



The Phoenix Flier

(and The Little Phoenix)

Issue 638

Friday 22nd May 2020

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

A message from Mr Sawyer

As we reach the half term break, I would like to pay tribute to the staff, pupils and parents who through the last six weeks have worked in partnership to support every child at home with their learning. I have been mightily impressed with the independence that our pupils have developed and the conviction they have shown towards their learning. Such a commitment deserves the chance to switch off, rest, recharge and play over half term. I do hope we all get the opportunity to do just that. As my assembly touched on this week, play is so important in all of our lives. It is the conduit to much joy, deepening relationships, personal growth and positive wellbeing. Furthermore, according to Albert Einstein, "Play is the brain's favourite way of learning". Play of all kinds is in order this half term!

I wrote to all the parents of Nursery (2), Reception, Year 1, Year 6 and key worker pupils this week outlining the broad logistical plans for school operations if the scheduled date for the partial reopening of School on 1st of June comes to fruition. This of course will require all Government tests to be met. I will write again during half term after the next Government announcement, due on 28th May, on the matter. If we do return a guidance document will be sent detailing arrival / departure times, learning bubble information and further important information which has been compiled from general questions received and our extensive planning. Those children in all year groups who are unable to return will continue to be able to access remote learning and our team will be on hand to support you all. If you have any further questions or concerns please contact Miss Richardson sri@yarmschool.org.

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge

I have two bodies which are joined as one. When I stand still I run and run. What am I?

Photo of the Week

Lots of fun and excitement for the children in Reception this week. You can find out what they have been up to inside this edition.



Remote learning this week

Reception

The Reception children have continued with the animal theme this week. Our new focus book has been the classic "Giraffes Can't Dance". Or should it be "Giraffes can't dance yet!" as we have used it to think about growth mindset and giving things a go. The girls and boys enjoyed celebrating the end of a wonderful half term of home school learning with a jungle dance, just like the animals in the book. The children have loved developing the language of capacity in maths. There has been a lot of pouring, measuring, estimating, counting and, of course, making potions and mud pies. The life skills have continued too with independent smoothie and snack making, hair washing and the mastering of magic tricks. On the wheels front this week—congratulations to Henry and Annabelle who have learned to ride their bikes, Annabelle is roller skating too! Go Reception!



Year 4

A busy week in Year 4, with honey cakes being made (and eaten!), using paragraphs, more yoga poses, building the Eiffel Tower and—the highlight for me—the children have written letters to their future selves. The plan is that they will read these again in a year to reflect on what life was like now.

During quarantine we haven't been able to meet up with anyone, so I can't go to Run club with my friends Lucy, Phi and Molly. Which is why I have been going on bike rides with my dad. On our first ride we cycled about 3 miles to go see a house dad was interested in moving to. On the second ride we went to Hardwick Park I was the only one on a bike as my oldest brother, Michael, was running and so was dad. We are going to go on another cycle soon.

The teachers are trying to keep remote learning as simple as possible so we only have three lessons, 1 hour each. We have a break in between lessons so we can relax for a little bit. Our lunchtime has been extended to about 2 hours, so everyone's quite happy about that. The school day is shorter and it starts a little later so everyone gets a lie in. I am quite happy with the remote learning program and I like how in maths and English we get to pick the difficulty we want.

I really am doing alright. Nothing is really going on at home right now. Just trying to stay home and stay safe.

From,

Emma

Dear Future Me,

I hope you are well. I am doing brilliantly, apart from Covid 19, or, Coronavirus. Covid 19 has good and bad parts, for good: it gives you a lot of time to do things you wouldn't usually do, because you can't do anything else. For bad: you can't see anybody you want to see, like your friends and most of your family. I hope you are doing better than this.

My favourite things to do in these times are: read books, usually my A.R. ones, do home-schooling, it is fun, but not as enjoyable as normal school, practise my cricket batting and, building (and fixing!) Lego. Do you still enjoy cricket? I also like going on country walks, the most recent one we got chased by cows. The views you get from the hills are amazing! What are your favourite things to do?

Mummy is going back to work soon, we hope, as she is on furlough. Daddy is already at work, I think he is checking people for Coronavirus. Imogen is doing the same as me: home-schooling, (and also playing games.)

Dear Future Me,

I hope you are well. A lot has been going on at the moment with this virus spreading. I don't know if you'll remember but the virus is called coronavirus, also known as Covid-19.

I have been using an app to talk to my friends. You can play games on it too. I have been talking to my friends at lunch time and after school. Due to Coronavirus we have to stay at home but there are some bright sides to that. I get to play with my brother more. We play in the garden with the dogs, we play video games together and sometimes I watch him play Minecraft. I also get to see my dogs more. They make me feel better when I'm a little sad.

Dear Family

I am writing this letter to remind you what life was like this time last year on 20th May 2020. Everyone is staying safe and doing remote learning because of covid-19. Lots of places are closed such as schools, restaurants, parks and shops but I have still been able to do things and fun things...

Last Saturday I went on a long walk, but when we got 5 miles in we saw a bunch of cows with calves and one bull. Then the Farmer said he would have to go all 5 miles back and then it was over a Footpath! When we got back home we ran through the sprinkler at home because we were so hot! At the weekend me and my Family made a spider-man movie 40 mins long. My dad has a Robot and I was spiderman. Then later on, we had a dinner. It was watched it on a cartoon projector and me and my sisters like popcorn.

