

Yorke Mead School

Newsletter

Friday 1st May 2026

This week at Yorke Mead!

Making it real...making it memorable!



Mathematicians of the Day

Yorke Mead celebrated this day with a visit from a TV Icon who has a love of maths history that he shared with our KS2 children. Tricks and facts intertwined as Johnny Ball shared the power and magic of maths throughout history.

Items this Week

Keeping your children safe online
Uniform Policy
Baby News
Mrs Trendell
Minimarathon
Yorke Sport
Opal Play
Eco Minute
Dates for the diary

Walking Wednesday

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

Greens



Dates for the diary

This week

Mon 4th May

Bank Holiday – school closed

Thurs 7th May

Y3 Athletics

Fri 8th May

Phonics screening check
parent meeting Y1

This Term

Mon 11th May

Y6 SATs week

Y4 Pine to Batchworth Lock

Tues 5th May

Y4 Maple to Batchworth

Fri 15th May

Africa Day

Tues 19th May

Y5 RAF Museum

Y6 Chessington

Thurs 21st May

International Day

Fri 22nd May

INSET Day

Mon 1st June

INSET Day

W/B 1st June

Science Week

Tues 9th June

Y6 Magistrate Visit

Y4 Performance pm

Wed 10th June

Y4 performance evening

Wed 17th June

Internet Safety Meeting

W/b Mon 22nd June

Sports week

Wed 24th June

FS/KS1 Sports Day

Thurs 25th June

KS2 Sports Day

W/b Mon 29th June

Y6 Residential

Mon 8th July

Y3 Roman Verulamium Visit

Tues 14th July

Y4 River Trip

Thurs 23rd July

School finishes 1:45pm

SUMMER BREAK

Keeping your children safe online

Managing online time for children is crucial to ensure a healthy balance between their digital life, physical activity, sleep, and face-to-face interaction. By managing this, we protect against harmful content and becoming addicted to the dopamine buzz some online games create, whilst also promoting mental wellbeing, proper development, and critical thinking.

Key aspects of managing online time include:

- **Establishing Healthy Routines:** Set clear boundaries to prevent screen time from interfering with sleep, meals and schoolwork.
- **Prioritising Content Quality:** Focus on the value of content (educational vs. passive) ... avoid letting children spend too much time gaming.
- **Active Supervision and Engagement:** Use parental controls and co-view or co-play to turn screen time into a shared, interactive and safe activity. Some internet providers allow you to turn internet access off at a specific time,
- **Model Healthy Habits:** Parents should demonstrate healthy digital habits, such as avoiding screens during family time. Try to have dinner around the table with no phones/devices interrupting this.
- **Open Communication:** Discuss online experiences with children, helping them understand how to manage their digital lives safely.

Uniform Policy Changes

As we move forward with our OPAL play we have made changes to our uniform policy. At this moment, with the sun shining and wet weather a distant memory, the need for wellies and a waterproof coat seems not necessary. It isn't at the moment...but next week, next month... things change very quickly with the British weather.

The new uniform policy adds in the following items:

- Wellington boots at all times for Nursery and reception children and when requested for other years e.g. for Forest Schools/OPAL Playtime.
- Waterproof coat (essential for OPAL playtime).
- Waterproof trousers (essential for OPAL playtime).

The important part of this policy is that coats need to be waterproof. Recently, we have seen a move towards children wearing warm coats...but these coats are not waterproof. As we move forwards it is our intention to say there is no such thing as wet playtime. Playing in the rain offers significant developmental benefits for children, including enhanced sensory exploration, improved motor skills, and creative play opportunities like splashing in puddles. It builds resilience, fosters independence, and encourages a connection with nature. It also boosts immune systems and acts as a stress reliever. A waterproof coat means children stay dry as well as having fun!

