



# The Phoenix Flier

## The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 629

Friday 7th February 2020

### Head's Message

**W**hat a week! Just flicking through this newsletter you'll see how busy we have been. On top of all of that we have launched into a whole school week of project work in science, technology, engineering, art and maths/music (STEAM)! We took our inspiration from the animal world and each class, or small groups in each form, looked in detail at a specific animal or habitat. We have enjoyed a range of brilliant workshops from a diverse selection of professionals: a beekeeper, an equine surgeon and a wildlife photographer and conservationist! Looking through a different 'lens' at the animal world has allowed us to understand how they have adapted in a changing world in a bid to survive. We have learnt about the crows who interact with traffic lights and road vehicles to safely crack walnut shells for their sweet nuts, the heron that uses the cast offs from a bakery to tempt fish to the waters' surface and the many animals that have changed to be more suited to their habitats. Such behaviours and adaptations have made us all marvel at the ingenuity of animals. Importantly, the pupils have worked collaboratively to produce some brilliant project work in many areas of the curriculum. I have been blown away by the models, raps, sculptures, films, songs, information posters, in-depth analyses and enthusiasm of the pupils when touring the classrooms this week. Thank you to the staff 'STEAM team' who made the week a real success. If you get a chance please do pop in and take a look at some of the wonderful work with your children.

*Bill Sawyer*

**Head's Challenge:** I had no father, only a grandfather. I shall bear no sons, only daughters. What am I?



**Photo of the Week:** STEAM Week has seen some great visitors including Mr Liam Gamble, a vet!

# STEAM Week

The Prep School has been animal crazy this week, with our STEAM Week exploring a wide selection of creatures from all over the world. Coupled with exciting guest speakers and thrilling activities, the children have been having a blast! We will report on the in more detail next week but for now, here is a small taste of what we have been up to...

My groups consist of me, Deacon, Grace Baker and Kate Howell. Our presentation is made up of a video, slide show and three model ants (representing the three casts). We have learnt that ants leave a chemical trail. If ants were two inches bigger, then they would be the dominant species on our planet. I really enjoyed the visit by the Zoologist, Dr Michael Leach. His talk on gorillas was fascinating. I think that 6H have had an fANTastic time!!

Shlok A., 6H

Mr Liam Gamble (*top*) spoke about animal adaptation and evolution and we learnt that the wing span of an albatross was as long as this tape measure.

Today's assembly was incredibly interesting because we learnt about the eyesight of different birds.

Archie A., 4C

On Tuesday, Dr Leach (*above right*) came to talk to us about travelling the world as a wildlife cameraman. I really enjoyed his talk as it was very interesting and he was hilarious.

Zach B., 4C

6B used their usual Wednesday maths lesson to look at how we can use maths in nature (*right*). We collected different items and did some ordering, then some tessellation of shapes and patterns. One group even created a game to play with the repeating pattern they created.

Miss Bradley



## House Chess—Week 3

Congratulations to Stephenson, who have retained their House Chess title in fine style!

Needing just a draw from their final match, the defending champions produced a powerful performance for the third consecutive week, overcoming a tough Brunel side by a winning margin of 10-7.

Captain Sabeeh Qureshi led from the front, as usual, and his win was added to by Frankie Parker, Niamh Boddy, Natasha Pointon and Adam Paul. Brunel had looked to be heading for a big defeat at one point, but they rallied admirably with points from captain Aryan Nalawade, Shlok Arcot, James Goodall, Elizabeth Neilson, Noah Coulman and Samuel Shawcross, to cause the champions some late, anxious moments.

Meanwhile, to catch Stephenson, Arkwright needed to win their match against Telford by a large margin and hope Brunel would do them a favour at the same time. Even though Arkwright did indeed beat Telford by a score of 11.5-3.5, the match was actually much closer than the result would suggest and it was only towards the end that Arkwright managed to pull away from their rivals.

