



The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 630

Friday 14th February 2020

Head's Message

With the wind howling and the mercury dropping, we have run into the half term break with a focus on online safety across the school. What is overwhelmingly apparent is that our children are spending more time online than they did a year ago and this trend looks like it will continue. It is therefore imperative that we are aware of the risks and know how to safeguard our children as they explore the online world. You'll find a great range of tips and advice in this newsletter and links to the excellent school wide resource Parent Zone.

Learning to work together is a key feature of our School Values here at the Prep School and features as the Resourceful root of our values tree. There have been so many brilliant examples in the last few weeks of how our pupils have collaborated effectively, whether as part of STEAM week, music ensembles, sports teams, digital leaders or House fundraising events. School life here provides the structure for this collaboration and it is a real joy to see the pupils embrace the chance to work and learn together. This structure helps them to develop better personal and social competence which are the key aspects of emotional intelligence (EQ). Much research has shown that EQ is the single most powerful success factor yet known about, affecting everything from performance in the workplace, to mood and the quality of one's personal life. According to World Economic Forum research, 90% of all top performers are high in EQ. Let's therefore continue to encourage our children to collaborate on many levels. They are the future, let's make sure they are primed for it!

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge: A girl was ten on her last birthday, and will be twelve on her next birthday. How is this possible?



Photo of the Week: Two cross-country events in a week led to great results. Mr Conroy's report inside.

Informal Concert

The second informal concert of the year took place last Wednesday. We were treated to a wealth of talent from all years in the Prep, with solos galore from a whole range of singers and instrumentalists. Our brass group opened the event with a lively rendition of Havana and we had contributions from our recorder ensemble and fast-growing orchestra. Two flute and harp duets added to the variety and the event concluded with a medley of songs from Oliver involving our Senior Choir, soloist Ava Ryan and Boys' Choir.

More is to come: there will be further concerts next term, not to mention the HMC singing day. On 28th March the Senior Choir will be performing Rutter's Mass of the Children alongside Cleveland Philharmonic Choir, professional soloists and orchestra. The event will be in the PAA, from where tickets can be purchased.

Mr Gooding



STEAM Week



Dr Leach Assembly

The most interesting fact was that gorillas won't attack you but they will defend their families.

Ellie W.

The most fascinating fact from all of the assemblies was that gorillas are one of the most gentle animals on earth.

Freddie G.

The most interesting fact was when Dr Leach said the different jobs for each of the gorilla family members.

Jake W.

I was impressed to learn from Dr Leach that for every 24 hours of filming you get 1.5 seconds of footage you can use!

Minu P-U.







Safer Internet Day

What we have been doing in computing this term

Over the past six weeks, every year group has been participating in online safety and digital literacy activities during their computing lessons. Coupled with the explosion in numbers of Digital Leaders (57 and counting!), our pupils are more aware of the dangers of a digital life than ever before.

Please do talk to them about the things we have covered so far! It helps to scaffold their learning and understanding of how to be safe online.

Year 1 started by learning that they can go to exciting places **online**, but they must follow certain **rules to remain safe**. After beginning to look at **search engines** and how information is stored, they looked at how many websites ask for **information** that is **private** and how to handle such requests.

Year 2 started by thinking about **websites** in terms of a 'traffic light' system. They then learned about a '**digital footprint**' and how this is formed by all of the **information** they put online. After looking at what **cyberbullying** means and what to do if they see it, they explored how to **search for things online** using Google Safe Search and other child-friendly search engines. They finished by comparing child-friendly websites and identifying the key features they should look for to be **safe online**.

Year 3 began by looking at why we need **passwords** and how to create a strong, secure password. They then explored the concept of **online communities** and how the ability to **communicate** with others online can unite a community. They then began to look at how websites sometimes show and **advertise** products with the purpose of encourage people to buy them. This was followed by a discussion looking at the **similarities and differences between in-person and online communications**, before finishing with strategies on **how to write a good email**.

Year 4 explored **rings of responsibilities**, discussing how their actions online can impact themselves, their friends and family and the communities around them. We followed this by exploring the differences between **private and personal information**, and what we should and should not share. The **power of words** and how things we say can be interpreted online led to some interesting discussions, before we looked at how **keywords** can help to streamline our searching and make it safer. This led to the final lesson, which focused on the **problems of copying and pasting**.

