

# The Phoenix Flier

## (and The Little Phoenix)

Issue 635

Friday 1st May 2020

### The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

#### A message from Mr Sawyer and Mrs Speight

**A**warm welcome to this combined edition of the Phoenix Flier and the Little Phoenix. We are delighted to co-write an introduction and hope that it reaches you all at a time when you are safe and well. At present the classrooms and corridors are quieter than they have ever been, but that hasn't stopped our school community from pulling together to help the children develop superb learning habits and embrace remote adventures. From our youngest Nursery children to our mature Year 6 pupils, there has been a clear demonstration of resilience, perseverance, determination and enthusiasm towards online learning. We are proud of you all! We hope you enjoy a selection of some of the work that is shared with you in this week's publication.

At this challenging time, which is testing us all in some way, it is lovely to see that our community has taken on the challenge of helping others and supporting the wider battle we face together. We stand united for the common prosperity and health of our nation, just as we work in partnership for the benefit of every boy and girl. With this in mind, do let us know if you require any further guidance and support. We are very much here to help every family and we hope that we will be able to greet each other at school soon. Until such time, we wish you all health and happiness and we look forward to staying in touch.

Warmest wishes,

*Bill Sawyer &  
Joanne Speight*

#### Head's Challenge

I am everywhere but cannot be seen, captured or held, only heard. What am I?

#### Photo of the Week

Many of our teachers got together for our start of term message to all of the pupils!



# Remote learning fun

It has been lovely to see so much wonderful work being carried out by children across the Prep School. We are including some highlights over the next pages.

Year 4:

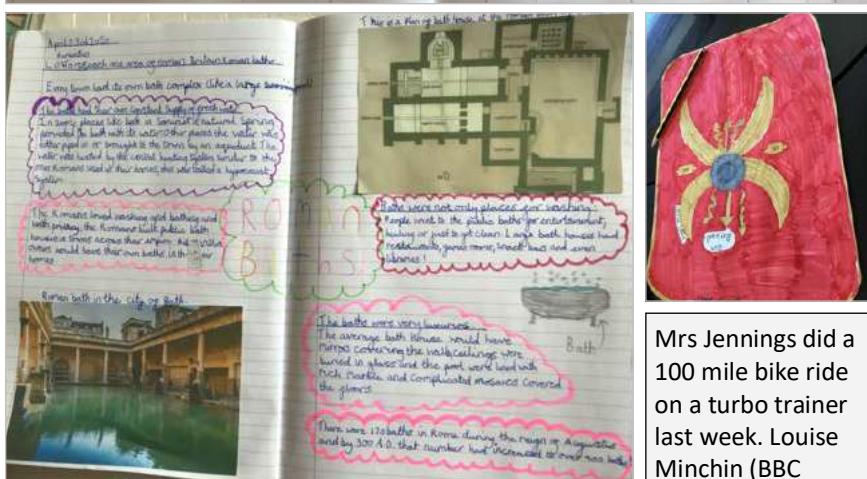
As well as making Roman shields, Year 4 have been exploring sport and leisure in Roman times, Roman baths and cricket positions. Work comes from Jacob, Freddie, Edie, Zara, Katie, Lucia and Eleanor.



## Roman leisure

Romans did not have that much leisure time in their lives.

When they did, they would do different activities, like watching chariot races and gladiator battles, going to public baths and reading. Many Romans used to go to the colosseum to watch the prisoners, slaves, or criminals fight each other.



4J all took part in the 2.6 challenge on Monday and I donated on their behalf. Some of the things they did in Form Time: ran up and down stairs 26 times, ran around the garden 26 times, did keepy uppies(!) for 26 seconds, shot 26 goals, hula-hooped for 26 seconds, danced for 26 minutes and many more! Well done 4J for all of your superb efforts!

Mrs Jennings did a 100 mile bike ride on a turbo trainer last week. Louise Minchin (BBC Breakfast) led the ride on Zwift and 2000+ people joined in. Together they raised over £12,000 for the NHS and other charities.

## **Nursery:**

Lots of lovely work has been shared by the Nursery children! Thank you George, Lucia, Zayaan, Genevieve, Jasper and big brother Rory, and Albert and big sister Martha.