Captain Aditya Paul, Isobel McGalde, Alfred Gilraine, Rehan Krishnamoorthy, Noah Vincent and Sanjana Vasireddy all picked up very valuable points and in reply Telford earned points from captain Mustafa El-Sherif, Max Hassani-Millington and Edward Lamb.

Stephenson, having won all three of their matches, are definitely worthy champions but I am sure they will admit they had to work very hard to secure their success. Arkwright finished as runners-up, just ahead of Brunel. Telford will be hoping to rebuild before next year's championship.

This was Stephenson's fifth title, which brings them level with Brunel in the roll of honour. Telford have eight titles to their name and Arkwright have nine.

Very well done, everyone. Can any team prevent Stephenson from taking a third consecutive title when the championship returns in 2021?

I was impressed by the determination of the players in all four Houses and I will leave the final word on this year's contest to Rehan. Even though he is still only in Year 3, he scored a fabulous amount of points for Arkwright over the course of the three rounds yet displayed inspirational maturity when he told me 'I learned so much from my games!'

*Mr Marsh*



# Telford Charity Day



On Thursday 30th of February, Telford had a charity day to raise money for Bright Red. This day was all based on a bright theme. There were many stalls on offer and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it.

There was something for everyone to do as there was a range of fun activities. Thank you everyone for raising money and I hope that everyone liked this amazing day!

Jasman S.

The Telford house charity day was a huge success all the stalls did amazingly well. Everyone was so supportive and helpful towards the charity we were supporting which was called Bright Red.

Grace B.



## 5L Class Assembly



In the 5L class assembly, I played Catherine Howard. I was scared and worried, but also confident and happy. I enjoyed playing my part because I actually looked like Catherine! I was excited about the dance the girls did too.

*Ruby K.*

Last week 5L performed a play about Henry VIII and his six wives. It explained how two were beheaded, two were divorced, one died and one survived. I played the Pope and told Henry he could not have a divorce, which he ignored.

*Oliver D.*

At first I was anxious and worried that I would forget my lines. However it all went well. When we found out our parts I was overjoyed to be Catherine of Aragon and Susannah from 'What Not to Wear'.

*Ava R.*

Worried, I stepped up to my line as the executioner. At the end of the play I felt proud and relieved because I don't like being on stage. I learnt much about Henry.

*Marshall P.*

I loved playing Henry VIII. It was great fun and I gained a lot of enjoyment from it. I loved saying my lines when the audience laughed. I have never been given such an important part before.

*Adam P.*



## Music Digest

The Music Department has already had a busy term. Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January saw our Primary Schools' Singing Day. Our choir members from Year 5 and 6 were joined by children from four other local primary schools for a day of singing led by Miss Ni Chaoilte and Mr Gooding. The music included traditional African part songs, numbers from Broadway musicals and folk music from the British Isles. There was great enthusiasm from all children and the day concluded with a concert for parents. One visiting school spoke later of "a fantastic selection of songs, kind nurturing, encouragement and inclusivity". We are already planning next year's event.

The following Wednesday a group of our young musicians played solos in a Concert and Cake event at Senior School. The atmosphere was relaxed and supportive, with many children playing two instruments, and some as many as three. As the name suggests, the event included some delicious confections, which went down almost as well as the music.

Last week we held our Year 3 Music assembly with solos and ensembles from several of our promising young players. These assemblies are a great opportunity for our children to gain experience performing in front of others in a supportive environment.

*Mr Gooding*



## Emails from school

With the increasing number of emails we are sending to parents to reduce the amount of paper we use, we are aware that some parents are finding these emails in their junk or spam folders.

Most email clients have their own rules on how to identify spam e-mails, things like the volume/frequency of emails received by the specific domain (in this case anything from @yarmschool.org) matched by how often they are opened or ignored by the recipient. They learn from regular behaviour and try to anticipate the needs of the user, but you can override this for specific senders.

