



Yorke Mead School Newsletter

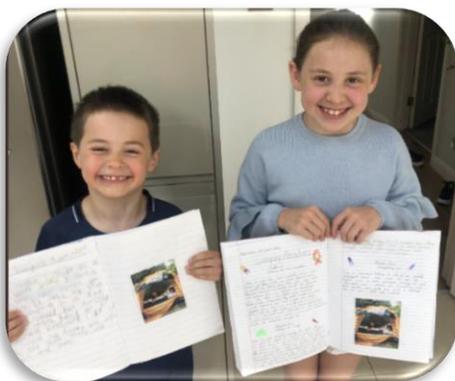


Friday 12th June 2020

This week at and away from Yorke Mead!

#YorkeMeadstilllearning

Another fantastic week of learning, both in school and out!



Letters sent out this week

- ❖ Home learning packs
- ❖ New Reception and Nursery
- ❖ Dinner debt letters

Government Announcement

I know that many parents are upset to have heard the government have now dropped their plans to ensure all primary aged children have at least one month in school before the summer holidays and some of you are understandably concerned. I do understand your worries.

As things currently stand we can do no more than we are doing – the government guidance makes it very clear the year groups and who we can offer places to and we must follow this guidance. You will also understand this is about the safety of the pupils and the staff.

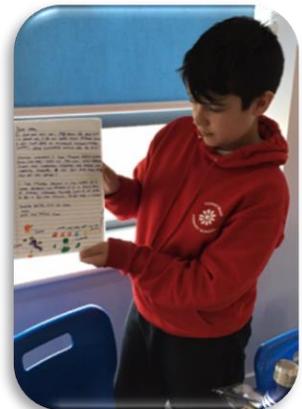
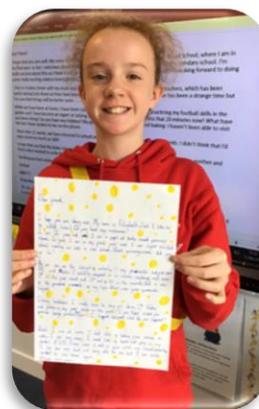
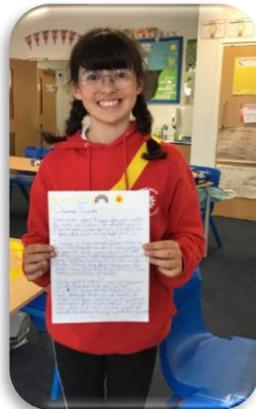
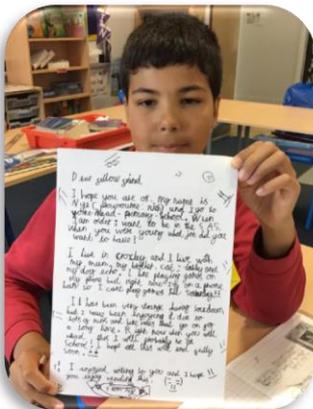
We wait for further information and guidance to come out from the DfE to help us to know how they will expect us to proceed. What I want to do is to reassure you all that I am considering how we can help the children who do not have access to school more.

Mrs Walke has been working with Mrs Gavin to find a way of to deliver some online learning (face to face over the internet). This takes time to get set up, and we did hope not to need to use it, but we hope to get this in place soon. I know this is not a perfect solution, but hope it will help.

Mrs Adams is available to talk to your children if they would like to do this and she can use TEAMS to hold video calls. Please let us know if you think your child would benefit from a face to face chat. We will need you to be with your child and to complete a home:school agreement for this.

I am also looking at other ways we can help – I do have some thoughts but I need time to plan this properly and I have to ask you to be patient and trust that we will do our best. This cannot be a straight forward invite everyone back; there are clear guidelines we must adhere to, but I will try to do what is best for our children.

Still thinking of others



Far too many of us have found the period of lockdown difficult to manage, but we must take our time to think about the grandparents and great grandparents, and those who have no family, living in care home at the moment. This time has been especially hard for these people, cut off from their family and friends. The residents of Croxley House and Hanover Court are feeling especially lonely, and our Year 6 children have written letters to them to try to cheer their day!

Year 5 PGL Visit September

Given the decision that schools will not reopen until at least September for Year 5, we have taken the decision that expecting the children to return to school one day and then go away from a two night overnight stay will simply be too much for many children and will not support their well-being. By taking this decision now we hope we can plan better for the children. Obviously, now is not the time to be planning any form of vacation/school journey; I hope we can find a way of the children getting some time away during Year 5 – even if this is just an overnight in the school field! Letters will be sent to parents regarding this next week.

Job Opportunity

We are currently seeking to appoint teaching assistants to support children across the school. If you are interested in a role supporting children in school please do take a look at this <https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job.htm?keyword=Yorke%20Mead%20Primary%20School>

This is an ideal opportunity for anyone looking for a new challenge or change of career.

Summer Playscheme

As things currently stand it is not possible to say what support for keyworker children and indeed other children will be available over summer or whether there will be a summer playscheme at Yorke Mead this year. However, we know that teachers and staff at Yorke Mead need to be able to take some form of break, and we are working closely with Three Rivers District Council to be ready to offer our premises if the playscheme is allowed to operate (they too wait on government guidance). To help them with their planning it would be extremely helpful if you could complete their questionnaire <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/playscheme-summer2020> which will allow them to be able to plan with greater knowledge should the government give their plans a green light.



Lucille Pollard
Head teacher