

Yorkswood Primary School Newsletter

November 25 Issue 2



Every Child who
walks through
our doors carries
infinite potential...



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Reflecting on a Wonderful First Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of my first full term at Yorkswood Primary School, I find myself looking back on the past few months with an immense sense of pride. The festive period in a primary school is always magical, but seeing the excitement, confidence, and joy in our children's faces over the last few weeks has been truly special.

Whether it was the courage displayed during the Nativity performances, the creativity in the classrooms, or simply the kindness shown on the playground during these colder days, the children have been amazing. They remain, as I noted in my first letter, the absolute heartbeat of this school.



Headteacher's Welcome

A Clear Vision for the Future

Having spent the term observing and monitoring, gathering a complete picture of the school's many strengths and its areas for development, I am absolutely clear on the path ahead. My priority remains steadfast: to ensure Yorkswood provides the highest quality of education and care for your children.

Please rest assured that the leadership team and I are making decisions with a singular focus: what is best for your children. Over the coming term, you will see us implementing refined strategies to ensure high standards of behaviour and academic progress are maintained without exception.

I have full confidence in our dedicated staff to deliver this, and I ask for your continued support in backing their professional judgement as we move forward together.



Headteacher's Welcome

Looking Ahead to Spring

When the children return in January, we will be hitting the ground running. We have a packed curriculum planned, designed to challenge their thinking and ignite their imaginations.

To ensure every child can convert that “infinite potential” into reality, we need them in school and ready to learn.

Attendance: Every day counts. We noticed a dip in attendance towards the end of this term due to seasonal illness, but we must aim for high attendance immediately upon our return.

Uniform: Please use the break to check that your child's uniform is ready for the new term. Wearing the Yorkswood badge with pride creates a sense of belonging that supports good behaviour and focus.

Visit our website for
uniform information

Headteacher's Welcome

A Note of Thanks

Finally, I would like to publicly thank the staff at Yorkswood. They work tirelessly, often behind the scenes, to make this school a safe and inspiring place. Their dedication to your children is unwavering, and they have my full support as we continue on our journey of improvement.

Wishing You a Restful Break

I hope you all have a wonderful break, filled with rest and quality time with family. Whether you are celebrating Christmas or simply enjoying the pause in the routine, I hope you find time to recharge.

I look forward to welcoming the children back, refreshed and ready to learn, on Tuesday 6th January (Monday 5th January is an INSET for teachers only).

Warm regards,

Mr Lawrence



Early Help

Family Helpline

Early Help support for families
and professionals in Solihull

0121 788 4327

Live from 3 March 2025

Available Monday-Thursday 09:00-16:30,
Friday 09:00-16:00

Our dedicated team of duty workers support
with topics such as:

- Parenting and family guidance
- School attendance and support in coordinating Early Help assessments and plans
- Signposting to local services such as Solihull Family Hubs
- Child behavioural issues and social development
- Health and emotional wellbeing
- Referrals to Family Support Workers

For safeguarding concerns, such as if a child is at risk of being harmed, call the Solihull Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0121 788 4300



Working
for Children
and Families
in Solihull



Solihull
METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Early Help

Early Help in Solihull is about getting children, young people, parents, and carers the right support at the right time.

Find out more [here](#)

Curriculum Corner

We are thrilled to share the highlights from a term filled with exciting and enriching learning across the school! We hope you have enjoyed seeing your children's progress through regular Class Dojo posts.

This term has seen some fantastic achievements:

Year 1 children had their recipe poems selected for publication in the 'Recipe Poems- Little Wonders' book.



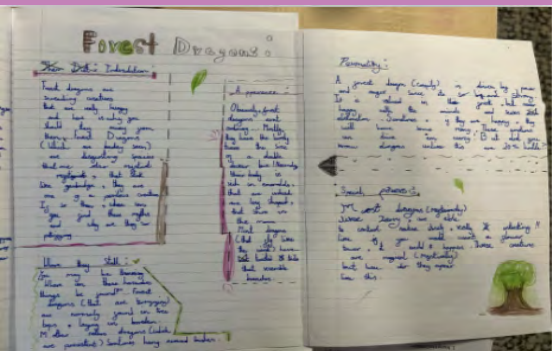
Jacob (Year 3) impressed with his volcano model from the "Shake, Rattle & Roll" topic.



Curriculum Corner



Year 4 enjoyed Bikeability.



Ambika (Year 5) produced a wonderful non-chronological report on dragons.

