



YEW TREE PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Yew Tree Times

Latest News

06.03.26

yewtreeprimary.co.uk

## Budget 26/27...

As we approach the end of the financial year I am working hard, behind the scenes, to prepare a new budget for 26/27. Ordinarily, I wouldn't bore you with the complexities of this. However, given some of the challenges we are facing, I wanted to be open and transparent with everyone.

Yew Tree manages its budget really well. As a result, the school is well resourced, maintained and staffed. However, there are some significant challenges to our budget in the coming year(s) due to two main factors; In addition to a move to a new national funding formula (which reduces the money in the primary sector) primary schools, including ours, are battling low numbers in some year groups due to a declining birth rate.

Although it is clear that Yew Tree is still a school of choice, we do have a large number of places vacant in some of the lower year groups. These vacancies are resulting in a budgetary loss in excess of £150k which is significant, especially as we still have to maintain 3 classes per year group.

I am not sharing this to cause panic or worry. However, I need your help. As well as supporting us with financial contributions to trips, PTA events and other activities throughout the year, we need you to promote our school. Please tell your friends, family and anyone else you know what a wonderful school we are and to get in touch if they are looking for places. You can even show them the video [HERE](#) which showcases our school. Thank you, as always, for your support.

*Mr Jamie Barry*



Our attendance **TARGET** is **96%**.

*"Be in to win...!"*

Please remember that we **cannot** authorise absences (inc. early pick up) for children due to sibling or parent/ carer appts.

We understand the challenges of pick up in these circumstances but would ask you to consider arrangements so children can still attend school.

## STAFFING NEWS

Over the next few weeks, we shall be meeting with Ms Taylor (TA) as we prepare to welcome her back from maternity leave after Easter.

When she returns, Ms Taylor shall be supporting our Y2 classes. Consequently, Ms Isaac shall move to YR to support our reception cohort as we say goodbye to Ms Badhan.

We are pleased to also confirm that Ms Wilkes has recently been appointed as a new HLTA/Assistant SENDCO at the school and will join us after Easter.

Finally, we are sad to announce that Ms Feist has decided to leave Yew Tree at the end of this academic year to pursue a career outside of teaching. We are grateful that Ms Feist has shared this news with us as early as possible so we can actively recruit ahead of 2026/27. We shall share staffing updates later in the year.

## NURSERY ADMISSIONS

We are pleased to confirm that we shall be reopening our afternoon Nursery next year.

This means we shall be offering 15hrs provision, for either AM or PM sessions, from September 2026.

Ms Percival is currently organising offer letters and shall send these out by the end of March at the very latest.

## ANNUAL SURVEYS

It is the time of year again when we seek the views of staff, parents/carers and children.

On Monday, our annual surveys go live and will **CLOSE** on **FRIDAY 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH** at **9.00am**. Do keep an eye on Dojo for details as anyone who completes a survey could win a £20 shopping voucher.

### HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FOOD (HAF)

Once again, Sandwell are funding HAF vouchers, for eligible families, for the coming Easter holiday.

You DO NOT need to register to receive the vouchers as these will automatically be emailed to the relevant families on **MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MARCH**.

When you get these, click [HERE](#) to find out about the HAF schemes available this Easter.

### EMERGENCY DRILLS

Throughout the year, we have to practice a range of emergency drills with our children and staff, e.g. fire drills, evacuation drills etc.

For your information, on 11<sup>th</sup> March, we shall be practising an invacuation (lock down) drill. This is nothing to worry about but we wanted to share so you were aware if the children mention it at home.

### COMIC RELIEF

We look forward to supporting Comic Relief on:

#### FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH

On this day, children are welcome to come dressed in the funniest/silliest way possible (see Dojo for ideas) or, alternatively, in red. This is in exchange for a donation of your choice.



### WEBSITE MIGRATION

We are currently in the process of migrating our website to a new platform. Whilst there will be no significant changes in the way the website looks, and the website address will not change, this is an important step to ensure our website is compliant with the latest cybersecurity arrangements.

As part of the migration, we cannot update any dates/content to our website from today until our new site goes live on **MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH**. Therefore, please bear this in mind as there will be a delay in any new dates, letters etc being added.

### BUILDING WORKS

We are delighted that we have some exciting building works taking place in school at the moment.

The Sunshine Room, which is one of our small teaching rooms, is having an upgrade so that we can use it as a sensory room. This will be an invaluable space in helping us meet the needs of some of our children. Keep an eye on Twitter for pictures of this space soon.

In addition, supported by funding from the PTA, we are installing external access to our Sports Field. This will make it easier for parents/carers attending football matches & Sports Day events etc.

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
06.03.26	Deadline to order Mothers' Day gifts	12.03.26	Girls' football match – HOME
06.03.26	SEND coffee morning – 9.00am	13.03.26	Annual surveys CLOSE – 9.00am
06.03.26	YN INSPIRE session – 9.00am	13.03.26	Plas Gwynant 26/27 deposits - DUE
09.03.26	Annual surveys OPEN (close: <b>FRI</b> )	15.03.26	Mothers' Day
10.03.26	DECCA assemblies – Y1 – Y6	17.03.26	Y2 visit to Botanical Gardens
10.03.26	RA Mothers' day session – 2.20pm	17.03.26	Girls' football match - HOME
10.03.26	Boys' football match – HOME	20.03.26	Red Nose Day
11.03.26	Lockdown (invacuation) drill - AM	20.03.26	Chit Chat (with School Nurse) – 9.00am
11.03.26	RB Mothers' day session – 2.20pm	20.03.26	Clarinet performance – 9.00am
12.03.26	YN Mothers' day session – 10.40am	20.03.26	Deadline for Y1 camping EOI
12.03.26	RC Mothers' day session – 2.20pm	23.03.26	FOCUS WEEK: Horrible Histories