Learning Next Week

Nursery – Acorns Focus: Phonics – w; rhyme of the week - Miss Polly had a Dolly; key text - 'Supertato' series by Sue Hendra and Paul Linnett; using fruit and vegetables to create art work and repeating patterns; recognising numerals up to 5; making jelly and talking about how it changes throughout the making process; talking in a group about what special powers we would like to have		Reception – Lime & Willow Focus: 'Ready, steady grow!': Key text for Drawing Club 'Jack and the Beanstalk'; Phonics: reading and spelling CCVCC words (e.g. scrub); reading and handwriting practice; Communication & Language: using new vocabulary whilst learning about strawberry plants; Maths: halving / sharing equally ("half of 6 is 3"); PHSE: exploring feelings - have you ever fallen out with a friend?; Physical Development: enjoying games in PE; Understanding the World: learning where strawberry plants can grow in the world and how we can plant and care for them in Reception.
Year 1 – Elder & Silver Birch English: Poetry - free verse Phonics & spelling: Phase 5 - ea/ir/ou/oy Maths: Multiplication and counting in 2s to 24 Science: What are seeds and where do they come from? Wider Curriculum: Can I sing a call and repeat song controlling my pitch? What is the Guru Granth Sahib? How did Mary Seacole make a difference? What will be the design of your winder and how will you create the mechanism? P4C/Growth Mindset: Reading for Pleasure: We will explore lots of short stories including 'The Perfect Fit' and 'Daisy's Dragons'	Year 2 – Cedar & Horse Chestnut English: Riddle poems & grammar focus on expanded noun phrases and contracted apostrophes Phonics & spelling: What happens when you add the suffixes -ness, -ment, -ful, -less and -ly to a root word? Maths: Division Science: Wider Curriculum: What are the different techniques for shaping clay? How do Christian stories teach right from wrong? P4C/Growth Mindset: What would be appropriate physical contact with my family? Reading for Pleasure: Horse Chestnut - Matilda by Roald Dahl; Cedar - The Boy Who Grew Dragons by Andy Shepherd	Year 3 – Laurel & Sycamore English: publishing our Volcano explanation text/ introducing haikus Phonics & spelling: Prefix un- , re- Maths: scaling and correspondence Science: What happens when materials are put near a magnet/ Who was William Gilbert? Wider Curriculum: P4C/Growth Mindset: Athletics Tournament: How does the Bible teach us to look after the world? Reading for Pleasure: Vetman by Noel Fitzpatrick (Laurel) and Happy to Help by Tom Gates (Sycamore)
Year 4 – Maple & Pine English: writing a biography of a Victorian inventor. Phonics & spelling: suffix -ous, -ious, -eous Maths: – long division Science: Can I plan an enquiry and record observations? Wider Curriculum: Creating tiles for printing P4C/Growth Mindset: What does having a boyfriend or girlfriend mean? Reading for Pleasure: Maple - Birthday Boy – David Baddeil .Pine – Hari Jumar – Ultimate Superstar	Year 5 – Ash & Rowan English: persuasive and formal language, considering the impact on the reader. Phonics & spelling: distinguish between the spelling and meaning of homophones Maths: estimate, compare, measure and draw angles. Science: Similarities and differences in the life cycles of a collection of animals Wider Curriculum: What is the importance of the Battle of Britain as a turning point for WWII; making and evaluating a 3D model to fit a certain criteria; Can I read and play rhythmic phrases? P4C/Growth Mindset: Why do we need to be aware of our screen time? Reading for Pleasure:	Year 6 – Red Oak & White Oak English: writing formally and informally Phonics & spelling: revision Maths: Time, timetables and Roman numerals Science: How does the distance between light and an object affect the size of a shadow? Wider Curriculum: How did Lichtenstein create an impact? P4C/Growth Mindset: Managing stress Reading for Pleasure: Red Oak: The Imaginery by A F Harold and White Oak: Holes by Louis Sachar



Baby News

Congratulations to Miss Welsh Welling and her family who this week have welcomed their third child, a beautiful baby girl. I know you will join us in wishing Miss Welsh Welling and her family every happiness together.

Mrs Trendell

It is with a heavy heart that I have to let you know that Mrs Trendell will be leaving us at the end of this half term. She has decided to take a small career break before taking up a role as a community nursery nurse – a job she has always dreamed of doing and one that takes her back to the training she did before she had her own children. We are very sorry to see her go but of course wish her well and know that she will be amazing in her new role.

Yorke Sport

And the trophies keep on coming!!! What an amazing two weeks 🎆

FOOTBALL- CHAMPIONS! 🏆 🎉 🌟

YORKE MEAD HAVE WON THE CUP! 🏆 🎉 Last Friday Yorke Mead Girls, football team have capped off an amazing week by winning 'The Emma Cole Riversmeet Consortium Cup' for the first time ever! 🏆

Yorke Mead hit the ground running in the group stage with two 3-0 wins before a last minute winner in their third match which meant they finished top of their group. In the semi-finals, the girls faced a resolute Ricky Park side who defended well and took the game all the way to penalties. Ruby was the hero, saving two penalties and confidently scoring one - putting Yorke Mead into the final against The Russell.

