



Issue 009 28th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Ask the Head Teacher!

At Yarrow Heights we are keen to continue to work in partnership with our parents and carers; we pride ourselves on regular communications across the school. In addition to weekly Tutor feedback and the opportunity for monthly parent drop ins, would you find it useful to have a Q&A afternoon with me to ask those questions that may not be covered elsewhere or for those parents are unable to come into School for the drop-in sessions? The Headteacher Q&A sessions could be either in person or via Microsoft Teams, in small groups or one to one. If you would like to take this opportunity, please contact Lou.watts@yarrowheightsschool.com. Depending on your feedback, we will share with you our plans in our next newsletter.

School Council

Our elected school council, which consists of seven pupils from across the school, have all been meeting over the last couple of weeks. One topic they were tasked to explore was linking with a charity whom we could fund-raise for in our efforts to support our wider community. After much deliberation, the decision was made to support the wonderful and local Blue Cross Charity.

The Blue Cross do outstanding work to rehome abandoned/abused animals whilst also supporting those that are injured and sick. The Council spent time discussing the fundraising options available, as a Bush Tuckka Trial, a sponsored silence, non-uniform day and many more creative ideas.. They finally settled on a Cake Bake sale and 'muddy' obstacle course, held on our back field.

Plans are currently being put in place, ready for the warmer months for the obstacle course and we hope that nearer the time we will be able to invite you all to come and support us, maybe even take part as well as sharing our just giving page.

We would like to thank our school councillors for working hard this half term as they have achieved several key objectives. This also included presenting to our school's Board of Directors who were very impressed.



Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)

It is our aim to actively promote EDI in as many aspects of our school that we can to help our community to recognise and celebrate the importance of EDI.

What does equality, diversity, and inclusion mean?

EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) is part of every school's curriculum and an integral part of our school's ethos. A focus on EDI ensures fair treatment and opportunity for all. It aims to eliminate prejudice and discrimination based on aspects of a person's identity that makes them who they are. These are called protected characteristics.



What is equality?

Equality also means fairness and equality of opportunity: we must also ensure that those who may be disadvantaged receive the tools and support to enable them to access the same opportunities as their peers.

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What is diversity?

Diversity is recognising, respecting and celebrating each other's differences. A diverse environment is one with a wide range of backgrounds and perspectives, which allows for a community of creativity and innovation.

What is Inclusion?

Inclusion means creating an environment where everyone feels welcome and valued.

Our EDI Team (E.D.I.T) team have recently met to discuss topics that the school will focus on over the coming months and how we will celebrate these themes at Yarrow Heights. These are:

Tuesday 1st February – Chinese New Year.

We will be celebrating Chinese New Year by following the Chinese tradition of handing out a red envelope, also known as 'lucky money'. In folk culture, children will live 'safe and sound' for the whole year if they receive an envelope containing the lucky money. Whilst we won't be putting money in these envelopes, we will be asking our pupils to place a kind and positive comment in it, and these will be handed out to other pupils, so each child receives an envelope. In Art the children will also be involved in learning about the use of Chinese Lanterns in Chinese celebrations and designing their own for display in the dining room and enjoy a selection of Chinese food prepared by Janine. Through a social story, the pupils will be told of the change in menu for that day.



Tuesday 1st February – Shrove Tuesday.

We will be supporting our pupils to make pancakes that they can enjoy for their breakfast snack as well as delivering a whole school assembly around the religious meaning of Shrove Friday 18th Tuesday.

Friday 11th February – LGBTQIA+ History Month.

On Friday 11th, we will be holding a 'dress bright' day. We are inviting all staff and pupils to come into School wearing bright colours or rainbow colours to represent the pride flag. This event will form part of the children's studies in PSHE around embracing diversity where they have been learning about the importance of historical and more recent civil rights movements.





Friday 18th March – Red Nose Day/Holi Festival.

On Friday 18th we will be joining in the countrywide fundraising for Red Nose Day. However, on this day, the popular Hindu festival of Holi. To celebrate this significant event in the Hindu calendar, we are planning a few special events to raise money for Red Nose Day. We will be following the Holi tradition of controlled and measured powdered paint throwing for those children who would like to join or, where others can choose to observe. Holi festival, otherwise known as “Festival of love, colour and spring” is celebrated by smearing each other with paint and throwing coloured powder in an atmosphere of good humour. We hope you will support us in allowing your child to join in the festivity by wearing a white t-shirt (the school will supply these). The coloured powder is safe, non-toxic, bio-degradable and washes off skin and clothing completely and easily. Children will be ‘cleaned before they get in their taxis for the return trip home! A letter for permission and further information will be emailed nearer the time for this.



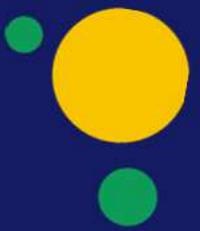
Enrichment

We are really pleased to welcome our new Enrichment Lead - Jemma Godel to our team. Jemma has arrived bursting with exciting ideas and plans to enrich and enhance the pupils’ time at Yarrow Heights. As well as planning a comprehensive programme of enrichment for the next ½ term with around 12 options for the children to choose from, she has also secured additional activities and specialist instructors to create a series of opportunities for our pupils to try new skills. Here is a sample of the upcoming sessions.



Mosaic making	A local and well known Southampton mosaic artist, recognised for creating super cool designs which can be found locally attached to walls and buildings, will be visiting Yarrow Heights and showing pupils how we can create our very own YH mosaic.
Pedal Power Training	Bike-Ability courses will be booked for 20 students in September 2022 (earliest date available). This course delivers three levels of training. Level 1 is basic bike control; level 2 is road safety in housing areas and level 3 is main road safety. Pedal Power will deliver a combination of Level 1 and Level 2 to our pupils and bikes and helmets will be provided by the school.
Pottery	Pauline Bradbury, Crank Pots Pottery has agreed to join Yarrow Heights once a week for 6 weeks during Enrichment next term to deliver pottery sessions. The young people can choose to make their own pottery which they can keep once it has been ‘fired’ in the kiln.





Videography	Max Cheshire, a local photographer/videographer is keen to support pupils in learning how to use the latest video-graphic equipment as well as allowing them to produce and direct their own involving them in the video masterpiece
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Weather

With the current cold weather, please send your child to school with a coat and a school jumper or cardigan, all clearly labelled. We actively encourage all our pupil to have fresh air breaks even if it's cold. When the weather is rainy, we switch from using our beautiful MUGA (multi-use games area) to a choice of indoor sports in the hall (typically badminton or table tennis) or colouring/relaxation in The Hub at breaks and lunch times.

Half Term Holiday

Please note the last day of this ½ term is Friday 18th February 2022. School reopens Tuesday 1st March 2022.

As always, any questions or if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Wishing you a restful weekend.

Karen Gaster
Headteachher

