

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was lovely to see all the smiling faces returning to school last week (children, parents and staff!). I hope everyone had a great summer, especially as the weather was so favourable. I'd like to welcome our new reception children to the school, as well as new children to years 1, 2 and 3. Changes of staff have also taken place, Mrs Cartmell has replaced Mrs Foley as our new business manager, Miss Brain and Miss Levett have joined our team of teaching assistants in class 1 and 4 and Mrs King has joined the teaching team in class 5 as a HLTA.



**Summer Reading Challenge**

Congratulations to 44 of our children who completed this years summer reading challenge. This is an increase again for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Thank you to the parents/carers who supported with this.



As you all know, reading with your child has huge benefits and significantly improves their writing. This is primarily down to them gaining a wider understanding of vocabulary as this remains a barrier for many of our children. We expect all parents to support with reading (which includes discussing the content). Our Reading Policy is on the school website for reference.

**Attendance and Punctuality:**

Governors and myself will remain focusing on improving the overall school attendance this year. Parents are expected to set the highest of standards for attendance as the evidence is clear: children with good attendance succeed more in school and achieve future aspirations. Illness and medical visits still go against schools, so please try and get appointments out of school hours or late into the afternoon after registration. Holidays will not be authorised in term time in line with the Local Authority guidance.

| Overall winners: | Week beginning 4 <sup>th</sup> September |
|------------------|--|
| Class 5          | 100% - Fantastic start                   |
| Class 4          | 100% - Fantastic start                   |
| Class 3          | 100% - Fantastic start                   |
| Class 2          | 95.54% - under our target                |
| Class 1          | 98.21% - Good start                      |



### Texting Service/Phone numbers:

Due to the feedback being so positive last term we will continue with our texting service. Currently the first named adult on your contact sheet receives the text. If you require another named adult to also get the text please let the office know. Keeping us up to date with mobile phone numbers is essential for this to work.

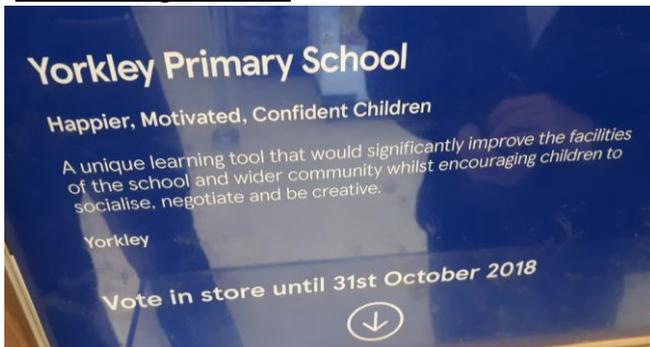
### Star of the week:

- Class 1 Sienna
- Class 2 Lily
- Class 3 Riley
- Class 4 Carla
- Class 5 Jaidan

Well done to our 5 stars who shone on their first week back!



### Fundraising Tesco's



You can vote using the blue tokens for Yorkley School in our local Tesco's store. PLEASE spend the next two months doing this as currently it is looking too close to call. The winner from this receives £4000. This will make a huge difference to our fundraising for the PlayPod and the children are eager for it to be in place this year. 2<sup>nd</sup> place receive £2000, with 3<sup>rd</sup> receiving £1000. Voting is also in Tesco Extra in Coleford for the same time period.

### House points:

Week 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> Sep = Green 72, Yellow 52, Red 47 and Blue 36 - Well done Green, great start!

### Class topics: a quick overview:

Information relating what is happening regarding expectations and P.E days in your child's class is on the school website under the tab Teachers / Classes. A quick overview for this term is:

**Class 1:** Class one will be doing a variety of activities based on the book 'Billy's Bucket'. Reception children have settled in very well and are loving the support from their junior buddies.

**Class 2:** This term's topic is science and geography based around the book, 'Owl Babies'. The children will learn about different habitats, where their food comes from and how to make some delicious dishes!

**Class 3:** Children are learning all about changes from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. They are finding out about early life through artefacts, books, the internet and our own deductions. They will be creating their own Stone Age art, stewed fruit, jewellery and brooches.

**Class 4:** Class 4 are focusing on Science so are studying space while looking at the relationship between the sun, earth and the moon. Writing is inspired by Doctor Who.