One week ago I made a massive den. The den had a kitchen with a working sink and popcorn, a cinema with a working projector, a Lego room and two bedrooms that we slept in for 2 nights. On the first night sleeping in the den we watched a movie on the projector and went to bed at 10 pm. On the second night we watched our I pads. 2 weeks ago we made another den that had a tv room 2 bedrooms a slide and more but unfortunately when we went down the slide it broke the wall. 3 weeks ago we got swings but we still can't get them to work because every time we connect it the concrete just breaks and wobbles.

4 days ago me, Ada and my dad were looking for the Footpath we searched the village for the Footpath but we could not find it. Luckily on the way back we found the Farmer who told us where the Footpath was. On the way home we passed our cousins who had the same story.

Dear myself,

I am writing a letter to remind me what life was like this time last year on the 20th May 2020. Last year there was a bad virus called the Coronavirus. Because of COVID-19 schools have been on lockdown except for parents who work from the NHS their children can go to school because no-one is at home. I have been at home remote learning since the 23rd March 2020.

During this time there have been lots of sunny days on one of them I bought a paddling pool. Once I have finished my work I can go and play in it. I did and I have enjoyed playing on our swings.

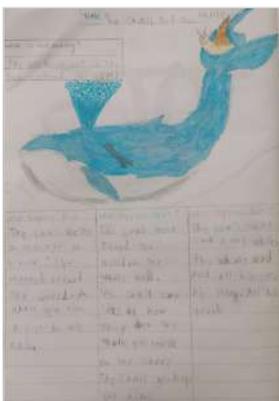
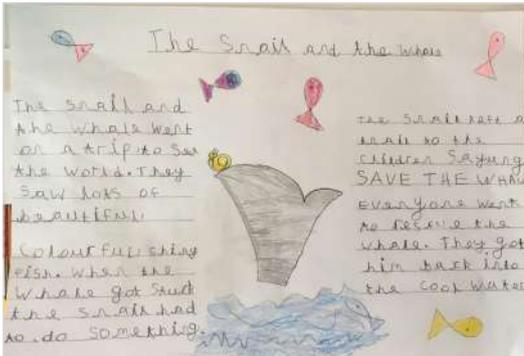
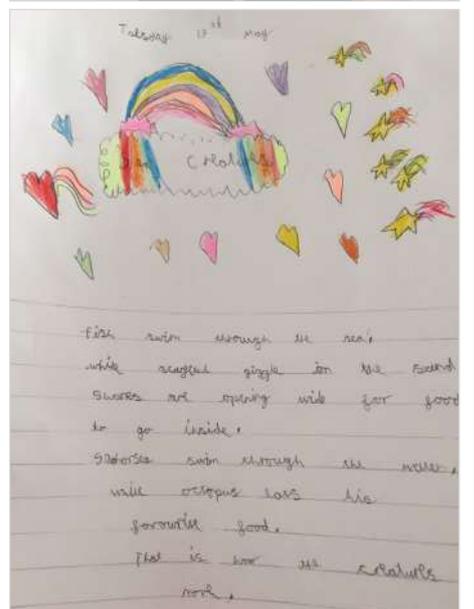
Also while this time is passing, we can't travel but we can face time so some times I go on house party with my friends, and face time with family. On Uncle Paschal's birthday I played happy birthday on the piano, on facetime.

I hope by the time I am reading this COVID-19 would've stopped.

Love
Tabi

Year 1

Linked with the story of 'The Snail and the Whale', Year 1 have been learning all about our oceans and their inhabitants. The boys and girls have produced more wonderful work. We have been blown away by sea themed artwork, ocean animal riddles and descriptive writing pieces. Well done, Year 1!



Year 5

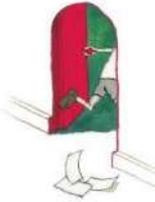
Tadpoles, yoga, word types, origami, still life and making music—there is never a dull day in Year 5! We start with a chapter review from ‘Kensuke’s Kingdom’ by Sanju.

Michael falls overboard into the sea along with Stella. After surviving by clinging on to his football, Michael finds himself washed up on an island with Stella, his dog. They venture through the forest looking for food and eventually, give up. The next day Michael goes looking for Stella and finds that somebody left them some food. Using a glass bottle Michael builds a fire, which is put out by an unknown man.

Sanju V.

The Journey

What if there was magic that could take you far away? What would you do? Where would you go? One day I found a piece of red chalk on the dirty floor. So I decided to draw a door on the wall in front of me. I couldn't believe my eyes when I tried to open it. It opened, but in an unusual way. It started to turn red and then it opened by itself.



I smile and walk in quite casually. (Inside however I was as terrified as a vampire in the sunlight.) When I walked in it felt like I didn't belong there, but I was too curious to know what was back there. So I started walking on further and further until I saw something in the corner of my eye, it was as large as a blackhole. So I had to investigate.

By the time I finally got there it started to get dark. And that was when I saw the beast. It was a humongous monster! In Fact it was nearly as big as the castle itself so I started to run back to the magical door. But when I got there it was gone forever...

Word Types Glossary:

Adjectives:
An adjective is a describing word, like *shimmering*.

Nouns:
A noun is a name of something like *Italy*.

Adverb:
An adverb is an adjective that is describing a verb like The young boy ran *quickly*.