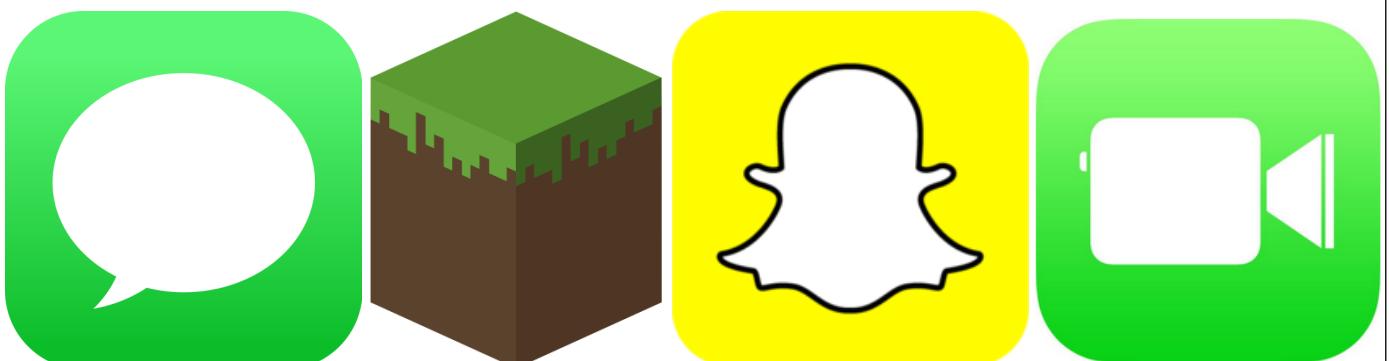
Year 5 discussed the need to have a strong, regularly-changed **password** and what constitutes one of these. We made digital pledges in an effort to develop ways of creating a **safe, friendly digital community**. After looking at **spam emails** and the key ways of identifying these, we began to gain an understanding of how **some online sources are more reliable than others**, with a particular focus on Wikipedia. Finally, we explored **online images** and how they may not always tell the story we think they might be telling us.

Year 6 spoke about **how to talk safely online** before exploring how to **solve acts of poor digital citizenship**. They looked at how websites must protect their private information and how to look for those sites who offer **privacy policies**. The children looked at how it feels to be **cyberbullied** and how to handle such situations when they arise. Lastly, they had the opportunity to explore **stereotypes** and how the media plays a role in shaping our ideas about girls and boys.



Safer Internet Day
2020 | Tuesday
11 February

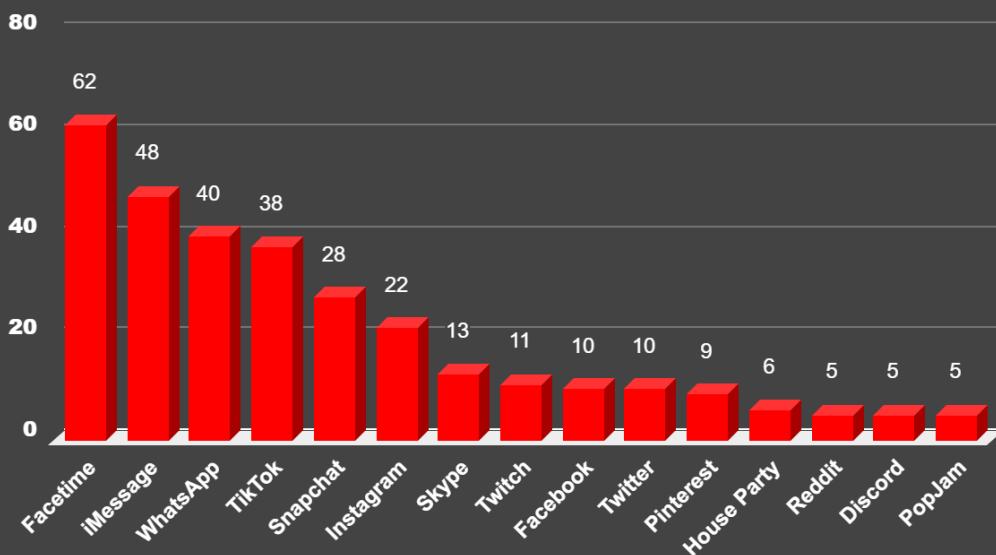
Together for a better internet



Part of **Safer Internet Week** sees our Year 5 Digital Leaders join forces with other leaders from local primary schools to take part in our annual **Internet Safety Workshop**. This year we welcomed six schools and, with support from **C-Learning, VisualSoft and Infinity Works**, we put together a day of events where the children not only developed their understanding of internet safety, but also had the opportunity to participate in a range of fun activities.

