



Yorke Mead School

Newsletter



Friday 4th September 2026

This week at Yorke Mead!

Platinum Games Award

We are thrilled to have been awarded the Platinum School Games Award this year. This is a ranking that can only be achieved after four consecutive years achieving the gold award and highlights the lasting impact of making a meaningful difference in providing the PE & Sporting Opportunities that Yorke Mead has made over the past 5 years. This can only be achieved because of the hard work of all the staff in school – those that teach PE; those that run a club; those that support the OPAL play; those that ensure pupils get to the competitions (parents and staff); those that make sure the daily mile happens; and of course the pupils that engage in the activities (the children). Thank you!

Of course, the final 'thank you' has to go to Mr Furlong for his work in both leading on this and for completing the paperwork so that this work is recognised.



New Items this Week

Welcome
Au Revoir
Opal Play
Pencil Cases
Reading Awards
Gettuing to know the Yorke Mead Way
Jeans for Genes
Fountain Pens
Roles and Responsibilities
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Letters

Walking Wednesday

Each week we encourage our children to walk to school on a Wednesday, if they cannot walk everyday.

The team captains will each week count up to see which team wins the Golden Boot.

This is a great way to keep your children's health positive and also to support the environment. Please do take part whenever you can.

Last year we saw a couple of the colour teams dominate winning this – if everyone walks that can we might make this a better competition AND save the planet!

<i>Dates for the diary</i>	
This week	
Settling in for Reception and Nursery children	
This month	
Fri 11th Sep Rosh Hashanah Fri 18th Sep Jeans for Genes Day	
Next Month	
Thurs 1st Oct Individual Photos Wed 7th Oct Y6 Height and Weight W/b 12th Oct Parent Consultations Sat 17th October/Sun 18th Oct Diwali Celebrations W/b 26th Oct Half Term	

Welcome

A special Yorke Mead welcome to the children joining our Nursery and Reception classes – I hope they all enjoyed their first visit to their classrooms this week.

We also welcome Roman (Elder) and Krystal (Laurel) and their families to our school,.

Welcome back to everyone else – the children came to school looking very happy and smart and I hope they all enjoyed their first day.



Au Revior

We are very sorry to be saying goodbye to Mrs Rann and Mrs Brett in the next few weeks. Mrs Rann will be embarking on training to become a paediatric nurse and Mrs Brett has taken a new role working out of schools. Both will be very sadly missed; we of course wish them happiness and success in their new roles.

Learning Next Week

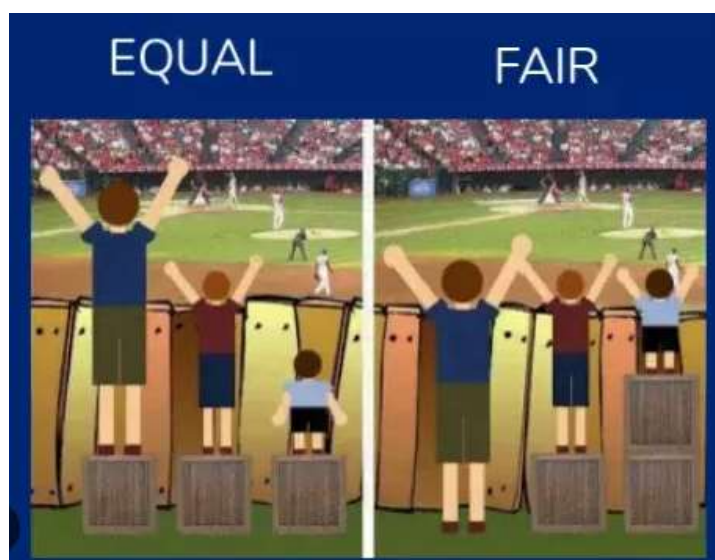
The focus of learning this week is on the Yorke Mead Way and Getting to Know Each Other

- The Five B's
- The Power of Yet
- Understanding our brains
- Mindful practice

There will also be a focus on the expectations in terms of classroom behaviour; staff getting to know the children and children getting to know each other.

Children will do a P4C session to explore their thoughts and ideas around the concept of Fair v Equal using the poster in this box.

The aim is to establish 'the team' that will be together for the year.



OPAL Play

A gentle reminder that now we have embraced the OPAL play strategy, rain will not stop play. This means that your children need to have the correct uniform to play – **waterproof trousers and a waterproof jacket** (not just a warm one) are essential as wellies will also be.