Most if not all email clients have the option when selecting an e-mail to mark it as 'This is not spam' which informs the email client not to tag anything from us as spam in future. Also in most cases, adding our e-mail addresses (e.g sri@yarmschool.org, gns@yarmschool.org, etc) to your contacts list tells the spam classification that anything from a known contact is probably worth reading.

With us sending the newsletter via email from next week, please double-check that you have our accounts in your contacts and/or you mark us as not spam.

*Mr Stone*

## Internet Safety Day

### Tuesday 11th February 2020

By now you should have received an email from me sharing the details of the internet safety talk with PCSO Barrett. We do hope that as many of you as possible can come along to either of the events. If you have not received details, please let me know.

Also on the day, PCSO Barrett will be running workshops for all of the children in Years 3-6, helping them talk about and be aware of the dangers they face online.

Please also continue to sign up for *Parent Zone's Parent Lounge*. Again, if you need details on how to access this do let me know. The information available to you through this portal is invaluable.

*Mr Stone*

## PE and Games News

### **Under 11 Netball v Barnard Castle**

Last Friday, we played Barnard Castle in a netball match. On my team were: Eva L., Sofia A., Mara M., Gracie R-H., Ava H., Sienna H., Lucy M. and Amelie S. We started off strongly, but in the second quarter Barney managed to pull it back. After a tactical team discussion, we continued to play at our best.

We had the splits from Lucy M. and a few injuries too but it was well worth it when the final whistle went and we had won 14-6. Congrats to Player of the Match Eva L. Well done girls!

*Naila K.*

On Friday 31st January, Year 6 and a couple of Year 5 girls went to the Senior School for a match against Barnard Castle. Everyone had a wonderful time. Afterwards we were treated to cookies and juice. We all worked as hard as we could.

*Isobel M.*

### **Year 4 Netball**



On Thursday the Year 4 girls all travelled to Maiden Castle to play Bow School. We selected five teams out of our year group so everyone could play. The venue was fabulous and part of Durham University's sporting complex. The girls enjoyed games against themselves before Bow arrived. This gave the girls a chance to practise playing in positions and the rules needed to play a recognised game of netball.



Our five teams enjoyed at least two matches against the opposition and we also played ourselves, as they could only select two teams. Miss Bradley and I were impressed at how quickly the girls have picked up the basics of a game and it was super to see them enjoying themselves alongside Bow.

## Year 3 Swimming

Our Year 3 swimmers are making good progress in their weekly lesson. The pupils are now in three groups with the majority swimming 25m-100m, which is super to see. The three instructors are very pleased with the politeness of the children and their hard work. Well done all swimmers!

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney

## Under 11 Hockey

On Friday 31st January the U11 boys hockey team entertained Red House School in what was an outstanding contest. Over the course of the last couple of weeks the U11s have worked on keeping possession and distributing the ball accurately. They can be pleased in the knowledge that all their efforts have paid dividends. They manouvered the ball well from one side of the pitch to the other, exploring for weaknesses. This enabled them to put an extraordinary amount of pressure on Red House who defended magnificently.



As Yarm's enthusiasm and energy waned so Red House countered. They demonstrated some excellent individual skill and pressured Yarm's goal frequently. That is how the match progressed right up to the final whistle, both teams even and a fair result if truth be told. Well done to all involved.

Mr Underwood

## Top Tips

### HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD IF:

#### **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.

## Norton Junior Hockey

## Holiday School Dates 2020-21

### Easter Holiday School 2020

Monday 6th April – Thursday 9th April (4 days)

### Summer Holiday School 2020

Monday 13th July – Friday 31st July (3 weeks)

### Autumn Half-Term Holiday School 2020

Monday 19th October - Friday 23rd October (1 week)

### Christmas Holiday School 2020

**Please Note:** Due to the late finish of the Autumn Term (Friday, 18th December) and the timing of the annual closure of the School for Christmas (Wednesday, 23rd December), there will be NO Christmas Holiday School this year.