A key part of the event revolves around our annual Teesside-wide **Internet Safety Survey**. This year, exactly 200 children from Years 3-6 took part, giving us an incredible insight into what children are doing online. Below are some of the results for your interest.

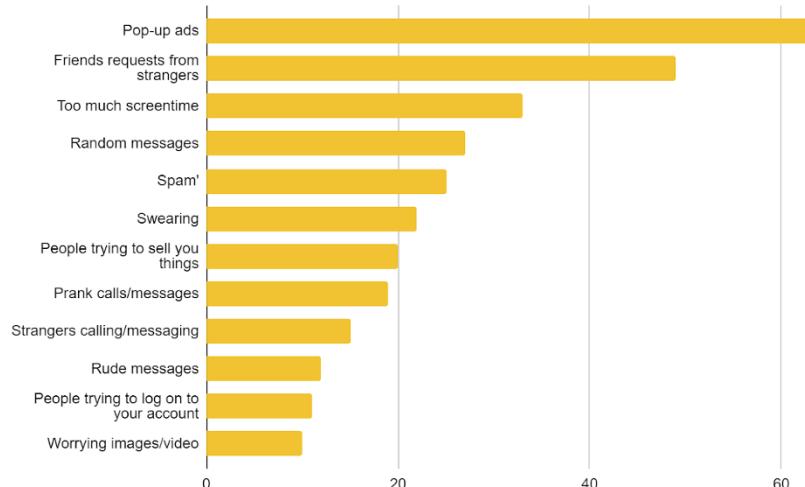
% of children using social media apps



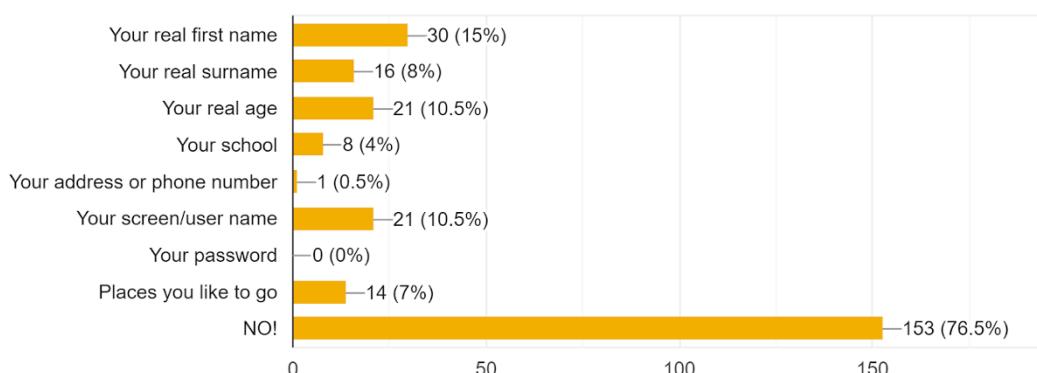
Left: The percentage of children using social media in general has increased, with the Apple favourites, **Facetime** and **iMessage** proving to be the most popular. It is worth pointing out that **only one** of the apps listed has a recommended age that is **not 13**. This is **PopJam** (7).

As PCSO Barrett noted, **TikTok** is the app that is tending to cause significant issues for local police at the moment.

Right: Children seemed very bothered by pop-up ads when they are online! Considering 89% of those surveyed consume their media via **YouTube**, this should not be too surprising judging by the invasive ads that appear when viewing videos. Nearly 50% of pupils noted how friend requests from strangers bother them, while a large proportion (35%) identify that they spend too long in front of a screen. It is interesting to note what other features have bothered children based on the list.



