



Yorke Mead School



Newsletter

Friday 25th September 2026

This week at Yorke Mead!

Being active!



New Items this Week

Clubs
Opal Play
PEER
Book Swap
Getting to know the Yorke Mead Way
Parent Consultations
Pedestrian Safety
National Teaching Assistant Day
Tissues
Eco Minute
Attendance
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	
Thurs 1st Oct	Individual Photos
This month	
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
Next Month	

Clubs

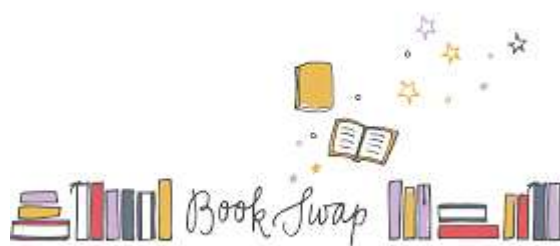
A great deal of work has gone into the club allocations. Not every child will get what they wanted; there will not be enough spaces for all children...as hard as this is, life does bring disappointments. Please do not misunderstand me, we all know that this is hard...but in the scheme of life, it is learning to manage the little disappointments that in the end helps us manage the bigger ones in life.

If you haven't had an email saying your child has a club then unfortunately on this occasion they were unsuccessful.

On another note: if your child cannot attend a club it is important you let the staff member know – we are responsible for ensuring pupils are accounted for and failure to tell us means that staff members spend time chasing and making phone calls that would not be necessary if this was done. This should be a good reason – just not wanting to attend that day isn't really a good one; a commitment has been made and children need to learn this.

If children have your permission to walk home alone, we will continue this until the nights start to draw in. Again, you must have written to the teacher to give this permission – we cannot just assume permission to walk home at 3:15pm automatically is permission to walk home at 4:00/4:15pm.

What is a book swap?



Eco Council book swap 9th October. This is a perfect way to share a book you have loved reading, a book you may have grown out of or one you know you won't read again. A book swap helps save the environment, looks after the pennies and more importantly, shares the love of reading.

Take a moment, with your children to select the books you have at home that you know other children will love. These books should not be the books you have not taken care of; they are the books you have loved.

When your children bring a book in, they will be given a token which they can swap for a new book at the book swap event.

When you want to meet the teacher teacher

Sometimes we know parents wish to meet the teachers and on a few occasions these can be arranged in the school day, but this is not something that can be the norm. You will understand that in the day the teacher is busy working with your children. Most meetings with teachers will need to happen after school. Please hold this in mind.

