Yorke Mead School Newsletter

Friday 6th November 2026

This week at Yorke Mead!

Art

Year 4 have produced some fabulous art work again this year. The images were inspired by the photography of Levon Biss – and are simply stunning!








News Items this Week
Freddie's Tree
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Walking Wednesday

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

Greens and Reds

Dates for the diary

This week

Sun 8th Nov
Diwali Festival
W/b Mon 9th Nov
Year 4 bikeability

This month

W/b Mon 16th Nov
Antibullying week
Y5 Level 2 cycling
Mon 16th Nov
Odd socks day
Tues 17th Nov
Y6 to Ricky School – science
Fri 20th Nov
Author visit EYFS and Y1
Fri 27th Nov
Occasional Day – school closed

Next Month

W/b Mon 7th Dec
Year 6 bikeability

Freddie's Tree

If you have been a member of the Yorke Mead family for a little while, you will know about Freddie's tree. Starting as an acorn planted on the day of his passing, Freddie's tree lives on in the school grounds. As part of the OPAL development, the school council are working with the OPAL committee to develop a quiet space where the children can sit and chat with friends, read, draw and generally have space away from the hustle and bustle when they need to.
We normally give parents the chance to donate to Freddie's Arc, and last year added Jessica's Arc to this. This year, we have decided that any donations will support the development of this area. This year the Carpenter family will say goodbye to Yorke Mead as Arthur heads off to secondary school; the Macqueen family will be part of Yorke Mead for a few more years. By creating this area, Freddie's memory will live on, and the children can see the positive of having a space to remember those we lose.
If you can donate please do; a gateway payment opportunity has been set up for your donations.
Thank you in anticipation.

Anti Bullying Week

Week beginning 16th November 2026



This year the official theme for Anti Bullying Week is "Break the Silence".

- The Core Action: Encouraging children, young people, parents, and adults to start open conversations, speak up about bullying, actively listen, and take collective action against both face-to-face and online bullying.
- **Odd Socks Day**: The week kicks off on Monday, November 16, with Odd Socks Day (featuring Andy Day and Andy and the Odd Socks), where participants wear mismatched socks to celebrate what makes everyone unique.

The theme was shaped directly by the voices of more than 200 children and young people across the UK who highlighted the heavy silence that often surrounds bullying. Many young people talked about the difficulty of telling someone how they were feeling hence the theme, breaking the silence.



OPAL Play

We are now operating the welly rule! In the OPAL assembly on Wednesday we spoke about the change in weather and the OPAL Winter Welly rules.
Please see the poster that was shared with children. We also reminded children that they must wear their coats at lunch as they will still have a full afternoon of learning and we do not want them to be wet and uncomfortable!

Please support us by talking to your child about these rules.

Mrs Walke and I are looking at welly storage which will make everything so much easier for the children. Watch this space!



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; 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.

Learning Next Week

Nursery – Acorns

Focus: *Key Texts: Phoneme – a; Rhyme of the week - baa, baa, black sheep Key Text - the Gruffalo*

- *Taking part in a small group game making sure we take turns*
- *Working in the mud kitchen to count ingredients to make a Gruffalo crumble*
- *Starting to learn songs for our Christmas play*

Reception – Lime & Willow

Focus: *Amazing Animals: Using animal stories learn about tigers, elephants, lions and whales; Phonics: learning v, w, x, y phonemes; Literacy: Reading in our reading groups and handwriting practice; Maths: pattern recognition and repeating patterns; Expressive Art and Design: learning songs for our Christmas play, making clay diya lamps; PHSE: celebrating differences; Understanding the World: Discovering where animals come from using a world map, Forest School and learning about Remembrance Day.*

Year 1 – Elder & Silver Birch

English: *Autumn Poetry*
Phonics & spelling: */ai/ a-e shake /igh/ i-e time /oa/ o-e home /oo/ /yoo/ u-e rude cute*
Maths: *Numbers to 10 comparisons*
Science: *What are the 5 animal groups?*
Wider Curriculum: *How can you use your sense of sight, taste touch and smell to talk about different bread products?*
P4C/Growth Mindset: *Taking responsibility for my choices – be kind*
Internet Safety: *My online profile*
Reading for Pleasure: *Owl babies and other short stories English:*

Year 2 – Cedar & Horse Chestnut

English: *Newspaper recount based on the Great Fire of London*
Phonics & spelling: *: Why do I double letters at the end of words? Why do I double letters in longer words ending in -er?*
Maths: *Complements to 10 and 100*
Science: *Can some objects be made of more than one material?*
Wider Curriculum: *What are the symbols of different religions? How do diaries help us learn about the past? How do I make different secondary colours?*
P4C/Growth Mindset: *Is it ok to be different for my friends? Practising for our Christmas play - Baubles.*
Internet Safety: *Can I describe how other people's information can be seen by others?*
Reading for Pleasure: *Cedar - Diary of a Puss in Boots by Ben Miller HC - Magic Hamster by Pamela Butchart*

Year 3 – Laurel & Sycamore

English: *planning our travel brochure about Tobago*
Phonics & spelling: *adding suffixes*
Maths: *written subtraction*
Science:
Wider Curriculum: *Where is France and what are the key cities?*
P4C/Growth Mindset: *Online Relationships and How might families differ and how can I show appreciation for my family?*
Internet Safety: Reading for Pleasure: *Charlie Changes into a Chicken (Laurel) Skunk and Badger (Sycamore)*