Being honest, have you shared any of this online with someone you have not met before:
200 responses



Left: 76.5% of children declared they had not shared any private information online, which is a good leap forward from 67% last year. However, have a look at the information children say they are sharing! We recommend, if a child is on social media, they do not share any of this.



Yarm School have become part of Parent Zone's Digital Schools Membership programme, recognising our commitment to keeping our pupils safer online and making sure we work with you to achieve this.

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 of your tech questions.

To get started, go to: <https://parentzone.org.uk/parents/discover-parent-lounge>

- Click on **ENTER PARENT LOUNGE**
- Click on the pink **ADD TO CART** button
- On the next page click **CHECKOUT**. You'll be asked to enter your email address.

On the next page you will need to enter the coupon code YarmSchool to ensure you have free access. Please click ADD COUPON once the code has been entered. The code gives you a 100% discount.

I cannot recommend the Parent Zone service highly enough. In this day and age, when we are teaching the children how to be good online citizens and how to stay safe online, it is imperative that parents are in the loop too. Parent Zone offers this support.

Mr Stone

More key survey findings:

A few more snippets that we discovered from running our **Internet Safety Survey**:

- 27.5% claim to shop online regularly (watch your credit cards!)
- 7% say they vlog/stream via YouTube and other streaming sites.
- Homework (70%) online is not as common as playing games (87%).
- 60% of children have their own profile on a site, app or game (up 5% on 2019).
- 10.5% admit to talking to strangers online! (and this is down 5%).
- 61.5% set their accounts to private (but this figure has gone down from 2019).
- Of those who play games online, 11.5% play and talk with strangers (up from 1.5%!)
- 16.5% say they have been cyberbullied (down from 2019).
- 8 children admitted to bullying someone online.

What next?

Naturally, being safe online does not stop with the events of this week! In school, **children** will still discuss the topic during computing and PSHE lessons, especially when we explore elements of digital literacy. Even though we have the annual focus via computing lessons, as well as Safer Internet Day, the top of being safe online comes up in every single lesson. The Digital Leaders run all year round, every Thursday and Friday after school, and any child is welcome to attend. We do a lot of collaborative work with other schools too.

For **parents**, I will be delivering the *CEOP* online safety talk towards the end of April. This will lean very heavily on lots of practical tips and advice and how you can support your children through the digital world. We are also exploring the idea of a '**Parents Exchange**', where we can all share top tips, ideas and intel(!) every few weeks. If you are interested in this please contact gns@yarmschool.org.

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

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.

After School Care

After School Supervision begins at 3.45pm with an outdoor play time for all registered children. Following this, children are usually supervised in two groups to complete homework and/or other quiet tasks - Years 3/4 and Years 5/6 – normally in 4P and the Science lab. Attendance is confirmed with pupils during morning registration.

We offer late supervision for pupils between 4.30pm and 6.00pm for those children who are not able to be collected by 4.30pm. After School Care is located in the Science Lab until 5pm and the Pre-Prep thereafter. It is supervised by Miss Emma Jeffries and Prep School staff. A register is taken and a modest charge is made for this facility. A drink and snack are provided for pupils who attend. Any children not collected by 5pm are placed in After School Care at the Pre-Prep and are charged thereafter.

The care costs are as follows: 4.30-5.00pm - £2; 5.00-5.30pm - £3 (in addition to previous charge); 5.30-6.00pm - £3 (in addition to previous charge). Children involved in clubs until 5pm, children involved in fixtures and children whose siblings are involved in Prep School clubs and activities are not charged until these activities have finished. If a club or fixture is cancelled and parents have been contacted in good time (i.e. prior to lunchtime), parents of children who then go into After School Care will not be charged.

After School Care costs are added to the end of term charges bill for each family.

Please note the phone number for after school care: 01642 792584. It would help us enormously, if you are running late after 5pm, that you could contact this number to let us know your estimated time of arrival.

Miss Jeffries

PE and Games News

HMC Cross-Country

On Thursday 5th February the rearranged annual HMC Cross-Country event took place at Barlborough Hall school in Chesterfield. 30 willing and eager Yarm School runners from Years 4, 5 and 6 participated. Thankfully, this year the rain stayed away and the weather conditions were very good for running in, despite this the course was still very muddy and slippery and proved tough for the runners. Although runners ran individually, it is a team event and points were added as a team rather than as individuals.

