

Dear Parents/Carers,

**My final newsletter for the year.**

This year has been one of ups and downs but we've made it through and the children have shown great resilience, courage and such positive attitudes. Thank you for returning your end of year questionnaires - the huge amount of positive feedback has lifted the spirits of myself and the staff at a time when everyone is now on their last legs and exhausted. Results are on the last page. A request for a face to face parents evening was the main thing that came up in feedback so we intend to hold one as soon as we can next year. The other request was to alter the one-way system, going the other way around so parents leave through the wider gates. I am happy to try this in September and review it again in October half term if needed.

Some of the comments received:

*"Your support as a whole has been amazing for the children and parents especially given the circumstances. We cannot praise the school enough!"*

*"Teachers and staff have been truly amazing and always on the end of the phone, thank you very much for your help and understanding in possibly the hardest teaching year possible"*

*"My son really struggled settling back in after lockdown and I was really pleased with the school helping him settle back in. I honestly believe the school did all they could in the circumstances of Covid, thank you"*

*"So happy I moved my son to this school, my child has just come on leaps and bounds"*

*"Please no more home schooling in September or you'll need to teach me how to teach the boys!"*

**Governors Awards:**

Each year children are awarded 'Effort Marks' by staff for outstanding effort made in school. For 10 marks children receive a Teacher's Award and for 20 I award a Head Teachers certificate. This year due to school being closed for a period of time, any child who received 15 Effort Marks were nominated for our highest award.

**Award Winners and Runners up for 2021:**

- Class 1: Zachary. Runner up Emily.
- Class 2: Zea-Rose. Runner up Stan.
- Class 3: Lily-Rose. Runner up Samuel.
- Class 4: Ellie. Runner up Maisie.
- Class 5: Ava & Codie. Runners up Emily and William.



**NEWSLETTER**  
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**House Points - Final Scores**

Well done to all the children who over the year were awarded house points. Last Year 'Blue' were the overall winners. Congratulations this year to Yellow House!

- 1<sup>st</sup>      **Yellow House = 4489**
- 2<sup>nd</sup>     **Blue House = 4357**
- 3<sup>rd</sup>     **Red House = 4339**
- 4<sup>th</sup>     **Green House = 4234**



**Attendance:**

Overall Winners:	Final percentage:
<b>Class 5</b>	95.79%
<b>Class 4</b>	97.69%
<b>Class 3</b>	95.97%
<b>Class 2</b>	97.56%
<b>Class 1</b>	97.86%

Although this year we have not been open full time, school attendance has still been recorded to the Local Authority for the time we have been in school. Our whole school attendance figure is 96.99%

Next year attendance remains a high priority for us, so please ensure you support us by sending your child to school on time.

**Star of the Week:**

Congratulations to our Final Stars of the week from Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July.  
Finley, Lailen, Cian, Nathan and Ada.



**Year 5 Taster Day - Dean Academy**



Year 5s visited The Dean Academy last Monday, to get a taste of Secondary School. The children were given an outdoor tour of the school, before being treated to a cookie! They experienced either metal work or cooking, so came home with either their own keyring or pizza. They had a chance to play some instruments and watch the effects on an oscilloscope, before creating explosions in a science lab!

*"The explosions were great fun, I'm very enthusiastic about secondary school!" - Ellie Perrott*

*"The food was delicious!" Kai Fennell*

**Class 5 / Year 6**



I know tomorrow will be an emotional day when we say goodbye to our Year 6 children. They have been an amazing cohort and great role models to the rest of the school, especially recently gaining so much praise from our latest visitors to the school! Regrettably, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running, we couldn't invite parents in to watch the

leavers play, although we did have it filmed professionally and the children had great fun making it.



Children received amazing gifts today from our PTA and are having their traditional 'water party' after school tonight. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running, staff made another special video for our Year 6 children due to the lockdown measures. They were shown it today, but all children can view it on 'Recent Posts' on our website.

**Yorkley Writing**

**Competition:**

**The History Detectives**



Yorkley Primary School Investigates the Past

**Introduction**

The senior children at Yorkley Primary School recently took part in an 'intergenerational learning' exercise, based on a classroom workshop conducted by Roger Deeks and Jason Griffiths from the University of Gloucestershire Voices from the Forest Project.

