



Yorke Mead School



Newsletter

Friday 5th June 2026

This week at Yorke Mead!

Making it real...making it memorable!

Year 6 have produced some eye catching work linked to The Spiderwick Chronicles



Items this Week

Sports Day
Sports Week
Relationships, Sex and Health Education
An important message
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 9th June

Y6 Magistrate Visit
Y4 Performance pm

Wed 10th June

Y4 performance evening

Thurs 11th June

International Day

This Term

Wed 17th June

Internet Safety Meeting

Fri 19th June

Tourettes Awareness Day
(Wear green)

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

Wed 8th July

Y3 Roman Verulamium Visit

Fri 10th July

Cystic Fibrosis Awareness
Day (Wear Yellow)
Science Fair (pm)

Tues 14th July

Y4 River Trip

Thurs 23rd July

School finishes 1:45pm
SUMMER BREAK

Sports Days

We are looking forward to our sports days, which as many of you will know we spread over two days.

Wed 24th June

FS/KS1 Sports Day (FS morning/KS1 afternoon)

Thurs 25th June

KS2 Sports Day (Year 3&4 morning/ Year 5&6 afternoon)

The Thursday sports day culminates with the presentation of the cup for the winners and, at times, this can over run a little. Last year, some parents were upset by this. Whilst we do make every attempt to avoid over running, it is very difficult to get precise timing (we are not operating the Olympics – just a school sports day). We want EVERY child to be at the cup presentation – it is about them belonging in their team and the school community coming together. IF you are going to be upset if we overrun a few minutes, please can you email in and I will arrange a time to talk through options with you. I hope with sufficient notice of the possibility, parents can plan for this.

We cannot keep gates open all day and therefore, for the safety of your children, we have set times when these will be open.

Wed 24th June - FS/KS1 Sports Day (FS morning/KS1 afternoon)

Gates open: 10:15am Gates close 10:45am

Gates open: 11:30am Gates close 11:45am

Gates open: 12:45pm Gates close 1:15pm

Thurs 25th June - KS2 Sports Day (Year 3&4 morning/ Year 5&6 afternoon)

Gates open: 8:40 am Gates close 9:30 am

Gates open: 11:30am Gates close 11:45am

Gates open: 12:30pm Gates close 1:00pm

Each day there will be a family picnic – Wednesday this will be for FS/KS1 children and Thursday this will be for KS2 children. As always, **we request that people stay for the full hour of the picnic so that we can keep all pupils safe and know who is on site.**

A form asking for details about whether you plan to stay for the picnic and what option you would like if you are unable to attend will be sent home in the next week or so -please ensure you complete this form. **Please ensure your children know your plans for the day, and are reminded on the day, as if they make an error and order a school lunch you will be charged for this.**

Sports Week

Our annual Sports week is one full of activities to engage your children in the important physical activities that help to keep them physically and mentally well. Each class has at least one activity each day.

We wear our PE kit every day for this week, wearing a tshirt in our colour group for the sports day events.

On Friday, we allow pupils to wear sports clothes of their own choices, celebrating the many sports our pupils enjoy.

Learning Next Week

Nursery – Acorns Focus: Key texts – A Superhero Like You by Dr Ranj; People who help us Phoneme - ch Rhyme of the week – Hickory, Dickory, Dock Building fire engines and role playing firefighters Painting people who help us		Reception – Lime & Willow Focus: : 'Summertime Adventures!': Key Drawing Club text: 'The Diddle that Dummed' by Kes Gray and Fred Blunt; Phonics: phase 4 longer words; Literacy: handwriting practice focusing on the 'long letter' and 'curly' families; Communication & Language: using new vocabulary whilst enjoying our Drawing Club text 'The Diddle that Dummed'; Maths: number bonds to 10; PHSE: Changing me - respecting my body (I can tell you some things I can do and foods I can eat to be healthy); Physical Development: practising for Sports Day
Year 1 – Elder & Silver Birch English: Yucky Worms Phonics & spelling: Phonics screening check Maths: Fractions -sharing into equal groups Science: Which flowering plants can you find on our school grounds? Wider Curriculum: What is a life cycle? What are the features of our local area? How does this music compare to others I have heard? P4C/Growth Mindset: International Day Reading for Pleasure: We will explore lots of short stories including 'Clean Up' and 'Don't let the pigeon drive the bus!'.	Year 2 – Cedar & Horse Chestnut English: Man on the Moon - story writing Phonics & spelling: Why do some longer words have the spelling ti for /sh/? Maths: Fractions - equivalences Science: How can you sort seeds and bulbs? Wider Curriculum: International day, Who was Christopher Columbus and what were his experiences? P4C/Growth Mindset: What is the natural process of growing young to old? Reading for Pleasure: Horse Chestnut - Matilda by Roald Dahl; Cedar - The Boy Who Grew Dragons by Andy Shepherd	Year 3 – Laurel & Sycamore English: Powerful Verbs and Role Play based on Escape from Pompeii Phonics & spelling: High Frequency Words Maths: Duration Science: Why is light and dark important? Wider Curriculum: Trips to the Aquadrome and Cassiobury Park I P4C/Growth Mindset: nternational Day Reading for Pleasure:
Year 4 – Maple & Pine English: Fly Eagle Fly – Understanding the thoughts and feelings of a character in the story Phonics & spelling: Alternative grapheme g, spelt gue Maths: Understanding data (discrete) Science: Wider Curriculum: What is my responsibility to the world? What are the key features of rivers in the UK? How do you design, code, test and debug to create a simple computer program? P4C/Growth Mindset: What is puberty and what will happen to my body and others? Reading for Pleasure: Maple - Birthday Boy by David Baddiel and Pine A Mummy Ate my Homework by Thiago De Moraes	Year 5 – Ash & Rowan English: Boy in the Tower - using characters and plot clues to inform our writing Phonics & spelling: Year 5 and 6 spelling words. Maths: Scaling by simple rates and creating scale drawings Science: Living things and their lifecycles: What is the process of sexual reproduction in plants? Lowry - How is perspective used to create a composition? Wider Curriculum: Word Processing - editing images in word. What are the key features of a settlement? P4C/Growth Mindset: International Day Reading for Pleasure: The Final Yearby Matt Goodfellow (Rowan) and Treasure of the Golden Skull by Chris Priestley (Ash)	Year 6 – Red Oak & White Oak English: Alma- a suspense story Phonics & spelling: Revision Maths: Misleading data Science: What happens when I change the components in a circuit? Wider Curriculum: What are the main regions of the UK and what cities are in these? P4C/Growth Mindset: International Day stimulus Reading for Pleasure: Red Oak - The Imaginery by A F Harold and Holes by Louis Sachar

Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)

You will be aware that this term we will be teaching the RSHE element of our work. Most of the elements we cover are classed as relationships (all kinds of families) or health education (puberty). The other elements are mostly science (our bodies and naming body parts).

Attached with this newsletter is a copy of the updated policy, including the statutory changes for 2026, which we share with you as part of the consultation process. Please email any comments in to the admin email address admin@yorkemead.herts.sch.uk FAO Mrs Elliott or Ms Pollard. Please send these by Friday 19th June.

A gentle reminder that should you wish to withdraw from sex education elements, this needs to be put in writing.

An important message – please watch this!

I recently had a video shared with me which was used as part of some training. It has an extremely important message about the importance of play and the need for children to have positive interactions with their care givers early and often. The talk focuses on the importance of the first 5 years of life – but it is never too late to make a change. Schools everywhere are seeing children struggling with focus and attention, and being heavily reliable on a visual stimulus. This is because many children spend too much time focused on screens – be it playing games or tv. I appreciate it is the world we live in – but please, do watch this video – it might help you understand why your time and the interactions you have with your children matter far more than you may have realised. Thank you in anticipation!

[How Every Child Can Thrive by Five | Molly Wright | TED](#)

OPAL Play

It has been a busy first week back regarding OPAL with the start of the final mixing of year groups. Year 1 and 2 have been enjoying being able to play on the Year 3 and 4 playground at lunchtime and getting used to being in a different space. Year 1 are wearing hi viz jackets so that they can easily be spotted by adults if needed. Children are certainly enjoying being able to explore and play with new equipment. The aim is that in two weeks that they will mix across the school and so enjoy being up on the field and enjoying the activities up there too. It has been lovely to see the older children coming down to meet with the Year 1 and 2 as well. Of course, this has meant that we have had to rethink the tidy up process, but children have been responding well to this.

Mr Thompson has been busy over half term and has made a stage for all of the budding performers! This is located on the field and early signs are that it is quite a hit!

Over the next few weeks we will be looking to develop some of the larger loose parts play. If you have any old pushchairs, prams or dolls, we would be grateful of donations. Cars area is proving very popular, so if you have any cars, or trains that you no longer use, please donate.



- dolls
- prams
- pushchairs
- cars
- trains
- train track
- chalk

Donations to Mrs Walke in Year 4 Pine please.

Weather has also been very mixed this week, please remember to send your child in with a waterproof coat as they are out in the rain! Our Play Team have been enjoying their new coats donated by Roxana Ulmeanu, our team are certainly warm and dry!



Thank you!

On behalf of the staff and children, I wanted to extend a huge 'Thank you' to all of the parents and family members who have been into school this week, sharing the role science and technology plays in their jobs and in the real world. What a wonderful way to support and inspire our children for their future careers. In school we can teach children about things but it is people like you, coming in, sharing and giving insight, that really makes what we teach them powerful.

Thank you all!

A special note of thanks to Mrs Carter and Miss Hutchins for organising the week.

Science Fair – Postponed to Friday 10th July.



Eco Minute

Let it bloom June.

Following on from No Mow May, we are encouraged to leave the blooming wildflowers alone and allow nature to continue to flourish in our gardens and outside spaces for both the wildlife (and us) to enjoy.



The whole month of June is 30 Days Wild! June feels different. The light lingers. Bees buzz around gardens. Swifts soar overhead. Wildflowers push through cracks in the pavement. In June, the 30 days wild challenge invites us to notice it all! 30 Days Wild is the UK's biggest nature challenge. This June, choose one wild thing a day (or a few each week) - from giving nature a helping hand to simply noticing the wild on your doorstep. Sign up today at [30 Days Wild | The Wildlife Trusts](#) to receive your free resources in the post and via email. Join thousands of people connecting with nature, feeling better and making a positive difference for nature.

Lucille Pollard

Head teacher

Letters this week!



Horse Chestnut – Forest school