



The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 616

Friday 4th October 2019

Head's Message

Open Morning last week proved to be a busy affair with many families coming to view the school. Our fabulous pupil guides did a marvellous job sharing their passion for the school and were great ambassadors. All of the children involved were full of enthusiasm and such a shining example of what a positive and purposeful atmosphere we enjoy here at Yarm Prep School. Thank you to the staff and parents who gave up their time to attend, collect or drop off during the morning.

There has been much to be proud of on the sporting front since the start of term! It has been super to see each pupil give every fixture their best effort and work as part of a team. The competitive spirit and conduct from every boy and girl has been exemplary. There is so much to learn from sport, at whatever level, it transcends barriers, unites us and is great fun! I look forward to watching more fixtures in the next few weeks.

At this time of year, in darkness and poor weather, The Spital can be treacherous. I know that it is a busy area and plans for our new Prep School car park are designed to provide a workable solution to the issues we face. In the meantime, I politely request that you park legally and responsibly when coming to the school in the morning or afternoon each day. If you choose to not use the Senior School parking facilities please ensure that you do not park in the coach bays at the beginning or end of the day, as blocking access to them has a severe impact on the traffic on The Spital. Please also ensure that you cross The Spital via the pedestrian crossing at all times. This is the only safe place to cross this busy road and sets the correct example to the children about road safety.

It only takes a minute or so longer
but really does make you much
safer.

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge

A pen and ink pot together cost £22. The pen is worth 20 pounds more than the ink pot. How much does the pen cost on its own?

Photo of the Week:

As well as getting the chance to dress up in all manner of costumes, Year 3 found out about the travels of local man Captain Cook last week, with a visit to the Captain Cook Memorial Museum in Middlesbrough. Full report inside!



School Council



Attendees: Form Captains, House Captains, School Captains were present.

These children did not attend: Year 3 Form Captains were on a trip.

We got into mixed groups, at least one school captain and one house captain in each group. We spoke about how the start of the new school year has been for everyone, in particular for the new starters. Form and house captains had spoken to the new starters prior to the meeting to make sure we had their thoughts.

We felt these things are good for the start of the year:

- DT and art lessons are great fun.
- Miss Darbar's classroom looks amazing.
- The new adventure trail.
- All of the trips and residential already this term (especially Robinwood and Boggle Hole).
- The opportunities available from clubs and activities.
- Going out on fixtures.
- The teachers.
- All of the assemblies, especially house assemblies and Safety Week.

We felt these things are not so good at the start of the

year:

- Some year groups are using (and not sharing) the nets, hoops and tennis tables when it is not their day.
- French is tricky for new pupils who may not have had many lessons before.
- Lining up for lunch is too busy sometimes and can take too long.
- The state of some of the benches on the playground.
- Not enough time/lessons using computers and Chromebooks.

We could make things better for everyone at the start of the year if:

- Starter French lessons for new pupils.
- No homework for anyone in the summer holidays.
- A talent show.
- Own clothes on the last day of term.
- Sports fixtures for mixed teams of boys and girls.
- More playtimes.
- Assemblies/form times on how to use the playtime and adventure trail equipment.
- Don't waste food!

The school captains will be sharing these ideas with Mr Sawyer during their weekly meetings.

The School Captains and Mr Stone



Year 3 Trip to Captain Cook Museum



My favourite part of the Captain Cook Museum was when we did the aboriginal art.

Lama E.

My favourite part was when we were allowed to sit and lie on the hammocks.

Annabelle A.

I enjoyed trying the lemon juice that stopped the sailors from getting scurvy. It was disgusting though!

Beatriz G.

The highlight of our trip was learning about life onboard a ship and lying on a hammock.

Samuel E.

My favourite part was when Lauren told us about Captain Cook and how he saw the Maori tribes. Captain Cook never touched land. Instead he mapped the coastline.

Rehan K.

My favourite part was when we put on the virtual reality headsets to see the Great Barrier Reef.

Ellie Mae G.

I enjoyed exploring Captain Cook's house, where he lived when he was young.

Griff W.

It was interesting to go back in time to when Captain Cook was born. He had a very poor family and house. When he went to school he became interested in the sea.

Navina M.



Aldi's Kit for Schools

**There are 20 prizes of £20,000 to be won.
All you have to do is get stuck in!**

From 6th September, Aldi's Kit for Schools promotion is giving 20 primary schools the chance to win £20,000 to kick-start a health legacy for their school. What's more, every school who enters by completing their Aldi's Kit for Schools poster will also receive an exclusive school sports kit! Collect a sticker with every £30 spent in store and fill up your school's poster for a chance to win.

