



Issue 005

19th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Another busy week, but lots of positive events and reports. The children are engaging well in their preparations for the upcoming Christmas Carol Concert - singing can be heard throughout the school!

Please do check the diary dates below, as expected at this time of the year, there are a lot of events coming up that you may wish to attend.

Covid update

As cases continue to rise nationally, in line with current government guidance on the safe operating of schools we will continue to follow the prescribed safety measures at Yarrow Heights School

- Ensure all classrooms and offices have windows opened for at least 10 minutes every hour to allow fresh air into the building.
- Regular handwashing for all pupils and staff.
- Regular cleaning of high touch areas (door handles/desk tops/shared keyboards/worktops).
- Avoiding the use of shared pens and pencils.
- When possible, continue with social distancing.

Being such a small school, we have risk assessed the risk of transmission of covid against the needs of our pupils and have decided that it is not necessary for staff or pupils to wear face coverings within the school. Pupils or staff are of course welcome to wear a face covering if they wish.

I would like to remind you that you are able to book vaccinations for your child if they are 12 or over through (COVID-19) vaccination - NHS (www.nhs.uk).

In line with staff practices, please continue with twice weekly Lateral Flow Testing for all eligible pupils. We have a stock of tests if you require extras.

If your child or anyone in your household develops symptoms, please continue to follow government guidelines.

Remembrance Day

On Thursday 11th November, we held our very first Remembrance Day service. At 11am we all gathered on the outdoor play area to pay our respects. All our pupils participated and were a real credit to both parents/carers and the school, as they managed to stand in complete silence for a full minute. The service was led by 2 of our pupils, Toby and E, who came dressed in cadets and scout uniforms. Both received a special Head Teacher's Award for their maturity and team spirit.

Parent Portal

We are pleased to announce that our Parent Portal is ready to go live, slightly ahead of schedule. Early next week you will receive an email giving you the instruction on how to sign up and access the Parent Portal. The portal includes the following sections at the moment but will be under continuing development in the coming months:





Communication

News - A direct link to the latest and past Newsletters

Term dates

Communications History - access to any emails that you have been sent

Pupil Profile

This includes links to your child's timetable, attendance record, and leave you may have requested for appointments, and a record of rewards and certificates they have received.

School Information

Links to teachers that teach your child and links to useful websites.

My Account

This area allows you to check the contact details we have for you on record are correct. You can also change your portal login email and password form here.

Personal Data

If you have moved house or changed contact numbers/email address please notify us with the changes lou.watts@yarrowheights.com

If you require any help with accessing the portal, please contact Sarah.wilson@yarrowheights.com

Dates for the Diary

Friday 19th November: Children in Need



Today was our non-uniform day to raise donations for the Children in Need charity. Thank you to everyone who supported this excellent cause. Let's hope the hours of deliberation of 'What should I wear' wasn't too exhausting!

Friday 26th November: Film Crew

Over the next few months, we will be re-designing our website, part of which will include an online video in and around the school. With individual parental agreement, some children will be videoed with their teacher engaging in a specific lesson. The appropriate parental consents have been given, and children without consents will be sensitively excluded so there is no breach of the permissions Agreement. The film crew will be on site on Friday 26th to commence this project. We will keep you fully informed as the project develops.

Friday 3rd December: Monthly Parent/Carer Drop-in 1115 – 1215

Helen, our occupational therapist, will be delivering a short workshop on the Zones of Regulation. 'The Zones' is a systematic, cognitive-behavioural approach used to teach us how to regulate our feelings, energy and sensory needs in order to meet the demands of the situation around us. The curriculum is designed in a child friendly, accessible way to support individuals to develop skills that will help them to self-regulate.

There will be the opportunity for a discussion afterwards over a coffee. For those parents who are unable to attend this session, we are happy to email the presentation.





If you would like to attend this workshop, or wish to receive a copy of the presentation, please drop an email to lucy.macmillan@yarrowheights.com.

Thursday 9th December: 1630 – 1900: Parents' and Carers' Evening

Our Parents' Evening will take place on **Thursday 9th December from 16:30 – 19:00**.

We intend to allocate a full hour for each child for you to meet their Form Tutor and their subject teachers and therapist. Parents are therefore invited to share with us the most suitable hour's slot between 1630 and 1900. (for example, 1700-1800 or 1820 – 1920). We will then endeavour to book in 5-minute appointments during this hour for parents to meet with their child's teachers, form tutor, our therapy team and senior staff.

During the appointment, you can expect to see examples of your child's work and receive an update about their progress from each member of staff. We have completed baseline assessments for most children and our teachers and therapists now know most of the pupils well (apart from those who joined recently) so the conversations should be very useful to all.

Light refreshments will be provided in The Hub, where our teachers and therapists have room to spread out and speak individually to parents. Parking is available on site.

Parents' Evening Response

Should you wish to attend the parents evening on Thursday 9th December, please email reception@yarrowheights.com; indicating:

- **Your designated hour. We will do our best to accommodate you.**
- **Any staff names or subject areas you are particularly interested in having a conversation with.**
- **We will then send you an individual appointment schedule via email.**
- **If you are unable to attend, please let us know whether you would like a 20-minute virtual meeting via Teams with your child's Form Tutor. These arrangements can be made directly with the Tutor at your mutual convenience.**

Please do bring your child, if they would like to come.

Friday 10th December – Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day



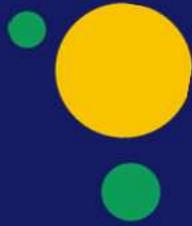
Save the Children
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

For a small voluntary donation to the Save the Children charity, YHS pupils and staff are invited to wear a Christmas jumper on this day instead of their school fleece/jumper. The more festive the better!

Wednesday 15th December - Yarrow Heights Christmas Lunch

Full Christmas lunch with all the trimmings! Pupils and staff dine together in a festive ambiance





Thursday 16th December: Yarrow Heights School – Afternoon Christmas Carols by Candlelight 1400 - 1515

YHS are proud to share our first ever production on Thursday 16th December. The concert will include an arrangement of traditional and contemporary carols, light refreshments, including homemade mince pies, and the opportunity to tour the school with your child.

Please look out for a separate email today with the invite and response card.

Friday 17th December 2021 Last Day of Autumn Term

The school will close at 1230. Children will be provided with lunch prior to their departure. Please advise taxis directly and we will ensure the Local authority are notified.

Have a restful weekend

Karen Gaster
Head Teacher

