Yorke Mead School Newsletter

Thursday 26th November 2026

This week at Yorke Mead!

Christmas is coming!

I had great fun working with these children at my club this term.

Rockin' Robins





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Walking Wednesday

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

Blues

Dates for the diary

This week

Fri 27th Nov Occasional Day – school closed
Thur 3rd Dec Nursery Play
Fri 4th Dec Y3/Y4 Pantomime

Next Month

W/b Mon 7th Dec Year 6 bikeability
Mon 7th Dec Rec play pm
Tues 8th Dec Rec play am
Wed 9th Dec EYFS Christmas Lunch (KS2 Sandwiches only)
Thur 10th Dec KS2 Christmas Lunch (EYFS/KS1 Sandwiches only)
Thurs 10th Dec Y2 Play am
Fri 11th Dec Y2 play pm
Tues 15th Dec
Mon 14th Dec -Silent Disco
Wed 16th Dec – KS2 Carol service
Thurs 17th Dec – Christmas Cafe
Fri 18th Dec – school finishes 1:45pm
ASC finishes 4:15pm

Christmas Donations

This year we are looking close to home and will be asking parents for donations to support the creation of a quiet, reflection area around Freddie's Tree. The idea is to create a simple, small labyrinth that the children can sit in and quietly leave behind their worries or share a worry with someone else…a haven of peace for the children.

We hope you agree that this will be a special place to remember Freddie, but also a place where children can go whatever their worry and when they need quiet. We also hope you will support this and give as generously as you are able to.

Thank you in anticipation!

Please put a pound or two in your pocket for the Christmas performances.

Video Games



We have become aware that a number of children are watching older siblings or parents playing video games that are aimed at much older children and some that even have an 18+ PEGI rating. The PEGI system is designed to inform the public of what's suitable and what's not for different ages. It is important to know that there may be content within the game which could potentially be harmful, frightening or worrying to children. As well as an age rating, PEGI also uses icons showing content descriptors, letting you know if a game contains: violence, drugs, bad language, discrimination, fear, gambling, sex, or in-app purchases.

We would not feel it is appropriate for children to be exposed to these things in real life; why, therefore, would we feel it is appropriate for them to be playing or watching someone play the game.

Please do protect your child and ensure that adults and older children only access these games in rooms or at times when your younger children are not able to see these.

Being aware of ourselves

There have been a few occasions recently when parents seem to have forgotten that a school playground is full of little ears that, whilst they may not appear to be listening, hear everything.

It is always a little awkward for staff when they need to remind parents about the swearing and inappropriate language that is used – it doesn't feel right and it shouldn't be necessary. I appreciate that for some families, swearing may be part of their everyday language (I do advise against this as if children hear it, children will say it) but the school site should be a place where parents can feel secure that anything said is age appropriate, polite and does not involve swear words.
This has only been one or two parents, but I feel it is an important message for all.

Learning Next Week

Nursery – Acorns
Focus: *Phoneme - I*
Rhyme of the week - Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
Creating hats and props to use in our show
Performing our class nativity to siblings (dress rehearsal) and to our grown ups. Christmas

Reception – Lime & Willow
Focus: *Festivals and celebrations - Christmas; Key Text: 'Sharing a Shell' by Julia Donaldson (PHSE); Phonics: learning words ending in 's'; Literacy: Reading in our reading groups and enjoying our 'book vote' stories; Maths: sorting; Expressive Art and Design: Christmas crafts and practising for our Christmas play; PHSE: celebrating differences - being a kind friend.*

Year 1 – Elder & Silver Birch
English: *The Story of Hanukkah*
Phonics & spelling: *reviewing spilt vowel diagraphs*
Maths: *Numbers to 20 - Making 10 and some more continued*
Science: *Autumn weather - evaluating our data*
Wider Curriculum: *Baking bread and evaluating*
P4C/Growth Mindset: *How can you make new friends?*
Internet safety: *Keeping safe online*
Reading for Pleasure: *Paper dolls and other short stories*

Year 2 – Cedar & Horse Chestnut
English: *Diary entry based on the Great Fire of London*
Phonics & spelling: *Why do I swap the y for an i when I add the suffix -ed? Why do I drop the e when I add the suffix -ing?*
Maths: *Using think-10 for subtraction*
Science: *How have materials we used changed over time?*
Wider Curriculum: *What are the features of a mosque and a synagogue? Can I create a piece of digital work in the style of Mondrian?*
P4C/Growth Mindset: *Can I recognise what is right and wrong?*
Internet Safety: *Can I explain how information on the internet will last a long time?*
Reading for Pleasure: *Cedar - Stories for 6-year-olds by Julie Eccleshare HC - Magic Hamster by Pamela Butchart*

Year 3 – Laurel & Sycamore
English: *Introducing instructions*
Phonics & spelling: *-le endings*
Maths: *Lines and 2D Shapes*
Science: *How does the angle that your elbow is bent affect the circumference of your upper arm?*
Wider Curriculum: *How can I create a healthy sandwich?*
P4C/Growth Mindset: *How might someone's feelings can be hurt by what is said or written online?*
Internet Safety: *Online Relationships*
Reading for Pleasure: *Charlie Changes into a Chicken (Laurel) Skunk and Badger (Sycamore)*