Conjunction:
A conjunction is a word that joins two parts of a sentence like a boy was eating food *and* talking.

Verbs:
A verb is a word that says what you are doing like *running* or *sleeping*.

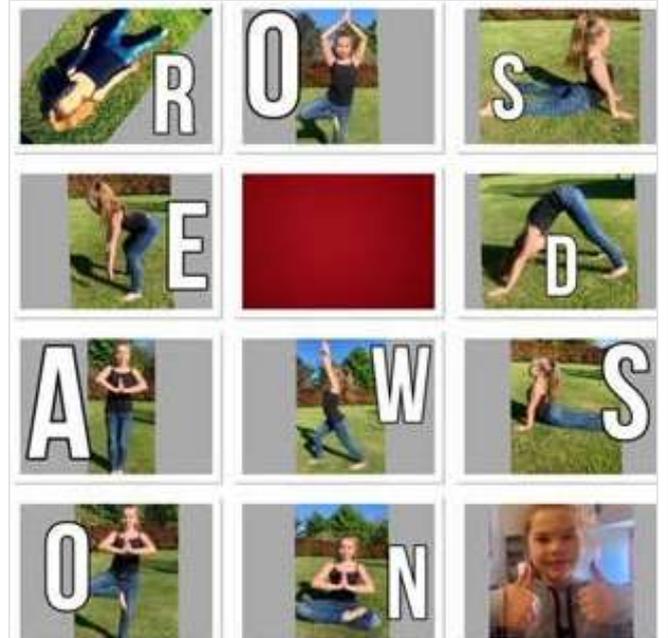
Determiners:
Something that decides something like a *King* or *Queen* can choose if they agree with the Prime Ministers Rules.

Prepositions:
A noun or pronoun that describes the relationship between the two.

Exclamations:
A sudden remark of surprise, strong emotion or pain.



Here are picture of tadpoles collected by Marshall and Miles from the stream near their house. They have decorated the box and added plants to reflect the tadpoles' natural habitat. The boys are then going to document their life-cycle. This is a brilliant idea as we would have been looking at life cycles in science this term.



Nursery

Many of the Nursery children have loved following the caterpillars that Miss Rowlands has at home. They have watched them turn from tiny caterpillars to very large ones. They have now spun their cocoons and are in the process of turning into butterflies. Some of the children have been guessing what colours they might be when they hatch. Edward has even made a little bug house with his Daddy. Hopefully, we will have some beautiful butterflies in the next few days. Miss Rowlands will pop a couple of videos on the site over half term to update the Nursery children on their progress.



Year 6

Year 6 (sort of) welcomed a new recruit to the year group this week, in the form of Dolly! They also shared a wide range of fascinating writing.

My New Puppy by Frankie

Four weeks ago I went to collect my new Toy Poodle puppy. Her name is Dolly and she is now 12 weeks old. Here are some facts about my new pet.

Name: Dolly

Age: 12 weeks

Breed: Toy Poodle

Height when grown: 10 inches tall

Colour: Red (Her mum was Apricot and her dad was red)

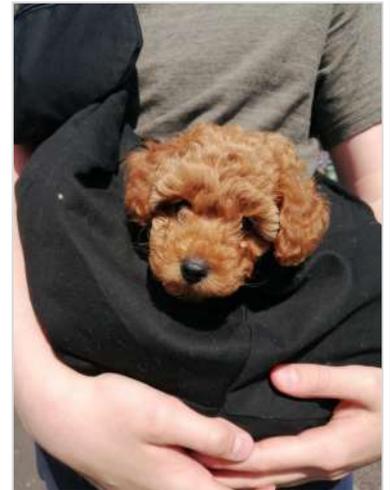
Siblings: She was in a litter of 5, 3 girls and 2 boys

What does she eat? She eats kibble 4 times a day. She also loves treats of cheese, cucumber, carrots and ice cubes because she is teething at the moment.

What can she do? We have taught her to 'sit' and 'give paw', she is working on 'roll over' and 'down'

Top tips for a new puppy: We have been toilet training her, she's doing well. You need to take her out into the garden after every meal, each time she wakes up, and when she goes to the back door. Puppies need lots of socialising. She can't walk outside until her last vaccinations but we have carried her on our daily walks so that she gets used to seeing other dogs and hearing lots of noises.

Puppies learn by playing, they have sharp teeth so you need to show them how to play without hurting you. My favourite thing about Dolly is that she's warm and cute and gives the best cuddles. She even tried to eat my homework!



Frankie P.

With the obnoxious roar of thunder, the rickety train chugged steadily towards us on the decaying track. Ba-dum. Ba-dum.

Ba-dum. My heart was pounding as if it were about to leap straight out of my chest. Glaring, the driver stepped out of the train and (in the blink of an eye) transformed into a grotesque, repugnant beast. I screamed. I screamed raucously and fled. The moon rose to a gargantuan height and despite my sister being disagreeable at times, I dragged her along with me. Fatigued, we dashed off into the not-so-delightful forest and I displayed a valiant and courageous face for my sister as her hand was sweating and trembling. Before we arrived at this petrifying, secluded town, I was led to believe that it was an amiable place by the coast. An exquisite feeling rushed through me; I hoped I would never experience it again. Was this the end or is it just the beginning?

Naila K.

