



# YORKE MEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER



**December 2018**

Dear Parents and Carers of pupils at Yorke Mead,

We are writing to you at the end of an exciting and challenging year; we live in a time of great uncertainty, with change sweeping through every facet of life from national politics to local parking restrictions in Croxley and affecting everything we do. 2018 has been a difficult year for Yorke Mead in many ways: there have been moments of great sadness, and the experience of the Ofsted inspection, but as Governors we appreciate how the staff of Yorke Mead, with essential support from parents and carers, have been able to maintain "the warm, family-friendly ethos" for pupils which Ofsted praised in their report on the school in May, and which many of you endorsed in your comments to Ofsted at the time.

At this time of year, in the run-up to Christmas, there are many opportunities to see this ethos, what we like to call "the Yorke Mead way", in action, in the many events that the children take part in. The Governors have agreed that we want to come in and see as many of these events as we possibly can, including the different school performances during the month of December. It wasn't that long ago that the children had to perform on "put-together" blocks and now we have a wonderful stage, on which the children can showcase and express their many talents. We hope you agree with us that Yorke Mead School has some very talented children, who all shone during their performances.



One other event we would like to highlight is the successful Open Morning that took place at the school on Saturday 17 November. In the highly competitive world we all now live in, Governors and Senior Leaders have come to recognise that it is not enough to be the happy, friendly and thriving school that we all know at Yorke Mead; we must get the word out to a wider public, and especially to parents whose young children could be future pupils here. So, as you may well have noticed, Yorke Mead is now tweeting, and don't be surprised to see further experiments in getting the school noticed on social media. But the most important way we can advertise the school to prospective parents is by getting them through the door, viewing our facilities, meeting teachers and generally seeing what we have to offer, so we were very pleased that the Open Day was so well supported. Marketing the school as widely as we can is now firmly on the Governors agenda, and we hope that parents and carers will consider whether they can do anything to help, for example, if you know anyone who lives within a reasonable distance of the school and will be looking to place their children over the next few years, please let them know what made you choose Yorke Mead, what you value at the school, and ask them to call the school on 01923 778420 if they would like a weekday tour of our facilities.



We would also like to say a few words of thanks to the Friends of Yorke Mead, who again produced a marvellous fireworks event in the school grounds and a wonderful Christmas Fayre, and whose support makes so many good things happen at the school, including the wonderful stage mentioned above.

In conclusion we would like to thank all of you for what you do to ensure that your children make the most of their days at Yorke Mead, and, of course, to wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Enjoy the Christmas holiday, and we look forward to working with you again in 2019.

Charlotte Gomes and Derek Marshall

Co-chairs of Governors