



## Newsletter

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016

### *This Week at Yorke Mead*

#### GRANDPARENT'S DAY

Probably one of our favourite events of the year - this week we held our annual Grandparents Day. The children love to hear about what life was like when their grandparents were young and grandparents love to spend time with the children. The children baked traditional jam tarts which they served with a nice cup of tea to say "thank you" to the grandparents.



#### GROWING FIRST HAND

Year 1 pupils got their hands dirty helping out with our allotments this week. There is nothing more rewarding than watching seeds turn to seedlings turn to plants. Well done Year 1!



#### SCIENCE IN A LAB!

Year 5 today trotted off to Rickmansworth Secondary School to have a taste of working scientifically in a fully equipped science lab. This link gives our children the chance to have a taste of what learning will be like when they enter the next stage of schooling and to find out the excitement science and experimenting can offer. The country needs scientists - we hope this will inspire the children to pursue this line of learning.

### *Dates for your diary*

#### This week

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> June

INSET Day

W/b 7<sup>th</sup> June

Baby and Toddler week

#### Up and coming events

Tues 14<sup>th</sup> June

Y3 to Natural History Museum

Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> June

Y6 first aid training

Fri 17<sup>th</sup> June

FOYM Father's Day tea

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> June

Croxley Revels

Tues 21<sup>st</sup> June

Book swap morning

Y2 music festival

Sports Partnership Awards evening

Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> June

Y3 Assembly

Mon 27<sup>th</sup> June

Health & Wellbeing Week

We 29<sup>th</sup> June

Sports Day

Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> June

Y2 to Whipsnade Zoo

*Try talking to your child about...*

*themselves*

After half term we will be busy with our baby and toddler week. The focus of this week will be on how we have already grown and changed and the changes that are ahead of us. Get out the baby albums and videos of when your children were younger and enjoy looking back on these times together.



# Nursery

We are planning to trial a soft start to Nursery this term. The official nursery start time will remain the same- 9:00 am, but for those parents who have children further up the school the nursery doors will open at the same time as the bell goes (8:50 am) and you will be able to drop your child into nursery earlier. The aim of this is to reduce the time children spend waiting around outside. We will trial this for the rest of the summer term and if it is successful will continue it from September.

## Attendance Improvement Officer

The Attendance Improvement Officer visited school this week, and one of the things she noted is the number of parents who are arriving late at school. We have monitored lateness for a few years, and I am pleased to say that some parents have made tremendous improvements in punctuality, however many children still arrive late for school.

It is easy to think that 5 minutes makes no difference – however 5 mins a day is 25 minutes a week. This is 975 minutes in a 39 week academic year – 16 ¼ hours of education....the equivalent of 3 days of schooling lost!

**The power to give your child the best opportunity is in your hands. Please get them to school ON TIME – EVERYDAY!**

You should also be aware that Hertfordshire have reduced the number of unauthorised absences before they will issue fines to, from 21 sessions to 15 – this means that unauthorised absences of more than 7 ½ days could lead to a fine being issued. If you have not called school when your child is not in school, if the length of time off sick does not seem to match the illness, or if attendance is already low and has been highlighted to you absences may not be authorised. A term time holiday could therefore easily tip your child's attendance to a level that could result in a fine.

## Before School

This week I have been aware of a number of incidents of children behaving in a silly manner that has resulted in children getting hurt or becoming upset. Please make sure that you are aware of what your child is doing before school and ensure that it is not behaviour that could lead to someone being upset or hurt. Starting the day badly is not good for anyone – and we wish to avoid this where we can.

## Year 3 Assembly

Parents of Year 3 children will wish to put a date in their diaries, Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, as their children will be performing an end of year assembly for them. This assembly is a great chance for the children to showcase their learning this year.

The assembly will be short (around 35-45minutes), but speaking in public is never easy and these events are a fantastic way for children to practise their speaking, listening and performing skills.

## Childrens University

The Graduation Ceremony will be Monday 11th July 6.30-8.00, please ensure you update passports before Tuesday 31st May. Letters will be sent out after half term from the University.

*Lucille Pollard*  
Head teacher