Brown, orange and yellow were the colours that nearly every leaf possessed . One of the kids bolted across the woods to hide from another because they were playing hide and seek, the other kids were sprinting all around the woods hiding from the seeker." He's coming" shouted one of the kids, a few moments later the seeker shouted found you! And 'tug' them. The woods that they were playing in was just outside the town of Aviemore which is in the Cairngorms in Scotland. Suddenly one of the kids screamed "it's got me, it's got me "then the screaming stopped...

They looked all over the gargantuan woods trying to find the boy but they couldn't find him until they found a skeleton that was exactly the same size as him. Some of the smaller kids started to cry-they were not courageous, because they were scared that would happen to them but the older kids valiantly promised them it wouldn't. The seconds seemed like hours and the minutes like years, footsteps were heard from outside the kids little hiding place. They were only very faint according to the kids that heard them, as quiet as a cat they said. Then a grotesque face appeared through the entrance of their hiding place, would they survive?

Max H-M.

It was a unnaturally dark and gloomy night with the shadows lurking in the night ready to strike taking another one with them. They were walking down an abandoned street with near to nothing in then suddenly the darkness grabbed them and swallowed them into a dark pitch black room which seemed to be infinite at first and then they found the wall. Although it was pitch black it was nothing like midnight. It was warm but bone chilling dark but everything was clear. It was complicated they didn't know what was going on they were scared but soon, or maybe not soon, another came out of nowhere! Suddenly they were back where they disappeared. No one was there only each other—no friends, no family, no enemies, no grudges.

Charlie Ba.

Haikus

A haiku (pronounced 'hahy-koo') is an old, traditional form of Japanese poetry.

A haiku poem consists of three lines and 17 syllables in total.

It has 5 syllables in the first line, 7 syllables in the second line and 5 syllables in the third line.

The purpose of haiku is to share a brief moment or event so that the reader can bring to life in his or her mind (and thus experience the same feelings) without having to physically experience what the author is expressing in the poem.

Now Let's Write Some Interesting Sentences... (Using Your Spellings)

Do these pictures inspire you to write?

Challenge!

Can you use **DADJAVERS** and use your new spellings to write a short story of about 12 detailed sentences?



On the Moor

Heather all around
 Long, coarse grass under your feet
 Warm rays shining bright
 Lily C.

Perhaps one day people will wake, and instead of thinking how to oppress, they will think of kindness. The light of kindness shines on all it touches, and that you take that away with you, so that when you next see a gypsy, or someone who is gay, or someone who is disabled, you will think of what I said today. Perhaps you will deny this, but the bell of radicalisation is tolling its last. I can only try and usher you in a direction that is not discrimination. I am against it, but in the end it is your choice. I will end by saying that even though the sun of racism rose, the sun of racism will also set.

Thank you.

Edward L.

Writing Inspired by this picture...

"How long have I got?" I whispered to the computer, careful to be as quiet as possible. "30 seconds, maximum," he replied. "You should get going."

"No!" I hissed, "the time has to be perfect." I could hear the soldiers rapidly approaching. My heart started to beat against my chest like a savage wild animal in a cage. It was so loud; I was worried the soldiers would hear it.

Suddenly and unexpectedly, a notification on the computer's calendar, beeped. "Damn it!" I silently swore. I had only one choice. Run. The soldier heard me, and one fired his gun. Pain's icy dagger shot through my shoulder, as blood splattered across my face. One particular drop went in my eye, temporarily blinding me. All of these distractions meant that I didn't see the log beneath my feet. My leg caught on the slimy piece of dead wood, and for what seemed like minutes, I hurtled through the air.

Up until now, I had not truly registered the beauty of the forest that I was in. It was mid Autumn, so the trees had orange, yellow, brown and purple leaves. The trees went for miles in every direction, and the blue sky was partly visible through the thick canopy.

Then, my brain shifted back to reality (or at least the superior one, rather than the simple and basic where life cannot survive - I had learned so much in the past week) and I was flying through the forest; towards a tree. The last thing I saw was the interior of my old bedroom. Everything... went... black.

Isaac A.

Beneath the golden tinted trees lay a path of crunchy leaves scattered along like sprinkles. Slowly they fell; delicately floating to the ground. I stopped and stared - the peacefulness screaming in my ears (for this part of the wood was not popular). The colours of fire filling the space - auburn, a soft brown, poppy red. Winding crawling branches weaving in and around the leaves twisting and turning.

Suddenly, there was a rustle in the bushes something or someone was there watching me and everything I was doing. A voice called out, "Watch out I am coming," in a particularly low croaking whisper. I froze panic rushing through me like wind. Was this a joke? Or could it be something worse? The strange rustling got louder slicing through the silence. Panicking and trembling, frightened and scared, I stood under canopy of trees the weaving branches grabbing at my hair. Seconds felt like hours as I stood scanning the area. Then I saw a shadowy figure walking towards me their feet thumping on the dried leaves. They came closer and closer until we were literally shoulder to shoulder then suddenly everything went black...

Darcey A.

October Gold

Like crunchy cornflakes
 Gold leaves rustle underfoot
 Beauty in decay.
 Adi P.



Year 3

Amelia also wrote an email to a friend to tell them what she has been up to since lockdown began. There is also a wide range of humanities projects and some excellent writing this week. Thank you Year 3!

During lockdown my normal school day is,

I wake up and read to myself, I am enjoying reading Zoe's Rescue Zoo at the moment and would recommend them if you like animals. I eat breakfast and chat with my mum and select my menu task for the afternoon before getting dressed. I log onto the school site with daddy and listen to Mr Simpson's morning

exercise. Sometimes I join in with Mr Simpson's activities.