Every time you spend over £30 in any Aldi store you'll receive a Team GB sticker. Take your stickers to school to help complete your poster. Once complete with 300 stickers send the poster back to us to receive an exclusive sports kit and to be in with a chance to win £20,000 for your school.

If you receive any stickers, please pop them in to Miss Richardson or Miss Algata.

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney

Clubs and Activities

GYMNASTICS: Please note that there will be NO gymnastics on Friday 18th October. End of term extras bills will reflect this cancellation.

Parent Zone Digital Schools

Our Digital Schools membership gives you FREE access to Parent Zone's Parent Lounge with:

- Online training
- Expert advice and information on all things digital
- Access to a free help service for all your tech questions.

For more information on how to join the Parent Zone Parent Lounge, go to the Online Safety Guidance for Parents section of our Parent Portal.

NSPCC O2 internet safety booklets will be sent out to parents in the coming weeks too.

Mr Stone

Top Tips

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD IF:

They have lost an item of clothing?

- Get them to check the changing rooms and any other rooms they may have been to;
- Get them to check (in this order): their locker, the lost property shed opposite the minibuses and the staffroom.
- Ask Mr Stone to put it on the daily notices.

Parents can help by making sure all items are named.

Pick-up arrangements after school have changed?

- Contact Miss Richardson in the school office. She will pass the message on to both your child and his/her form teacher.
- If your child has forgotten about a match or an activity they are involved in, or a club/fixtures has been cancelled, we will contact parents via email and/or announce postponements on our various Twitter pages. We endeavour to give you as much notice as possible with these.

They come home from school upset about something?

- Talk through things with them and see if there is a sensible solution you can suggest to them. Everything can be solved, so it is important to look positively at what the best way forward is. School can help with this.
- Encourage them to speak to their form teacher. They will listen attentively and compassionately and suggest ways to deal with the matter.
- If your child initially needs support in approaching their teacher, then do come and kick this off, either by email or coming in to see the teacher yourself.

They/we are late for school?

- Report to the school office, where Miss Richardson will ensure your child is signed in and registered.

They are not coming in to school?

- Contact the school office to let them know. It is perfectly fine to leave a message and/or send an email.
- Please do not be alarmed if Miss Richardson, Miss Algata or Mr Stone contact you if your child is late or absent. It may be that a message has been missed if it has been sent to a form teacher (school is normally extremely busy in the morning), and we simply want

to make sure that all of the children are safe and well.

They are spending too long on a piece of homework?

- Put it down and revisit it again later.
- Make a note in their pupil planner to explain to the teacher that is taking too long.
- Timings for homework pieces are included in the curriculum booklets handed out at the start of term. If in doubt though, please do drop the teacher a line.

They are very coy about sharing details about school?

Don't worry! Some children are not as keen as others to share every detail of their day at school. This does not necessarily mean that something is wrong!

Don't bombard them with questions, particularly early into term and during busy periods when they are getting into new routines and may well be tired.

A simple "Rate your day out of 10" can be enough and may well lead to further discussion.

If details need confirming regarding a school matter and your child cannot solve it or does not know the answer, please contact your child's form teacher, Mr Stone (pastoral matters and activities) or Mrs Pawluk (academic matters).

While we understand that messaging groups such as those on *WhatsApp* can be useful, Yarm School does not use this as a form of communication. If in doubt, please contact the school direct.

Cookie Decorating Morning



I enjoyed making my cookie. I made it look like a unicorn!

Eleanor W.

What I enjoyed most about making the cookies was decorating them—and tasting them! It was great fun.

Tabi B.

I enjoyed decorating the cookie and it was a wonderful finish to Friday at school.

Ying Ying L.



I really liked the cookie making and decorating. It was great fun and I decorated mine to look like a ladybird.

Zach B.

It was great fun creating the cookies. The best part was eating them!

Emily E.

I enjoyed eating and decorating them.

Waleed A.

Our Uniform Philosophy

Yarm School prides itself on the happy and harmonious sense of community that exists within the school and in which pupils wear a uniform with pride and a sense of ease because the same overall standards and expectations apply to all pupils and students.

It is our belief that upholding a strict uniform policy supports our ethos of respect for all, regardless of background or personal beliefs and promotes cohesion within the school community.

We celebrate the diversity of the school community but also value the fact that by wearing a set school uniform for academic and extracurricular activities, all pupils are encouraged to participate fully and freely from the external pressures that society and culture at large can place on young people with regard to their appearance and image.

High standards of dress and appearance are expected from all members of the School at all times. This includes travelling to and from School and visits or sporting fixtures.