**Class 5:** Class 5 are learning about the Stone Age (including Neolithic hunters, gatherers and the first farming communities) and are enjoying their class story 'Stig of the Dump!' In Science, they are studying Evolution and Inheritance and are learning about Darwin and Mary Anning.

### Homework:

In line with the revised policy, homework comes out every Monday and is expected in the following Monday.

**Violin lessons for juniors:**

As part of the primary curriculum children have to perform, listen to and evaluate music across a range of genres, styles and traditions. Our juniors also have to learn a musical instrument. We are lucky to obtain a music grant each year which subsidises music lessons in school time. Like last year, due to the financial constraints schools are now facing, we can't fund the full cost. I'm sure however you would agree £15 for 10 violin lessons is such value for money (£1.50 per lesson). Lessons will start next week for Class 4. Class 5 will be in the Spring term and Class 3 in the Summer.



**Pen licences:**

Congratulations to Olivia and Enfys from class 4 gaining their pen licences already this term.

**Request for parent helpers:**

We are in desperate need of parent helpers for listening to readers, helping with swimming, changing maths and library books, games etc. If you have any spare time in your day, please let the office know as we would appreciate any help/time given.

**Office hours:**

Due to changes of staff the office hours have now changed. Mondays and Tuesdays the office is now closed from 3.30. Due to staff training also taking place you may find the office closed at other times. Please be patient with this and come back or call at another convenient time.

Kind regards  
K.Burke  
Mrs K Burke

**Clubs in Autumn Term 2018**

Children in years 5 and 6 can walk home after clubs however we require this in writing from a parent/carer before we allow this to happen due to the late nights drawing in already. All other children need to be met at the junior entrance at 4.00pm

|                      | <b>Mondays</b><br>3.00 - 4.00                                      | <b>Tuesdays</b><br>3.00 - 4.00             | <b>Wednesdays</b><br>3.00 - 4.00                      | <b>Thursdays</b><br>3.00 - 4.00                                    | <b>Fridays</b><br>3.00 - 4.30   |
|----------------------|--|--|---|--|---|
| <b>After School:</b> | Running /<br>Cross Country<br>Years 2-6<br>FREE<br>Mrs Burke       | Football<br>Years 3-6<br>FREE<br>Mr Tomley | Design<br>Technology<br>Years 3-6<br>FREE<br>Mr Berry |  | Mountain<br>Biking<br>Years 5<br>Payment<br>required<br>Mrs Wood &<br>Dan Lewis |
|                      | <u>Lunchtime Club</u><br>French Games<br>Years 3-6<br>Miss Newbery |  |   | <u>Lunchtime Club</u><br>Choir<br>All year groups<br>Miss Williams | (possible space<br>left)  |

**Lunchtime Clubs:** Children are also getting the opportunity to attend further clubs at lunchtimes.

- Tuesday and Thursday: - Sports with Mr Tomley (no need to sign up for this, anyone welcome)
- Play leaders are always out every lunchtime overseeing equipment and teaching new games.

**'WAKE AND SHAKE'** - We will be continuing with our 'Wake and Shake' morning programme to promote an active way to start the day in readiness to learn. **'Wake and shake' will take place on Fridays only. Time 8.30-8.40** Please can all children attending line up at the side hall entrance (disco entrance). Do not go onto the school yard. **Please note if your child is not in Wake and Shake they are not allowed into class before 8.40 a.m.**

### **Message from Mrs Foley:**

I just want to thank everyone for all your kind words, cards and gifts at the end of term when I retired. I was truly overwhelmed by an amazing send-off. I would like to wish you and your wonderful children good luck for the future as you progress through this amazing school of ours. I hope to see many of you as I march through the village on my daily mile! Love to you all.

Mary Foley

### **Community News:**

Open Days are already taking place for Secondary Schools. We don't always get notified of the dates, so I would advise you visit the relevant secondary school websites to ensure you get the correct information.

### **After School Provisions:**

Playgroup are continuing to offer an afterschool club for £3 an hour per child on the following days:

- Tuesday until 4.00
- Wednesday until 5.00
- Thursday until 4.00

Playgroup are also running a trip to West Midland Safari Park for Santa's Christmas Safari Experience. (This is open to school age children as well as children from playgroup) Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December leaving outside the school 8.30 a.m. The costs are:

Under 3's - £10 / Over 3 years - £15 / Adults £15 payment in advance to secure your seats.