At 8.45 I watch Miss Darbar and get myself ready for the day ahead. At 9am I find out the maths task and complete the activity. I try to tackle the challenge most days. I normally have an apple for snack and enjoy a dance with Alexa playing my playlist.

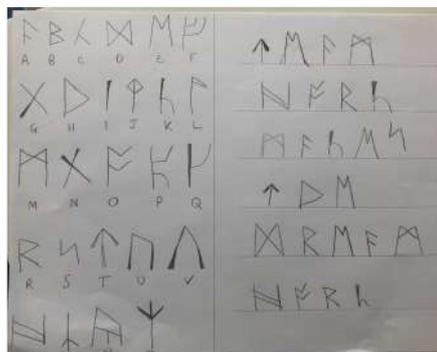
When English work is posted I sit back down in the dining room and begin the lovely tasks. I love English and have enjoyed the work.

At lunch time I sit with my family to eat and chat. After eating lunch I sometimes message my family or friends. Sometimes I do a craft activity or go for a bike ride. Whilst the weather has been lovely I have spent time with Barnaby my dog in the garden. I have been training him.

I have enjoyed the craft menu tasks the most. I sit back down and complete my selected menu task. I check my work and messages from Miss Darbar at the end of the day with daddy. I have found lockdown a bit strange but I have found lots of things to keep me busy. I have not struggled being in lockdown but understand some people are finding it hard.

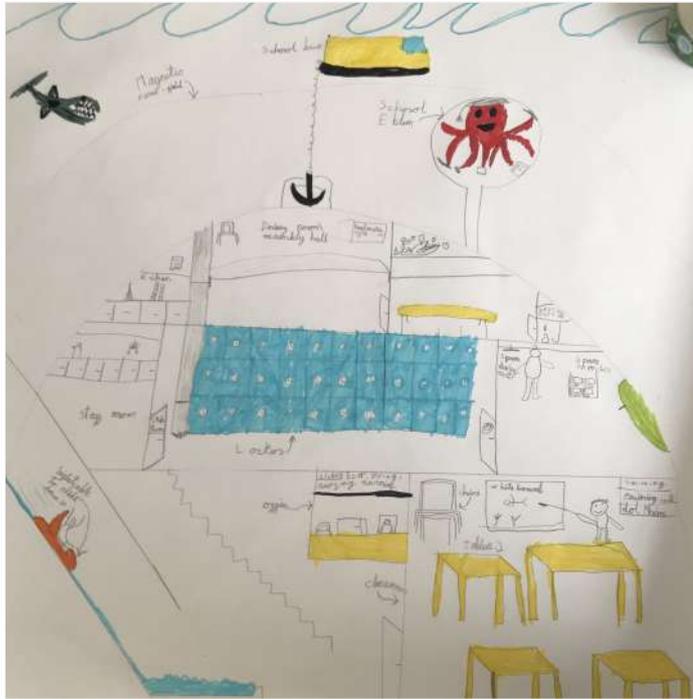
I recommend the following activities whilst you are in lockdown:

- Build a water park in your back garden on sunny days to have fun and keep cool.
- Look after and play with a pet. This could be building the pet an obstacle course.
- Do some cooking. I made some shortbread and decorated them for VE day. Sharing them with neighbours.
- Snap chat a friend. Talking and laughing with a friend makes you feel happy and not lonely.
- Talk to your parents about COVID-19 so that you understand and don't worry about things.
- Go for a bike ride. I have enjoyed doing this and seeing different parts of where I live.
- Go and see horses in nearby fields. I know the horses I have visited so I know they are friendly. I talk to them and feed them carrots.
- Enjoy craft time and post them to a friend to make them smile. I have sent Loom bands and Hama beads to Wales and Malta.
- Have a giggle with your family and do some fun face painting.
- Enjoy a film night. Have a real treat and get pizza delivered.
- Turn off technology and have a board game night.
- Help around the house or garden with a few jobs. Enjoy helping and talking to your parents.
- If possible walking to your grandparents or friends and leave a lovely chalk message on their path as a surprise.



- Have a colour challenge day. Family have to all wear a certain colour of clothing for the day.
- Make and display a thank you NHS sign for your window.
- Dance. It makes me smile and its good exercise.
- Make a den or pitch a tent and spend the night in it.
- Plan a party for the end of lockdown.

Amelia O'C.



Dear Mr Boris Johnson,

I am very sorry to disturb you during this coronavirus pandemic. My name is Beatrice [redacted] I have written to you because I think that when we go back to school if it is under water it will be easier to keep everyone safe. My idea is called 'Seahorse School' and as you can see from the information below it will help tremendously.

Seahorse School will keep the pupils and teachers safe by having shiny metal bars to protect against vicious sharks. It has an ultra efficient air filtration system that cleans the air of all viral and bacterial cells.

The new school logo will be a sparkling rainbow coloured seahorse. The sparkles represent childrens' smiles and the rainbow represents hope for the world.

Each and every pupil will get a wonderful view of the marne world outside. Pupils can safely sit next to each other without the dread of catching a virus.

