



Yorke Mead School

Newsletter



Friday 9th October 2026

This week at Yorke Mead!

Co-operative learning at Yorke Mead



News 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



Dates for the diary	
This week	
W/b 12th Oct	Parent Consultations
This month	
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

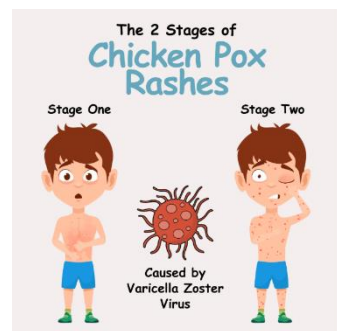
Whilst for most people chicken pox is a mild, childhood illness, for some children with other medical conditions it can be extremely dangerous.

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



It's a boy!!! – Congratulations

Huge congratulations to Miss Deacey and her partner on the birth of her beautiful baby boy! Hayden George arrived on 5th October beautiful and healthy. What a lovely family they will be!



Flashing Speed Limit Lights

Thank you if you completed the online fault form – I believe (fingers crossed) that the traffic lights are now flashing at the right time. We appreciate your help!

Medical Tracker Notifications

It is a difficult balance – sometimes technology creates anxiety just because of the way it brings information. I feel we need to explain medical tracker again. We send you a notification when your child has an accident that previously we would have sent a slip home for. When you got the slip, in your child's book bag, you had seen your child and knew they were fine. When you get the notification, you do so before you see your child. I do assure you that your child is fine! If not we would have called you!

A few parents are becoming anxious about the tracker notifications and seem to expect them for everything. Most bumps do not need a tracker – we do not need to make these something to worry about; we build resilience by normalising them. In a busy playground, children will trip, slip, fall and sometimes run into each other – this is normal. If we see they are hurt and will have an injury that you need to be aware of you will get a tracker; if there seems to be no injury from the bump beyond a simple knock or small scratch, we don't need to. Please try not to make the little things bigger than they are; support your children to build their resilience.

Learning Next Week

Nursery – Acorns Focus: Key Text: <i>All Kinds of People</i> , by Emma Damon; Decorating photo frames for family photographs; Talking about our families and how they make us feel; Continuing to talk about Autumn and changes around us; Listening carefully to Autumn sounds- bingo games; Singing Dingle Dangle Scarecrow and playing along with musical instruments		Reception – Lime & Willow Focus: Autumn: Using our key text 'My First Book of Woodland Animals' to learn about hedgehogs, badgers, squirrels and foxes; Phonics: h, b, f, l phonemes and enjoying our first reading practice at school; Maths: careful counting of different amounts up to 10; Expressive Arts & Design: making clay hedgehogs; PSED: learning our school rules and thinking about why we have them.
Year 1 – Elder & Silver Birch English: <i>Little Red Hen</i> continued Phonics & spelling: Assessment and review week Maths: Numbers to 10 Regrouping the whole Science: Which colour eyes are most common in our class? Wider Curriculum: Harvest Festival Songs P4C/Growth Mindset: P4C Strong like me Internet Safety: Managing ourselves online Reading for Pleasure: <i>Oi Frog!</i> and other short stories.	Year 2 – Cedar & Horse Chestnut English: Exploring and writing a non-fiction text Phonics & spelling: phase 5 review including alternative graphemes continued Maths: compare and order numbers Science: Does age determine height? Wider Curriculum: Which events are Christians remembering? Can I use yes or no questions to sort data? P4C/Growth Mindset: Black History Month P4C Inquiry Internet Safety: How people may look different online Reading for Pleasure: <i>Cedar - Diary of a Puss in Boots</i> by Ben Miller HC - <i>Magic Hamster</i> by Pamela Butchart:	Year 3 – Laurel & Sycamore English: Autumn Calligram Poems Phonics & spelling: oi, oy, ou, ow Maths: Addition Science: Which animals are vertebrates and which animals are invertebrates and why? Wider Curriculum: Can I evaluate my art work and suggest improvements? P4C/Growth Mindset: Black History Month Internet Safety: Reading for Pleasure: <i>Charlie Changes into a Chicken</i> (Laurel) <i>Skunk and Badger</i> (Sycamore)
Year 4 – Maple & Pine English: A balanced argument: Researching information on children's screen use and well-being. Phonics & spelling: adding vowel suffixes -ed and -ing Maths: formal written addition Science: What can you find in a habitat in our school grounds? Wider Curriculum: What were Ancient Egyptian beliefs, cultures and practices? P4C/Growth Mindset: How does democracy and having a voice benefit the school community? Internet Safety: How can you be safe and have fun experiences in a range of online social environments? Reading for Pleasure: <i>The Last Firefox</i> by Lee Newbery and <i>Maisie vs the Pyramids</i> by Jack Jackman	Year 5 – Ash & Rowan English: Writing a Kennings poem, understanding how vocabulary choice affects readers response Phonics & spelling: Adding the suffix -ing to multi-syllabic words Maths: Identifying multiples and factors of numbers and identifying common factors Science: Why is it light during the day and dark at night? Wider Curriculum: What important goods does South America produce for the world? Using instrument/body percussion to add and to improvise and create our own sense of shape to a song. P4C/Growth Mindset: Why are having roles helpful to us? Internet Safety: Online Safety Reading for Pleasure:	Year 6 – Red Oak & White Oak English: Planning & designing an invention Phonics & spelling: Doubling consonants Maths: Multiplication Science: How exercise affect our heart rate? (Investigation) Wider Curriculum: What is the ring of fire? How are buildings designed to make them earthquake proof? How can shapes be strengthened? P4C/Growth Mindset: Black History month P4C Internet Safety: How to respond to worries online Reading for Pleasure: <i>Kensuke's Kingdom</i> 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 the **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

