

Yorke Mead School

Newsletter

Friday 10th July 2026

This week at Yorke Mead!

Making it real...making it memorable!

A huge thank you to the Eco Councillors who attended the Three Rivers Eco Forum as representatives of Yorke Mead. The three pupils had a great day and did Yorke Mead proud!



Items this Week

Sports Day
Supporting our team
The School Office
Ready for September
Yorke Sport
Your Opinion – Mental health
Dental appointments
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.....

Dates for the diary

This week

Mon 13th July
Wear England colours if wish to

Tues 14th July
Y4 River Trip

Wed 15th July
FS/KS1 Sports Day

Thurs 16th July
KS2 Sports Day

Fri 17th July
Bastille Day

This Term

Monday 20th July
Nursery Picnic

Tues 21st July
Y1 Local Walk

Thurs 23rd July
School finishes
1:45pm
SUMMER BREAK

Sports Day

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

Wed 15th July

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

Thurs 16th July

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

Ironically, having cancelled for the heat, the current forecast presents us with high temperatures- but rather different weathers. So it looks like the gazebos we are borrowing will be for shade one day and for shelter the next:



Fingers crossed we will be able to carry on, but **if the ground is wet, or the rain heavy, the picnic will need to be cancelled.** We have tried before to accommodate this inside and it simply is not safe!

Hopefully, we will go ahead, so please be aware:

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 15th July - 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 16th July - 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.

Supporting our team

At times like these, football seems everything. We put so many hopes into the win...and boy do we hope that England win! However, it is important that children learn that support is for your team no matter what.

So on Monday, win or lose, we invite the children to wear the colours of England if they wish to. For those who don't want to, school uniform should be worn. This can be school PE kit if they wish! Let's hope we are celebrating!



Learning Next Week

Nursery – Acorns Focus: Key text- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phoneme- ng • Rhyme of the week- Row Row Row Your Boat • Self Portrait drawing • Key text- The Ugly Duckling • Mini sports games 		Reception – Lime & Willow Focus: . 'Summertime Adventures!': Key texts: Summer themed topic books; Phonics: ongoing review of speedy sounds and tricky words. Using our phonics knowledge to write short sentences; Maths: revisiting careful counting, more than / less than and linking an amount to a numeral; PHSE: Looking back at our time in Reception. What have we enjoyed? Talking about moving to Year 1 in September and visiting our new classroom; Physical Development: Having fun during our Sports Day!
Year 1 – Elder & Silver Birch English: Reviewing fundamental skills and applying alternative graphemes in our writing Phonics & spelling: Reviewing Phase 5 graphemes Maths: Place value - numbers to 100 Science: What changes did I notice in summer and how do I know? Wider Curriculum: Can I use a code to design my own computer programme? P4C/Growth Mindset: Transition Reading for Pleasure: We will explore lots of short stories including 'The Smartest Giant in Town' and 'Charlie Cook's favourite book'.	Year 2 – Cedar & Horse Chestnut English: : How to catch a star - story writing Phonics & spelling: Year 1 & 2 Common Exception Words Maths: Symmetry & sequencing Science: How does a dandelion change over time? Wider Curriculum: Who is Matthew Henson (1866) and what are his achievements? P4C/Growth Mindset: Which type of touch do I like and which don't I like? Reading for Pleasure: Horse Chestnut - The Enchanted Wood by Enid Blyton; Cedar - The Boy Who Grew Dragons by Andy Shepherd	Year 3 – Laurel & Sycamore English: Phonics & spelling: Maths: Science: Wider Curriculum: P4C/Growth Mindset: Reading for Pleasure:
Year 4 – Maple & Pine English: 'Once upon a raindrop' -Explanation writing on The Water Cycle Phonics & spelling: Assessment of summer 2 spelling words Maths: Co-ordinates Science: Can changes of state be reversed? Wider Curriculum: Can I develop my knowledge of stitches and use this to create a simple pattern? River investigation – Cassiobury Park. How do you use REPEAT, UNTIL and IF/ELSE statements P4C/Growth Mindset: Reading for Pleasure:	Year 5 – Ash & Rowan English: Completing our suspense story and presenting it as a illustrated book Phonics & spelling: Recap and tests of Year 5 statutory spelling words Maths: Using properties of shapes in calculating missing lengths and angles Science: Animals and their lifecycles. Wider Curriculum: What would your ideal world look like? How can we conserve energy on an individual basis? Word Processing - Presenting information as a newspaper P4C/Growth Mindset: Transition Reading for Pleasure:	Year 6 – Red Oak & White Oak English: Persuasive leaflet about landmark Maths: Statistics Science: Wider Curriculum: Performance P4C/Growth Mindset: Transition Key focus on play rehearsals, transition to secondary school and roles and responsibilities

Bastille Day

On Friday 17th July, as part of our French curriculum, we will celebrate Bastille Day. We will celebrate by wearing the colours of the French flag – **red**, **white** and **blue** – this is a fun day when we explore the French culture!