The aim of the workshop was to enhance the children's appreciation of local and family history, exploring oral history sources to learn about how people lived in the post-war years in the Forest of Dean. The children were asked to conduct their own investigation over the half term break in summer 2021, and become 'history detectives' to interview a friend or family member about their experiences of home, school, early work and their surroundings. The children returned to school with an astonishingly rich catalogue of findings. They also built new relationships with older people as a result of their interviews.

The 'detectives' had discovered a world before 'remote controls', computers, mobile phones, family cars, and a time when their predecessors walked to school and classroom misdemeanours were severely punished. In just an hour their discoveries were developed by the class, with the help of Dean Scribblers volunteers, into a narrative, newspaper reports, poems and imagined stories that are published in this anthology.

We are grateful to Mrs Emma Smith, Claire Chapman, Emilie Levitt and Michelle Jones for their support and help and most of all the talented and resilient children of Yorkley Primary School.

An extract from the book which children will receive tomorrow.

Special thanks to Roger Deeks and Cheryl Mayo for visiting and inspiring our young writers.

**Summer Reading Challenge:**

With the continued disruption by Covid-19 and the impact of social distancing, the 2021 challenge is more important than normal. Every child who completes it over the summer will receive their first Effort Mark the first week back. Please bring in the certificates and enjoy reading!

**Moving up Morning / Class names:**

Children had a lovely morning last week meeting their new class. New class names have been announced:

Calipso = Reception children  
 Apollo = Year 1 children  
 Phoenix = Year 2 children  
 Oberon = Year 3/4 children  
 Mariner = Year 4/5 children  
 Skylab = Year 6 children.

**Sports:**

Last week, at long last, we were allowed to participate in a face to face sporting competition. The team mountain biking race was incredibly exciting and we finished a very close 2<sup>nd</sup>. Congratulations to Leo, Codie, Emily and Bea for receiving Silver medals. Bea also won Gold with her individual time.

Year 3 attended a Kwik Cricket festival held at Cinderford Cricket Club. The event was organised by the Gloucestershire Cricket Board.



On Tuesday of last week the school took part in a virtual sports day organised by Active Gloucestershire. Fun, exercise classes were streamed via YouTube and children enjoyed Bhangra, Mixed Martial Arts skills, Yoga and Table Top Drumming. Footage of the event is on twitter on the Active Gloucestershire page. The links for the activities are below for you to try during the holidays!

Table Top Drumming - <https://youtu.be/POeCcA5Rp0w>

Primary Chair Yoga <https://youtu.be/nOgaUtZxz9w>

Calming Techniques [https://youtu.be/BmoJavd4n\\_M](https://youtu.be/BmoJavd4n_M)

**Additional Achievements:**

Congratulations to Felix Powell for his amazing achievements this last year in gymnastics. To Cora Carmody as she has achieved 2 stripes in Jujitsu. To Ella Morse learning a new skill (sewing) and gaining a trophy for football. Freddie, Ellen and Rosie Kimberley and Samuel Speakman completing Go Ape. To Ted Lester for winning a Crayola bundle, after entering a fruit shoot drawing competition.

**Special Thanks:**

Thank you all for your continued support of Yorkley school during an incredibly challenging year. I would like to congratulate the children again who have demonstrated determination and resilience. Equally I would like to thank our teaching and support staff who have continued to work extremely hard this year, face to face and remotely. Special thanks to our Governors who have continued to challenge and support through their monthly remote meetings. Thanks to our PTA for their hard work, especially Natalie, Chloe and Vickie who have been leading the way especially through Lockdown.

**Congratulations, Farewells and Welcome Back:**

Congratulations to Miss Sleeman (now Mrs Parsons) and her husband Phin, as they were married Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July. Due to Covid-19 her wedding had been postponed twice before.



Farewell to Mrs Mitchell who has been an additional teacher at our school for six years. She has

been a great asset to our teaching team and we wish her family well as they are relocating to Exeter. Farewell to Miss Levett, who has been working 1-1 with one of our Year 6 children. She is having a slight change of career working with children and animal. Welcome back to Mrs Adams who recently returned from maternity leave.

Stay Safe - hopefully we'll have a warm and restful summer holidays and although I said this last year, I really hope we'll all come back to some more normality in September, with the new class up and ready!

Kind regards

*K. Burke*

Mrs K Burke  
Headteacher

**IMPORTANT DATES:****Autumn Term:**

Start of Term Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September