Yeo Moor Primary School

Family Newsletter

Thursday 4th September

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Welcome From Mrs Jones

Welcome to a new academic year at Yeo Moor! I hope you had a wonderful summer break and that your family is beginning to settle back into the school routine.

I'm absolutely delighted to be starting my first year as Headteacher of such a vibrant, inclusive and caring community. It is a real privilege and I'm looking forward to building on the fantastic foundations already in place to ensure every child who passes through our doors flourishes.

We've had a fantastic start to the term. Staff began the week with two days of INSET training focused on oracy, trauma-informed practice, Thrive (supporting emotional and social development) and safeguarding. We were excited to welcome our pupils back on Wednesday and it's been a joy to see everyone settling into their new classes, forming relationships and getting to know one another.

Apologies for the length of this first newsletter — there's a lot to share as we begin the year! We promise to try to keep future editions more brief and to the point.

Finally, I'll be in the playground most mornings and afternoons during drop-off and pick-up. Please do come and say hello — I'd love to meet you and have a chat.

Family Newsletter Refresh

We've given our family newsletter a fresh new look, along with a couple of exciting additions that we hope you'll find helpful and enjoyable.

The first new feature is our **Diary Dates** section, designed to give you a clear overview of key upcoming events at a glance — making it easier to stay informed and plan ahead.

The second is our **Celebration Corner**, where we'll be highlighting the achievements of our wonderful Yeo Moor pupils. We'd love to include celebrations from outside of school too — whether it's a sporting achievement, a creative milestone or something else your child is proud of. Please do let us know so we can share and celebrate their success with our school community.

We hope these additions help make the newsletter even more useful and uplifting. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Changes Over the summer

Yeo Moor has been a hive of activity over the summer holidays and we're thrilled to share some of the fantastic improvements that have taken place across the school.

We've had extensive building works completed and the results are already making a positive impact. One of the most exciting additions is our brand-new hub, **The Lighthouse**, which will provide specialist provision for some of our learners. As part of this change, **The Sunflower Room** will now be a dedicated space for teachers to use during their weekly planning time.

We're also delighted to introduce our **new Sensory Room** — a truly incredible space designed to support pupils with sensory needs. (You can find more information about this below.)

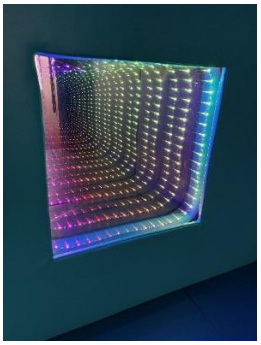
Several classrooms have had doors fitted, replacing the previous open-plan layout, which will help create calmer and more focused learning environments. Many classrooms and corridors have also received a fresh coat of paint, giving the school a bright, welcoming feel.

We're proud of how the school is looking and excited about how these changes will support our children's learning and wellbeing.

Sensory Room

We'd like to extend an enormous thank you to **Tigerplay**, who fitted out our brand-new Sensory Room over the summer. The space is absolutely incredible and we're confident it will make a meaningful difference for many of our pupils.

Designed to support children with sensory needs, the room offers a calming, engaging environment where pupils can regulate, refocus and feel calm. We're so proud to have this resource available at Yeo Moor and look forward to seeing the positive impact it will have.



Tigerplay

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Learning Mentor Update

We'd like to share that our wonderful Learning Mentor, **Sally**, will be working reduced hours this year. She will now be in school on **Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays**.

Sally's dedication to our pupils and her commitment to supporting their wellbeing is truly inspiring. We're so pleased that she'll continue to be part of our team on her working days and we look forward to continuing the fantastic work we do together.

Headteacher Awards

This year, we're introducing **Headteacher Awards** — a special gold sticker given in recognition of outstanding learning behaviours, effort, attitude, creativity, resilience, teamwork and more.

Awards will celebrate the **journey**, not just the final outcome, recognising progress, character and contributions to our school community.

Homework at Yeo Moor

Homework has always been an important part of learning at Yeo Moor. We work closely with families to ensure that the work children complete at home supports and strengthens their learning in school.

There are many reasons why homework matters. For example:

- Reading fluency unlocks learning across the curriculum. Children who read regularly develop a deeper understanding of language and the world around them.
- By age 5, children who read/are read to regularly are likely to have heard over 169,000 words, compared to just 4,600 for those who are not — a huge difference that impacts vocabulary and comprehension.
- Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success.
- Times tables fluency is essential for tackling more complex maths as children move through school.
- Developing good homework habits now helps prepare children for the increased expectations of secondary school — we want our Yeo Moor pupils to feel confident and capable, not overwhelmed.

