

This year's Isle of Wight news can be found at [yorkroadschool.org.uk/iow](http://yorkroadschool.org.uk/iow) – keep checking during the run up to the trip and during the time we are away to be up-to-date!

In addition to the website information and photos that we used for the Isle of Wight trip last year, this year we will be running a Twitter feed about the trip.

This has several key benefits:

- It is more reliable – I cannot update the website if my mobile internet signal is not strong enough (this was a problem last year as the island does not have too wonderful a signal!), but I can generally get a text message sent which is all I require to update the feed.
- The feed will be completely secure – **only those approved will have access to the Twitter feed.**
- More frequent updates.
- Interactivity – send us your own “tweets” – send messages between other parents and to us on the island! Whilst we cannot promise to pass all messages on and the children cannot respond directly, we will do our best to keep the children up-to-date. (For important messages, please call the school office instead so they can contact us directly).
- You can see exactly where we are on a map and I can attach photos / videos (mobile internet allowing).

**To access the Twitter feed, you will need to have a Twitter account. This can be set up at [twitter.com](http://twitter.com), if you do not already have one.**

Once you have your account, you will need to visit [twitter.com/yorkroadschool](http://twitter.com/yorkroadschool) and click on “follow”. This will send me a notification that you wish to see the Twitter feed. **I will not approve any requests until I receive a written confirmation (below) of your username!** This is to keep the feed secure. Once you have been approved, I shall “follow” you back. If you choose to make your own feed secure (you can decide this in the Twitter settings) you will need to approve this request in return.

PTO for more Twitter tips!

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**(Detach and return to Mr. Barnes)**

**My child is \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ class.**

**My Twitter username(s):**

## TWITTER TIPS AND TRICKS

Tweets and direct messages are restricted to 140 characters (the same as 1 text message). They are meant to be short and punchy! Each message posted is known as a *tweet*.

The school's feed is at [twitter.com/yorkroadschool](https://twitter.com/yorkroadschool) and will be updated regularly throughout the week. You do not have to interact – you can simply use this as a news and update service. But if you'd like to get involved, here's how...

To reply to a specific tweet, use the reply arrow on that tweet. You will notice that your tweet will start @yorkroadschool – this reply will appear highlighted on my feed for me to see, as well as for anyone else who follows your own feed. If you just want to send a general Tweet to us, simply put [@yorkroadschool](https://twitter.com/yorkroadschool) in your Tweet somewhere – it does not matter where, e.g.

*I wonder what @yorkroadschool had for their breakfast today?*

If you see any Tweets on the school feed with an @(username), that is a reply I have sent someone, e.g.

*@(username)We had scrambled egg on toast – yum!*

You can click on any username to see that person's tweets (unless they have protected their tweets). Why not say hello and follow their tweets too?

If you want to send a Direct Message that only I can see, start your message [d yorkroadschool](https://twitter.com/yorkroadschool), e.g.

*d yorkroadschool Can you tell Johnny Happy Birthday from Mum?*

No-one else will be able to see direct messages – it will not appear on your public timeline (likewise with any reply sent to you).

The Twitter website is a good place to start, but you may prefer to use one of the many free or cheap Twitter applications, for PC, Mac, iPhone, BlackBerry etc. These add extra features, such as attaching / viewing photos and providing notifications straight to your screen as soon as a Tweet is posted.

I can recommend both Tweetdeck and Echofon (available for both mobile and computers) but have a look yourself and choose one you like.

Experiment with the settings on Twitter – add a display photo of either you or your child so we can see straightaway whoever is interacting! In the settings, you can also set up your phone so that all the Tweets from me appear as texts on your phone – this might be really useful on the day that we return to school!

*If you need ANY help with setting up your Twitter account, I will be happy to help. Twitter is a great resource for us to communicate and I hope you all become avid Tweeters if you are not one already!*