



Little Phoenix



The Newsletter of Yarm Pre-Prep

Number 296

7th February 2020

Mrs Speight's message ...

This has been a memorable week for all of us as we encountered our second annual STEAM experience. I wonder how many children can remember what STEAM stands for? Our theme was Unsung Heroes of the Animal World with Liz Million introducing the week. On Monday, she began with a workshop on drawing crocodiles. Every child was then given the opportunity to draw their chosen animal using close observation skills, paying particular attention to facial expression, which is so important for an illustrator. Liz is always extremely popular with the pupils and there is never a dull moment when she is in school! Tuesday was a particular favourite for all with the renowned wildlife photographer, Dr Michael Leach who engaged children and adults alike. It was fascinating to hear about his expeditions to every corner of the world and his wealth of knowledge on so many animals, never mind his stunning photographs. Mr Gamble, a vet, school governor and former pupil visited on Wednesday with an informative talk about pets and I am sure the children will remember to treat their pets as they would expect to be treated themselves, which was a key part of his message. Mr Canning, the bee keeper had all our children buzzing, pardon the pun! We really must continue to ensure that we protect these tiny creatures as without them our world would be an entirely different place. It really is true that it's never dull here, a day in the life of Pre-Prep! Have a wonderful relaxing weekend.

Warmest wishes,

Joanne Speight



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Little Explorers

The Reception children decided that every week is a STEAM week. The children are so familiar with following their interests, asking questions, being curious and creative. However, this has been extra special because we have had so many opportunities to think specifically about animals. We read the story 'The Way Home for Wolf' by Rachel Bright which introduced us to a number of Arctic animals. We have explored why they have blubber and fur and designed many experiments to investigate ice and how to melt it. We even helped free some Arctic animals who were trapped in the ice! The children have also created their own Arctic scenes. On Wednesday our usual trip to woods was made even more exciting by wearing the camouflage masks which we had made.



Wonderful Whales

Year 1 have been focusing on whales during STEAM Week. We have learnt some incredible facts and asked wonderful questions. Narwhals have been of particular interest and the children have been fascinated by their horns. Some activities have included; a workshop with Liz Million, estimating and measuring the size of a whale, making our own piece of whale artwork and writing fact files. A super week of Science in Year 1!



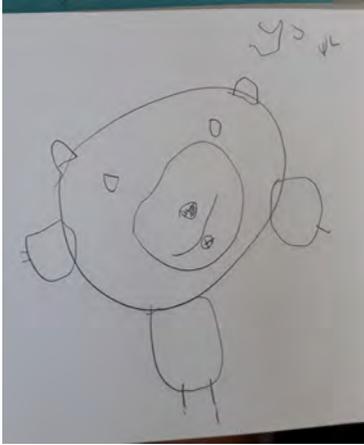
Tall Tasks

Year 2 have reached for the tree tops as they challenged themselves to some tall tasks as part of STEAM Week. After being inspired by Liz Million's illustrations of giraffes during her workshop on Monday, the children decided to do their own giraffe projects ready for a special exhibition on Friday afternoon. Posters, fact files, poems and stories all formed parts of our towering presentation.



STEAM Week

The children in Nursery have thoroughly enjoyed focusing on animals during STEAM week. They have been reading stories about animals around the world, drawing pictures of koala bears with Liz Million, playing an animal rhyming pairs game and creating animal descriptions. It has been a hive of activity with the children learning lots of new facts and vocabulary.





Parking Notice

You may have noticed a staff presence on The Spital before and after school which is to encourage members of our school community to park sensibly, safely and considerately. We have had a number of parents pleased with our response in ensuring that the safety of our pupils is paramount. Thank you for your cooperation and support with this matter.

Polite Reminder - Extra layers for the woods

In the colder weather, please provide an extra jumper or fleece that can be worn with, preferably under, your child's waterproof clothing for the woods. It is also useful if they have a hat suitable to wear in the woods. We suggest that these are 'old' items as they will undoubtedly get dirty. As always, please ensure that any items sent to school are named.

School Menus

Our school menus are published termly on the website. These can be found at: <https://www.yarmschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Prep-Spring-Menus.pdf> should you wish to discuss these with your child/children. The menus can also be found on year group notice boards around the school.