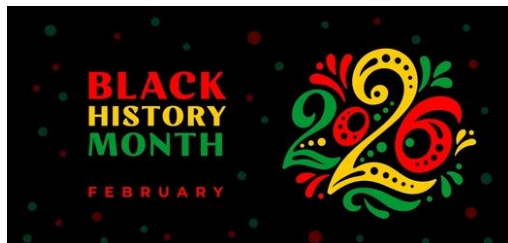
Boxes of cereal
Rice
Pasta
Cereal bars
Long life juice
Sauces
Tea/coffee/hot chocolate

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

Our Behaviour Curriculum

Part of learning needs to be how to behave in different situations and to understand that every action we take, positive or negative, creates a consequence. Teaching behavior is no different to teaching reading and writing. At Yorke Mead we focus on children reflecting on their actions, the impact these have on others and ourselves and how a different action may have produced a better outcome. Please support your child by reflecting at home in the same way – your child will benefit if you do.

Mastery 300 Touch challenge

Start timer

- 25x Toe Taps
- 25x Tic tocs
- 25x Sole rolls
- 25x V Pulls (inside)
- 25x V Pulls (outside)
- 25x U Touches

Repeat once

Stop Timer

Yorke Sport

Improve your skills with this 300 touch mastery challenge. All you need is a ball and a marker.

More touches on the ball equals more confidence and better co-ordination.

Give it a go and let Mr Furlong know about your progress 🕒

Football

A great run-out for the new girls football team! ⚽ This week Yorke Mead Girls took on Sarratt in their first friendly match of the year with lots of new faces playing their first competitive game for the school 🙌

The girls showed a great understanding of their positions and went into the break with the score 0-0. Early in the second half,

Connie carried the ball forward well and opened the scoring from a tight angle. Sarratt replied with a goal of their own before Sienna showed excellent footwork in the box to score the winner with the game finishing 2-1 to Yorke Mead 🇬🇧

Well done to all the girls involved, in what was a close game, and a special mention to Tillie who was named player of the match by the opposition 🙌

Well played girls! 🌸 #YorkeSport



What an effort from these girls! ★ ⚽ The @yorkemead4 & @yorkemead5 girls football team gave absolutely everything at today's York House U10s tournament, just missing out on a 3rd place medal after finishing the competition with 9 points from their 7 matches 🙌 They gave every team they faced a tough game and should be so proud of way they played. Lots of goals, incredible saves and great way to spend an afternoon 🌟 Well done girls! #YorkeSport

Work, Rest and Play

Everyone, including your children need a balance in their lives to support their wellbeing and to grow into positive adults. Your children work hard in school and when out of school they need time to fill their tool box. We do, of course, also give time for this in school but it is something that can be most successfully filled at the weekend. The promise is one everyone needs to make – adults and children! The world will be a good place if everyone can learn this.

Your Mental Health Toolbox



Our Promise!

THIS WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY...

- 👂 We will listen.
- 🧠 We will try to understand.
- ❤️ We will not judge someone's feelings.
- 🗣️ We will speak up when we need help.
- 👏 We will help others feel heard.
- 🌱 We will use our voices to help make things better.



Eco Minute

World Food Day (16th October)

The World Food Day 2026 theme is “Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future” (via fao.org), calling for “for global collaboration in creating a peaceful, sustainable, prosperous, and food-secure future.

By working together, across governments, organizations, sectors, and communities, we can transform agrifood systems to ensure that everyone has access to a healthy diet, living in harmony with the planet”.

Why not spend some time together planning meals that are cooked from scratch and avoid processed/ ready meals.

Lucille Pollard

Head teacher

Letters this week!

Yr1 Visit from grandparents

Yr6 Red Oak Forest School