



# Yorke Mead School

## Newsletter



Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September

### Dates for your diary

#### This week

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September**  
Croxley Home Produce Show

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September**  
Year 6 to PGL (return Friday)

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September**  
Reception children first full day

#### Up and coming events

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September**  
Nursery 30 hour sessions begin

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September**  
Yorke Mead Harvest  
Celebrations Y1,2,3 : 9:30am  
Y4,5,6 : 2:00pm

### *This Week at Yorke Mead*

# WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to a new year at Yorke Mead. We are excited to be welcoming back all of the children in Years 1 to 6 and also 60 new Reception children and 30 new nursery children - too many to name separately!

There have been a number of children who have relocated over the summer and have sadly left us. However, this has allowed new friends to join us and we are thrilled to have welcomed Sienna (Y1E), Layla (Y2HC), Zakariyya (Y3L), Kaspian and Jaiya (Y4M), Daria (Y5R) and Leila (Y5A).

## IMPORTANT!

**IF YOU READ NOTHING ELSE PLEASE READ THIS!**

We currently have in school a pupil who is undergoing chemotherapy as treatment for cancer. In order to keep this pupil safe we need to do all we can to avoid contact with a number of illnesses. It is therefore essential that if your child has sickness and diarrhoea that you keep your child away from school for a FULL 24 hours following the last bout of the illness and that if your child has any of the common childhood illnesses such as chicken pox, scarlet fever etc. that you please let the office know IMMEDIATELY!  
Please also teach your child good hand washing hygiene.

## New Staff

We are very pleased to welcome a number of new staff to Yorke Mead this year.

New teachers:

*Mrs Barnes (Nursery), Miss Buckman (Y3) and Mr Walterus (Y5)*

New Teaching Assistants :

*Mrs Cotton, Miss Banks, Mrs Dickens, Mrs Hight, Mrs El-Saadani.*

I am sure you will all show these new staff a warm and friendly welcome so that they quickly feel at home

# Congratulations

Please join us in sending our congratulations to Mrs Williams and her husband on the birth of their first child. Little Alexis Cayla entered the world slightly earlier than expected on 30<sup>th</sup> August weighing a healthy 6lbs 3oz. I am sure you will join us in wishing this new little family all the best wishes.



Congratulations also to Mrs Arans (formerly known as Miss Jones) who got married during the summer.

# Handwriting

From September this year Yorke Mead will be teaching the children cursive (joined) handwriting from the beginning of their time in the school. There are a number of benefits of using a cursive style, which includes:

- Cursive writing supports spelling as the hand movements create some muscle memory that supports learning spelling patterns
- The letters 'b and d', 'f and t', 'q and p' are often confusing for children and reversed. Cursive script often helps children as their muscles remember the formation. In cursive script letters all start in the same place which also reduces reversal of letters.
- When we learn to read we move quickly from individual letters to groups of letters creating sounds and to whole words – cursive script promotes reading whole words instead of individual letters and their sounds
- Cursive writing enables children to get their thoughts and ideas on a page quickly and easily. Errors are reduced by the continuous flow of writing and ideas are able to also flow more freely.

Please support your child in developing this by encouraging them to use a cursive style as they complete their home learning. One way you can do this is to ensure they have a decent handwriting pen (if they have a pen license) and if not a nice, sharp pencil to work with. Encourage them not to rush and to focus on the quality of their presentation. We will be holding a parent workshop to support you in helping your child later this term. Details will follow shortly.

# Home Learning

Please remember that part of your child's home learning is to read their reading book all or most nights. We expect children in foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 to read to an adult at least 4 times a week and children in key stage 2 at least 3 x a week. If your child is struggling with reading they will certainly benefit from reading to you more than this. Teachers will be checking reading records and it is expected that **all parents** are supporting their child's reading at home as this is an essential skill on which all other learning relies!

## Learning Next Week

Whole School Learning Behaviour: **Using our mindful core breathing to manage learning and behaviour**

Whole School Focus: **Knowing Me, Knowing You!**

*Throughout the school next week our children will be focused on really getting to grips with the expectations in their classroom, refreshing their positive learning behaviours and getting to know their new teachers. Why is this important?  
Children learn best when they are comfortable and happy. This means they need to know what is expected of them and where the things they can use to help their teaching are kept. Rushing this stage means we lose valuable time later.*