In a tense game that could have gone either way, Connie managed to find space and score a vital goal which proved to be the winner! 🏆 After missing out on the league title narrowly,

I am so happy that this team have a trophy (once it's engraved) for all their hard work and effort this year. Congratulations girls - deserved champions! 🏆 🎉 #YorkeSport



Huge congratulations to the Yorke Mead football team who were crowned @trw_ssp district champions after winning all 5 games at the league final at St Clement Danes 🎉

1-0 vs Christchurch

2-0 vs St Joseph's

2-1 vs Holy Rood

2-0 vs St Peter's

1-0 vs Maple Cross

Every player gave their absolute all and should be so proud of what they have achieved together as a team for this school.

This trophy is 60 years old and it is the first time that Yorke Mead has EVER won it which makes this a historic day for Yorke Mead and it took a monumental effort from everyone involved. Incredible achievement 🏆 #YorkeSport

Congratulations to these @yorkemead5 children who were victorious at today's @trw_ssp 5-a-side tournament 🏆

The boys won all 5 of their group games to finish top, conceding just one goal throughout and booking their place in the final.

In a very close game, The Russell took the lead late on but Yorke Mead responded brilliantly to bring the game level, taking it to a penalty shootout 🏆

A fantastic save from Zayn and clinical penalties from Ralph & Hudson was enough for the boys to clinch the win for Yorke Mead 🎉

A fantastic effort from everyone involved, superb football on show and deserved champions - well played boys! 🏆 🎉



Well done to these @yorkemead6 children who took part in today's 5-a-side mixed Netball festival at York House 🏆 It was a great opportunity to play competitively with official rules and positions. An enjoyable afternoon played with excellent spirit 🏆 🎉

FOYM: Minimarathon

Our thanks to FOYM who along with Mr Furlong and school staff are supporting our children to walk, wheel, run or jog 2 miles across the next two weeks (ending 8th May).

FOYM are proud to support them by turning their efforts into a fundraiser for a new supportive breakout space building - please donate if you can at justgiving.com/campaign/yorkkemeadminimarathon2026 and share the attached graphics to friends and family.

Please also see our Match Funding graphic in the FOYM email - thank you for asking if your employer could consider supporting this campaign.

justgiving.com/campaign/yorkkemeadminimarathon2026



OPAL Play

This week we have spoken to the children about being able to move across different play areas and have started the transition with Year groups 3-6. From Monday all children from Year 3-6 have been able to visit and play on the Year 3 and 4 Playground or 5 and 6, even the field if it is open!

We discussed a number of issues linked to this in assembly, including:

- Where children can eat their lunch outdoors
- Where they should place their lunchboxes
- What equipment they can use
- That they will be mixed across areas and to be mindful of this
- Siblings and maintaining the school play rules in school
- Tidying up OPAL equipment
- Where to line up to return to class at the end of lunch

Follow Opal play
on Insta...
[yorkkemeadopal](https://www.instagram.com/yorkkemeadopal)

The plan is that Year 2 and then Year 1 will also be able to choose their play area as the Summer term goes on.

With the sun shining, OPAL play has been in full swing with lots of different play taking part across all play areas!





Eco Minute

No Mow May!



Did you know that approximately 97% of flower rich meadows have been lost in the UK since the 1930's and with them vital food and habitats needed by wildlife? Fear not, you can help by taking part in No Mow May!

A healthy lawn, with some longer grass and wildflowers can help to tackle

pollution, benefit local wildlife and even lock away carbon beneath the ground. It couldn't be easier to take part, just don't mow your grass for the month of May (or beyond). No lawn is too small, and if the thought of the judgement from the neighbours is too much you could download a lawn sign or poster from Plantlife's No Mow May Movement to help spread the word and educate your street.

Nature will thank you for taking part, and for keeping variety in your lawn length over the summer. Keeping to two or three different grass lengths can help maximise wildflower variety and the nectar they produce. From the insects and the birds which will hide in the longer grasses to the pollinators, the wildflowers will feed, your lawn will be buzzing with life.

Letters this week!



Club offers

Y6 sats Breakfast club

FOYM Mini marathon

Lucille Pollard

Head teacher