2019/2020 Term Dates

Spring Term, 2020

½ term begins - Thursday, 13th February 2020 (after school)

INSET 3 - Friday, 14th February 2020

Pupils return - Monday, 24th February 2020

Finish - Wednesday, 1st April 2020 (after school)

Summer Term, 2020

Pupils return - Tuesday, 21st April 2020

Bank Holiday - Friday, 8th May 2020

½ term begins - Thursday, 21st May 2020 (after school)

INSET 4 - Friday, 22nd May 2020

Pupils return - Monday, 1st June 2020

Finish - Friday, 3rd July 2020

Gymnastic Club Cancellation

Gymnastics Club will be cancelled on Friday 27th March. End of term extras bills will reflect this cancellation.

P.E With Mrs Redhead-Sweeney

2D collected hidden sporting items from all over the adventure trail, ran to the watering hole then built a STEAM animal. Such a wonderful lesson although it was very cold!



Looking Forward



Tuesday 11th February

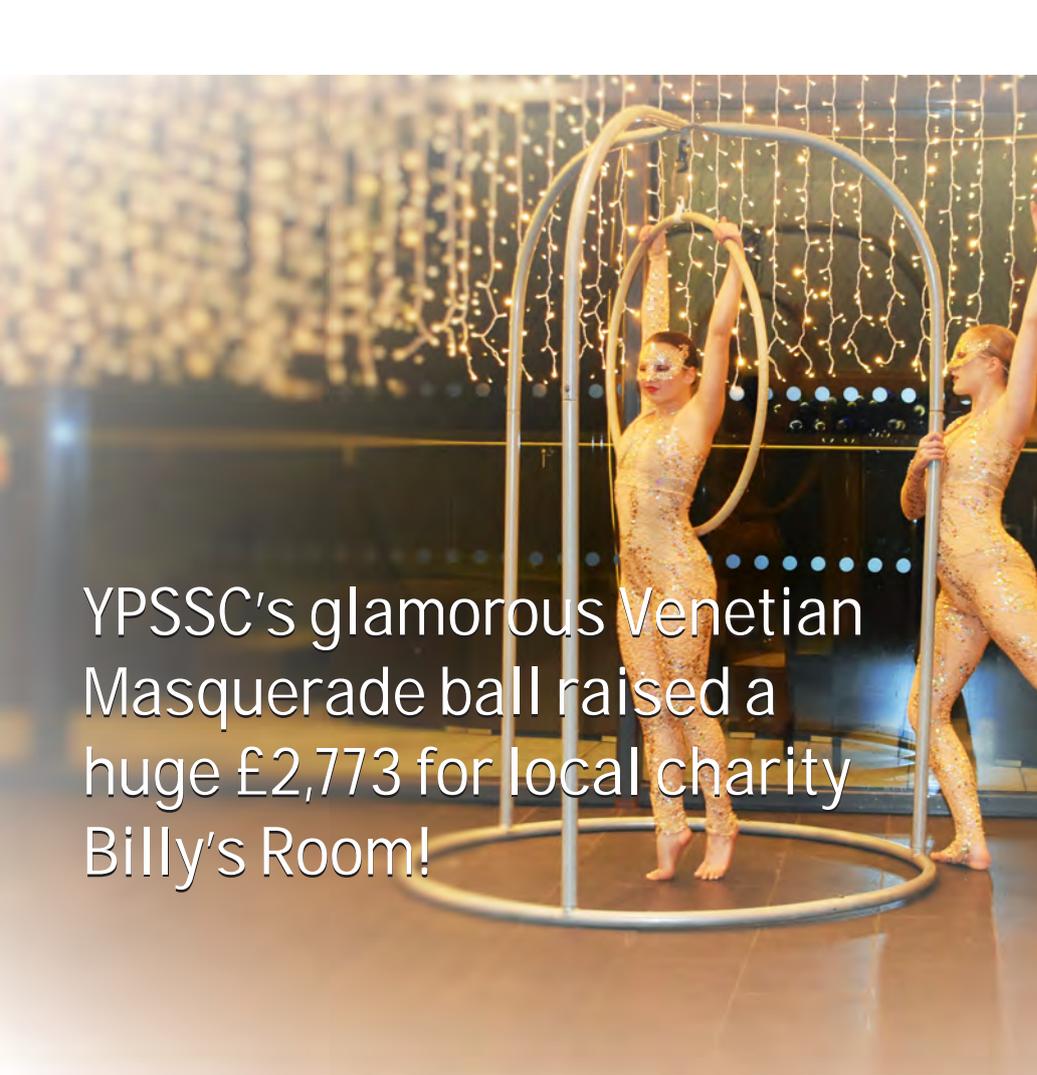
Internet Safety for Parents - Studio Hall 8.30am

Thursday 13th February

Half Term begins (ASC as normal)

Monday 24th February

Pupils return to school



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.