



Yorke Mead School

Newsletter



Friday 18th September 2026

This week at Yorke Mead!

Our new leaders!

Eco

Council

Anelisse
Albert
Theo
Eloise
Molly
Arlo
Bethany
Emma
Theo



Colour Captains

Lilija
George
Connie
Toby
Maisy
Strachan
Shreya
Charlie



School Council: Ariella, Reyan, Krystal, Henry, Eliana, Dylan, Daniel, Macey, Zayn, Daniel, Shreya and Maisy

Prefects: Arlo, Darcey, Esamai, Harry, Jack, Laolu, Amber, Alex, Oscar, Alex and Anabelle

New Items this Week

Welcome FOYM Family Picnic
Attendance
Opal Play
PEER
Reading with your child
Jewellery
Getting to know the Yorke Mead Way
Jeans for Genes
Parent Consultations
Tissues
Online Images Instagram
Eco Minute
Letters

Walking Wednesday

Well done to everyone who is making the most of 'Walking Wednesday' – the winners this week are.....

Greens



<i>Dates for the diary</i>
This week
Sat 19th Sept FOYM Family Picnic
Weds 23rd Sept Flu Vaccinations
This month
Next Month
Thurs 1st Oct Individual Photos
Wed 7th Oct Y6 Height and Weight
Fri 9th Oct Y4 Visit to British Museum Eco Council Book Swap
W/b 12th Oct Parent Consultations
Sun 8th Nov Diwali Festival
Mon 19th Oct Y6 visit to Hazard Alley
Wed 21st Oct Y1-Y3 Harvest
Thurs 22nd Oct Y4-6 Harvest
W/b 26th Oct Half Term

Welcome FOYM Family Picnic



FOYM have kindly organised a welcome picnic for the families who have joined Yorke Mead in Nursery and Reception – we do hope that many of you can make it. This is a lovely opportunity to meet the new families that joined with you and make the friendships with parents that stay with you throughout your life even when your children have grown up and flown the nest.

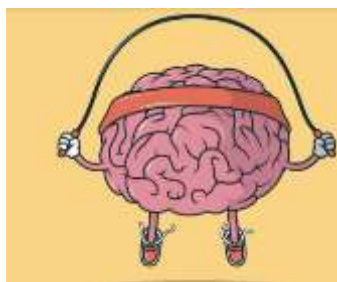
If you wish to book a place please do so at pta-events.co.uk/foym

Getting to know the Yorke Mead Way

The Power of Yet!

It is important that the children develop a growth mindset so that when something is difficult, they don't just give up. We talk about the Yeti Yeti – and the power of yet. Never say I can't do it! ... say I can't do it yet! ... and believe that you can.

It is also important to think of the brain as a muscle – it needs exercising just like every other muscle!



The Power of Yet...
DEVELOP YOUR GROWTH MINDSET

I can't do this...yet!
This doesn't work...yet!
I don't know...yet!
It doesn't make sense...yet!
I'm not good at this...yet!
I don't get this...yet!