The Nursery children also shared a beautiful photo collage with a message to all of their friends and teachers in school. Thank you!





### Year 2:

Along with some family teamwork and beautiful writing, Year 2 have been making some very impressive bug hotels!



### Year 3:

Year 3 have spent some time celebrating Earth Day and reflecting on the things they are thankful for.



The things that 3A are thankful for!

**Year 6:**

Limericks, mapwork cunningly disguised as a charity run and creative writing are just some of the examples of good work in Year 6 recently.



Mole likes to hang out with Toad and Ratty  
His appearance is sometimes tatty  
They head off to the woods  
Carrying all of their goods  
But drop them on the way and feel rather batty.

Sam S.

Imagine, a time where you are alone in the deep, dark woods, where you were surrounded by the unknown, where you are in serious danger: look around you, this is now. Scared and nervous, petrified and confused, I began my journey to find my way home. I had never been out when it's dark.

I had been to my best friends house and normally I return home by 6 like my mum says but tonight was different. I was angry at my mum as we had an argument and didn't want to see her but now I regret everything. Fear, cowardly, gullible- which would I give into first.

Tilly P-H.

Lost, alone and scared-I wondered if I was ever going to get out of this wood. Dark trees surrounded me, looming over me looking like they wanted to grab me. I desperately wanted to go home.

SNAP! CRUNCH! What was that? Was it a ghost? Fortunately it was just the crackling of leaves and the snapping of twigs under my feet.

"Oof!"

I tripped over a tree root, they covered the dark damp forest floor. Alone and cold, homesick and hungry, I wondered if someone was going to come and save me from this terrible nightmare? It was getting late now, and I was getting really scared. "Awooh". Loud and clear, strong and high pitched-strange noises were coming from the wood. Strange shadows came from inside the forest. "Hello is there anybody there?" I called, no answer, There was an eerie silence. Cold, terrified and alone- I started to run...

Jack M.

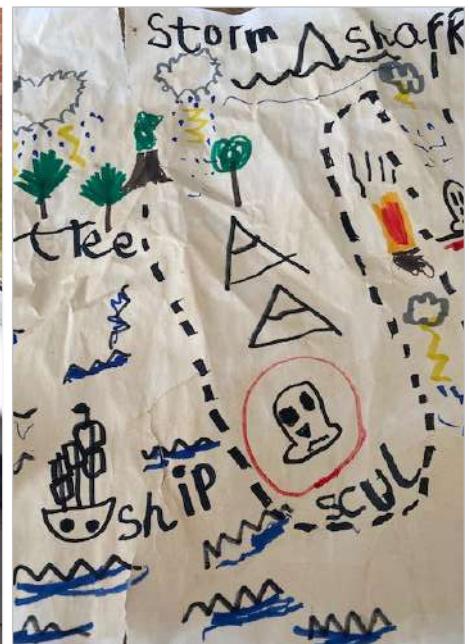
Charlotte has put together a brilliant kindness calendar for May. Why don't you have a go at following it?

## May's Kindness Calendar

1st Make mum night shift snack	2nd Bring food round for grandparents	3rd Clean room	4th Clean parents room	5th Smile at 2 people who aren't family	6th Make lunch for family	7th Bake cake for workshift
8th Tidy living room	9th Do laundry	10th Do dishes	11th vacuum	12th Send text to compliment	13th Leave small gestures to neighbours	14th Write a letter to a family member
15th Smile at a stranger	16th Go one day all vegan for earth :D	17th Water garden	18th Put all the correct items in the right bin	19th Make a healthy meal for family	20th Make parents a surprise date night	21st Make a cup of tea for someone
22nd Make pancakes	23rd Give somebody i haven't seen in a long time a call	24th Make a cheesecake for somebody	25th Stick small notes with compliments around the	26th Bake cookies	27th Tell somebody a joke	28th Make another rainbow
29th Make a card for somebody	30th Dust house	31st Hide rainbows all over the house with compliments on the back				

