your job is simple now ... please support your child to get sponsors and remember that it is not just the children in hospital that benefit from the chance to have more books; Yorke Mead children will also benefit. Please help this great cause in any way you can!



So far our biggest sponsor we know of has raised just over £100 – great job!

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
5 MARCH 2026

World Book Day

We are very excited for World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. As in previous years children can dress up as a character from one of their favourite books or come in cozy and ready to read!

There will be a range of activities going on in school, with a focus text of *The Mood Hoover*. Your class teachers will be sharing a home learning task of 'caught reading'. We would like some great pictures of your child caught reading in different places. In addition, we would ask that children bring in a book that they are happy to swap in our book swap, note this will be done in Year groups. Book vouchers will be sent home on Thursday and can be used in a range of retail stores or kept and used towards a book when the Travelling Book Fayre arrives, 20-25 March.

We hope it is a great day, celebrating all things fabulous about reading!

Please also note the competition the book club are running:

Book Club Competition Calling all book lovers!

Do you LOVE stories?
LOVE drawing?
LOVE using your imagination?

Then this competition is for



Do you
Do you

YOU! 🌸

The Yorke Mead Book club would like you to enter a competition to celebrate World Book Day. All children can enter the competition and the voting on entries will take place at Book Club. The deadline for all entries is **Friday the 13th of March** and should be handed in to the class teacher. Results will be announced the week of **23rd March** and winners will receive a £5.00 voucher to spend at the travelling book fayre (23-26 March).

Nursery and Reception

Draw a picture of your favourite book character. This could be from any book that you have enjoyed!

Please make sure you put your name and class is on the entry.

KS1

Write a short book review of your favourite book. Explain why you would recommend the book to a friend and draw a picture of your favourite character from the book.

Make sure that your name and class is on your entry.

KS2

We would like you to be creative and write a short story about anything that inspires you! It should be no more than 300 words long. The story should be handwritten and not typed up.

Make sure that your name and class is on your entry.

🏆 **COULD YOU BE OUR WINNER?** 🏆
🌸 **GOOD LUCK EVERYONE!** 🌸

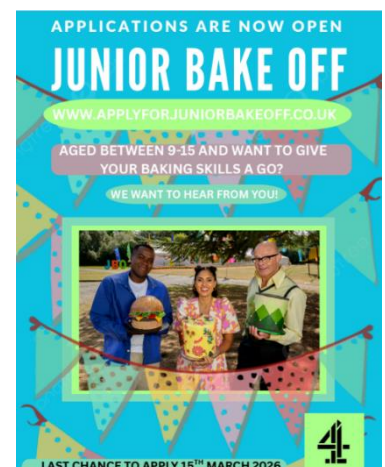
Opportunity for children

Channel 4 are looking for young budding bakers aged 9-15 years old. Interested bakers can apply online at - www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk

They have sent us a flyer (attached) for your information.

Filming would take place from July 2026, and applications close on Sunday 15th March 2026.

Please do feel free to contact them on 0207 067 4833, should you have any questions regarding the above.





Eco Minute

Set yourself a challenge... can you pack a disposable plastic free packed lunch this week for your child?

- Buy large packets of crisps and put a few in a pot
- Pack things in small mini pots rather than cling film
- Avoid disposable drink cartons
- Buy a large yogurt pot and put a little in a plastic container each day

[No plastic please, Mum: my quest to make waste-free packed lunches | Food | The Guardian](#)

Letters this week!



*Spring Parent Consultations
Reception Planning Grid
Y6 Red Oak Forest school
KS1 Maths workshop slides
Year 2 Visits from Pets
Spring SEND Consultations*

Lucille Pollard

Head teacher