Learning Next Week

Nursery – Acorns Focus: Continuing to get to know routines and where things belong; Talking about who can help us in our classroom and how we can help our friends; Learning how to use our painting area; Catching fish and counting them accurately; Talking about things that make us happy or sad; Key Texts - There's only one you, The Colour Monster		Reception – Lime & Willow Focus: Settling in and remembering our classroom routines. Phonics: learning i, m, n, d phonemes; Literacy: enjoying lots of stories and singing traditional nursery rhymes; Maths: using dice to subitise dots to 6 and singing counting songs; Expressive Art and Design: choosing and using musical instruments to make different sounds; Understanding the World: enjoying our first Forest School visit!
Year 1 – Elder & Silver Birch English: Plenty of Love to go around Emma Clark Phonics & spelling: Phase 4 review and Phase 4 with long vowels Maths: numbers to 10 finding patterns; including subitising Science: Do people with bigger hands also have bigger feet? Wider Curriculum: What should we be thankful for? P4C/Growth Mindset: What makes a friend? Reading for Pleasure: The day the crayons came home and other short stories.	Year 2 – Cedar & Horse Chestnut English: Using adjectives and nouns and to begin story writing Phonics & spelling phase 5 review including alternative graphemes: Maths: : regrouping tens and ones Science: Do adults including humans change into animals the same way? Wider Curriculum: Where are the seaside towns located? Why and why do muslims pray? P4C/Growth Mindset: What rewards and consequences do I think there should be? Reading for Pleasure: Cedar - Diary of a Puss in Boots by Ben Miller HC - Magic Hamster by Pamela Butchart	Year 3 – Laurel & Sycamore English: using conjunctions and prepositions Phonics & spelling: Long E Sound Maths: Counting On Science: How much food from each food group should humans eat to stay healthy and why? Wider Curriculum: How can I describe locations 8 points of a compass? P4C/Growth Mindset: : How can I face new challenges positively and make responsible choices? Reading for Pleasure: Charlie Changes into a Chicken (Laurel) Skunk and Badger (Sycamore)
Year 4 – Maple & Pine English: 'The Secret of Black Rock – using personification Phonics & spelling: ways to make the 'er' sound Maths: rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 & 1000, Science: How many different ways can you sort animals? Wider Curriculum: Author Visit - Jenny Pearson; Why were the pyramids built? How do Hindus worship in a mandir? P4C/Growth Mindset: What is democracy and how does it work in the British Isles? Reading for Pleasure: Maple – The Last Firefox by Lee Newbery and Pine - Maisie vs the Pyramids by Jack Jackman	Year 5 – Ash & Rowan English: The Amazon Rainforest- using a range of contractions to add detail Phonics & spelling: consonant letter suffixes - ment, ness, ful, less, ly Maths: Interpreting negative numbers by counting forwards and backwards across zero Science: Is there a pattern between the size of a planet and the time it takes to travel around the Sun? Wider Curriculum: How does the climate of South America compare to the rest of the world? What is the relationship between shape, scale and position? P4C/Growth Mindset: Why is it important to make good choices about my behaviour and think about my impact on others? Reading for Pleasure:	Year 6 – Red Oak & White Oak English: Ice Trap- Journal and poem writing Phonics & spelling: Homophones Maths: Efficient strategies Science: : How are water and nutrients transported around the body Wider Curriculum: Where do natural disasters happen? How are they caused? What are the effects? Can I create music with multiple sections? What are the key actions of Buddhists and Christians? P4C/Growth Mindset Do I have a choice as to how I behave?: Reading for Pleasure: Kensuke's Kingdom Michael Morpurgo

PEER

Promote, Embrace, Educate, Relate

Promote, Embrace, Educate, Relate

**would love to invite parents to join our PEER group
(Termly meeting held)**

The PEER group is a parent-led group which aims to promote respect for differences and foster a sense of belonging for all pupils. As a school we educate children about diverse cultures, backgrounds, and identities, thereby encouraging empathy, open-mindedness, and a richer understanding of the world.

As current world events show, this work continues to be essential. The input and views of all parents is greatly appreciated. If you feel that this is an area of interest, please email the office by Friday October 3rd for the attention of Mrs Arora (Diversity Lead).

The PEER group's work is supported in school by our pupil PEER champions.

Reading with your child

The three read approach

When your child is young and learning to read, we encourage them to read the same book three times (or more if they wish to). This is because with each read their confidence grows and they are able to not just read, but also comprehend what they have read.

Read 1: Decoding — Focuses on sounding out words. Children apply their phonic knowledge, practice segmenting and blending, and review tricky words before reading the text

Read 2: Prosody — Teaches children to read aloud with expression, stress, and intonation so they sound like a natural reader rather than a robot.

Read 3: Comprehension — Explores the meaning of the text. Teachers check understanding through retrieval, inference, vocabulary work, and retelling.

We do understand that as children progress to longer books with short chapters this cannot be sustained, but if the work is done in the earliest years they will learn to apply these reading skills in one read.

We ask that children in Early Years read each night (once books come home); Children in Key Stage One read 4 x a week and in Key Stage Two at least three times a week.

In the younger years parents will sign the reading diary; as children become independent readers they will sign this themselves.

Reading certificates and badges support your children engagement by encouraging them to read.



Pedestrian Safety

Some of you will know we have been fighting hard to get safety procedures in place for the roads around school. You will have seen these in place. I know there have been concerns that the timer may be out; I have reported this to HCC Highways.

In the coming weeks we will work with the children to establish an informal crossing point... you can help us by not parking dangerously close to corners. Please park safely to help keep our children safe.

OPAL Play

The children are thoroughly enjoying the loose part play – can you help us by providing any crates, bits of drain pipe, cones, tarpaulin, electrical cable reels etc.