Year 4 – Maple & Pine

English: *Writing a poem on the harmful effects of bullying – based on I Will Rise*
Phonics & spelling: *suffix -ment, -ness, -ful and -less*
Maths: *multiplication and division facts using arrays*
Science: *Why are people cutting down the forests?*
Wider Curriculum: *How do we read four and six digit grid references? Why are fresh fruit and vegetables important for part of a healthy diet?*
P4C/Growth Mindset: *How am I influenced into making assumptions about others?*
Internet Safety: *Why does content shared online feel important / unimportant to different people?*
Reading for Pleasure: *Maple – The Last Firefox by Lee Newbery and Pine- Maisie vs the Pyramids by Jack Jackman*

Year 5 – Ash & Rowan

English: *using relative clauses include and modal verbs in our writing*
Phonics & spelling: *words with the "soft c"*
Maths: *Addition and Subtraction Strategies - using rounding for estimation*
Science: *What effect does gravity have on different objects?*
Wider Curriculum: *How is Ancient Greek life different to today? What are the Spiritual ways of celebrating Advent and Christmas?*
P4C/Growth Mindset: *Why is it important to understand what racism is and be proactive about challenging it?*
Internet Safety: *What are the different ways to report concerns about online bullying and access support both in school and at home?*
Reading for Pleasure:

Year 6 – Red Oak & White Oak

English: *The Tyger by William Blake- Writing a poem using imagery*
Phonics & spelling: *Doubling consonants*
Maths: *Multiplication and formal methods of division*
Science: *How could you group animals according to their characteristics?*
Wider Curriculum: *When did the Mayans live? Can I record a piece using standard notation and include a range of dynamics? What is the role of meditation in Buddhist prayer?*
P4C/Growth Mindset: *Self image and identity*
Internet Safety: Reading for Pleasure: *Poetry books*

Hello and Goodbye

This week we have said goodbye to Mrs Southam, who has just become a grandma and has decided to spend her time supporting her family and enjoying being a grandma. She will be greatly missed.

We are, however, pleased to welcome Miss Butler and Ms Gilmore to join our teaching support team. Both are currently working in the Year 1 team.

Yorke Sport

Basketball

Congratulations to the Year 6 Basketball team who won yesterday's @trw_ssp event after going undefeated against tough opposition! 🏀 🥇 The team managed to finish the tournament in first place (by one point!) securing 4 wins and 2 draws, showing a great understanding of the game and working hard for each other throughout. A fantastic achievement and a hard-earned victory. 💪 🎉 Bravo! #yorkesport





Football

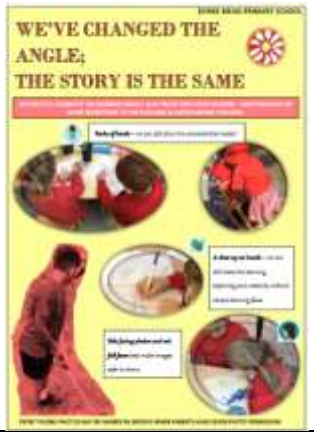
Well done to the girls football team who competed in a 5-a-side tournament this week ⚽ The girls started strongly, winning their opening three games, but a draw and a defeat in their remaining games meant they finished 2nd in their group 👏 The team progressed to the 3rd place play-off which ended 0-0 before a defeat on penalties 💔 A brilliant effort from everyone involved and some excellent football on show ⭐ #YorkeSport

Well done also to these Year 4 boys who took part in @theyorkhouseway 5-a-side football festival this week. ⚽ The team responded well to narrow defeats in their opening two games to win their remaining matches convincingly- scoring lots of goals and keeping three clean sheets 👏 A great afternoon of football for everyone involved. Well played boys! ⭐ #YorkeSport



Instagram

You may have noticed that Instagram has gone a little quiet … this has been intentional as we have been reflecting on the images. I wrote to you a few weeks ago explaining that we are moving towards reducing the online images and changing the angle so that the work and experiences are shared but as much as possible without the faces. This will be the case other than for the team photographs, where children are together as a team.
A further decision has been made to reduce the number of groups and only use the yorkemeaddaisy page and the yorkemeadsport page.
If you are not yet following these and wish to, the profile names are:
Yorkemeaddaisy and Yorkemeadsport





Eco Minute

Celebrating Bonfire Weekend!

Bonfire night can be very exciting, but can have a devastating impact on local wildlife. How can we have fun, but lessen the impact of our enjoyment?

Attend an organised public display

The safest way to enjoy the classic bonfire night celebrations is to attend an organised event that has safety guidelines in place. This minimises the impact of fireworks and bonfires in residential areas. Safety and clean-up will also be managed professionally.

Avoid DIY bonfires

If you need to host your celebration at home, avoid creating a DIY bonfire. They can endanger wildlife and can get out of hand easily. If you already have a chiminea or garden fire pit, this can be a safer alternative. But make sure that you set it up away from buildings, bushes and trees, and supervise it at all times.

Try fire-free activities

If you are hosting a gathering, why not try lighting up your garden with LED fairy lights, solar lamps, or handmade lanterns using electric tea lights. When you are done with these, please make sure any old batteries are removed and recycled at a battery recycling point. You can add to the festivities by making autumnal leaf decorations and baking some traditional treats

Letters this week!

Odd Socks Day
Open Morning
Reception 2027 application

Lucille Pollard
Head teacher