



Yorke Mead School

Newsletter



Friday 16th October 2026

This week at Yorke Mead!

Reading for pleasure: International Project!



Yorke Mead are delighted to have set up a new partnership with a school in Ukraine, offering some of our Year 6 children the opportunity to connect with their Ukrainian peers on a project that celebrates the joy of reading. Through the British Council's UK-Ukraine School Partnerships programme, which is funded by the UK Government, we've teamed up with a school: Lyceum No 1, to bring children together who have a passion for reading.

Together, over the course of the year, we'll explore how reading can broaden horizons, build confidence, and enhance mental wellbeing.

This week we got to meet our new Ukrainian friends via a zoom lesson. We shared information about ourselves, our lovely school and our favourite books. It was very exciting and a great start to our partnership.

News Items this Week

Harvest
Opal Play
Safety Week
Road Safety
Freddie & Jessica's Day
Black History Month
Yorke Sport
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.....

Yellows



Dates for the diary	
This week	
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
This month	
Next Month	
Fri 6th Nov	Freddie and Jessica's Day
Sun 8th Nov	Diwali Festival

HARVEST: Thinking of Others!

Next week we will be celebrating harvest – a time when those who have plenty 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.



Next week we will be collecting foods with a long life that can support the food boxes that are used to help families. **Please send your donations to the office on Monday 19th October.**

Baked Beans	Boxes of cereal
Tinned Tomatoes	Rice
Tinned Soup	Pasta
Tinned Fish/Meat	Cereal bars
Pasta Sauce	Long life juice
Tinned Vegetables	Sauces
Biscuits/snack bars	Tea/coffee/hot chocolate

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

Road Safety

I have asked so many times for parents to be more safety conscious and considerate when they park yet still everyday there are parents dropping their children in the middle of the road and parking on corners, across drives etc.

Today we had a very near miss with a child coming from between parked cars as they could not be seen. These are your children and your children's friends! No one can use excuses like having to get to work; its raining; being a little late, as an excuse for dangerous parking and inappropriate road behaviours. No-one will melt if they walk a little in the rain. Please put the children's safety first and either walk to school or park further away and walk that distance.

Safety Week

Next week is safety week at Yorke Mead; a week when we teach the children some of the ways they can keep themselves safe. The key focus for each year group is:

EY- road safety in play area using road way
 Y1- road safety in the carpark/ firework safety
 Y2 – road safety just outside the school gates on the corner near the school/being seen at night/ railway safety
 Y3- stranger danger/ water safety
 Y4- road safety wider streets
 Y5 – trick or treating/ wider safety e.g. waterways canals
 Y6 – road safety talking about mobile phones and looking up/ trick or treating



Being safe online will also be covered by all year groups

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 home a paper slip. 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: Room on the Broom and The Pumpkin who was afraid of the Dark; Talking about shapes; Halloween activities (Pumpkin printing, witch's star hunt); Using positional language during a garden star hunt
Singing familiar Nursery rhymes; Discussing class rules and how to look after our resources and classroom

Reception – Lime & Willow

Focus: Autumn: Using our key text 'My First Book of Woodland Animals' to learn about owls. Dissecting owl pellets to discover what owls eat. Use collage materials to make owl pictures. Phonics: assess and review week. Reviewing all taught sounds and completing first assessment check. Maths: learning about our new maths equipment – Rekenreks; Safety week: considering how to safety cross roads (on the EY playground for practice) PSHE: thinking about our first half term in Reception and all we have achieved. Asing children what they have enjoyed most.