Thank you!



Have you got your wet weather coat?

The weather has been great so far and long should it continue, however, when it does rain will your child be ready? Have they got their rain coat? Have they got their wellies?



Online Images

YORKE MEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

WE'VE CHANGED THE ANGLE; THE STORY IS THE SAME



WE CAN STILL CELEBRATE THE MOMENTS WHILST ALSO PROTECTING YOUR CHILDREN – ADAPTING HOW WE SHARE IN RESPONSE TO THE EVOLVING AI SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS



Backs of heads – we can still show the moments that matter!



A close up on hands – we can still share the learning, exploring and creativity without always showing faces



Side facing photos and not full faces help make images safer to share.



FRONT FACING PHOTOS MAY BE SHARED IN GROUPS WHEN PARENTS HAVE GIVEN PHOTO PERMISSION

Parent Consultations

Parent Consultations will be happening during week beginning 12th October. For those families who are new to Yorke Mead, we operate two sessions in the school day on either the afternoon of Tuesday or Thursday, and one session after school on Wednesday.

Parents who have a child on the SEN register are able to choose to either meet their child's class teacher during parent consultation week or to wait a little longer and meet the class teacher and SENDCo together at the SEN meetings (dates to follow). Please do not sign up for both sessions when these are made available.

The signing up system is electronic and details will be sent to you soon.

Tuesday afternoon 13th Oct 26	Wednesday after school 14th Oct 26	Thursday afternoon 15th Oct 26
Willow Elder Cedar Sycamore Maple Ash Red Oak	All year groups	Acorns Lime Silver Birch Horse Chestnut Laurel Pine Rowan White Oak

Tissue Plea!

The coughs and colds, sniffles and sneezes have already begun! Tissues cost school a huge amount – most classes need around 3 boxes a week over 39 weeks ... that is 1755 boxes of tissues without the office and first aid being considered. At around 50p a box for the cheapest tissues that is almost £900 ... £900 which could be spent on educating children and making their playtimes more fun. If every child donates a box of tissues we would have 450 boxes and would save a huge amount of money. Please help us by doing this small gesture. Thank you



Jeans for Genes



Thank you to everyone who has joined in with Jeans for Genes. We have children who have genetic illnesses who will benefit from both the support and the contributions you made.

Clubs

In the next week we will be sending home information about school clubs – please let your children choose the clubs based on their interest. Sometimes parents choose the clubs as the day is convenient – your children rarely enjoy the clubs then. We want the clubs to spark their interest and engage their curiosity.

Attendance Matters

School attendance is closely linked not just to academic attainment but also to safeguarding. The positive patterns in school attendance are established in the youngest years and they last into the teen years when young people become more vulnerable to the influences in the outside world.

Naturally, children do get ill – we all do – but there are illnesses that mean children need to stay home (sickness, diarrhea, a high temperature etc.) and there illnesses that we can often carry on with – simple coughs and colds. Sometimes, children seem a little under the weather and you are not sure if they are well enough for school or not; at these times you can try bringing your child in and we will of course call you if they are unwell.

The government has set the school targets to improve school attendance. However, even without the targets getting children to school every possible day is important and this is what drives school leaders to maximise attendance. Please help your child to build a brighter future by maximising their school attendance – every day matters; every minute matters.

How close to 100% Attendance is your child?

0 days absent from school!	100%	Perfection
Equivalent to 5 days off school in any one school year	98%	Good
Less than 10 days absent from school in any one year	96%	Average
Around 15 days off school. Attendance Improvement Officer begins to monitor	92%	Concerned
Government level for PERSISTENT ABSENTEEISM – Parents at risk of local authority intervention	90%	Very concerned



Eco Minute

World Ozone Day

Officially known as the **International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer**, this United Nations awareness day commemorates the Montreal Protocol, one of the world's most successful environmental agreements. Whilst we have an Ozone Day, we really need to think about protecting the ozone everyday. The Ozone Layer sits miles above us in the atmosphere. Earth's sunscreen: It blocks dangerous ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun helping to keep us safe: Without it, people would get severe sunburns and higher rates of skin cancer.

Being careful with the use of power helps the ozone. Have an earth friendly day this weekend and help your children look after the world that will be theirs.



Letters this week!

Autumn School Clubs Rota

Year 4 British Museum Trip

Reception Phonics meeting

Eco Council book swap

Lucille Pollard

Head teacher