

Yorke Mead School

Newsletter

Friday 8th May 2026

This week at Yorke Mead!

Making it real...making it memorable!

Creative baking and modelling bringing pop art to life!

Fabulous work from Year 6 that simply looks too good to eat. Well done to them all.



Items this Week

Keeping your children safe online
Uniform Policy
Cystic Fibrosis awareness day
Tourettes awareness day
Young Children behaviour
Minimarathon
Yorke Sport
Opal Play – thank you
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



There was a big gap this week – time for other colours to try to put up a challenge!

Dates for the diary

This week

Mon 11th May

Y6 SATs week

Y4 Pine to Batchworth Lock

Tues 12th May

Y4 Maple to Batchworth

Fri 15th May

Africa Day

This Term

Tues 19th May

Y5 RAF Museum

Y6 Chessington

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

Thurs 11th JuneInternational Day* *please**note the change of date***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: Continuing phonics with the phoneme 'y'; Rhyme of the week - 1,2,buckle my shoe; Key texts - Supertato 'veggies assemble' and the rest of the series; Planting tomato plants, looking at their life cycle and learning to take care of them; Using a range of building materials to create our own city for Supertato to protect; Singing songs about growing		Reception – Lime & Willow Focus: 'Ready, steady grow!': Key text 'How does a seed sprout' by Eric Carle; Phonics: phase 4 longer words and compound words; Literacy: handwriting practice focusing on the 'bouncy family' (n, m, h); Communication & Language: using new vocabulary whilst learning about growing seeds and caring for plants; Maths: doubling / halving / sharing equally & introducing odd and even numbers; PHSE: exploring feelings - how does hearing unkind words make you feel?; Physical Development: enjoying parachute games in PE; Understanding the World: what do plants need to grow? Growing and caring for cress.	
Year 1 – Elder & Silver Birch English: Lonely Beast Phonics & spelling: Phase 5 - i/a/ow/u Maths: sharing and grouping problems Science: What are seeds and where do they come from? Wider Curriculum Can you talk about a significant person from Croxley Green?: Can I make a winder toy? Can I create a story using sound effects? P4C/Growth Mindset: How am I a good friend? Reading for Pleasure: We will explore lots of short stories including 'Hairy Maclary' and 'Giraffes Can't Dance'.	Year 2 – Cedar & Horse Chestnut English: Lila & The Secret of the Rain - story telling Phonics & spelling: How can I show missing letters in a word? (Cobtractions) Maths: Division Science: : Do we have examples of food chains in our school environment and why is each part of the chain important? Wider Curriculum: Africa Day; What is life like in Accra? P4C/Growth Mindset: What causes conflict with my friends? Reading for Pleasure: Horse Chestnut - Matilda by Roald Dahl; Cedar - The Boy Who Grew Dragons by Andy Shepherd	Year 3 – Laurel & Sycamore English: writing our own haikus Phonics & spelling: short "u" made with the "ou" digraph Maths: long division Science: Does the shape and size of a magnet effect how strong it is? Wider Curriculum: How does the Qu'ran teach us how to look after the world? P4C/Growth Mindset: What needs and rights do I and others have and how can these be affected? Reading for Pleasure: Vetman by Noel Fitzpatrick (Laurel) and Happy to Help by Tom Gates (Sycamore)	
Year 4 – Maple & Pine English: editing and publishing our biographies on a Victorian inventor Phonics & spelling: double consonants e.g. hopping Maths: short division Science: Can I record observations and write a conclusion? Wider Curriculum: How do I create a repeating pattern? How did the building of the canals influence Croxley Green? How are concepts of justice and fairness taught through Sikh parables? How do you use the repeat command in 2Logo to create shapes? P4C/Growth Mindset: How can you show love and appreciation for someone? Reading for Pleasure: Maple - Birthday Boy – David Baddeil Pine – Hari Jumar – Ultimate Superstar	Year 5 – Ash & Rowan English: ideas and arguments for a persuasive speech Phonics & spelling: conventions that apply when hyphenating words. Maths: Identifying unknown angles. Science: Is there a relationship between a mammal's size and its gestation period? Wider Curriculum: What was the importance of the Empire and where WWII soldiers come from? Adding and editing images to a word document P4C/Growth Mindset: What are the rights and responsibilities when playing an online game and how can I be safe online? Reading for Pleasure: Maths: Formal division and multiplication.	Year 6 – Red Oak & White Oak <p style="text-align: center;">SATS Week with additional focus on art and PE</p>	

Tourettes Awareness Day

The recently acclaimed film has drawn attention to Tourette's Syndrome. This much misunderstood condition impacts lives of those who develop it in so many ways. Tourette's syndrome remains one of the most misunderstood neurological conditions. There is one thing we can do about this – we can understand that behaviours that result from Tourette's (known as tics) are not a choice and that when these happen, the person with Tourette's syndrome needs our support not our judgement. Too often, public perceptions are shaped by stigma, snap judgements, jokes, and misinformation.

Tourette's Awareness Month is running from May 15 – Jun 15, and Tourettes Action is asking people to pause, reflect, and recognise a simple truth:

People with Tourette's syndrome cannot choose their tics – but everyone else can choose how they respond.

We have children in school with a Tourette's diagnosis. Unkind behaviours often stem from lack of understanding. I would really hope that we can help the next generation of children to grow up with understanding of neurodiverse needs such as Tourette's and with kindness towards these.

On Friday June 19th we will be marking this day. The children will be asked to wear green or teal to show solidarity with people who live with Tourettes.