Children need to play and whilst we will of course be mindful of very heavy rain, we know that there are many benefits from playing in the rain:

- **Sensory Development:** Rain introduces unique sounds, smells and textures that stimulate brain development in ways indoor play cannot.
- **Physical Coordination:** Splashing in puddles, running through wet grass, and balancing on slippery surfaces improve gross motor skills and core strength.
- **Boosted Resilience:** Navigating cold, wet, or muddy conditions teaches children to adapt to discomfort and embrace everyday challenges.
- **Imaginative Play:** Puddles turn into oceans and mud becomes building material, sparking creativity and open-ended problem-solving.
- **Connection to Nature:** Experiencing changing weather patterns fosters a lifelong appreciation for the natural world.

We want every child to experience this and ask you as their parents to ensure they have what they need to benefit from this.

Pencil Cases



I wrote to you before summer asking for a pencil case that was 'clear in style'. I apologise if this was not explicit enough.

When we ask for a 'clear' pencil case we do this so that:

- The contents are easy to see and find
- Everyone has the same style, reducing the peer pressure (pencil cases and their content quickly add up in cost).
- The distraction of multicoloured gel pens and smelly pens etc is avoided.

A number of pupils have pencil cases that are not as requested.

A **clear pencil case** is very cheap and is easy to purchase.

We therefore have told the children that after this weekend we will only allow these.

Please support your child in this.



Earning Reading Rewards

Each year we give the children the chance to earn their reading badges or reading certificates. To earn them, children in Key Stage One need to read to an adult 4 x week (shown by writing in the reading diary) and in Key Stage Two 3 x week (again shown in the reading diary). For each ten weeks this happens your child earns a reward - bronze for 10 times, silver for 20 times, gold for 30 times and platinum for 40 times. Please... don't forget to write in the reading diary!



Reading books will be changed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Getting to know the Yorke Mead Way

To help families new to Yorke Mead, and as a reminder to everyone, over the next few weeks I will take one aspect of what we refer to as The Yorke Mead Way and give a brief explanation of it. This covers the aspects of school that run throughout the whole school and help us to develop your children into confident, happy learners who can successfully work together. This week we will start with the Yorke Mead rules.

Be Kind Be Safe Be Responsible

We keep our rules simple. They are positive telling the children what to do rather than what not to do. These three rules are easy for the children to remember and they cover everything they need to.

Jeans for Genes



There are children at Yorke Mead who owe their lives, or the lives of a family member to the research that Jeans for Genes enables. This is an

important day for them, and for

future families. We support this event by coming to school wearing jeans/denim skirts/shorts with our red school tops. Trainers are allowed that day.

We ask that children make a donation (throw a few coins in a bucket) if they wish to and the money will be donated to Jeans for Genes.

Jeans for Genes Day will be celebrated on **Friday 18th September**

Fountain Pens

Once children have developed the fluency in their handwriting and can join well, we like them to have the chance to use a fountain pen. These pens seem to have really hiked in cost and a decent pen now costs around £5. We will still provide children with their pen, but if you are willing and able to provide your child with one (once your child has reached GOLD level) this would be a much better pen for your child and support their handwriting – a skill many people are losing in this technological age.



Roles and Responsibilities

We have always believed that it is important that children learn to take responsibility and one way we do this is by giving children increasing responsibility as they work through the school. When the general election was held the children held their own election. They used this to decide upon new roles in the school that the pupils will be able to carry out.

In school there are responsibility roles on the school council and Eco Council. The children chose to also have Colour Group Captains (Year 6) and Prefects (Y4-5). The prefects will change each term.

Children will need to decide the roles they wish to be considered for and will prepare a brief presentation to give to their peers. They may wish to begin thinking about this during the next few days.

Are you following the correct Instagram pages?

It is that time of year when parents need to move pages and follow the correct Instagram page. This helps give you a brief insight into life in school.

You can follow us at:

@YorkeMead Yorkmeaddaisy and each year group has an account which is found by searching yorkemead and the year group number e.g. **yorkemead4**.

Reception and Nursery are **yorkemeadn** and **yorkemeadr**.

There is also a sporting page **yorkmeadsport** which will share your child's PE lessons and any competitions

Remember to click the like button – it inspires the staff to share more as they know you are visiting the pages





Minute

Oxfam Fight Fast Fashion

Save waste and money by buying less clothes, recycling these or donating them to charity. Have a month of only buying second hand clothes or none at all to reduce the mountain of clothes in landfill.

Letters this week!



Lucille Pollard

Head teacher