

Yorke Mead School

Newsletter

Friday 15th May 2026

This week at Yorke Mead!

Making it real...making it memorable!

Year 2 had a wonderful time on Thursday afternoon, all thanks to Mrs Smith – Mum to Genesis in Horse Chestnut and Galilee in Elder. As part of their geography learning for hot and cold climates, Y2 have been learning about Ghana. Mrs Smith brought this learning to life through workshops, including a visit from a renowned Ghanaian chef: Chef Abbys, who is currently touring the UK. Chef Abbys introduced the children to some traditional Ghanaian foods and gave them the opportunity to experience some exciting new flavours! A highlight of the afternoon was connecting with a school in Ghana. The children had prepared thoughtful questions for one another and enjoyed learning more about each other's cultures and daily lives. We hope this will be the beginning of a valuable and lasting relationship.



Items this Week

Safety in the Community
Early Years Garden
Cystic Fibrosis awareness day
Tourettes awareness day
Miss Graham
Behaviour in the community
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

Tues 19th May

Y5 RAF Museum

Y6 Chessington

Thurs 21st May

Y2 Woburn Trip

Fri 22nd May

INSET Day

This Term

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 June

International 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

Safety in the Community

We hear about knife crime and often see it as a problem of other places... not a Croxley Green problem. Fortunately, events are rare, but rare does not mean never.

Some of our older children this week found a very large knife in the bushes of one of the community park/children's play areas. Fortunately, they were with their parents who phoned the police and the knife was collected. You don't just 'lose' a large knife – it had clearly been discarded.

Fortunately, on this occasion, the knife was found by children old enough to know it was not a toy – a younger child might not have done! I am asking you all to keep a close eye on your children in the play areas. Remember, if the children are playing games online that involve fighting, they may not understand the dangers of knives and an accident with a knife can be fatal.

Well done to the Yorke Mead children who did the right thing when they found this.

Early Years Garden

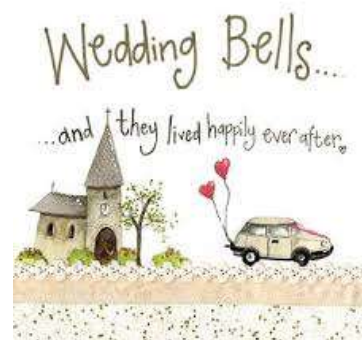
As you and your children leave the school site, could you please ensure that no child is touching the plants in the Early Years garden. Our youngest children are trying to grow plants and it is upsetting for them if their seedling/flower etc disappears because someone has pulled it out or damages it.

Your co-operation is appreciated in training your child that looking is fine, but touching is not as it can damage the plant!

Miss Graham

We are very excited and happy for Miss Graham, who will leave us at the end of this half term and will return after the half term as Mrs Hobbs. This is such a special time for her and we have fingers crossed for a beautiful day and for a wonderful life for her and her husband together.

I know you will join us in wishing her well as she enters this new stage of her life. ♥



