



YEW TREE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Yew Tree Times

Latest News

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yewtreeprimary.co.uk

Happy New Year...

Happy New Year to everybody in the Yew Tree family. It has been lovely welcoming everyone back to school this week after the Christmas break. I would like to extend a special welcome to the new children, and families, who have joined our Nursery this week.

It has been lovely hearing about the fun and enjoyment the children have had during the holiday. I hope everyone has also had some time to relax as we have a busy term ahead. As always, there are lots of opportunities for parents/carers to become involved in school life so do keep an eye out for key dates. An [overview of dates](#) was sent home earlier in the year but we also encourage you to check dates at the end of each newsletter and/or subscribe to our [website calendar](#).

In addition to sessions for you to support your children (e.g. INSPIRE sessions or class assemblies) there are also sessions for you to become involved in school life. This includes, for example, the PTA meetings or the Chit Chat sessions that are coming up.

This is a really important term for the children as our next holiday marks the halfway point in the academic year. Therefore, staff will be really pushing children to ensure they make progress. Please support this by ensuring they attend daily. We look forward to sharing progress reports with you at the Spring Term Parents' Evening which bookings open for today.

Mr Jamie Barry



Our attendance TARGET is 96%.

"Be in to win...!"

As we start the spring term, we hope we can put winter bugs behind us and see a positive rise in attendance. We especially need help from families in Nursery & Reception.

We aim for 96% and you can check your child's attendance on the [Arbor](#) app.

SCHOOL MEALS

Unfortunately, like our bills at home, prices for services and goods have increased for school. Due to a continued rise in food costs, as well as increased staffing costs due to national insurance rises, the price of school meals will be increasing next term.

From **1st April 2025**, school meals will increase to **£3 per meal** per child.

Meals continue to be free for infant children (YR, Y1 & Y2) and those eligible and registered for Free School Meals (FSM). If you think your child is eligible, but you have not yet registered, please do so by completing an online application to Sandwell Council [HERE](#).

As well as booking meals in advance on School Grid, please also remember to cancel if your child is absent so you are not charged.

FINAL REMINDER – YR ADMISSIONS

If you have a child due to start Reception (YR) in September 2025, please remember that the deadline for applications is **Wednesday 15th January**.

Applications should be made online to the local authority that you live in. Please speak to our office if you have any further questions.

ASSESSMENT MEETINGS

If you have a child in Y1, Y4 or Y6 you will have been invited to an information meeting, either this week or next, about statutory assessments in those year groups.

Information from these meetings, including official guides from the Department for Education, are [HERE](#) if you cannot make it.

WEBSITE

Please remember that our [website](#) contains lots of useful information. Our home page contains a search feature and translation tool in order to help you find the answers you need quickly. You can access specific year group pages [HERE](#) in order to find out about your child's current learning.

Remember, it is sometimes quicker checking the website than messaging the school any questions.

INSTRUMENTAL TUITION

We are proud to offer a range of small group instrumental tuition at Yew Tree. This includes guitar, ukelele, clarinet, brass, violin or keyboard.

If your child accesses these lessons, you should have been sent information about an opportunity to meet their music teacher on 20th or 23rd January. If you missed this, click [HERE](#) for details.

Y3 CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Our Y3 children, and their teachers, are looking forward to showcasing their learning in their class assemblies on **Wednesday 22nd January** at:

- Class A – 1.30pm
- Class B – 2.00pm
- Class C – 2.30pm



PTA

Thank you again to our PTA leaders, Mrs Neville & Ms Turton, and volunteers for our amazing Christmas Fayre and Market which took place before we broke up.

Please keep an eye on Class Dojo to see just how much money these events raised for our school.

Please do come along to our next committee meeting, which takes place at **2.30pm** on **Monday 20th January**, to talk about future events. We need as many voices as possible at our meetings.

RESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCES

At Yew Tree, children have opportunities for residential experiences in Y2, Y4 & Y6. These are designed so that they increase in time and distance away from home, as the children get older to help grow independence.

We subsidise the residentials to keep the costs as low as possible but we recognise they are still a significant expense for families. Therefore, we aim to advertise these usually a year in advance to ensure plenty of time for payments.

Keep an eye out for photos from our Y6 trip to Plas Gwynant on [Twitter \(X\)](#) next week.

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
10.01.25	Parents' Eve bookings – OPEN	29.01.25	Rags to Riches collection day
13.01.25	Y6 residential to Plas Gwynant	30.01.25	YR INSPIRE session – 9.00am
14.01.25	Y1 PSC meeting – 2.30pm	03.02.25	Y2 Marvellous Monarchs workshop
15.01.25	Deadline for YR (25/26) applications	03.02.25	Y4 Sparks session with Fire Brigade
15.01.25	Y4 MTC meeting – 2.30pm	05.02.25	Safer Internet Day
16.01.25	Y1 INSPIRE session – 9.00am	05.02.25	Y2 class assemblies - PM
16.01.25	Theme Lunch: Into the Wild	06.02.25	YN INSPIRE session – AM & PM
17.01.25	Chit Chat group – 9.00am	07.02.25	SEND coffee morning – 9.00am
20.01.25	PTA meeting – 2.30pm	11.02.25	Y4 trip to Dudley Zoo
22.01.25	Y3 class assemblies – PM	12.02.25	School CLOSES @ 1.00pm
27.01.25	Y4 residential to Frank Chapman	12.02.25	Parents' Evening – 1.30pm – 6.30pm