### Easter Holiday School 2021

Monday 29th March – Thursday 1st April (4 days)

### Summer Holiday School 2021

Monday 12th July – Friday 30th July (3 weeks)



## YPSSC's glamorous Venetian Masquerade ball raised a huge £2,773 for local charity Billy's Room!

A huge thanks from YPSSC to those who support the fundraising and enjoy the events.

From:  
Victoria, Chairperson;  
Joanna, Vice Chair;  
Thania, Secretary;  
Angela, Treasurer

The ball was held at the Princess Alexandra Auditorium. Contortionists from Thornton Academy of Performing Arts performed during the Drinks Reception where guests were served Aperol Spritz.

Guests, during the grand entrance into the auditorium, were met with the sound of Phantom of the Opera, a Venetian bridge and Gondola surrounded by atmospheric fog and lighting, creating a mystical atmosphere.

A delicious Italian themed meal was served whilst a wonderful Venetian Duo played.

Other entertainment included a sensational Comedy Opera duo that wowed guests with their beautiful voices, emotional performance with a light hearted touch of comedy.

Mr Bill Sawyer was a great sport impressing guests with his operatic talents.





Craig Squance, the secret singing waiter, serenaded Mrs Joanne Speight with 'O Sole Mio', inspired guests to sing-along and swing their napkins, and enticed guests onto the dancefloor with his great party tunes.

Guests helped raise money for the charity during the evening, through a live and silent auction, and a fun balloon pop with fruity boozy Limoncello shots.

With the support of neonatal consultant Dr Garg and the Neonatal Unit, Billy's Room Charity is raising money in Billy's memory to provide a new dedicated bereavement room for the Neonatal Unit in James Cook Hospital where parents who have had to endure the loss of their baby during and after birth can have the opportunity, in peace and privacy, to spend time together.

Bill Sawyer, head of Yarm Preparatory School, said: "Each year we hold a Prep School Ball to raise money for incredible local charities and this year we are proud to have been able to support Billy's Room."

"The evening was fantastic, and the acts were outstanding. A huge well done to all."

Watch out for tickets on sale for next year's ball from the summer time. Don't miss out on another spectacular evening.



#### New YPSSC Chairs!

It is with great pleasure that we announce our new Chairs, Stacey and Peter Thompson (parents of Felicity and Jemima).

This husband and wife double act will be strong leaders to continue the amazing achievements of the YPSSC. We wish Victoria and Joanna an emotional farewell as they step down from the roles they have more than fulfilled for the past 2 years.