**Reception:**

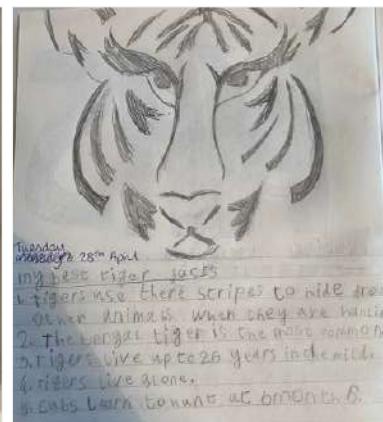
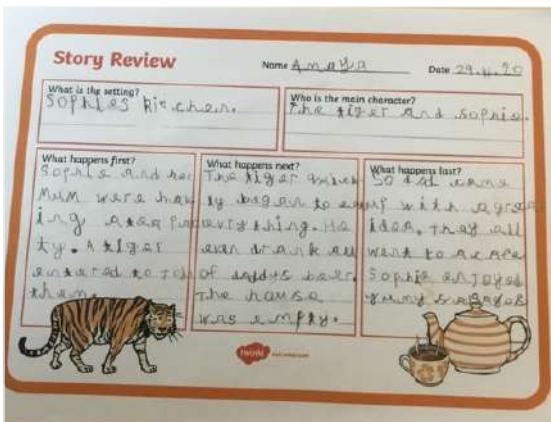
The Reception children started the Summer Term with a call to join the crew of the pirate ship The Squeaky Sails! They have all risen to the challenges of virtual life on board with such enthusiasm. We could not have asked for a finer crew! Along the way they have been tasked with building pirate ships and dens, drawing treasure maps, writing messages in bottles, dancing to pirate medleys, meditating on a desert island and star gazing. Thank you to each of them, and their families, for the commitment they have shown. Where will our learning adventure take us next?



Congratulations to Manha, who received her LAMDA results for Speaking in Public grade 2. She recorded a Distinction with 87 marks. Well done!

### Year 1:

This week Year 1 have been doing some fantastic work inspired by the story of 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'.



"Charge!" he screamed, feeling mighty atop the lead rhinoceros. He jolted with every step they took, the rhino's feet punching into the baking hot sand, sending up large clouds into the humid air so that he could taste the grains of sand in his parched mouth.

The herd stamped across the desert sand, focused on reaching their goal, which stood in front of their bright dancing eyes. Angrily, the herd of rhinoceros came into view; all people could do was to scream and run as if they were dying. The herd raced across the desert clouds and puffs of sand blurred the way.

At midday, the fight began with the stamping of feet which caused villagers to scream and run but on top of it all, everything was full of sand, sand, sand. The fighting went on for days and days...Until the boy collapsed! All of a sudden, the fighting stopped and everyone was only too anxious about the boy, nothing else.

Dazed the boy woke up seeing anxious faces all in one huge blur. As he got up, he was a ribbon of the brightest light anyone could have seen. His feet trudged silently on the silky, soft sand which glowed brightly with heat in the never-ending desert...

Ellie W.

### Year 5:

Eiffel Towers, creative writing and raft building are amongst the fascinating pieces of work handed in by Year 5 recently.



## Glorious glass!

Charlie Be. (Y6) has made the Blue Peter emblem out of seaglass he has collected from previous visits to Seaham. It is a beautiful piece of work, and Charlie is sending it off to the BBC show in due course. Worth a Blue Peter badge surely?



## Music to brighten your day

Tegan Addison and her sister Seren put together a beautiful cover of Somewhere Over The Rainbow to help raise money for South Tees and have already raised an incredible £605. Watch their performance here: <https://www.facebook.com/teganaddisonmusic/videos/224609528827849/>

If you are looking for something to brighten your day please follow @YarmSeniorMusic on Twitter for performance and rehearsal videos over the years. The Music Department also worked on a remote performance of Over the Rainbow to thank all key workers which has been viewed 4,000 times on Facebook, if you missed just [click here](#) to watch it now.

## 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!



## Senior Staff Make Essential Kit

Our Senior School staff have implemented initiatives to support NHS workers and other front line workers in the local area and provide them with essential Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to protect them from COVID-19.



Mr Law started the process by making packs of PPE such as goggles, safety glasses and face visors from the school's science and design and technology departments. This equipment was provided to three local GP practices and was used on the front line of the efforts to tackle COVID-19.

