

Yorke Mead School

Newsletter

Thursday 21st May 2026

This week at Yorke Mead!

Making it real...making it memorable!

Year 2

What an exciting week Year 2 had last week with Ghana Afternoon on Thursday and then the traditional Africa Day on Friday! They are also off on safari today. Wow! What wonderful learning experiences they have had!



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

Fri 22nd May

INSET Day

Mon 1st June

INSET Day

W/B 1st June

Science Week

This Term

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

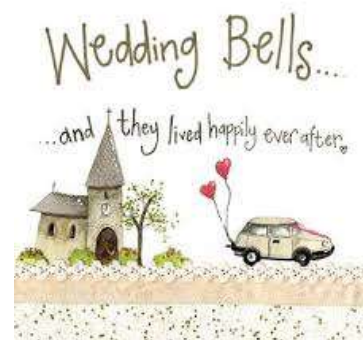
As you and your children leave the school site, could you please ensure that no child is touching the plants in the Early Years garden. Our youngest children are trying to grow plants and it is upsetting for them if their seedling/flower etc disappears because someone has pulled it out or damages it.

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: Key texts – Books about people who help us/Books about scientists; Phoneme – qu; Rhyme of the week – Wind the Bobbin Up; Science week learning: o Sinking and Floating investigations o Bubble Wand Shapes o Recycling paper.		Reception – Lime & Willow Focus: : Topic - How paper is made and making our own flower petal and seed paper to plant next week; Literacy - Reading Paper Chase by Julia Donaldson and talking about the processes in it; UTW - Importance of trees as a habitat. Observing and admiring trees in our school grounds; Maths - Number bonds to 5 then 10; PSED - Looking after our environment and recycling; PD - Negotiating space carefully (playing 'stuck in the mud')	
Year 1 – Elder & Silver Birch English: Yucky Worms Phonics & spelling: Recapping for Phonics check Maths: Time - O'clock and Half Past Science: What are seeds and where do they come from? Wider Curriculum: What are the features of our local area? Who is Henri Matissee? P4C/Growth Mindset: Which stories are important to me? Reading for Pleasure: Reading for pleasure: We will explore lots of short stories including 'The Smartest Giant' and 'The Troll'	Year 2 – Cedar & Horse Chestnut English: Man on the Moon - empathy, questions, commands and persuasive phrases Phonics & spelling: Why do some longer words have the spelling ti for /sh/? Maths: : Fractions - finding halves, quarters and thirds of shapes Science: Whole school investigation - How can we recycle and reuse paper? Wider Curriculum: Why do we need rules? P4C/Growth Mindset: Which changes can I control and which are out of my control? Reading for Pleasure: Horse Chestnut - Matilda by Roald Dahl; Cedar - The Boy Who Grew Dragons by Andy Shepherd	Year 3 – Laurel & Sycamore English: Introducing Escape to Pompeii Phonics & spelling: ous suffix Maths: Telling the time Science: Whole School Investigation for Science Wider Curriculum: What are the uses of PowerPoint? Can I create a page in a presentation? P4C/Growth Mindset: How do animals and humans change between conception and growing up? Reading for Pleasure: Vetman by Noel Fitzpatrick (Laurel) and Happy to Help by Tom Gates (Sycamore)	
Year 4 – Maple & Pine English: 'Fly Eagle Fly' – Story mapping Phonics & spelling: words with a soft 'g' sound Maths: Converting units of time/ Multiplication Tests (MTC) Science: How can we recycle and reuse paper? Wider Curriculum: How do faiths show responsibility? P4C/Growth Mindset: What makes me unique and where do my characteristics come from? Reading for Pleasure: to be decided	Year 5 – Ash & Rowan English: The Boy in the Tower: To understand how suspense is created and the effect it has on the reader Phonics & spelling: Year 5 and 6 statutory words. Maths: Solving problems involving scaling. Science: What is the process of sexual reproduction in plants? Wider Curriculum: What are the key features of a settlement? Who is LS Lowry and what makes his style of work unique? P4C/Growth Mindset: What is self image and self esteem? Reading for Pleasure:	Year 6 – Red Oak & White Oak English: Writing in science Phonics & spelling: Maths: Using maths in science Science: Science week Wider Curriculum: P4C/Growth Mindset: 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

Well done to all the Year 6 pupils who took part in yesterdays @trw_ssp Rickmansworth family cricket event which is always a highlight of the year.

The children showed great teamwork and a clear understanding of rules to put their PE lessons into practice. 🙌
A special mention to both White Oak & Red Oak A teams who managed to win both of their group matches and finish the day in 2nd & 3rd place respectively after a close final round of fixtures 🏆 🏆 ⭐
A brilliant way to spend the day! #YorkeSport



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 on the Cystic Fibrosis website [Wear Yellow Day](#)



Eco Minute

23-31 May is Children's Gardening Week.



Children love growing plants and love being involved in the garden but they're often impatient, wanting to see instant results. National Children's Gardening Week aims to capture children's enthusiasm at a time when results are immediate. National Children's Gardening Week takes place annually in the 'warm' week at the end of May.

This means that pretty much throughout the UK they can plant all the popular plants with little fear of weather damage or the need for complicated protective growing.

The Children's Gardening Week website at [Things to do - National Children's Gardening Week](#) is jampacked full of fun activities, including how to make a wildlife friendly garden, a suncatcher, a mini pond or even how to press flowers. Hours of fun just in time for half term!

Letters this week!



Year 1 spellings

Year 2 spellings

Year 4 Alice in Wonderland Play

Year 6 Youlbury Scout Adventures

Reception trip LangleyBury Farm

The sun is going to be shining... it is forecast to be HOT ...HOT...HOT!

Enjoy but remember to stay safe in the sun too!

Have a wonderful haf term everyone!

Lucille Pollard

Head teacher