Year 4 – Maple & Pine
English: *Writing a persuasive letter based on 'The day the crayons quit.'*
Phonics & spelling: *suffix –sion and -ssion*
Maths: *Problem solving involving measures*
Science: *Does a food chain always have to start with a green plant?*
Wider Curriculum: *How did the building of the canals influence Croxley Green? Why are pilgrimages important to Hindus? Pantomime*
P4C/Growth Mindset: *Why is it good to accept people for who they are?*
Internet Safety: *Why does content shared online feel important / unimportant to different people?*
Reading for Pleasure:– *The Last Firefox by Lee Newbery (Maple) and Maisie vs the Pyramids by Jack Jackman (Pine)*

Year 5 – Ash & Rowan
English: *The Adventures of Odysseus - writing a descriptive and imaginative speech in character, debating and arguing a point*
Phonics & spelling: *suffixes spelt –cial or -tial*
Maths: *Formal Division - Understand division as sharing and grouping*
Science: *How does the surface area of a parachute affect the time it takes to fall to the ground?*
Wider Curriculum: *How can we use primary and secondary sources to learn more about the Olympics? What is a function, and how do functions work in code? What is incarnation and why is it important in the Christmas Story?*
P4C/Growth Mindset: *Is there a difference between direct and indirect bullying?*
Internet Safety:
Reading for Pleasure:

Year 6 – Red Oak & White Oak
English: *Blackberry Blue by Jamila Gavin Using speech in a narrative*
Phonics & spelling: *Words that have -ant, -ance, -ancy*
Maths: *Adding and subtracting fractions*
Science: *Is yeast living? How do you know?*
Wider Curriculum: *Mayan Day*
P4C/Growth Mindset: *What is Parliament? Link to UK Parliament week*
Internet Safety: *Being respectful online*
Reading for Pleasure: *Skellig by David Almond*

5 Ways to Wellbeing

Research shows that there are simple actions that help us to feel good: Connect, be active, keep learning, take notice and give. They're called the Five Ways to Wellbeing.
Embedding these five things into your daily/ weekly life as much as you can is a great way to look after your emotional wellbeing.
Find out more about wellbeing and easy ways to improve your mood:



Herts CC - Five Ways to Wellbeing for Children (Web version)

Christmas at Yorke Mead

A separate Christmas letter has been sent giving all the details for Christmas at Yorke Mead. Please do keep this letter handy and ensure that you check each date as we go along, so that your chidren do not miss out. For the performances, it is important that you arrive in time as the children sit near the entrances to the hall and it may not be easy to let you in if you arrive late.
As we go into this period, could I please request that parents park with consideration for our neighbours. It really is not fair to cause unnecessary distress for the sake of a few minutes walk.

Yorke Sport

Football

What a fantastic team effort! ⚽ Well done to these Yorkemead4 children who played brilliantly in today's @yorkhousesch Girls Football Festival ⭐
The girls took turns playing in goal and understood their positions & roles incredibly well to secure 4 wins, 1 draw, and just 1 defeat - conceding just 2 goals all afternoon to finish in 2nd the league 👏 🥈
It was such an impressive performance by everyone and great sign of things to come for girls football at Yorke Mead 🌼 Well played girls! #YorkeSport



Freddie's Garden

Thank you for the generous donations towards creating Freddie's Garden around Freddie's Tree. Freddie's mum has met with the school council, and the plan is to create a small labyrinth that children can walk through, the idea being that children walk in with their worries and walk out leaving them behind. So far there has been a very generous £353 donated as part of Freddie and Jessica's Day. It is not too late if you still wish to donate. Your donations are very gratefully received.

Talking to Teachers

Recently, we have noticed that some parents have taken to trying to talk to teachers at the start of the school day. At this time, teachers need to have their focus on the children, and the only messages shared should be the essential ones that cannot wait until the end of the day. If parents do wish to talk with teachers, these conversations should be at the end of the day. This is a gentle reminder as it is important that the teachers can focus on the children at this time.

Christmas Jumpers



We wear our Christmas jumpers for Christmas lunch days (with our normal school uniform trousers, skirts etc). To make it easy we wear them for both days to prevent any younger siblings being upset if they cannot wear theirs on the KS2 day.

On Monday 14th December, when FOYM have organised a silent disco for your children we will allow the children to wear their Christmas jumper with bottoms of their choice (jeans, leggings etc) – this will effectively be a Chritsmas Jumper dress down day!



Eco Minute

National Tree Week

21-29 November 2026

This year's theme 'trees near you' is all about celebrating the trees that are part of our everyday lives. From the trees lining our streets and parks to those in school grounds, communities and local green spaces, these trees make a real difference where we live. They provide homes for wildlife, improve our wellbeing and help create healthier, greener spaces.

National Tree Week is a chance to notice, appreciate and take action for the trees right on our doorstep.

This year, to celebrate National Tree week why not make a small donation to support our School Council who want to develop the area around Freddie's tree, to become a quiet reflective space.



Letters this week!

Christmas Dinner Letter

Lucille Pollard

Head teacher