During the visit there will be a visit to the Safari and all the animals at the park, following lunch children will be visiting Santa's winter wonderland and meeting the big man himself. All children will receive a gift and a special treat. For more information please refer to the posters on the notice board or enquire at Playgroup.

### **Raffle tickets supporting good cause:**

To support local fire-fighters who are approaching the end of a 160 mile bed pushing marathon, raffle tickets are on sale in the main office in support of their named charity Gloucestershire Charity Cancer. To make an on-line donation to support text GFRS18 with the amount you want to donate e.g. £5 to 70070, or you can visit their justgiving page.

### **Parent and Child Cookery:**

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October at Speech House. The Forest Showcase Food Festival is offering free parent & child cookery classes & family foraging at this years festival. 12pm & 2pm (places limited) refer to posters on the notice board for further details or refer to [www.forestshowcase.org](http://www.forestshowcase.org)

## IMPORTANT DATES

### Autumn Term 1 & 2

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep                      | School closed INSET   |
| Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Sep                     | Welcome back to school  |
| Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> Sep                  | School trip classes 3 & 5 Dean Heritage Centre.   |
| Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> Sep                   | Swimming starts classes 4 & 5 (all autumn term, last session 13 <sup>th</sup> December)                           |
| Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> Sep                  | Whole Class music lesson for class 4  |
| Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> Sep                     | <b>1.30 Internet Safety talk for parents (class 5 leading), coffee break then Harvest Assembly (all classes).</b> |
| Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> Sep                     | French Day at Yorkley. (Non-Uniform Children to dress in red, white and blue)                                     |
| Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct                    | National Poetry Day   |
| Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct                    | Team Cross Country event - Five acres 2.00 start.   |
| Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct                      | <b>School photographer in (from 8.30 for younger siblings)</b>  |
| Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct                      | <b>Parents Evening 3.15 - 6.15</b>  |
| Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct                     | <b>Parents Evening 3.15 - 5.00</b>  |
| Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct                     | Flu Immunisation programme for year Reception up to year 5 (parents must sign up in advance).                     |
| Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct                   | PTA School Halloween Disco *Sorry no reception children for this one  |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct                     | End of term 1   |
| <b>Monday 22nd - Fri 26<sup>th</sup></b>        | <b>HALF TERM</b>  |
| Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct                     | Start of term 2   |
| Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct                    | Bonfire Safety assembly for children  |
| Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov - Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> | Anti-bullying Week  |
| Thu 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov                        | STOP, SPEAK, SUPPORT Cyber-bullying day (part of Anti-bullying week)  |
| Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec                    | Choir singing at Christmas concert Lydney Town hall - 7.30pm  |
| Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec                      | Choir singing at Taurus Crafts 10.15-11.00  |
| Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec                     | Infant Christmas play (dress rehearsal for school, playgroup & parents with toddlers)                             |
| Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec                  | Infant Christmas play for parents 1.30 start  |
| Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec                   | Infant Christmas play for parents 9.30 start  |
| Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec                   | Last swimming session for class 4 & 5   |
| Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec                  | Aladdin, Whole School Pantomime, Cheltenham 2.00 start (late return) - (Early lunch)                              |
| Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec                     | End of term 2   |

### Spring Term 1 & 2

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan               | Start of term 3  |
| Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan            | Swimming starts classes 2 & 3 and year 1's in class 1. (All Spring term, last session Thu 4 <sup>th</sup> April) |
| Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb              | End of term 3  |
| <b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> - Fri 22nd</b> | <b>HALF TERM</b>   |
| Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb              | INSET - School closed  |
| Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb             | Start of term 3  |
| Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> Apr               | End of term 4  |

### Summer Term 1 & 2

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April                      | Start of term 5                                 |
| Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May                          | Bank Holiday                                    |
| Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May                         | End of term 5                                   |
| <b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> - Fri 31<sup>st</sup></b> | <b>HALF TERM</b>                                |
| Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June                         | INSET - School closed                           |
| Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June                        | Start of term 6                                 |
| Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June                      | Country Dancing Festival Speech House 6.30-8.30 |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July                        | Last Day for children                           |