The uniform regulations differ between boys and girls and, in some respects, for pupils in transition stages from Nursery to Reception and Year 6 to the Senior School. It is not practicable to write an exhaustive list of what is and what is not acceptable.

Common sense should prevail. If in doubt, parents and pupils should first seek advice from their child's form teacher, or a member of the Prep Management Team.

Mr Sawyer

Uniform Reminders

Please read these reminders regarding school uniform, all of which can be found in the Parent Handbook (available via the school website). We politely request that all parents and pupils are aware of these and follow the uniform requirements set out by the school. This includes the wearing of school winter coats, correct footwear (smart, black school shoes—not trainer-type shoes) and no jewellery. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Prep Management Team.

Please can we ensure that children only wear school PE and/or Games kit for clubs and activities such as dance, gymnastics and football.

Appearance

Girls' hair (if below shoulder-length) should be tied back with a suitable small fastener, school scrunchie or hair band. Hair bands (school style) may also be appropriate for shorter hair. Fashion accessories, hair colouring and decorated hairbands are not permitted. **Boys' hair** should not touch the shirt collar, eyebrows or earlobes; nor should boys' hair be shorter than a number 3. The use of **hair products** such as gel, dye and wax is not permitted. **Nail varnish**, whilst not a hazard, does not look smart with school uniform and we ask that girls remove nail varnish before coming to school. We set much store by the appearance of our pupils and seek to maintain these high standards. Parents will be informed if pupils digress from these guidelines and will be expected to take action to remedy the situation.

The wearing of jewellery is not permitted. The wearing of earrings and ear studs is not permitted for safety reasons. Please avoid ear piercing which will necessitate the wearing of ear studs at school. Children will be asked to ensure any ear piercings are taken out as soon as possible. It is recommended and expected that any ear piercings take place in the school holidays, not during term time.

Identification

All clothing must be **labelled** with sew-in labels with your child's name and initials. PE and Games tops may have initials sewn onto the left side of the chest area. The Uniform Shop can arrange this for you. **All equipment brought to school should be clearly labelled with your child's name.** School bags and school sports bags should be named in a prominent position. Pupils should not bring toys, scooters, electronic games or similar, to School unless they are invited to.

Uniform and Personal Possessions

The reputation of a school is influenced in no small degree by the appearance of its pupils. The uniform is, therefore, formal yet practical. The School has a Uniform Shop from where parents should purchase the items listed below.

(Contact Mrs Carolan Henderson on 01642 786023). The Uniform Shop is open every day except Friday during term time from 1pm – 5pm and at published times during holidays. The Uniform Shop is open occasionally on Saturdays and accepts cash, card or cheque payments. These details are published on a regular basis in the Phoenix Flier.

Uniform (worn by all):

Blazer – navy blue with red piping

Burgundy v-neck sweater

School quilted coat - school pattern only

Scarf/Hat (optional) - school pattern only

Black sensible shoes (not trainer-type shoes) should be worn by boys and girls (no heels for girls)

Boys:

Pale blue shirt, long or short sleeved

Tie – School design

Grey shorts (Y3-5) or trousers (Y6, or any boys from October half-term until February half-term)

Uniform Shop Socks – grey with stripe

Girls:

White blouse (school pattern only)

Red tartan skirt

Grey tights or socks

Hair accessories in school colours, some of which are available in the school shop

Late Spring/Summer/early Autumn Term:

Summer dress – school design

Short white socks (plain, no frills or sport socks)

Sandals – plain black or blue

PE and Games News

Under 9 Hockey

Our match against RGS Newcastle went a bit like this:

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney: I loved the Kit Kat as well as the hockey.

Anushri: My favourite part of going to RGS was playing the games and winning some.

Namitha: I loved seeing all of the trophies.

Edie: I loved the six-a-side games we played.

Felicia: The street hockey was great fun.

Elena: I enjoyed playing in all of the matches.



Lily: I liked it when we played Beat the Ball.

Emily: I liked the street hockey. It was fun.

Neev: I loved the Kit Kat as well as the matches!

Elizabeth: The Kit Kat was nice, but the matches were great.

Everyone: We love hockey!

Year 4 celebrate Jewish New Year

Year 4 walked down to the river today to celebrate Jewish New Year 'Rosh Hashanah'. It was yesterday. They ate apples, honey, bread and pomegranate, which is traditionally served on this celebration.



They then thought about something they would like to be forgiven for and threw it into the river.

