



Yorke Mead School

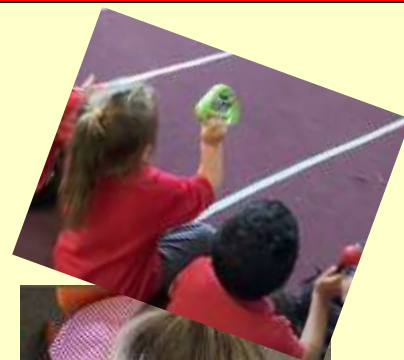
Newsletter



Friday 2nd October 2026

This week at Yorke Mead!

Creative learning in early years



New Items this Week

Chicken Pox
Opal Play
Speed limit lights
Book Swap
Freddie & Jessica's Day
Harvest
Black History Month
Yorke Sport
Tissues
Eco Minute
The Yorke Mead Way
Letters

Walking Wednesday

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

Reds & Greens



<i>Dates for the diary</i>	
This week	
Wed 7th Oct	Y6 Height and Weight
Fri 9th Oct	Y4 Visit to British Museum Eco Council Book Swap
This month	
W/b 12th Oct	Parent Consultations
Sun 8th Nov	Diwali Festival
Fri 16th Oct	FOYM Spooky Disco
Mon 19th Oct	Y6 visit to Hazard Alley
Wed 21st Oct	Y1-Y3 Harvest
Thurs 22nd Oct	Y4-Y6 Harvest
W/b 26th Oct	Half Term
Next Month	
Fri 6th Nov	Freddie and Jessica's Day

Chickenpox

Whilst for most people chicken pox is a mild, childhood illness, for some children with other medical conditions it can be extremely dangerous.

If your child has either confirmed or suspected chicken pox, please do get this checked and ensure that you communicate with the school office. This allows us to liaise with the families who need to know and informed decisions can be made.

Remember, many children feel unwell before any spots appear.

We know you will all understand the importance of this and I trust you will follow this request.

Thank you in anticipation



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.

Flashing Speed Limit Lights

Could I please ask as many of you as possible to report that the new 20 mile speed limit lights are not coming on at the right time. I have tried but perhaps if more people do this we may get the benefit of the work. Thank you

[What type of fault are you reporting? | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

Learning Next Week

Nursery – Acorns Focus: Key Texts - We're going on a leaf hunt Talking about Autumn and how the world changes around us Creating autumn art work by mixing colours and making repeating patterns Creating autumn toast, looking carefully at how the bread changes Singing 'Dingle dangle Scarecrow' and other nursery rhymes Listening to environmental sounds carefully to guess what we can hear		Reception – Lime & Willow Focus: 'All about Me'. Phonics: learning e, u, r phonemes and introducing the digraph ck (two letters making one sound); continuing to share our favourite books from home; exploring more, less and equal amounts; continuing to talk about our families and share our 'All about me' bags with the class; looking at the signs of Autumn / Tasty Tuesday - trying different varieties of apple; 'Being in my world'- talking about why it is good to be kind and use gentle hands; parachute games and PE.
Year 1 – Elder & Silver Birch English: Little Red Hen Phonics & spelling: Reviewing longer words Maths: Numbers to 10 estimating and ordering Science: How can I use my senses? Wider Curriculum: How does the Jewish faith celebrate Harvest? P4C/Growth Mindset: Do the choices we make have consequences? Reading for Pleasure: : Is this a Plum? And other short stories	Year 2 – Cedar & Horse Chestnut English: Continue writing a narrative based on the book The Magic School Bus Phonics & spelling: phase 5 review including alternative graphemes continued Maths: counting on and back in ones and tens from any number Science: What do animals and humans need to survive? Wider Curriculum: What are the ingredients of a festival? How is Croydon and a seaside town different? P4C/Growth Mindset: Black History Month P4C Inquiry / How do the choices I make affect the consequences I receive? Reading for Pleasure: Cedar - Diary of a Puss in Boots by Ben Miller HC - Magic Hamster	Year 3 – Laurel & Sycamore English: Writing our own fables Phonics & spelling: Long O Sound Maths: Measures and Addition Science: Can I understand the impact the work of significant scientists have had? (Marie Curie) Wider Curriculum: What are the features of sketch map? P4C/Growth Mindset Can I understand why rules are needed and how they relate to rights and responsibilities? Internet Safety: Reading for Pleasure: Charlie Changes into a Chicken (Laurel) Skunk and Badger (Sycamore)
Year 4 – Maple & Pine English: The Secret of Black Rock' - stimulus - children are writing their own story Phonics & spelling: rules for applying suffixes -ed and -ing Maths: mental strategies for adding and subtraction Science: How do we know what type of trees we have in our school grounds? Wider Curriculum: Tri- golf competition, British Museum trip, How does worship in other religions compare to Hinduism? P4C/Growth Mindset: Internet Safety: Why do others online pretend to be someone else? Reading for Pleasure: The Last Firefox by Lee Newbery (Maple) and Maisie vs the Pyramids by Jack Jackman (Pine)	Year 5 – Ash & Rowan English: Rainforest inspired poetry -Haiku and Cinquain Phonics & spelling: Morphology (word families) exploration Maths: Multiplying/Dividing numbers by 10, 100 and 1000 including decimals. Science: How have our ideas about the solar system changed over time? Wider Curriculum: How can we use tone to create artwork? How do the human features of Rio De Janeiro and London compare? P4C/Growth Mindset: Internet Safety: Reading for Pleasure:	Year 6 – Red Oak & White Oak English: What is an explanation text? Phonics & spelling: Vowel suffixes Maths: Multiple, factors and prime numbers Science: How does the length of time that we exercise affect our heart rate? Wider Curriculum: How do Christians and Buddhists reflect through worship and prayer? What is the ring of fire? P4C/Growth Mindset: Black History month P4C Internet Safety: I know that online information can be opinions. Reading for Pleasure: Reading for Pleasure: Kensuke's Kingdom Michael Morpurgo