The Year 4 girls and boys races were the first of the day and the boys worked really hard pushing themselves and showing great resilience to the very end and cheering each other on which was great to see. Then the girls put in a super run and really showed a lot of determination and skill in their race and out of 12 schools the girls team managed to finish 2nd overall which is a superb achievement. A special mention to Rosie (5th) and Lily Cook (6th) who both finished in the top 10.

Next up was the Year 5 races. The girls really persevered and showed great character in their race and all finished very well and a special mention goes to Sienna Hyndman, who came

3rd and won a bronze medal. She also ended up being our highest placed runner of the day. The boys in Year 5 all ran their socks off and were visibly exhausted at the end of the race which highlighted how hard they had worked.

In the final races of the day the Year 6 children took to the course. The girls ran, were really supportive of each other and it was good to see the compassion and encouragement shown as a team. The boys were the final race of the day and the course was now very muddy and tough to take on. But they showed great courage and determination and managed to finish 2nd overall, which they should be very proud of. A special mention to Oliver Mowbray (4th) and Harvey Dawson (7th) who finished inside the top 10.

Cross-country isn't just a race. There's no half time or breaks or any help from anyone. It is a real test of character and mental toughness and all of our runners all showed their resilience fighting through injury, exhaustion and a tough course. No matter where they finished they all can be proud of the effort they put in. They are a credit to the School.

Mr Conroy

Under 11 Netball v Pocklington

On 7th February all of the girls went to Pocklington. The Under 11 Red team beat Pocklington in our first match. In our second match against Ashville we went 2-0 down after the first quarter. However, we didn't let our heads drop and we went on to win! A great effort from all of the girls and a great team performance.

Ella L.



The Under 11 Green team was a mix of Under 10 and Under 11 girls. We lost our first game 5-4. It was a very close match and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. There were some great goals from both teams too. Betty, Carmen and I scored for Yarm, while our defence—consisting of Manya, Siri, Leah, Amelia, Lydia and Charlotte—were very good as well. Well done girls!

Claudia C.

The game against Ashville was great fun and we were all

really excited. I loved it because we all worked well as a team. We even got chocolate bars!

Darcey A.

Competing against Ashville was very challenging but I enjoyed it because it was a great, challenging experience.

Lily C.

My favourite part of the day was when we got the food!

Mia P.

Under 11 Hockey v Pocklington

On Friday 7th of February, The U11 B team played a triangular match at Pocklington School. We faced Pocklington first and played extremely well. Creating many chances, we were incredibly close to bringing the win home. Max HM, Isaac, Jack, Noah, Myles WJ, Aidan, Frankie and I thoroughly enjoyed this match although it ended up as a draw (0-0).

The fun continued as we were against Ashville. Again, we were outstanding and we passed the ball into space a lot of the time. All of us took numerous shots at one point but we were denied by their keeper. At the same time, Max was impeccable in goal and saved so many shots that I couldn't count them! A counter attack from the opposition unfortunately led into a goal. We pushed hard to equalise yet the full-time whistle blew with us being goalless. The final score was 1-0 to Ashville but I still really liked the game. This overall fixture was great and everyone came home with a smile on their faces!

Jasman S.

The hockey against Pocklington and Ashville was amazing. The great thing was that it was the first time we had ever played a short corner, which meant that the defenders would stand in the goal and run at the attacker who was trying to score. In the first match, we drew 1-1 and in the second game we drew again, 2-2.

Mustafa E-S..



Above: The Year 3 girls have had a fantastic first half-term of netball and have enjoyed participating in training sessions and workshops with other schools. Well done girls!

Under 10 Netball v Pocklington and Ashville

Last Friday all of the Under 10 and 11 girls travelled to play netball with Pocklington and Ashville. We all had a great time playing and, due to our collaboration and teamwork, we won both of our games displaying great technique.

Natasha P.