The Office

I appreciate people are busy; I understand that things get forgotten; however, the amount of visits to the office to deliver to children things that have been forgotten by them or by parents is again becoming overwhelming. The office staff are not able to do their other tasks as they are constantly being disturbed. Everyone who comes is apologetic; everyone will say that it is a 'one off' and we appreciate sometimes it is. However, there are 442 pupils at Yorke Mead and the site is big. The office team cannot run back and forth delivering forgotten hats, sunscreen, snacks, water bottles, reading books and sports kits. Moving forward – if something has been forgotten and can be managed without (we can provide a cup for water; if you child has no hat they can play in the shade) please let them do so. This may help them to become more independent in organising themselves. If it has to be brought in, please understand it will be kept in the office and then delivered at 11:30am (in time for lunch) or at 2:30 pm. This means the office make one journey instead of the 20 or so journeys they are currently making. This is not us being unhelpful; it is what is necessary for things to be able to work in school. I hope you all understand and the office staff are not put under pressure to do things differently. Thank you

Yorke Sport

ROUNDERS - A fantastic performance by the Year 6 Rounders team at the @trw_ssp tournament this week! 🏏 The children worked so well as a team and their understanding of the rules was brilliant (not one dropped bat! 🎯 🏏) Against skilled opposition, Yorke Mead secured 3 victories, 1 draw, and just 1 narrow defeat to finish runners-up - missing out on top spot by just one point 🏆 🏏 A great achievement and an enjoyable evening of rounders ★ 🏏 #YorkeSport



Preparing for September: Back to School

I know we haven't even broken up for summer yet...but my communication with you will stop for a while soon. As you begin to prepare for September here are a few things we would like you to remember.

Pencil Cases (KS2 only)

It is very helpful if your child can bring to school their own pencil case. This should be clear in style and again, not too big. Keep contents simple...too much novelty and they become a distraction. A simple set of colouring pencils, a glue stick, basic school rubber, basic sharpener, ruler, HB pencil, purple biro and handwriting pen is all that the children need. We do not expect you to provide all of this, but if you do it is helpful for your child and saves money. We will provide what the children need, if they can each bring in their own pencil case.



Waterproof Jacket, Trousers and Wellies

It is hard to believe at this moment that we will need these, but weather changes quickly in the UK! These items will be essential next year, not just for Forest School, but also for Opal play. Please ensure these are available for your children.

NB: Coats need to be waterproof not just thick/warm – these coats do not keep children dry and we will be moving towards playing outside no matter what the weather.

Hat

Polite reminder that your children need a red or black school hat.



School bags

Every year we request that school bags are small and a sensible size ...each year full sized rucksacks are the main bag styles. Please do think about this. These bags clog the cloak room pegs and coats end up on the floor; create a trip hazard and often are so big children can't find their items in them. Please keep these items small. If your child needs to carry sports kit, in KS1 and FS this is kept in school in their PE bag and in KS2 a simple nylon kit bag or school PE bag would be much more suitable. Thank you.

School Shoes

A reminder that although we have changed our policy to allow sport shoes as part of uniform, these must be plain black! This includes any logo.

Trainers for PE should also be plain black or plain white.

Thank you

Your opinion needed!

The Children's Commissioner is currently undertaking a survey to find out from parents and children what will support their mental health and wellbeing. Your voice is needed... and if they are able to, so is the voice of your children. Please follow this link to complete the survey:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>

Dental Appointments!

We are seeing an increasing number of children leaving school to attend dental appointments -not a bad thing as this is important but it does result in missed schooling. Thank you to those who make the appointments at the end of the day. Ideally these would be out of school hours but I understand this can be difficult to arrange. It would be helpful if parents could email in, in advance with a copy of the appointment confirmation for records so we can authorise the absence please. This will support us being able to put this absence down as authorised as this is still missed education.

Thank you for your support.



Eco Minute

Plastic Free July

July is plastic free month, you could recycle but better still avoid plastic! Ideas include:

1. Replacing teabags with loose tea
2. Choose veg without plastic wrapping
3. Buy a re-usable coffee cup
4. Try soap nuts in your laundry
5. Invest in a bamboo toothbrush
6. Swap cling film for re-useable food wraps.



Lucille Pollard

Head teacher

Letters this week!



No letters this week