

The Phoenix Flier

(and The Little Phoenix)

Issue 644

Friday 4th September 2020

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

A message from Mr Sawyer

A warm welcome to the Autumn Term for the academic year 2020/21. It has been one of the most anticipated starts to the new school year and one that will be remembered fondly for many years to come. Seeing all year groups return early on Thursday morning, full of excitement, was simply wonderful. Within minutes the school was reverberating with the sound of children greeting members of their respective year group bubbles and friendships, old and new, were given a well deserved and welcome boost. I have been so impressed with how the pupils have adapted to the new routines and procedures in just two days! Seeing them embrace the academic year with such energy and enthusiasm certainly makes all of the preparation well worth it. On this note, I would like to pay gratitude to the earnest efforts of the Estates, IT, Cleaning, Teaching and Support staff who have aided the safe return of all pupils.

Over the summer, on both the Pre-Prep and Prep sites, we have installed a number of new outdoor classrooms. These wonderful additions to our facilities give us the flexibility to recommence a range of extracurricular activities and clubs, whilst also offering important break out spaces for wellbeing sessions and lessons where needed. I am grateful to our Head of Estates, Mr Alan Hodgson, who has overseen the installation of the classrooms amongst a very busy schedule of School preparations. We are also fortunate to have developed a First Aid and Pastoral Hub at the Prep School, upgraded both our WiFi and internet infrastructure and carried out a range of routine refurbishments.

Thank you to our parents for your cooperation at drop off and collection times over the last couple of days. We recognise that the new arrangements will take some getting used to and that they do not allow for the usual handover with your child's Form Teacher. Rest assured we are keen to maintain open communication channels with you about the exciting steps your children will be taking this year. Please look out for the curriculum booklets, parent information evening presentations and details about the forthcoming Form Teacher consultations (via Google Meet w/b October 12th), details will come via email from next week onwards and are designed to keep you up to speed with the adventures of your children. In the meantime, if you do have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via email. We are, as always, here to help and support.

Bill Sawyer

Head's

Challenge:

What letter comes next in the sequence:

O T T F F S S ?

Photo of the Week

Summer Holiday School saw the children enjoying the school woodland area, amongst other adventurous activities. A full review can be found in this edition.



Holiday School

A Yarm-based Holiday School proved to be a massive hit with the children who came along over the three weeks in the summer. Camping, strolling around the river and all sorts of fun activities were enjoyed by the children. Our thanks to Mr Simpson for coordinating.



Start of Term Reminders

Year 3 Monday Activities Carousel

Please note that swimming will not be starting for Year 3 children until after October half-term at the earliest, while we wait for clarity regarding the COVID19 mitigation factors at the pool complex. In the meantime, children who are due to participate in the swimming activity will be enjoying some fitness fun with Mrs Redhead-Sweeney and the team.

Mr Stone

PE and Games

It has been fantastic to see so many smiley faces around school over the last couple of days and what is even better... smiling whilst taking part in games! As a department it was important to hit the ground running and get all the pupils in the school back into sport as soon as possible. Over the next few months we will be following guidance from sporting bodies but are hopeful we can deliver hockey, netball, rugby and cricket in games and fitness in PE. For hockey and rugby mouthguards will be required for all years. Here are two options where you can buy a mouthguard: [Opro](#) and [Sports Direct](#). We look forward to clubs starting next week and have a variety of sports on offer for the children.

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney and Mr Underwood

Music

We are making every effort to maintain our music making at Prep. Curriculum lessons are up and running. Current guidelines prevent us from offering some of the usual extra curricular activities, but as a starting point there will be separate ukulele clubs for years 3, 4, 5 and 6 after school. Instruments will be provided but cannot be taken home. We will keep our provision under review and hope to be able to offer a wider range of musical activities in due course. Individual vocal and instrumental lessons will recommence in the week beginning 21st September. We have put measures in place to ensure all lessons and spaces comply with government COVID19 guidance and a detailed letter about this will follow shortly.

Mr Gooding

Clubs and Activities

A reminder to parents of children in Years 3-6 that after school clubs now need to be booked online prior to the start of term. This can be done by following [the booking form by clicking here](#). Due to the limitations at present at school, the programme is restricted and spaces are limited, meaning some children may not get a place in their chosen clubs. Should the guidance for schools change though, we will be able to increase participation. **Parents must complete this form by Friday 4th September**, so we can inform you all of the

clubs your child can attend.

Mr Stone

Learning Support lessons

Learning Support lessons with Mrs Snape and Mrs Pratt will begin week commencing Monday 14th September.

