



## Issue 001 – 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers.

As we approach the end of the first week of all pupils being at Yarrow Heights School, I would like to thank you for all your support in helping your child to settle into school life at Yarrow Heights. Thank you also for the many positive emails and comments. Please do continue sharing your views with us, as we continue along the YH journey, you are just as much part of the YH team as our pupils and our remarkable staff.

We have been amazed at how well and how quickly the children have settled. They have adapted to school routines, looking splendid in their uniforms (thank you again), and are playing well together and forging new friendships. Their acceptance in joining our new school community is evident, reinforced by many positive comments to me and the YH staff team, such as “This the best school ever!” “It feels like I have been here for a long time.” “I like it because the staff eat lunch with us and play outside at breaktimes too”.

### Emergency contact details

Thank you to all parents and carers that have provided emergency contacts. Please can we ask that if you haven't already informed us of emergency contact details, please forward details to Cat Catton (Pupil Development and Enrichment Co-ordinator) [cat.catton@yarrowheights.com](mailto:cat.catton@yarrowheights.com)

### Immunisation details

We are in close liaison with the community nurse team in Southampton to arrange childhood immunisations. This will include HPV, Flu and Covid vaccines for eligible pupils. Consent forms will be sent out to all parents directly by the NHS soon. We will also have copies here at school. Once the NHS have confirmed a date for immunisations at YHS, we will of course let you know, well in advance so we can prepare the children. Of course, some children may find school-based immunisations a bit tricky. Therefore, we believe that these can be arranged directly with your GP if necessary. For further information please contact Cat Catton.

### Covid Testing

Please continue to encourage your child to complete twice weekly lateral flow tests. If you require test kits please contact Lou on reception and she will arrange for your child to bring some home. As you are aware, Guidance for Schools in relation to COVID, changes frequently. If you are unsure, please contact Doug Grieb [Doug.Grieb@yarrowheights.com](mailto:Doug.Grieb@yarrowheights.com). A copy of the NHS COVID leaflet has been attached to this newsletter.

### Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival is a traditional event celebrating the successful gathering of the year's crops. At our whole school assembly next week, we will be supporting our local Food Bank, as part of our Harvest Festival celebrations. If you would like to support this event with a food donation, please send in a non-perishable item with your child on any day next week.





## Absence reporting

A reminder that all school absences should be reported to the school office on the first day of absence, and each day thereafter before 0845 please.

Contact details:

Tel 02382 124590 – this number has a 24-hour answer phone - Email: [reception@yarrowheights.com](mailto:reception@yarrowheights.com)

## School Snacks and Lunches

Our Chef Janine has been working heroically to devise a school break and lunch menu that appeals to our whole school community. The children are enjoying morning cereal, toast, and orange juice, as well as the homemade healthy snack at break-times; banana bread today! Lunches are provided 'buffet' style, and almost all children have managed to find something they like on the menu each day. If you have any specific requirements or feedback, please let us know.

## Water Bottles

Please can all children bring a water bottle to school, preferably named. We are trying to reduce our carbon footprint and reduce the use of disposable cups. We have various water filling stations around the school that can be accessed throughout the day to refill.

## Baseline Assessments

Next week all pupils will undertake short online baseline assessment for reading, literacy, and maths. These tests allow our teachers to set appropriately adapted work for all pupils and identify any gaps in their learning. The assessments are interactive and completed informally within the classroom and introduced in a relaxed manner. Please tell your child not to worry about these, it would be good to assess next week, if not it can wait for another time. If your child has any concerns or anxieties, please let us know so that we can provide that extra support if needed.

## Our focused theme.....

Our current school focus is on positive social communication; for example, please, thank you, holding doors open etc. Staff will model these behaviours throughout the school and praise those children who demonstrate good manners. We would appreciate your encouragement to support this focus at home.

Hope you have a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Head Teacher

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