Learning Next Week

Nursery – Acorns Focus: <i>The Colour Monster goes to school; Naming colours and colour mixing; Recognising and counting facial features and drawing self portraits; Continuing to sing nursery rhymes; Recognising days of the week</i>		Reception – Lime & Willow Focus: <i>'All about Me'. Phonics: learning g, o, c, k phonemes; Literacy: sharing our favourite books from home; Maths: using dice to subitise to 6 and using counters to make and match the dice pattern; Communication and Language: sharing our 'All about me' bags with the class; PSED: 'Being in my world'- talking about working with others to make school a good place to be.</i>
Year 1 – Elder & Silver Birch English: <i>The Little Red Hen</i> Phonics & spelling: <i>Phase 5 /ai/ ay play /ow/ ou cloud /oi/ oy toy /ee/ ea each</i> Maths: <i>Numbers to 10 finding one and one less</i> Science: <i>Does wearing something over my ears stop me from hearing?</i> Wider Curriculum: <i>What makes a friend?</i> P4C/Growth Mindset: <i>How can you make our class happy and safe for everyone?</i> Reading for Pleasure: <i>The Gruffalo's Child and other short stories from our reading area</i>	Year 2 – Cedar & Horse Chestnut English: <i>Writing a narrative based on the book The Magic School Bus</i> Phonics & spelling: <i>alternative graphemes</i> Maths: <i>recognising the place value of each digit in a 2-digit number</i> Science: <i>What are the differences between babies and toddlers?</i> Wider Curriculum: <i>What the features of a seaside town? How is a prayer mat used in prayer? How can you create a water effect using paints in the style of Claude Monet?</i> P4C/Growth Mindset: <i>How will following my school learning charter help me and others learn?</i> Reading for Pleasure: <i>Diary of a Puss in Boots by Ben Miller (Cedar) & Magic Hamster by Pamela Butchart (H Chestnut)</i>	Year 3 – Laurel & Sycamore English: <i>Rules of Speech</i> Phonics & spelling: <i>Long 'I' Sound</i> Maths: <i>Estimation, Magnitude and Rounding</i> Science: <i>Do animals and humans need to eat the same nutrients?</i> Wider Curriculum: <i>Can I develop my observational skills?</i> P4C/Growth Mindset: <i>Little People Big Dreams - Rosa Parks and Michael Jordan</i> Reading for Pleasure: <i>Charlie Changes into a Chicken (Laurel) Skunk and Badger (Sycamore)</i>
Year 4 – Maple & Pine English: <i>The Secret of Black Rock – stimulus, planning their own story</i> Phonics & spelling: <i>"air" sound made with "air", "are", "ear" "ere" "ar" "ei"</i> Maths: <i>mental strategies - adding</i> Science: <i>How can we use a branching database to sort organisms?</i> Wider Curriculum: <i>How do historians use Egyptian artefacts to learn about the past? Why are festivals important to Hindus?</i> P4C/Growth Mindset: <i>How does democracy work in our schools?</i> Internet Safety: <i>How do I interact positively online?</i> Reading for Pleasure: <i>The Last Firefox by Lee Newbery (Maple) Maisie vs the Pyramids by Jack Jackman (Pine)</i>	Year 5 – Ash & Rowan English: <i>Writing our own 'Survival Guide' for the Amazon Rainforest</i> Phonics & spelling: <i>adding vowel letter suffixes</i> Maths: <i>compare and order numbers with up to 2 and 3 decimal places.</i> Science: <i>Can you observe and identify all the phases in the cycle of the Moon?</i> Wider Curriculum: <i>How can we use proportion and perspective to create artwork? Where are the Andes and what are their key features?</i> P4C/Growth Mindset: <i>Why are having roles helpful to us?</i> Internet Safety: <i>Keeping safe online</i> Reading for Pleasure:	Year 6 – Red Oak & White Oak English: <i>: Ice Trap- A real life story</i> Phonics & spelling: <i>Consonant suffixes</i> Maths: <i>Bar modelling</i> Science: <i>How can diet and exercise affect my body?</i> Wider Curriculum: <i>What are hurricanes and tornados and how are they caused? Can I record a piece using standard notation and include some dynamics?</i> P4C/Growth Mindset: <i>How does my choice of behaviour affect myself and others?</i> Internet Safety: <i>I know that online information can be opinions.</i> Reading for Pleasure: <i>Reading for Pleasure: Kensuke's Kingdom Michael Morpurgo</i>

PEER

Promote, Embrace, Educate, Relate

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**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.

Getting to know the Yorke Mead Way

Our Values: **DARE TO**

When our values were chosen, we placed a lot of thought into the qualities the children need to prepare them for life in the 21st Century. They spell DARE TO as we recognise that you need to be brave to be an effective learner and take risks by stepping out of your comfort zone.

AMBITION

An ambitious learner sets their sights on achieving the next challenge, having a goal and aiming to achieve it.

RESILIENCE

A resilient learner bounces back when there is a disappointment, and keeps going, trying again

DETERMINATION

A determined learner doesn't give up, they keep going until they succeed

ENJOYMENT

Enjoying learning will help you to learn more. Doing things you enjoy doesn't feel like work.

TRUST

To work effectively in a group you have to trust your peers...to be trusted you need to behave in a trustworthy way.

OPENNESS

An open learner will keep their mind open to new ideas and new approaches.



National Teaching Assistant Day

Today is National Teaching Assistant Day and we want to take a moment to celebrate and say thank you to the Teaching Assistants and all of the support staff. These wonderful staff provide so much support to the children but also to the teachers; every teacher I know will tell you that having a teaching assistant alongside you is invaluable.

So today, like we should do everyday, but busy lives means we don't, let's say 'Thank you' to our teaching assistants. The work they do is so important and I know (because I see their payslips) it is a job done out of love and not for the money. Thank you to our wonderful team.



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?



Parent Consultations

Parent Consultations will be happening during the 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

Thank you

A great big thank you from Henry (last year's Year 6) and his family; you raised a tremendous £1245 towards his wheel chair, which I believe he is now whizzing around his secondary school in. Thank you for helping make his life a little more comfortable!

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 are 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 Vegetarian Day
(1st October)

World Vegetarian Day marks the start of **Vegetarian Awareness Month** and encourages people to explore the benefits of eating more plant-based meals. The day raises awareness of how reducing meat consumption can help protect the environment, improve health and support animal welfare.

Why It Matters?

Health: Plant-based diets can improve heart health, aid in weight management, and lower the risk of chronic conditions like diabetes.

Environment: Reducing meat consumption lowers greenhouse gas emissions and decreases the heavy water and land use required for livestock farming.

Ethics: Choosing meat-free meals supports animal welfare and reduces the demand for industrial factory farming

Letters this week!

Year 6 Hazard Alley Trip
Parents Consultations Letter
Year 4 Cycle Training
Year 5 Cycle training
Club allocations

Lucille Pollard
Head teacher