Freddie and Jessica's Day

Those of you who have been connected with the school for a while will know about Freddie's Day – the day we have traditionally remembered Freddie who lost his battle against an embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma when he was in Year 1 at Yorke Mead. It was one of the saddest moments for Yorke Mead. You may remember that last year we also remembered Jessica, the sibling of one of our younger children. Jessica lost her battle to alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma when she was 8 years of age – ironically these two special children share a special anniversary – the day their families and friends said goodbye.

Arthur (Freddie's brother) and JJ (Jessica's brother) are both children at Yorke Mead. On Freddie and Jessica's Day we remember the people we have lost with a smile and with love in our hearts. Both Freddie and Jessica loved animals. So animal themes will be the focus. We remember by enjoying the day dressed as animals, in animal print or with their favourite animal book in hand.



HARVEST: Thinking of Others!



As we enter the harvest period it is a time when those who have plenty should do what they can to share this and help those who are less fortunate. At Yorke Mead this year we want to support the local food banks. This is because of the fabulous work the foodbanks do to ensure that children and their families do not go hungry.

During **week beginning 19th October** we will be collecting foods with a long life that can support the food boxes that are used to help families

This includes:

Baked Beans
Tinned Tomatoes
Tinned Soup
Tinned Fish/Meat
Pasta Sauce
Tinned Vegetables
Biscuits/snack bars

Boxes of cereal
Rice
Pasta
Cereal bars
Long life juice
Sauces
Tea/coffee/hot chocolate

Please help us to help others.

Y1 – Y3 Harvest Festival will be at 9:15 am – Wednesday 21st October
Y4 - Y6 Harvest Festival will be at 9:15 am – Thursday 22nd October

Black History Month



The month of October in the United Kingdom is dedicated to Black History month – a time when everyone has the opportunity to share, celebrate and understand the impact of black heritage and culture.

People from African and Caribbean backgrounds have been a fundamental part of British history for centuries, but their contribution to society has often been overlooked or distorted.

At Yorke Mead we endeavour to celebrate Black History month by spending a few minutes every day celebrating the contribution made by the black community both in the past and in the present day. At this difficult time we want to ensure that everyone feels welcomed and feels valued in our community. We want children to understand that each and everyone of them has an important role to play and to value themselves and their peers, celebrating and respecting their similarities and differences.

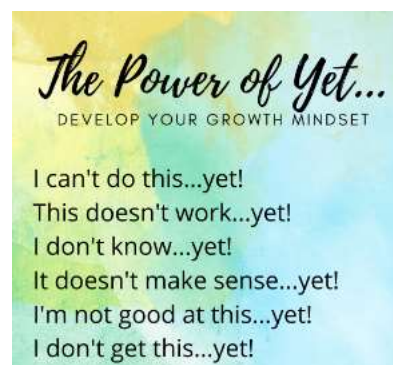
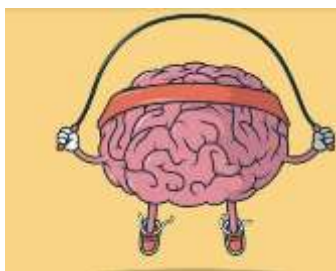


Getting to know the Yorke Mead Way

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!



Yorke Sport

Year 3 and Year 6 enjoyed a fun-filled evening of Sport! ★ These children were fantastic at the [@trw_ssp](#) Multi-Sport event, with Year 3 taking part in a range of activities including frisbee, boccia, footgolf, cornhole and many more! 🏀 ⚽ 🏈 🏹. And the Year 6 children playing in football & basketball matches against other schools – winning both their basketball matches ★ and working together brilliantly in the Pickleball and frisbee golf challenges. Fantastic attitude and effort shown by everyone involved. The children had such a great time and it was brilliant to see so many familiar faces as Year 9 play leaders 🧠 🙌 Well done everyone! [#YorkeSport](#)



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!

OPAL Play

Children have been out enjoying the sunshine this week! We introduced large loose part play in assembly and this has been very popular at lunch. Large loose part play involved children using big, movable open ended materials like tyres, crates and planks that have no fixed rules or predefined purpose. Children have built an assault course, see saws and Year 5 even took inspiration from their class book The Explorer. In assembly we spoke about how to use these pieces safely and what to be mindful of.



This week we are on the look out for the following:

- dolls
- small cars
- doll prams and push chairs
- farm animals (plastic)

If you have any of these items at home and can donate to school, please bring them into reception. A reminder too that all children need a rain coat in school. At some point the weather will change and we want them to be prepared!

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Eco Minute

World Cotton Day
(7th October)

World Cotton Day celebrates the importance of cotton in everyday life while encouraging conversations about sustainable farming and responsible textile production. It provides an opportunity to explore how clothing is made, the environmental impact of textile production and the importance of choosing sustainably sourced materials. Spend a little time talking about different fabrics and clothes waste to raise your children's awareness

Letters this week!

SEN Parents consultations

Lucille Pollard
Head teacher