Learning Next Week

Nursery – Acorns Focus: Continuing phonics with the phoneme 'z'; Rhyme of the week - 1,2, buckle my shoe; talking about our families and the 'superpowers' they have; draw a detailed picture of my family; continuing to look after our class tomato plants; singing number songs and taking part in guess the shape games		Reception – Lime & Willow Focus: : 'Ready, steady grow!': Key texts: non-fiction 'Ready, steady, grow!' topic books; Phonics: phase 4 longer words and compound words; Literacy: handwriting practice focusing on the 'bouncy family' (b & p); Communication & Language: using new vocabulary whilst learning about the artists Lucy Arnold and Georgia O'Keeffe; Maths: "all about" numbers to 5 - making numbers in different ways using numicon; PHSE: thinking about the question - what does being a friend mean?; Physical Development: enjoying games in PE and a focus on riding balance bikes; Expressive Arts and Design: learning about and drawing in the style of the artists Lucy Arnold and Geogia O'Keeffe			
Year 1 – Elder & Silver Birch English: Lonely Beast Phonics & spelling: Phase 5 - ph/ wh/ ie/ g Maths: Time - O'clock and Half Past Science: Can you talk about and label parts of a flower? Can I play pitched patterns on tuned instruments to maintain a steady beat? Wider Curriculum How would you compare Mary Seacolt to a modern day nurse? P4C/Growth Mindset: Reading for Pleasure: We will explore lots of short stories including 'I don't like books. Never. Ever. The End' and 'The Whale who wanted more'.	Year 2 – Cedar & Horse Chestnut English: retelling a story Phonics & spelling: Half termly spelling test. Maths: Fractions - half, third, quarter Science: Wider Curriculum: What is life like in Accra? Why do we need rules? Trip to Woburn P4C/Growth Mindset: Why are some secrets good to keep and others are not? Who helps me in my family and my community? Reading for Pleasure: Horse Chestnut - Matilda by Roald Dahl; Cedar - The Boy Who Grew Dragons by Andy Shepherd	Year 3 – Laurel & Sycamore English: : writing calligrams Phonics & spelling: half termly test Maths: units of time Science: What happens when two magnets are put near each other? Wider Curriculum: Can I create and problem solve when making a moving monster? P4C/Growth Mindset: How and why should I express my appreciation of others? Reading for Pleasure: Reading for Pleasure: Vetman by Noel Fitzpatrick (Laurel) and Happy to Help by Tom Gates (Sycamore)	Year 4 – Maple & Pine English: grammar focus – present and past progressive tenses. Phonics & spelling: Maths: time (calculating duration and start/end points) Science: Wider Curriculum: can I evaluate my work reflecting on the style covered; How can we see justice and fairness in a Christian parable? P4C/Growth Mindset: Reading for Pleasure: Maple - Birthday Boy – David Baddeil Pine – Hari Jumar – Ultimate Superstar	Year 5 – Ash & Rowan English: Using main clauses and subordinate clauses and commas when writing. Phonics & spelling: identifying word roots Maths: strategies for multiplication and division Science: Can I describe the life process of reproduction? Wider Curriculum What can I improvise experimenting with dynamics? What improvements can I make to my composition; TRIP P4C/Growth Mindset: What are the rights and responsibilities when playing an online game and how can I be safe online? Reading for Pleasure:	Year 6 – Red Oak & White Oak English: Publishing to appeal to the reader Phonics & spelling: Maths: Consolidating skills Science: How does the distance between light and an object affect the size of a shadow? Wider Curriculum: Can you make food in the pop art style? P4C/Growth Mindset: : Looking after your own well being Reading for Pleasure: : Red Oak: The Imaginery by A F Harold and White Oak: Holes by Louis Sachar

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 a lack of understanding. I would really hope that we can help the next generation of children to grow up with an 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.

Yorke Sport

School Games Values Award (KS1/KS2)

Awarded to the pupil who consistently gives 100% effort throughout PE and Sport, while demonstrating the School Games Values of Determination, Teamwork, Self-Belief, Respect, Passion, Honesty and Eco-Friendliness.

Charlotte Goldspring



Charlotte is a supportive and dependable teammate who approaches every sporting opportunity with enthusiasm and positivity. She shows a genuine passion for sport and thoroughly enjoys being part of a team environment.

Her determination and commitment have led to her selection for the school netball, girls' football and rounders teams. In PE lessons, Charlotte consistently demonstrates an outstanding attitude and willingness to challenge herself, representing the school in competitive events such as basketball. She has also shown kindness and leadership by encouraging younger pupils and supporting her peers during the Year 6 multi-sport event.

Play Leader of the Year (KS2)

Awarded to the pupil who has most embraced the role of Play Leader and demonstrated exceptional commitment and impact.

Hartley Jaekal

Hartley is a passionate and dedicated Play Leader who builds excellent relationships with younger pupils. He consistently goes above and beyond to organise engaging, enjoyable activities and is always eager to support others.

Hartley is trustworthy, reliable and responsible when using and returning equipment independently. He has been observed showing great respect, enthusiasm and patience when interacting with younger students, making him an excellent role model within the school community.

He fully embraced the opportunity to complete his Junior Games Maker training and was excited to apply his new skills in supporting others through sport and play.



Key Stage 2 Outstanding Achievement Award

Awarded to pupils who have demonstrated exceptional sporting talent, represented the school across multiple sports and made a significant contribution to team success.

Amelia Jarvis



Amelia is an incredibly versatile and talented sportswoman who has played a hugely influential role in Yorke Mead's sporting success over the past two years across a wide range of sports.

She has captained both the district champions netball team and the girls' football team that won the Emma Cole Riversmeet Cup, proving herself to be an inspiring leader and vital team player. Amelia is also a fantastic athlete, earning a bronze medal at the York House cross-country event after previously achieving silver at the TRSSP District Finals.