# Lunchtime and After School Clubs – Spring Term 2020

	Activity	Times	Venue	Year	Policy	Staff
<b>Monday</b>	Guitar Orchestra	10.20-10.50am	Music Room	All	Invited by Teacher	SBH
	Homework/School Library	12.35-1pm	Library	All	Open to All	WECS/KEJ
	Senior Choir	12.35-1pm	Music Room	Y5/Y6	Open to All	RG
	Aarty Monday	1-1.30pm	Art Room	All	Open to All	AW
	Prep Baccalaureate	1-1.30pm	4C	All	Open to All	GNS
	Chess Coaching	1-1.40pm	DT Room	All	Open to All	Mr Marsh/JG
	Eco School	1.10-1.40pm	Science Lab	Y4/Y5/Y6	Open to All	AP
	Monday Concerts (fortnightly)	3:45-4pm	Music Room	All	Open to All	RG
	Dance Workshop	4-5pm	Senior School Studio	Y5/Y6	Booked in Advance	Jess Dunkley
	Football Skills	4-5pm	Astro	Y3-6	Booked in Advance	Back2Basics
	After School Supervision*	3:45-6pm	Playground/Science Lab	All	Open to All	ELJ
	Indoor Hockey	8.10-8.30am	Prep Hall	Y3/Y4	Open to All	NERS
<b>Tuesday</b>	Advanced Recorder Group	10.20-10.45am	Music Room	Y6	Invited by Teacher	AS
	Training Choir	12.35-1pm	Music Room	Y3/Y4	Open to All	RG
	School Library	12.35-1pm	Library	All	Open to All	KEJ
	STEM	1-1.30pm	DT Room	Y3/Y4	Open to All	RS
	Art Attack	1-1.30pm	Art Room	All	Open to All	AW
	Prep Baccalaureate	1-1.30pm	4C	All	Open to All	GNS
	Rugrats	3.45-4.15pm	Prep Hall	Y2	Open to All	Andy Dryden
	Kick Boxing	4.15-5.15pm	Prep Hall	Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6	Booked in Advance	Garry Bell
	Girls' Rugby	4-5pm	Astro (half)	All	Open to All	JJC/CJS/KJLH
	STEM	4-5pm	DT Room	Y5/Y6	Open to All	JG
	Mindfulness - Hama Beads	4-5pm	4J	All	Open to All	KEJ
	After School Supervision*	3:45-6pm	Playground/Science Lab	All	Open to All	ELJ
<b>Wednesday</b>	Y5/6 Reading Group	8.05-8.25am	3P	Y5/Y6	Invited by Teacher	JP/AP
	Morning Mile Club	8.15-8.30am	Astro	Y2-Y6	Open to All	JJC
	Year 3/4 Recorders	10.20-10.50am	Art Room	Y3/Y4	Open to Years 3/4	AS
	Flute Group	10.20-10.50am	Flute Room	All	Invited by Teacher	SB
	Brass Group	10.20-10.50am	Music Room	All	Invited by Teacher	CHi
	Cello Ensemble	10.20-10.50am	Cello Room	All	Invited by Teacher	RG
	Percussion Group	12.35-1pm	3P	All	Percussionists	IGH
	School Library	12.35-1pm	Library	All	Open to All	KEJ
	Year 4 Maths Workshop	12.35-1pm	5P	Y4	Invited by Teacher	SMP/GC
	Beginners Clarinet Group	1-1.30pm	Music Room	All	Open to All	AS
	Orchestra	1-1.30pm	Cello Room	All	Invited by Teacher	RG/RR
	Horse Riding	2:45-5.15pm	Kirklevington Stables	All	Extended Activity	HNJ
<b>Thursday</b>	Netball	2.50-5pm	Astro	Y5/Y6	Extended Activity	ANC/RBr
	Rugrats Rugby	3.45-4.15pm	Prep Hall	R/Y1	Open to Y2	Andy Dryden
	Dance Workshop	4-5pm	Senior School	Y3/Y4	Booked in Advance	Jess Dunkley
	After School Supervision*	3:45-6pm	Playground/Science Lab	All	Open to All	ELJ
	Y5/6 Reading Group	8.05-8.25am	Mrs Pawluk's Room	Y5/Y6	Invited by Teacher	JP/AP
	Tag Rugby	8.10-8.25am	Astro	Y1-Y6	Open to All	CJS
	Netball Shooting	8.10-8.30am	Playground	All	NERS	NERS
	Boys' Choir	12.35-1pm	Music Room	All	Open to All Boys	RG
	Harp Ensemble	12.35-1pm	Harp Room	All	All Harpists	SP
	Homework/School Library	12.35-1pm	Library	All	Open to All	KEJ
	Year 6 Maths Workshop	12.35-1pm	6B	Y6	Open to All	KJLH/RBr/JP
<b>Friday</b>	Year 5 Maths Workshop	12.35-1pm	5L	Y5	Open to All	ANC/HLH
	Art Attack	1-1.30pm	Art Room	All	Open to All	AW
	Digital Leaders	4-5pm	IT Suite	All	Open to All	GNS
	Cricket Nets	4-5pm	Prep/Senior Nets	Y5/6	Open to All	PDU/JJC
	Cross-Country/Urban Running	4-5pm	Prep School	All	Open to All	WECS
	Bakers (bookable via booking form)	4-5pm	Science Lab	Y3	Open to All (15 max)	SHD/GC
	Drama Club	4-5pm	4A	Y3/Y4/Y5	Open to All	AAR
	Grangetown Netball Hub	4-5pm	Playground	Y3/Y4	Open to All Girls	NERS/GW
	Table Tennis Coaching	4-5.30pm	Senior School	Y5/Y6	Booked in Advance	Dr Perry/MC
	Phoenix Challenge	4-5pm	5P	Y4/Y5/Y6	Invited by Teacher	JP
	After School Supervision*	3:45-6pm	Playground/Science Lab	All	Open to All	ELJ