Miss Carney



50 eggs

Head's Challenge solution from last week:

Coming up at the Senior School

GOURMET DINING EVENING

Saturday 16th November
The Princess Alexandra Auditorium Atrium

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY FOR JUST £40

Amuse-bouche

- ✗ **Chicken and Ham Hock Ballotine**
with onion chutney and thyme focaccia
- ✗ **Poached Lobster Tail**
with compressed watermelon and saffron mayonnaise
- ✗ **Roasted Beef Fillet with Mustard Crust**
with a red wine reduction and a beetroot and potato gratin
- ✗ **Butternut Squash and Courgette Tagine (V)**
with fragrant couscous

All main courses are served with seasonal vegetables

- ✗ **Exploding Chocolate Cake**
with an orange mousse and candied zest
- ✗ **Cheese and Biscuits**
served with a winter chutney

Yarm School Association is hosting a Gourmet Dining Evening. Come along to experience Chef Richard's culinary delights. Tickets cost £40 and lounge suit or equivalent attire is required. Dining will begin between 19:00 - 19:30.

EXTENDED
MORE CRAFT STALLS
GLÜHWEIN
BRATWURST

**MEET SANTA
IN HIS AMAZING GROTTO**

YARM SCHOOL

Christmas

INDOOR MARKET

SATURDAY 23RD NOVEMBER
10AM - 4PM
ADULTS £2, CHILDREN FREE

TICKETS ON THE DOOR
LOCAL CRAFT STALLS, AMAZING
CHRISTMAS IDEAS PLUS FOOD AND
DRINK OUTLETS

PLUS
CRAFTY CORNER, RUDOLPH RODEO,
CHILDREN'S GAMES & SANTA'S GROTTO

YARM SCHOOL, THE FRIARAGE, YARM, TS15 9EJ

Coming up

— OCTOBER —

Sat 5	Yarm Team Chess Championship (Prep Hall; 10am-2.30pm)
Mon 7	Brunel House Duty
	Open Week
	House Table Tennis *new event*
Tue 8	U8 Rugby v Chorister School (home; 2.30pm)
	U8 Hockey workshop with Ashville (away; 2pm start, 5pm return)
	Year 4 trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park (5pm return) *new event*
	Year 3 Walk to Yarm (P1-2; rescheduled from last week)
Wed 9	Bring It On STEM Festival (Sunderland)
	Curiosity Emporium (Lab; 1pm)
	HMC U11 Rugby (GSAL; 10am start, 4pm return)
	HMC U11 Hockey (GSAL; 11am start, 4.30pm return)
Thu 10	U9 Rugby v Choristers (away; 2.30pm start, 5.30pm return) *new event*
	Curiosity Emporium (Lab; 1pm) Rescheduled from Wednesday 9th October
Fri 11	Lauren Child author visit for Y2-4 (PAA; letters gone home to parents regarding book signing)
	Coastal Erosion workshop for Year 6 with Environmental Agency (all morning)
	IAPS Girls' Hockey (Repton; 7am depart, 11am start, 7pm return)
	U10 Rugby v Barnard Castle (away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)
	U10/U11B-C Hockey v Queen Mary's (away; 2.15pm start, 4.45pm return)
	Year 6 French Trip departs (6am; returns Friday 18th October)
Mon 14	Open Week
Tue 15	Yarm Fair Week begins—please note expected traffic delays/restrictions in and around Yarm
	'The Boy Who Cried Wolf' theatre show for Y4-6 (PAA; 1.30-3pm) *New event*

Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3A	Lama E.	Ciara W.
3D	Arvind K.	Dora B.
4C	Eleanor W.	Neev S.
4J	Jacob B.	Jingjing L.
4P	Wilf D.	Edie R-S.
5L	Myles B.	Sanju V.
5N	Alfie A.	Connie G.
5P	Connie D.	Amelie S.
6B	Luke W.	Tilly P-H.
6G	Noah V.	Niamh B.
6H	Deacon H.	Martin F-R.

Peer Mentor of the Week

Name: Isobel



Class: 6H

Favourite subject: Games

Best thing about school: Being with friends

Favourite cheese: I don't like cheese!

Most exciting thing to happen in my life so far: I can't think of any one thing—there are too many!

When I am older... I want to be a netball player.

Writing or typing? Typing

Ketchup or mayo? Neither!

Sun or snow? Snow

One wish: To win the lottery!

Mr Marsh, our chess coach, was one of a number of people who have nominated Isobel for Peer Mentor of the Week recently. For the past year or so, she has given up a hefty chunk of her lunchtime on a Monday to play chess with Pre-Prep children, helping them set up and learn the game! Fantastic commitment, Isobel!

If you see one of the peer mentors going beyond the call of duty, please let Mr Stone know! We are always open to nominations for Peer Mentor of the Week from pupils, parents and teachers.