For a more detailed look at the curriculum and the learning objectives for each year group, please visit our dedicated blog post on the school website. [Click Here](#)

Attendance Update

At our school, we believe every day of learning counts. We want to celebrate the successes of our pupils and share where we are focusing our efforts to ensure every child has the best possible start.

The Bright Spots

A Strong Foundation: We are delighted to report that **160 of our pupils (42.8%)** achieved “very good” attendance of 95% or higher this term.

Improving Persistence: We have seen a positive shift in our attendance trends. The number of pupils in the “persistent absence” category (those between 50% and 90%) has **decreased by 17 pupils** since the summer term.

Our Current Picture

Currently, our overall school attendance stands at **91.1%**. We need to bring this figure much closer to national expectations of 95% to ensure all children are getting the most out of their education.

Where We Can Grow Together

To help our school reach its full potential, we are looking at a few key areas:

Punctuality: Approximately **29%** of our recorded absence events are actually

Attendance Update

due to lateness (both before and after the register closes). Arriving on time helps children settle into their morning routine without feeling rushed.

Managing Illness: Health is a priority, and illness accounts for about **36%** of our absences. We will continue to share guidance on when children should stay home and when they are well enough to come to school.

Reducing Unauthorised Absence: We are committed to working with families to reduce unauthorised absences, which currently make up about **25%** of our data.

Working as a Team

We want to support every family in reaching the **95% attendance milestone**. If your child is currently below this level, please know that we are here to help with early intervention and tailored support plans.

The attendance team is: Mr Rowe, Miss Rose, Mrs Murphy and Mrs Meakin.

**SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE**
Every Day Counts!

Send Provision



Welcome to the second SEND newsletter of this academic year, and a warm welcome to any new parents and carers joining Yorkswood Primary.

A huge congratulations to one of our pupils at Yorkswood Primary School, who was selected as a finalist for the SEND Awards 2025 in Solihull. This was a fantastic achievement and we are incredibly proud.

Why Christmas or any holiday can feel overwhelming for children with SEND

The festive season is full of excitement — lights, sounds, visitors, routines changing every day... and while that's magical for many, it can also feel a lot for children with SEND.

Here are a few small ways to help make it calmer:

- Create a quiet space your child can go to if things feel too much
- Use a simple visual countdown to help them know what's coming
- Stick to familiar routines where you can

Send Provision

Little adjustments make a big difference

What's your child's favourite (or trickiest!) part of Christmas build-up?

As always, if you have any SEND questions or concerns that your child's class teacher cannot help with, please feel free to contact me. I also hope many of you can attend the SEND coffee mornings taking place.

Wishing you and your families a happy and restful break .

Best wishes,

Miss L Boland

senco@yorkswoodprimary.co.uk



Send Upcoming Events



SEND Coffee Morning

**For Parents/Carers with SEN Pupils
Tuesday 13th January
9am to 10am**

Entry via the school office



Guest Visitor -
School Nurse

Our School Nurse will be sharing ideas and recommendations about sleeping, behaviour and toileting.



SCAN ME

SEND Parent Meetings will be scheduled for the first half term, please keep an eye out for the dates and times - we will be in touch shortly.

Send Upcoming Events

Children's Mental Health Week - 9th February - 15th February

Autism Acceptance Month - April 2026 - We will be celebrating in school

Upcoming events in the Local Authority

Great opportunity from the ADHD Team for Parents - Sign up for FREE by the 2nd January

SISS – Autism Team, Parent workshops - [SIGN UP HERE](#)

Ordinary Magic Events and Workshops for families. [Ordinary Magic](#)

Supporting you Neurodivergant child at Christmas - [Family Action](#)

Nurturing ADHD Kids

Free online 6 week courses for parents and carers click [here](#) for more info



Upcoming Dates

January 2025

5th January 2026
INSET DAY

6th January 2026
Pupils return to school

6th January 2026
Year 6 pupils health questionnaire

8th January 2026
Reception pupils, vision screening

13th January 2026
Parent SEND Coffee Morning
9am-10am

15th January 2026
Solihull school admissions portal
closing date for reception 2026
applications

20th & 21st January 2026
Year 6 pupils health questionnaire
follow up

Upcoming Dates

February 2025

16th - 20th February 2026

HALF TERM

23rd February 2026

Pupils return to school

23rd - 25th February 2026

Year 6 Residential Visit PGL

March 2025

5th March 2026

Year 1 Educational Visit

Twycross Zoo

10th March 2026

Year 3 Educational Visit

Birmingham Museum

11th March 2026

Year 6 Educational visit

Black Country Museum

24th March 2026

Nursery Educational visit

Atwell Farm

27th March 2026

End of Term

