

YORKE MEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER



December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers of pupils at Yorke Mead,

As we come towards the end of 2019, we find ourselves asking yet again: where has all the time gone and how are we at the end of another year?

The Autumn term has been one of ups and downs, with moments of great sadness, yet, as always, we are overwhelmed by the way the Yorke Mead community pulls together to support one another at challenging times. These are the moments when we can all, children, parents/carers and staff find life a struggle; the school rightly puts mental health at the forefront of everything we do and in particular the way we support your children, but it is equally important in the coming holiday period for us all to stop and take a moment to consider our own well-being. If you are a parent or carer facing problems, you might like to pop in for the next parents' coffee morning on Thursday 9 January and have a chat with Debbie Greenfield, our Parent Support Worker.

As Governors, we appreciate how the staff of Yorke Mead continually go the extra mile to ensure your children get the very best out of their school life. Whether it be spending extra time to deliver a club or making sure the school have a competitive edge at the next football match or pulling together when classes need covering due to sickness or absences – they really do care. A prime example of this recently has been the way in which every single staff member gave up their time to make the open morning for prospective parents a success – from tidying classrooms, to making sure displays were in tip top condition, to those who spent the morning talking to parents and children who visited on the day. I am sure you will all join us in saying a huge thank you to every single staff member at the school.



As well as the staff, we are also very proud of all of the children. Some of these children also gave up their Saturday morning to show prospective parents around the school, proudly showing off their school and talking excitedly about life at Yorke Mead – they really are our key unique selling point! Governors had the pleasure of meeting with a group of children recently, as part of a Governor visit morning, to talk about their lessons and their thoughts about the curriculum. The children were confident, articulate and full of enthusiasm and ideas about their own learning. We were most impressed!

It has been a busy term for the Governing Body of Yorke Mead School – we have been working hard to understand the new Ofsted Framework which sets out the way in which schools will be assessed moving forwards. The key words "*Curriculum Intent, Implementation and Impact*" are continuously coming into our heads and we must ensure we have a full understanding of what this means for the school. However, as the school already has such a creative curriculum, with diverse learning opportunities, including the fantastic Forest Schools, Governors are confident Yorke Mead School is already working towards the new Ofsted Framework in a way which will stand us in good stead when the Ofsted inspectors come calling again, though this will most likely not be for another few years.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to the Friends of Yorke Mead, who produced a sell-out, hugely impressive fireworks display (the only one delivered in the local community) and a magical Christmas Fayre. As said by one of our class reps, these events help raise funds towards our children's education and are essential to the school. Thank you to all those who gave up their time to support these splendid events.

As usual we have to say farewell to a member of staff: we are sad to say goodbye to Mrs Stoll, who has given Yorke Mead many years of dedicated service, including serving on our Governing Body as a staff representative – as a committed member of staff, we will miss her, but wish her well in her new adventure. We will also sadly be saying good bye to Mrs Robson, who has decided she would like to try out a new office role. However, we can also welcome back Miss Bell, Miss Welsh-Welling and Ms. Girling from maternity in the New Year and look forward to the positive impact they will have on their return.



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, for your continuing support for the school, 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 2020.

Kind regards, Charlotte Gomes and Derek Marshall

Co-chairs of Governors