Mobile Phones

Children who go home by bus, or are involved with fixtures, may bring a mobile telephone to school only once the Deputy Head has given permission and the appropriate Yarm School proforma completed. This is available from Miss Richardson. Whilst we understand the convenience of using mobile telephones, they must be handed to the Head's Secretary for safe keeping throughout the day. Again, please ensure your child's phone is clearly labelled.

Under no circumstances should a mobile telephone be left in a bag, or in a pocket, whether switched on or not. Mobile phones may not be brought to school without annual permission being sought and must not be used on the school site unless permission has been granted by Mr Stone.

Any mobile phone found or used without permission will be confiscated by the Deputy Head and will only be returned when parents have contacted Mr Stone.

Snacks and cakes

Children and parents should not bring food for sharing into school. This includes the bringing in of birthday cakes, pizza, festival foods etc. Pupil snacks, that are brought in at break times, are considered fine but, as per the Parent Handbook, these are to be plain biscuits or fruit only.

Food for school trips, etc will continue to be safely sourced via Mrs Wallace in the school kitchen as usual. It is a shame, however we hope you can appreciate that it will keep all of our pupils safe and ensure there are fewer risks.

This does not mean that we cannot celebrate pupil's birthdays though! Children in classes will sing 'Happy Birthday' to their peers on the day and the birthday boy/girl can choose from the following: a favourite book to bring in and share with the class and add to the class library; a hat to

wear for the day (it will need to be taken off for formal events, fixtures etc.); a pair of crazy socks to wear on the day.

Year groups may well come up with other ways to celebrate birthdays and you will be notified of these in good time via the Phoenix Flier or planners!

Mr Stone

World Book Day—Thursday 5th March

The theme for World Book Day on Thursday 5th March is 'Dress as a book character'. Please bring your favourite book to school to share with others during the day. We look forward to seeing you in your costumes. No football kits to be worn please.

Clubs and Events

Music Quiz

Friday 28th February

18:30 for 19:00

Senior School Dining Room

Featuring:

Raffle - Bar - New rounds - Earlier finish - much more!

£5 adults, £3 Pupils and Students

Teams of 6 max.

In aid of Teesside Hospice

Coming up

<u>FEBRUARY</u>	
Fri 14	Staff INSET—no pupils in school
Mon 24	Pupils return Telford House Duty Activities Carousel 4 begins for Y3 today
Tue 25	House Pancake Races U8 Hockey v Dame Allan's (away; 2pm start, 4.45pm return) U8 Netball workshop with Barnard Castle (away; 3pm start, 5.30pm return)
Thu 27	IAPS Netball (Uppingham School; 7am depart, 7pm return) U9 Football v Bow (home; 2pm)
Fri 28	U11 Netball v GSAL (away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return) U10 Netball v GSAL (home; 2pm start)
Sat 29	UK Chess Challenge—School Round (Prep and Dining Halls; 9.45am-2.30pm)
<u>MARCH</u>	
Mon 1	Arkwright House Duty
Tue 2	U8 Football v Choristers (home; 2.15pm start) U8 Netball Festival at Queen Mary's (away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return) Choristers rehearsal with Cleveland Philharmonic (Prep Hall; 5.30-6.30pm)
Wed 3	HMC U11 Netball and Football (Hymers College; 8am depart, 5pm return latest)
Thu 4	World Book Day Book Fair arrives
Fri 5	U11 Girls' In2 Hockey finals (Wakefield; 8am depart, 3pm return) 5N Class Assembly (Prep Hall; 10.20am; Parents welcome!) U10/11 Hockey v Barnard Castle (home; 2pm) U11 Netball v Red House (away; 2pm start, 4pm return)

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)

Peer Mentor of the Week

Name: Edward L.



Form: 6G

Best thing about school: The music room and all the stuff to do with music.

Favourite cheese: Blue cheese

Most exciting thing to happen in my life so far: Touching the Cricket World Cup.

When I am older... I want to be a businessman. I want to live underground!

Writing or typing? Writing because there is no autocorrect.

Ketchup or mayo? Ketchup

Sun or snow? Sun

One wish: No homelessness.

Well done and thank you to Edward this week, who is our selected Peet Mentor for the wonderful, caring support he gave the school quiz teams in the recent competition. This care has also extended to the playground too, according to a number of teachers!

Head's Challenge solution from last week: A bee