Parents would drop their kids off at the school meeting point on the seashore. Then the children will be guided to the entrance where they go down a gigantic slide deep underwater. They are safely stopped by a humongous ball pit that sprays you with a fine mist cleaning the pupils effectively. What an awesome way to the start of the day! Wouldn't you like the same slide at number 10 Downing Street into your first meeting of the day?

For the pupils there will be a wide range of activities like surfboarding, scuba diving, fishing, yoga and lots more! Which one would you have liked to do at school? I think they all trump (not the President of the USA) rugby any day!

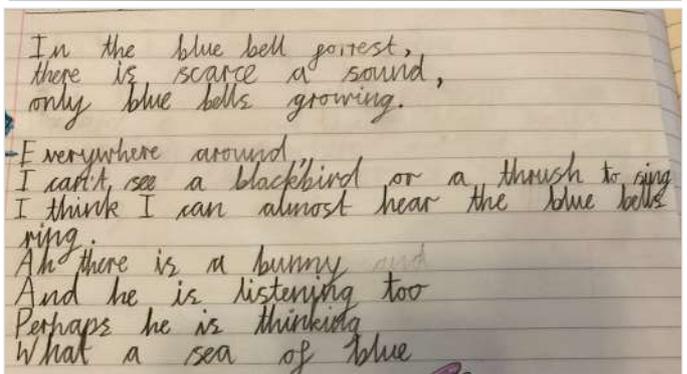
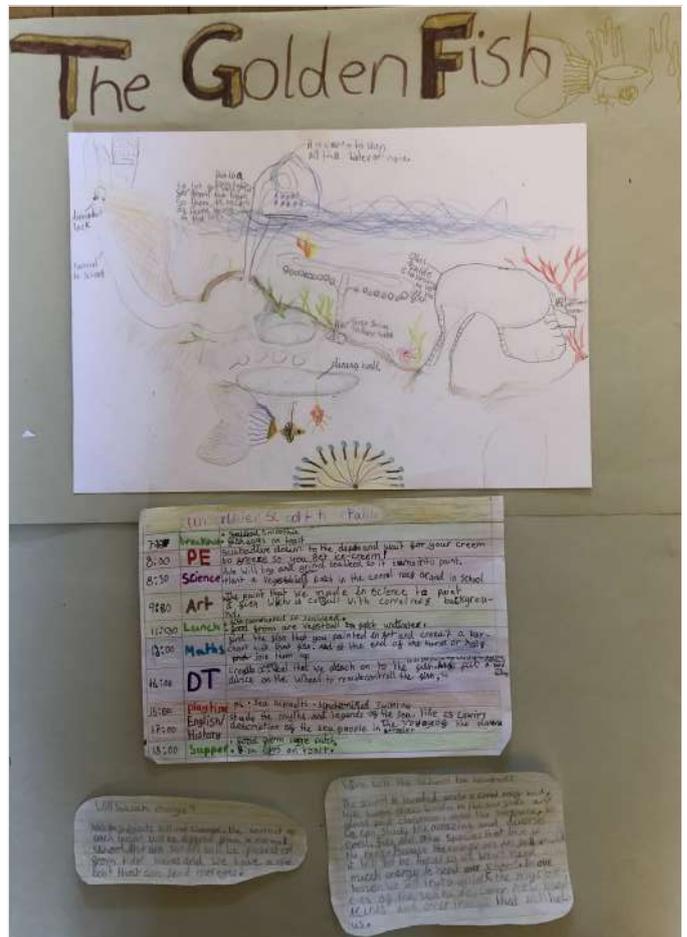
I have included the design plan for 'Seahorse School'.

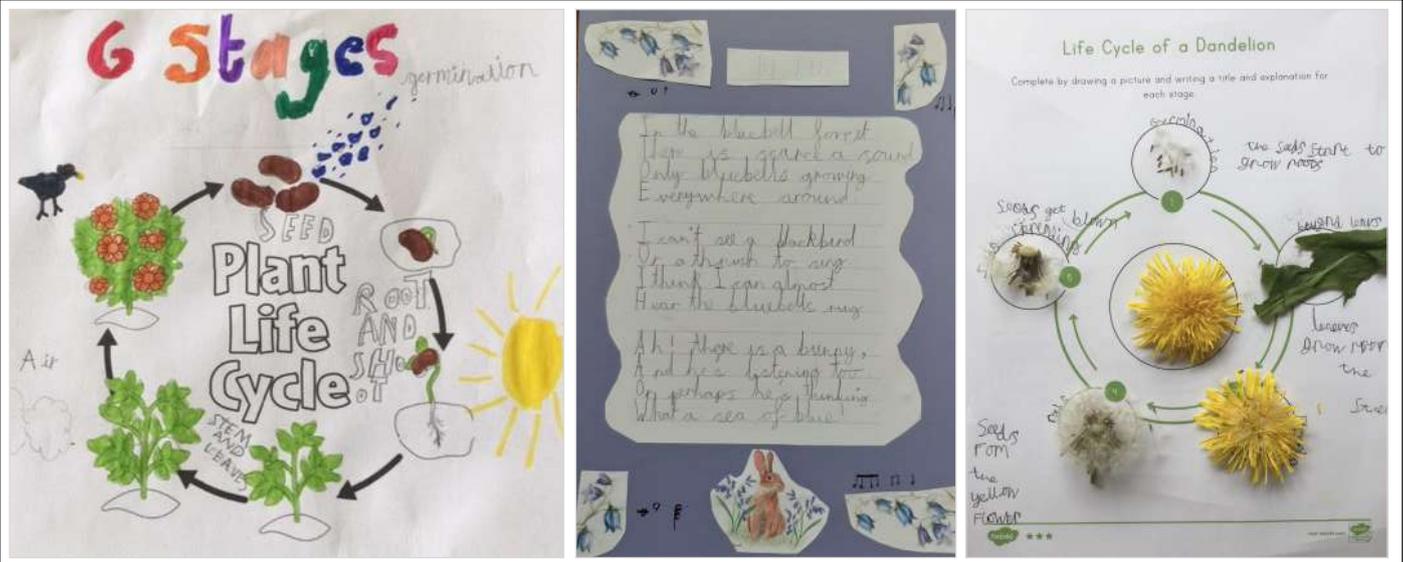
Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I hope you remain safe and don't forget to wash your hands!