As a School, we wanted to do more. Our Design and Technology Department used specifications available online to produce a prototype acetate face visor for frontline NHS staff. Since the prototype Mr Barrett, Mrs Jackson and Mr Spence have worked tirelessly sourcing materials and making, to date, 573 visors!

The visors have been distributed to a wide range of settings including COVID-19 'hot hub' clinics in Stockton and Durham, social care, care homes, local GP surgeries and hospitals.

Thank you to all our parents who have contacted the school with sources of the materials needed or words of encouragement - we appreciate the support.

A reminder of the materials needed:

- A3 or A4 sheets of Acetate or clear PVC,
- 16cm strips of upholstery foam or small blocks of foam,
- velcro self-adhesive or double-sided tape 2.5cm wide,
- 35-40cm strips of elastic 25mm wide and
- 1, 1.5 or 2mm thick plastic or 0.5mm polypropylene.

## Top Lockdown Tips from Year 6

As part of form time last week with Mr Stone, Year 6 were asked for their top tips that are helping them remain positive during the lockdown.

The questions asked was, "What is your best bit of advice for younger children in the school?" Here are some of their great suggestions:

"If you have siblings ask them if they can play with you."

*Max H-M.*

"Find something you can do to keep occupied, such as a craft, as this will help you with any boredom."

*Darcey A.*

"Don't worry, be happy."

*Patrick W.*

"Go outside when you've got the chance to."

*Charlie Ba.*

"Wash your hands!"

*Lily C.*

"Do something you enjoy, such as reading or football."

*Niamh B.*

"Keep to a timetable and not just during the school day because it separates the day a bit more."

*James G.*

"Try new things, such as Airfix modelling. You don't need to spend all of your time on computers!"

*Noah V.*

"Do some painting. I made some creative rainbows."

*Mara M.*

"Think of something you have always wanted to pursue, as not you have some time to practice."

*Shlok A.*

"Take advantage of the situation and read loads!"

*Tanveer T.*

"When you have to be inside do the Joe Wicks workouts whenever you can! When outside build something cool. I made an obstacle course!"

*Alisha T.*

"Keep to a plan or a routine for each day."

*Oliver M.*

"Get plenty of exercise in your garden and get a lot of fresh air."

*Sam S.*

"Keep yourself entertained and go outside in your garden!"

*Tilly P-H.*

"Think positive."

*Gracie R-H.*

"Always go outside and do some exercise during the day."

*Oliver B.*

"Find an online session/video of something you enjoy."

*Naila K.*

## 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](#)

## 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 C.	Florence S.
RG	Andres O.	Freddie B.
RS	Emma W.	Henry F.
1H	Rory F.	Holly B.
1P	Marianne D.	Benjamin H.
2D	Laurel G.	Bizzy A.
2J	Hannah C.	George P.
3A	Olivia J.	Harriet B.
3D	James C.	Amelia O'C.
4C	Eleanor W.	Neev S.
4J	Charlotte F.	Nethuki M.
4P	Claudia P.	Kit F.
5L	Freddie G.	Oliver D.
5N	Noah C.	Sophie P.
5P	Erin J.	Rose D.
6B	Naila K.	Gracie R-H.
6G	Eva L.	Claudia C.
6H	Manya R.	Shlok A.

## Congratulations!

A massive congratulations to three of our staff, who have all welcomed new additions to their families in recent weeks!

Mrs Shepherd and her husband Olly



welcomed Florence Nancy Shepherd (top-right) into the world on 20th April. Florence was born weighing 7lb 13oz.



Mr Pengilley and his wife Amy welcomed Ava Elizabeth Pengilley (left) on 23rd April, with Ava weighing 5lb 10oz.



Mrs Wright and her husband Simon welcomed Emily Florence Wright (bottom-right) on 29th April. Emily was born weighing 6lb 2oz.

Congratulations to all of you!

## A message to Pre-Prep from Mrs Speight

I am so proud of you all, you have shown resilience, perseverance, determination and enthusiasm towards your studies. We have all loved receiving your work, pictures and news, such superstars.

Don't forget to look at the Pre-Prep website to see your Form Teacher reading their daily messages. I've loved reading a chapter a day of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and I'm already excited about the good work assembly.

Please don't forget to get out in the fresh air, if you have any seeds, you could try planting them this weekend.

Warmest wishes,

*Joanne Speight*