

Yorke Mead School

Newsletter

Friday 23rd October 2026

This week at Yorke Mead!

Harvest Thank You



A huge thank you for your generous donations for harvest, which will all be passed to the Rickmansworth Food Bank. This wonderful organisation supports so many families ensuring there is enough food for everyone.

This is just a tiny sample of what you donated.

Thank you

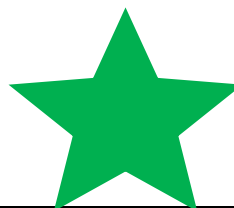
News Items this Week

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Walking Wednesday

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

Greens



Dates for the diary	
This week	
W/b 26th Oct Half Term	
This month	
Next Month	
Fri 6th Nov Freddie and Jessica's Day Sun 8th Nov Diwali Festival	

Freddie and Jessica's Day

Fri 6th Nov

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.



OPAL Play



We will be operating a welly rule on our return after the half term. If your children want to have the freedom to play where they choose they will need to have both wellies and waterproof trousers in school. Many children do not have these, despite our requesting this. This means your child's play will be limited. Please support your children by helping them have the correct equipment.

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.

Last week 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; it's 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

This week your children have learnt a little about road safety. With half term upon us you have the perfect opportunity to practice and reinforce these skills. Please do take this opportunity – this is an essential life skill.



Learning Next Week

Nursery – Acorns Focus: Key Texts: Rama and Sita Story and Dival's Diwali Phonics: 's' Rhyme of the Week: Baa Baa Black Sheep Creating Diva Lamps Listening to traditional Hindu music Fireworks Night Safety and Activities Getting to know our new teachers		Reception – Lime & Willow Focus: Amazing Animals: Using our key text 'Lifesize' to learn about Arctic animals and animals from Cuba; Phonics: learning double letter digraphs ff, ll, ss and the phoneme j; Literacy: enjoying our first Drawing Club book 'What's in the Witch's Kitchen'; Maths: comparison measures - length (taller, longer, shorter), width (wider, thinner) and weight (lighter, heavier); Understanding the World: Learning about Diwali and firework safety; Expressive Arts & Design: making and decorating clay Diva lamps for Diwali.
Year 1 – Elder & Silver Birch English: Autumn Poetry Phonics & spelling: /oa/ o go /igh/ i tiger /ai/ a paper /ee/ e he Maths: Numbers to 10 solving problems using part or whole unknown Science: What signs of autumn can I see? Wider Curriculum: The Gunpowder plot P4C/Growth Mindset: How are you similar to your friends at school? Internet Safety: being kind Reading for Pleasure: Gruffalo Granny and other short stories	Year 2 – Cedar & Horse Chestnut English: Firework poetry Phonics & spelling: What do I need to know to think about spelling? How do I use the Complete the code chart to help me to spell? Maths: adding 3 1-digit numbers and complements to 10 and 100 Science: What is the object and material? Wider Curriculum: What symbols are important to us? Which artists are important to Great Fire of London? Can I create a digital art piece in impressionist style? Who is Samuel Pepys? P4C/Growth Mindset: How are people similar and different? Internet Safety: Can I explain how information I put online can last 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: Introducing Gregory Cool Phonics & spelling: Plurals Maths: Fact Families Science: What are the principles of a varied and healthy diet? Wider Curriculum: Why is light powerful and how is it used in my life and in religion? P4C/Growth Mindset: Managing distractions Internet Safety: Online relationships Reading for Pleasure: Charlie Changes into a Chicken (Laurel) Skunk and Badger (Sycamore)
Year 4 – Maple & Pine English: Maya Angelou - 'Still I rise' Structure of poetry Phonics & spelling: Suffixes "y", "est" and "er" Maths: formal written subtraction & multiples Science: Significant scientist - Steve Backshall Wider Curriculum: What are the different geographical regions of the UK? P4C/Growth Mindset: What is an assumption and why do we sometimes make them about people? Internet Safety: Why does content shared online feel important / unimportant to different people? Reading for Pleasure: Maple class book – The Last Firefox by Lee Newbery Pine class book - Maisie vs the Pyramids by Jack Jackman	Year 5 – Ash & Rowan English: introduction to Odysseus and Greek mythology Phonics & spelling: soft c sound and how we apply to spellings Maths: multiplication strategies Science: introduction to forces Wider Curriculum: Ancient Greece - what do we know and what do we need to find out? P4C/Growth Mindset: Why is understanding culture important? Internet Safety: How can we report online bullying and get support both at school and at home? Reading for Pleasure: Who let the gods out?	Year 6 – Red Oak & White Oak English: Understanding imagery in poetry- The Tyger by William Blake Phonics & spelling: Suffixes cial and tial Maths: Multiplication and division Science: Is there a formal method of classifying living things? Wider Curriculum: Where did the Mayans live? What are the features of 90s RnB music and how does it compare to other music I have listened to? P4C/Growth Mindset: How does being different affect someone's life? Internet Safety: Reading for Pleasure: Oh Maya Gods -Maz Evans

Welcome to Yorke Mead

This week we are pleased to welcome Mr Hayes to join our teaching support team. Mr Hayes is currently working in Year 4. After the half term break a new Miss Butler will be joining our Year 1 team too. Soon after we will be joined by Ms Gilmore who will also be working in Year 1. We know you will make them feel very welcome.

Miss Richards

We wish Miss Richards all the best as she starts her maternity leave. This is such an exciting time for Miss Richards; there is nothing more special than the birth of your baby. Enjoy every minute, Miss Richards!

Yorke Sport

Tri Golf

Wow! What a performance! ★ 🏆 The Pine A team were invited to Thursday evening's @trw_ssp Tri-golf final after finishing runners-up at the Rickmansworth event and only went and won it! 🏆 🎉 The children demonstrated their fantastic understanding of the different games and should be so proud of their efforts. Congratulations everyone! 🎉 #YorkeSport



Football

Well done to the @yorkmeaddaisy girls football team who took on Little Green in a football friendly match on Monday 🏈 Yorke Mead took the lead in the first half through Connie but Little Green responded well with the game finishing 4-1 to the visitors 🏆 More experience for this new team who showed a great attitude throughout. Well played girls! #YorkeSport



Eco Minute

Green Libraries Week!
(21-28 October)

Green Libraries Week celebrates the role libraries play in promoting environmental awareness and sustainability. Libraries allow free access to educational resources, digital tools, and inclusive community spaces that support lifelong learning and wellbeing. Every book is read by many, meaning every page and every piece of paper is used many times. As lovely as books are, they are read and sit on the shelf.

If you are not a member of the library perhaps give it a visit this half term!

Letters this week!

Mental Health Parent Drop In Sessions
Year 6 Health and Wellbeing questionnaire
Year 5 Level 2 Cycle Training Information
Year 4 Cycle Training Information
Year 5 Fun Run
Y2 Spelling List Autumn 2

Lucille Pollard
Head teacher