\* After School Supervision – charges apply from 4:30pm

## Coming up

<b>FEBRUARY</b>	
<b>Mon 10</b>	Stephenson House Duty
<b>Tue 11</b>	<p>Safer Internet Day</p> <p>PCSO Barrett internet safety talk for parents (Studio Hall; 8.30-9.30am)</p> <p>Internet safety talks for Y3-6</p> <p>PCSO Barrett internet safety talk for parents (4P; 2.30-3.30pm)</p>
<b>Wed 12</b>	<p>Internet Safety Workshop</p> <p>Stockton Schools Swimming Gala (Thornaby Pool; 12-4pm)</p> <p>In2Hockey U11 Boys Tournament (Prep Astro; 3-4.30pm)</p>
<b>Thu 13</b>	<p><b>Half-term begins after school</b> (after school and care as usual)</p> <p>No Digital Leaders today ***New event***</p> <p>U9 Hockey v Dame Allan's (away; 2pm start, 5pm return)</p>
<b>Fri 14</b>	Staff INSET—no pupils in school
<b>Mon 24</b>	<p>Pupils return</p> <p>Telford House Duty</p> <p>Activities Carousel 4 begins for Y3 today</p>
<b>Tue 25</b>	<p>House Pancake Races</p> <p>U8 Hockey v Dame Allan's (away; 2pm start, 4.45pm return)</p> <p>U8 Netball workshop with Barnard Castle (away;</p>
<b>Thu 27</b>	<p>IAPS Netball (Uppingham School; 7am depart, 7pm return)</p> <p>U9 Football v Bow (home; 2pm)</p>
<b>Fri 28</b>	<p>U11 Netball v GSAL (away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)</p> <p>U10 Netball v GSAL (home; 2pm start)</p>
<b>Sat 29</b>	UK Chess Challenge—School Round (Prep and Dining Halls; 9.45am-2.30pm)
<b>Mon 1</b>	Arkwright House Duty
<b>Tue 2</b>	U8 Football v Choristers (home; 2.15pm start)

## Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
<b>3A</b>	Imogen P.	Griff W.
<b>3D</b>	Willow A.	Bea M.
<b>4C</b>	Scarlett H.	Ying Ying L.
<b>4J</b>	Isobelle G.	Nethuki M.
<b>4P</b>	Ewan G.	Kit F.
<b>5L</b>	Lucy M.	Adam P.
<b>5N</b>	Noah C.	Atsushi Y.
<b>5P</b>	Amelie S.	Luca S.
<b>6B</b>	Aidan R.	Gracie R-H.
<b>6G</b>	Mustafa E-S.	Betty K.
<b>6H</b>	Isobel M.	Grace B.

### Head Teacher Awards:

**Y3:** William A.

**Y4:** Claudia P., Isobelle G., Charlotte F., Wilf D.

## Peer Mentor of the Week

**Name:** Harvey D.

**Form:** 6G

**Best thing about school:** Going on all of the different trips.

**Favourite cheese:** Don't like cheese (!)

**Most exciting thing to happen in my life so far:** Going to Dubai with my mum and dad.

**When I am older...** I want to be a footballer for Middlesbrough

**Writing or typing?** Typing

**Ketchup or mayo?** Ketchup

**Sun or snow?** Sun

**One wish:** To stop global warming.

Nominated by Miss Ni Chaoilte this week, Harvey has been selected for his help and support towards some Year 3 children who had hurt themselves in the playground.



**Head's Challenge Solution from Last week:** Napoleon (other answers are permissible).