In PE lessons, Amelia is a model student who consistently demonstrates determination, resilience and a strong desire to improve. Her talent and dedication have led to selection for the hockey, cricket and basketball teams. Alongside her sporting achievements, Amelia is also a reliable and enthusiastic Play Leader who carefully plans and delivers engaging activities for younger pupils. As a trained Junior Games Maker and colour group captain, she is a wonderful role model to others across the school.

Key Stage 2 Team of the Year

Awarded to the school team that has achieved outstanding success while demonstrating excellent teamwork and School Games Values, including Determination, Self-Belief, Respect, Passion and Honesty.

Yorke Mead Football Team

The Yorke Mead Football Team has demonstrated exceptional teamwork, passion and commitment throughout the year. The players have shown a strong understanding of their individual roles and positions, while communicating brilliantly and constantly encouraging one another on the pitch.

Their resilience, determination and drive were evident throughout their journey to the EFL Cup Final against strong opposition. The team also completed an unbeaten season in the Rickmansworth League, finishing top of the table before progressing to the league finals.

In an outstanding achievement, the team won every game in the finals, conceding just one goal, to be crowned district champions. This marks a historic moment for Yorke Mead, as it is the first time the school has won the cup. The entire school community is incredibly proud of the way the team has represented Yorke Mead this year, both through their success and their exemplary sportsmanship.



Representing the School in the Community

Children are learning and on occasions children do get into situations where their behaviour is not as parents or school would hope – when this happens in school we help them to reflect and understand their behaviour is not appropriate and to consider different ways to solve issues. When children are in the community and wearing school uniform, we rely on parents to do this, as inappropriate behaviour by a child in the community, wearing Yorke Mead uniform reflects not just on the individual but also on the school. We have recently adapted our behaviour policy to reflect this, adding in a phrase to reflect behaviours out of school that impact the school community or neighbours.

I hope that children wear the Yorke Mead uniform with pride and that they are always a model of good behaviour. When this isn't the case, I hope that the parents can help their children recognise when they need to reflect and to understand how they can do things differently. Together we can then help your children grow into the positive, caring people we know they can be. Thank you in anticipation.

OPAL Play

Opal play continues to be developing wonderfully. It would be great if we can now add to our collections the following:

- Fabric: Sheets, curtains, saris, or blankets for dens.
- Containers: Large buckets, plastic crates, wooden pallets, and storage boxes.
- Vehicles/Wheels: Old pushchairs, prams, push-along trolleys, or wagon wheels.
- Kitchen Items: Old pots, pans, metal bowls, ladles, and whisks.
- Dressing Up: Costumes and fabric scraps.
- Construction: PVC pipes, planks of wood, and cardboard boxes.
- Small World: Small toys such as dinosaurs, farm animals, or cars.



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

20th of May is World Bee Day



There are over 20,000 species of bee globally. In the UK we have 270, with 1 species of honey bee and 24 bumblebee species. That's a lot of bees, but there needs to be **be**cause around a third of the world's food production depends on them. Bees pollinate around 75% of leading global crops, including the crops used to feed livestock. That's a big job.

Bees also prop up our ecosystem. They pollinate our wild trees and wild flowers, which then support other insects, which then support birds, bats, mammals and everything up the food chain with food and shelter.

We haven't even mentioned honey.

We celebrate World Bee Day to raise awareness of the critical importance of bees because the sad fact is that bees are in decline around the world due to habitat loss, climate change, pesticide use and disease. The situation is so critical that 1 in 10 of Europe's wild bee species are facing extinction.

So how can we help?

- Plant some wildflowers, or leave an area of your lawn unmown to provide bees with food and shelter throughout the year.
- Provide some shelter in your garden. There is a great tutorial at [Build a bee hotel | Friends of the Earth](#) to teach you how to build a bee hotel. Or failing that, a pile of old sticks left undisturbed would probably do the job too.
- Avoid using pesticides. Mammals like hedgehogs are great natural pest eaters, so there is no need to use harsh chemicals on your garden.
- Provide a 'Bee Café'. A shallow dish filled with water and stones to provide the thirsty bees a place to stop for a drink on their commute between the flowers.

Letters this week!



Y6 Cycle Training
Y3 Aquadrome and Cassiobury visit
Y4 Swimming

Lucille Pollard

Head teacher