Mrs Jones

Speech and Drama lessons

Speech and drama lessons with Mrs Ham-Ying will begin week commencing Monday 21st September.

Miss Ni Chaoilte

Chess lessons

Chess lessons will recommence on Monday 21st September. Mr Marsh will also be running an after school chess club for Year 3 on Mondays, as well as a chess carousel activity, also on Mondays. In the meantime, if you are looking to keep your chess sharp, there are a series of challenges available on the CSC website, run by Mr Marsh. Click here to find out more: <https://www.chessinschools.co.uk/>.

Mr Grundmann

After School Care

If you need to make any late changes to your after school arrangements, please contact [Miss Richardson](#) or [Miss Algate](#).

Mr Stone

Art

A reminder that we would like each child to bring in an art apron/oversized shirt for lessons, which can remain in school.

Mrs White

Tempest Photographs

Tempest will be coming in this Tuesday (8th) to take individual photographs of all of the children. We are reassured by their measures put into place and the whole process will be supervised by our staff too. Unfortunately due to COVID restrictions we will be unable to run the sibling photographs this year. We hope to be able to offer this later on in the academic year.

We can only take photos of those children who are in school on the day too, which means only those in Nursery on Tuesday will be able to have their photograph taken. **Children must come into school in their uniform for their photos. If they have PE, they must bring in their trainers.**

Mr Stone

Key Dates for the Autumn Term

Mon 7/9	After school clubs commence for Years 3-6
Tue 8/9	Tempest individual photographs
Mon 14/9	Activities begin for Years 3-6
Mon 21/9	Peripatetic lessons begin by this date Pre-Prep after school clubs begin
Wed 23/9	School Council (1pm)
Fri 25/9	No after school gymnastics club
Sat 26/9	Virtual Open Morning
Tue 29/9	No after school gymnastics club
Thu 1/10	YPSSC (TBC)
Fri 2/10	Harvest assemblies No after school gymnastics club
Mon 5/10	Prep Woodland Week
Wed 7/10	Curiosity Emporium (1pm)
Mon 12/10	Parent consultations via Google Meet this week
Wed 14/10	Y5/6 Poetry Competition (1.40pm)
Thu 15/10	Pre-Prep Halloween Disco (TBC)
Fri 16/10	Half-term begins after school After school care as usual
Mon 2/11	Pupils return

A message from Mrs Speight

Welcome back, we have waited a long time for the start of term. It was fantastic to see you all and hear the children's adventures about their summer holiday. I have been very impressed with how well the children have settled and it's wonderful to see the children laughing and playing with their friends. At the time of writing, I am watching a game of tig where I can see the smiles on their faces and hear their laughter.

All of the staff have commented on how marvellous it is to have the children back, schools need children in them. Thank you for your co-operation at drop off and pick up, it is very much appreciated as we follow new guidance.

Have a wonderful relaxing weekend and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Warmest wishes,

Joanne Speight

School Captains

It gives us great pleasure to announce our six School Captains for the academic year. The selection process involves children being nominated by both their peers and their teachers, before a uniform decision is made by Mr Stone, Mrs Pawluk, Mrs Speight and Miss Rowlands, along with the guidance of the Year 5 form teachers from last year. Such a process ensures that children who are respected by both their peers and their teachers are selected, and it is fair to say that this year group gave us some very tough decisions to make, such as the calibre of all of the children.

The School Captains should act as role models to all of the children in school, showing positivity and leadership. All of us in school look to the School Captains as models of our School Values, displaying compassion, ambition, responsibility, respect, resourcefulness and an understanding of how to be safe. They represent the school at school and food council meetings, taking pupils' concerns to the Prep Management Team. They also give speeches at key school events, help organise assemblies and support our Open Mornings.

Congratulations therefore go to the following children: **Sarah Abbas, Luca Speight, Ava Holmes, Noah Coulman, Amelie Sawyer and Alfie Arnold.**

Mr Stone



COLLECTION TIMES FROM MON 7th SEPTEMBER

Nursery/Reception—3pm

Year 1—3.20pm

Year 2—3.30pm

Years 3/4—3.35pm

Years 5/6—3.45pm

Parent Curriculum Information Site

<http://bit.ly/yarmpreparents>

The new parent curriculum information site will contain overviews and guidance booklets for English and mathematics, in addition to other links and curriculum details. It will be updated regularly so do keep checking back! We will also be placing our Parents' Information Evening slides here in the coming weeks.

Mrs Pawluk

The answer to the Head's Challenge from last time was: 19.2 yards (*A length of cloth is coloured as follows: 1/2 and 1/4 of it are black, the remaining 8 yards are grey. How long is the bolt?)