To support this, we carefully monitor homework to ensure all children have the opportunity to become fluent, confident readers and mathematicians. This year, we are introducing a Homework Club on Fridays during the first 15 minutes of lunchtime.

This short session is for children who haven't had the opportunity to complete their homework that week. They will be invited to complete a times tables activity and read a short extract. Staff will be on hand to support them and the session will be limited to 15 minutes to ensure children still have time to enjoy their lunch break and play — something we know is vital in primary school.

We want to reassure you that we've considered this carefully and are committed to making reasonable adjustments where needed. If you feel your child may require additional support or flexibility with homework, please speak to their class teacher.

Homework Club is not just for catching up — some children find it helpful to complete their homework in school each week. If you feel your child would benefit from attending regularly, please let their class teacher know.

We truly value our partnership with you in supporting your child's learning and thank you for your continued support.

Smartphone Position Statement

We see the impact of smartphones on our pupils daily and feel it important to take a position and share this with you. Please see our position statement below.

Yeo Moor Primary School – Smartphone Position Statement

At Yeo Moor Primary School, we recognise that technology plays a significant role in modern life and can offer valuable opportunities for learning, communication and social development when used appropriately.

As children grow older and gain more independence - such as walking to and from school without supervision - we understand that some parents and carers may choose to provide their child with a mobile device for safety and communication purposes.

However, we also acknowledge the potential risks associated with smartphone use, particularly when devices are used inappropriately outside of school hours. These risks can negatively affect pupils' wellbeing, peer relationships and readiness to learn during the school day.

Our commitment is to provide a safe, supportive and positive learning environment for all pupils. To help achieve this, we ask parents and carers to work in partnership with us by:

- *Carefully considering whether a smartphone is necessary for their child during primary school years.*
- *Exploring alternative devices that may offer communication features without full internet access.*
- *Establishing clear and healthy boundaries for device use at home, such as:*

- *No devices at bedtime or in bedrooms.*
- *Supervised use when online.*

- *Supporting their child in maintaining respectful and healthy relationships both in person and online.*

Online safety is a key part of our curriculum and we will continue to educate pupils on how to use technology responsibly and safely. Together, we can help children develop a balanced and positive relationship with digital devices as they progress through their primary education.

Seesaw

We're gradually rolling out **Seesaw access for parents/carers** across the school. This year, families in **EYFS and Year 1** will have access. Next year, **Year 2** will be added, followed by **Year 3** the year after and so on — until all year groups are included.

Items From Home Reminder

We kindly ask that children **do not bring items from home** — such as pencil cases, toys or other personal belongings — unless given special permission by a member of staff.

All necessary learning resources are provided in school. This helps us maintain a focused, calm and inclusive environment for everyone.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Bromcom – School Dinners Update

Remember to book school lunches via My Child At School in advance (the **day before**). If you still haven't accessed your account, contact the office.

Diary dates

Term 1	
September	
Monday 8th September	MP Sadik Al-Hussan to visit Year 6
Wednesday 10th September	Meet the teacher 3.20-3.45pm (a chance to meet your child's new teacher and find out key information about their new class)
WB 15.9	Year 6 at Mill on the Brue
Thursday 18th September	Friend of Yeo Moor AGM 7.30pm (at school)
Monday 29th September	Author visit (Pete Murray) for Years 4- 6 Reception open day (prospective parents/carers) 10-11am
Tuesday 30th September	Author book signing (Pete Murray) for Years 4-6

2025/2026

Printable version of the term dates: https://www.yeomoorprimaryschool.org.uk/Term-Dates/School_Term_Dates-2025-26.pdf

Term 1: Wednesday 3 September 2025 - Thursday 23 October 2025
Inset: Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 September 2025; Friday 24 October 2025

Term 2: Monday 3 November 2025 - Friday 19 December 2025

Term 3: Monday 5 January 2026 - Thursday 12 February 2026
Inset: Friday 13 February 2026

Term 4: Monday 23 February 2026 - Thursday 2 April 2026
Inset: Monday 9 March 2026

Term 5: Monday 20 April 2026 - Friday 22 May 2026

Term 6: Monday 1 June 2026 - Friday 17 July 2026
Inset: Monday 29 June 2026; Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 July 2026

Celebration Corner

Yeo Moor Learning Powers

Children who are celebrated in our Friday Celebration Assemblies will be further celebrated here.

Gold Awards

Children who receive gold awards (headteacher awards) will be celebrated here.

Noticeboard

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