Emotional Wellbeing in School Quality Mark

Thank you to Mrs Elliott and all the staff at Yorke Mead for the hard work they have delivered for many years to ensure that everyone is well supported at Yorke Mead. As a head teacher, I rarely go in for quality marks – the main being that these can be costly to proceed with, and the money I feel is better spent on the children and delivering what we are looking to be recognised for rather than getting the recognition. This Quality Mark came with no cost attached. We are proud to have achieved this.

Yorke Sport

Year 3 Athletics

A fantastic effort from Year 3 this week at the athletics tournament with Laurel girls and Sycamore boys taking first place in their group and Laurel boys taking runner up place. What a performance!



FOYM: Minimarathon

So far an amazing £1040 has been raised by supporters for the Mini Marathon. One final push please ...lets see how far we can get. Remember that match funding often means that your donations are doubled and the more we raise the more wonderful things happen for your children.

Yorke Mead Mini London Marathon 2026



Campaign by Friends of Yorke Mead JMI School

£1,040
raised by 56 supporters

Give Now

Share



Friends of Yorke Mead JMI
School
RCN 311014
www.yorkemead.herts.sch.uk/page/?
title=Friends-of-Yorke+Mead&pid=55

www.justgiving.com/campaign/yorkemeadminimarathon2026

Young Children Swearing

Worryingly, we are seeing a small number of our youngest pupils using swear words in school. This is only a few children, but the language they are using is significant. Children can only be using these words because they are hearing them. I make no judgement about the word choices adults use, but we cannot assume that if words are heard they will not be repeated or used – after all this is how your children learn to talk in the first place.

When children use these inappropriate words other children hear them, and this is not acceptable. The ideal would of course be that the children never learnt these words in the first place, but if parents are not able to support us with this we have to do all we can to teach the children ourselves. Our behaviour policy lists swearing as a serious behaviour. This means that the consequence for swearing needs to be a protective one as well as an educational one. We will protect other children from the experience of hearing children use swear words by putting an indoor play consequence in place for the day. The children will be supported to learn that swearing reduces their opportunities. It is sad that we need to do this. The best way parents can help their child is to model better words to express frustration, not allow children to swear in your presence without consequence and encourage children to express their emotions in a more positive way.

OPAL Play



A huge thank you Izabella's (Y2) mum for the fabulous donation that has allowed the purchase of jackets for the staff who are leading the OPAL play. This has come from a parent who is also going above and beyond in supporting other members of the community. Izabella's mum runs a small family business providing care for people in their own homes, Rainbow Home Care Services based in Watford . She did not ask for anything in return for her kind donation other than that we share information about their free coffee morning chat, and their aim to support individuals who may be experiencing loneliness or depression.

A very special thank you from everyone at Yorke Mead!

Coffee & Chat Morning

By Rainbow Home Care Services

Starting on **5th May 2026**



FREE OF CHARGE
CHATS
BEVERAGES

A monthly opportunity for those aged 50+ to engage with the community.

More Information :
01923962363

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

CAFE DE LISBOA
Unit 3 , 135 The Parade,
High Street, Watford,
WD17 1NA

www.rainbowhomecareservices.co.uk

Coffee & Chat Morning

By Rainbow Home Care Services

Join us for our monthly "Coffee and Chat Morning" - a free community event designed for individuals aged 50 and above. This welcoming gathering offers the perfect opportunity to meet new people, engage with the local community, and enjoy enriching conversations.

About the event:

- Frequency:** every second Wednesday of each month, starting from **5th May 2026**.
- Accessibility:** The venue is wheelchair accessible and conveniently situated. Sainsbury's, located just behind the cafe, provides accessible parking and restroom facilities.
- Why Cafe De Lisboa?** Cafe De Lisboa shares our commitment to caring, supporting, and promoting inclusivity and community strength. As a family-run establishment, they align perfectly with the ethos of Rainbow Home Care Services.

Event Highlights:

- Guests can get a hot beverage and a sweet treat of their choice from a delightful selection.
- Each meeting will have its own theme.

Rainbow Home Care Services proudly sponsors this charitable event, reflecting our dedication to building connections and enhancing the well-being of our local community.

We look forward to welcoming you at our Coffee and Chat Morning, where meaningful conversations and new friendships await!

www.rainbowhomecareservices.co.uk

Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Day

Cystic fibrosis (CF) is an inherited genetic condition causing severe damage to the lungs, digestive system and other organs. It causes the body to produce thick, sticky mucus that clogs the airways and traps bacteria, leading to chronic infections, inflammation, and difficulty breathing. While there is no cure, treatments include medicines to thin mucus, airway clearance techniques, and antibiotics to treat infections.

As with any condition, for those affected it is important that everyone understands. Some day to day illnesses that cause little or no risk to most people can be a bigger concern and some simple activities that children enjoy can also create more risk. The more awareness and understanding we have, the more supported those who live with the condition feel.

We have a pupil in Reception who has cystic fibrosis. On Friday 10th July we would like to invite everyone to wear yellow in support of people like Otilie and to help raise awareness too.

We are not collecting for the charity but anyone who wishes to get involved may find out more about doing so at on the Cystic Fibrosis website [Wear Yellow Day](#)



Eco Minute

David Attenborough – an inspiration!

One of the world's most famous broadcasters celebrates a big birthday today - it is of course Sir David Attenborough!

He turned 100 on Friday 8th May.

Over the course of his career he's done some incredible things, like overseeing some of the first ever colour-television broadcasts, and diving 1000ft underwater in a submarine at the age of 88.



This gentleman has become a national treasure and has done so much to share both the joys of the natural world and to deliver the message about how we protect it. His legacy must be that we have listened and do all we can to protect the world.

Letters this week!



Mental Health Commissioning Services letter

Pushball reminder Yr 3

Change of day for International Day

Yr5 Key teting dates

Yr6 letter regarding Shrek production

Yr1 Superheroe's

Lucille Pollard

Head teacher