Yours sincerely,

Year 2

As part of our 'Wild and Wonderful' topic, the children did some research about pant life cycles and designed their own information posters.





PE and Games News

It has been lovely to see so many of the children embracing their daily exercise during the lockdown. We have also had some great work on world records and fitness programmes. If you are looking to get into a fitness routine, following Luke W's programme would be a great start.

Please keep those #healthyselves coming!

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney and Mr Underwood



Athletics

Event	Record	Athlete	Nation	Male - Female
100m Sprint	1.63	Usain Bolt	Jamaica	Male
200m Sprint	34.94	Usain Bolt	Jamaica	Male
400m Sprint	1:45.15	Michael Johnson	USA	Male
800m Sprint	2:00.00	Yelena Slesarenko	Russia	Female
1600m Sprint	4:08.81	Yelena Slesarenko	Russia	Female
3200m Sprint	8:28.00	Yelena Slesarenko	Russia	Female
6400m Sprint	16:57.00	Yelena Slesarenko	Russia	Female
12800m Sprint	33:52.00	Yelena Slesarenko	Russia	Female
25600m Sprint	67:44.00	Yelena Slesarenko	Russia	Female

Day	Session	Task	Comment when completed - Star rating (1 star = more practice needed - 5 star = great at this)
Monday	Morning	Morning mile before 9am *	
	Afternoon	10 star jumps	
Tuesday	Morning	10 sit ups	
	Afternoon	Evening walk	
Wednesday	Morning	Morning mile *	
	Afternoon	5k walk	
Thursday	Morning	Joe wicks 9am *	
	Afternoon	10 laps of garden	
Friday	Morning	Morning mile *	
	Afternoon	5k walk	
Saturday	Morning	5k-7k walk	
	Afternoon	5k-7k bike ride	
Sunday	Morning	5k-7k walk	
	Afternoon	5k-7k bike ride	
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World Records

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Prep Baccalaureate

Thank you to Annabelle in Year 3 for her compassionate project this week. We are so impressed with your fundraising efforts—£794 for Zoe's Place! Incredible!

Chess News

If you are looking to keep your chess game sharp in the holidays, there are a series of challenges and activities available on the CSC website, run by Mr Marsh. You can find these by clicking on the link here:

<https://www.chessinschools.co.uk/chess-at-home>

Have fun!

Return to school advice

[Dr Kathy Weston](#) has been offering some very good advice to families in recent weeks about an imminent return to school and how we, as parents, can support our children with this. Below, in italics, are some selected quotes from some of her most recent blog entries which we feel are worth reading.

"It is daunting to consider how all of us will need to adjust to new and various sets of rules to protect our families and communities. We might be fearful about little things too; going to the shops, people standing too close to us and how we might manage that, or seeing relatives and friends for the first time in a while.

"Will we be able to reconnect? To be blunt, liberty might not be as sweet as we might imagine it to be at first and it is sensible to acknowledge this. Our aim as parents is to soften the jolt that our children will experience on re-entry into 'normal' life. In gently introducing the idea of how things might be different or how they might feel, and creating family coping strategies for these situations, we do our children a great service.

"Be careful how you respond to government announcements in front of your children. If you express visible alarm, fear and concern about a school return, it may make any eventual return an incredibly anxious venture for them. Rather, remain cool and constructive. Anticipatory anxiety about what's next is perfectly normal, but let's try and manage it. In modelling a sense of joy and relief that giant steps are being made to stop the spread of the virus and that small steps are being made to return to normality, children should feel reassured."

When your children do eventually return to school, their wellbeing will be a key aspect of their daily routine. We know that school will look and feel different for children when they do return. Yet the positive impact of being back amongst familiar settings, with friends, teachers and other familiar faces will be a hugely positive experience for them all.

It is important that the children expect school to be slowly getting back to normal. While some aspects that they grew accustomed to—assemblies, fixtures, trips, for example—will not be there when they first return, they will be eventually. And there are so many positive and exciting things for the children to look forward to when they do come back—friends, lunches, being back in the classrooms—even seeing their teachers again! Having worked with children on their pastoral mood boards in recent weeks, I know there are so many things they are really looking forward to resuming in due course.

When we do reopen, our daily wellbeing focus will aim to provide the children with the best possible pastoral care and support, providing them with the opportunity to focus on six key areas: **talk, wellbeing, feelings, reconnect, adapt and having fun.**

Mr Stone

Ben Nervis staircase challenge

1345 metres = 612 times up my stairs!