Year 1 – Elder & Silver Birch

English: Writing instructions for bread making
Phonics & spelling: /ur/ ir bird /igh/ ie pie /oo/ /yoo/ ue blue rescue /yoo/ u unicorn
Maths: Numbers to 10-part whole addition and subtraction
Science: How can I observe the weather in the four seasons?
Wider Curriculum: What is fair?
P4C/Growth Mindset: How can we cross the road safely?
Internet Safety: Online Safety - asking permission
Reading for Pleasure: Cave baby and other short stories from the reading corner

Year 2 – Cedar & Horse Chestnut

English: Writing a non-fiction text and poetry
Phonics & spelling: phase 5 review including alternative graphemes continued (spelling test)
Maths: place value and adding 3 numbers
Science:
Wider Curriculum: Can I use yes or no questions to sort data? Can I use graphic symbols to compose a piece of music?
P4C/Growth Mindset: Black History Month & Safety Week (road and computing safety)
Internet Safety: Can I explain who I should ask before I share things online? Can I explain how information put online can last for a long time?
Reading for Pleasure: Cedar - Diary of a Puss in Boots by Ben Miller HC - Magic Hamster by Pamela Butchart

Year 3 – Laurel & Sycamore

English: Autumn Personification Poem
Phonics & spelling: Half termly spelling test
Maths: Subtraction
Science:
Wider Curriculum: Can I make responsible choices and take actions?
P4C/Growth Mindset: Safety Week
Internet Safety: Online relationships
Reading for Pleasure: Charlie Changes into a Chicken (Laurel) Skunk and Badger (Sycamore)

Year 4 – Maple & Pine

English: Writing a balanced argument about screen time.
Phonics & spelling: Half termly spelling test
Maths: formal written subtraction
Science: Can we use a classification key to identify all living things that we saw in a chosen habitat?
Wider Curriculum: What were Ancient Egyptian beliefs, cultures and practices? Road Safety
P4C/Growth Mindset:
Internet Safety: How can you be safe and have fun experiences in a range of online social
Reading for Pleasure: Maple – The Last Firefox by Lee Newbery and Pine - Maisie vs the Pyramids by Jack Jackman

Year 5 – Ash & Rowan

Maths: - identifying prime and composite numbers and finding prime factors of numbers.
Science: Light and dark - How does the length of my shadow change during different times of the day?
Wider Curriculum: Safety Week: Safety during Halloween and Water Safety; Space Art - Evaluate our compositions
Online Safety: How can I search for information about an individual online and summarise the information?
P4C/Growth Mindset:
Internet Safety: Online Reputation - How can I search for information about an individual online and summarise the information?
Reading for Pleasure

Year 6 – Red Oak & White Oak

English: Writing an explanation text for an invention
Phonics & spelling: Half-termly assessment
Maths: Areas of triangles and parallelograms
Science: How have our ideas about disease and medicine changed over time?
Wider Curriculum: What is the ring of fire? Can you design, make and then evaluate a structure that is free-standing and 'earthquake' resistant?
P4C/Growth Mindset: : Road safety- talking about mobile phones and looking up/ Trick and Treating
Internet Safety: Using mobile phones safely
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.



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.

Yorke Sport

Tri Golf

A fabulous tri-golf tournament again this year with
Maple B team taking first place in their group
and both Pine A and C taking 2nd place in theirs.



Football Legend



A massive thank you to @watfordfcofficial legend and U18s coach @lloydydoyley for taking time out of his busy schedule to hold a football session here at Yorke Mead 🇬🇧

The children were able to show & develop their skills in a carousel of activities before matches at the end. We even managed to fit in a quick Q&A along with a few autographs for the children.

A great experience and thanks again to Lloyd and Mr

Wilkinson for a such an enjoyable session 🙌 #YorkeSport

Football Match

Even more football to enjoy! 🏆 @yorkemeaddaisy took on @sarrattprimary in the first mixed friendly of the year with both teams playing some great football in soggy conditions 🌧️ 🙌

Yorke Mead started brightly, keeping possession and creating chances but found themselves behind at the break after a mix-up from a corner. In the second half, Saratt doubled their lead with a free kick before adding a third with only a few minutes remaining.

A 3-0 victory to Saratt but a performance to be proud of 🙌 Well played boys! #YorkeSport

★ Eddie for an outstanding one-on-one save in the second half as voted by our opponents.



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.



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.

Letters this week!

Y2 Great Fire Of London
Workshop

Y6 Level 2 Cycling course

Lucille Pollard

Head teacher