



YEW TREE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Yew Tree Times

Latest News

16.01.26

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Achievement...

Over the next week or so, if they haven't started already, teachers will be carrying our assessments on all children across the school. Of course, depending on the age of child, these will look different from year group to year group (i.e. with some children completing tests and some children being observed/completing assessed pieces of work). However, the purpose of the assessments is to give us information about how your child is achieving so far this year and help us identify next steps in their learning.

When we assess a child's achievement, we usually measure a child's attainment. This is a measure of how well they are achieving in relation to a set of age-related expectations (ARE). In certain year groups, the ARE are informed by statutory assessments which take place. Either way, at the forthcoming Parents' Evening, we will be able to tell you if your child is on-track to meet ARE by the end of the year or not.

Of course, achievement is not simply about attainment so we also look at a child's progress from their starting points. We also recognise that some children, who may have started at a lower baseline, are working consistently below ARE year on year despite making some fantastic progress.

Therefore, at the forthcoming Parents' Evening, do ask your child's class teacher about progress as well as attainment and do remember to look at their latest IEP/ILPs if they have any additional SEND needs.

Mr Jamie Barry



Our attendance TARGET is 96%.

"Be in to win...!"

Please remember that we can only authorise leave of absence in term time when there are exceptional reasons.

Unauthorised absence in term time (not just for holidays) could lead to a **penalty notice** or even a **prosecution**.

Please click [HERE](#) for details.

YEAR OF READING

The Department for Education (DfE), in collaboration with the National Literacy Trust, has launched the 'National Year of Reading' for 2026.

This is a national campaign, to address a steep decline in reading amongst children and young people, which you can read more about [HERE](#). Do also keep an eye out for activities from us at key points during the academic year.

At Yew Tree, we recognise the importance of learning to read as we know, as well unlocking the potential for progress across the curriculum, it is also a valuable life skill. This is why our [Homework Policy](#) prioritises reading at home (with no other activities sent home).

Therefore, PLEASE do all you can to support your child in reading (inc. by adding any comments to [Boom Reader](#)).

PTA MEETING

Don't forget that our next PTA meeting takes place on:

MONDAY 19th JANUARY at 2.30pm

Please come along for a coffee and a chat. We would love any feedback regarding our Firework Night & Christmas activities as well as your ideas for future events.

PARENTS' EVENING

Booking links are now OPEN for our Parents' Evening which takes place on:

WEDNESDAY 11th FEBRUARY

On this day, we shall only be serving Snack Bags in our kitchen as school closes at 1.00pm. Please speak to our office if you are struggling with childcare that afternoon.

RAGS TO RICHES

Our next [Rags to Riches](#) collection date is on:

THURSDAY 5th FEBRUARY

Please remember that the more we collect, the more money we raise for our School Council to decide how to spend. Do speak to neighbours, friends and family to see if they can support too.

Any bags can be brought in from 02.02.26.

REMINDERS

Please remember that key dates for parents/carers are outlined in a single letter [HERE](#), are listed on our website calendar [HERE](#) or summarised below.

As a reminder, don't forget that the **Y2 INSPIRE** session (16.01.26), the **Y3** class assemblies (21.01.26) and the **Y1 INSPIRE** session (23.01.26) are all coming up soon.

PLAY & STAY SESSIONS

As part of our Family Hub Spoke work, we are delighted to be starting a 'Stay & Play' group for pre-school children and their families every **FRIDAY** from **10.30am – 11.30am**.

This, and other Family Hub activities, are free to attend so check out details or drop a booking message via our website page [HERE](#).



UNIFORM REMINDER

At Yew Tree, we have high expectations of uniform at all times. Our uniform is simple and relatively cheap so it is important that children come dressed, in full uniform every single day.

Our Uniform Policy is available [HERE](#) and this includes details of footwear, PE kits, appropriate hair style and rules on jewellery. Therefore, do read this carefully.

Please note, children are not permitted to wear jewellery in PE so we would ask this is not worn to school on PE days.

SCHOOL MEALS

Unfortunately, like our bills at home, costs continue to rise for services at school.

With this in mind, Dolce have written to us recently informing us of price rises from 1st April due to increased food prices and labour costs (due to national living wage increases).

Regretfully, this means that paid meals will increase in price to:

£3.15 per meal from 1st April 2026

We would encourage families, if they are eligible, to register for Free School Meals (FSM) with the Council. Further details are available by clicking [HERE](#).

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
16.01.26	Y2 INSPIRE session – 9.00am	27.01.26	RA writing parent session – 2.20pm
16.01.26	Chit Chat session – 9.00am	28.01.26	RB writing parent session – 2.20pm
19.01.26	PTA meeting – 2.30pm	29.01.26	RC writing parent session – 2.20pm
20.01.26	Y4 SPARKS sessions – PM	30.01.26	SEND coffee morning – 9.00am
21.01.26	Girls' football team – finals – PM	04.02.26	Girls' football team – finals - AM
21.01.26	Y3 class assemblies - PM	04.02.26	Y2 class assemblies - PM
22.01.26	Deadline for Y5 trip payments	05.02.26	Rags to Riches collection day
23.01.26	Y1 INSPIRE session – 9.00am	09.02.26	NO CLUBS THIS WEEK
23.01.26	Family Hub Stay & Play sessions start	09.02.26	Y4 trip to Coombe Abbey
27.01.26	Y4 trip to Dudley Zoo	10.02.26	Safer Internet Day
27.01.26	YN story parent session – 9.00am	10.02.26	Deadline for Y2 trip payments