I wanted to raise money for charity so I decided to raise money for Zoe's Place Hospice. Due to coronavirus it had to be an indoor challenge. We thought that climbing Ben Nervis by climbing my staircase 612 times would be fun.

On Friday 8th May I started climbing the stairs at 7.00 am. It took me 12 hours to do it. I had lots of snacks (sweets and chocolate) to keep me going.

It was really hard doing it and my legs are still aching two days later.

I raised...
£794

I Did It!

Caravan of Love



Our extremely creative Music Department decided not to let the lockdown stop the Yarm School community coming together to make music. Before the Easter holidays Mrs Staggs launched the search for a virtual choir and band to sing Pixie Lott's Caravan of Love and she has been delighted with the response from pupils (past and present), parents, staff and friends of the school.

If you would still like to be involved you have until the end of May, please get in touch with Mrs Staggs / Mr McIntyre KELS@yarmschool.org / AMC@yarmschool.org. We can't wait to hear the end result!

Online Safety

As part of our online safety provision our focus has always been on helping families flourish in a connected world. This task seems particularly relevant right now.

For the next few weeks, families will be stuck at home. Children and teenagers will inevitably turn to the digital world for entertainment and escapism as well as for learning and staying in touch.

That offers tremendous opportunities for innovation and creativity, but inevitably new levels of risk.

As you know, Yarm School subscribes to [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 your tech questions.

This week, Parent Zone have produced several resources to

further support our school community, such as 'What parents in lockdown need to know about digital resilience' and 'Talking to children and young people about COVID-19'.

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.

In addition to this, [Thinkuknow](#), the education programme from the National Crime Agency's Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) command, have produced a fantastic set of 15 Minute Home Activity Packs aimed at Pre-Prep, Prep and Senior School aged pupils.

[CLICK HERE FOR 15 MINUTE HOME ACTIVITY PACKS](#)

Gratitude Scavenger Hunt

Year 5 were tasked with looking around them to identify the people and things they are grateful for. Minu P-M answers the questions.

Find something outside that you enjoy looking at: *I love watching the birds.*

Find something that is useful for you: *My mom.*

Find something that is your favourite colour: *Water (any colour).*

Find something you know someone else will enjoy: *Table tennis.*

Find something that makes you happy: *My family and friends (including my guinea pig).*

Find something that tastes good: *Carrot cake.*

Find something that smells amazing: *Soap.*

Discover something new: *How to make a pendant.*

Find something that makes you feel safe: *My family.*

Find something that makes a beautiful sound: *The piano.*

Find someone you are grateful for: *My family.*

Find something that is unique to you: *I am unique to me, there is only one me in the entire Universe.*

Find something that makes you laugh: *My brother.*

Find your favourite place to spend alone time: *My playroom.*

Find something that reminds you of the people you love: *Family photos.*

William Shakespeare

**The answer to the Head's Challenge
from last week was:**

Good Work Celebration

Our focus on good work and school values every Friday is continuing, with Mr Sawyer and Mrs Speight posting a Friday celebration assembly every Friday (available via Prep Google Classrooms and the Pre-Prep remote learning website). We will post the weekly recipients of the awards, on the back page, as we usually do at the Prep!

Form	Child	Child
N	Edward G.	Felicity & Jemima T.
RG	Annabelle A.	Dara J.
RS	Harriet A.	Zenia Z.
1H	Elliott E.	Evelyn C.
1P	Emily B.	Imogen C.
2D	Zara P.	Alex P.
2J	Ella L.	Kavan S.
3A	Ellie Mae G.	Imogen P.
3D	Beatrice M.	Nona D.
4C	Tabi B.	Archie A.
4J	Aisling T.	Freddie B.
4P	Ewan G.	Claudia P.
5L	Ellie W.	Adam P.
5N	Alfie A.	Sam L.
5P	Tabitha L.	Seren A.
6B	Charlie Ba.	Elizabeth N.
6G	Noah V.	Lily C.
6H	Aryan N.	Kate H.

A message to Pre-Prep from Mrs Speight

Happy half term boys and girls, I have loved reading about your learning. Caterpillars in Nursery, Giraffes Can't Dance and The Snail and the Whale are fantastic stories, I know you've enjoyed the activities set. I wanted to say a huge thank you, I am so proud of everyone - children and parents for continuing to embrace remote learning. Day in and out, we love seeing what you have been achieving, it's fantastic.

Children, your teachers are amazing, I do hope you gave them 3 cheers! Thank you to the team who have worked tirelessly ensuring the learning and support they are giving our pupils is superb. Have a lovely break and I look forward to seeing many more children from the designated year groups in school in the near future.

Joanne Speight

A message to our Year 6 pupils

Hello Year 6!

It has been fantastic to see how you are all engaging with your remote learning in recent weeks. Thank you for your efforts; you are making your families and teachers extremely proud of you.

You will, by now, have some idea of the things going on ahead of you leaving the Prep School at the end of term. Mrs Gratton and Mrs Ankers will have been in touch with the parents of those of you joining the Senior School and I ask that you fill in her survey as soon as you can please.

I am currently working on your yearbook and will be emailing you soon to ask for a photo of you to go inside it. Some of your writing for the yearbook has been excellent. I will need some additional sections from some of you—I will be in touch.

Other than that, there are many things going on over the second half of term, both remotely and in school. It is an important time for you all, occurring in the most unusual of circumstances! We will do all we can to make your move to your next school as smooth and as positive as we can.

Mr Stone