



Little Phoenix



The Newsletter of Yarm Pre-Prep

Number 307

6th November 2020

Mrs Speight's message ...

A very warm welcome back to all. I do hope you had a good break albeit a little different from our usual October holidays. The children have enjoyed telling us about the many different activities they have participated in and of course, my extra special homework to make Pumpkin Soup was obviously a firm favourite (thank you for the photographs and anecdotes!) The Nursery children have relished being back with their friends and playing in the garden. Terrific Thursday saw a wonderful bonfire for the Reception children with grateful thanks to Mr Pearce for the preparation. The children from Year 1 enjoyed writing about Goldilocks eating porridge, I wonder whether they found any surprises when they visited the woods today? Strange things have been occurring as we appear to have had an alien visitor in Year 2 who keeps moving around. This particular alien arrived on Monday with a glittery trail and the remains of a damaged spacecraft, who knows what will happen next? Finally, thank you for your contributions to the Poppy Appeal which are very much appreciated. We shall be having a special Remembrance Assembly on Wednesday. Have a relaxing weekend and we look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Warmest wishes,

Jeanne Speight

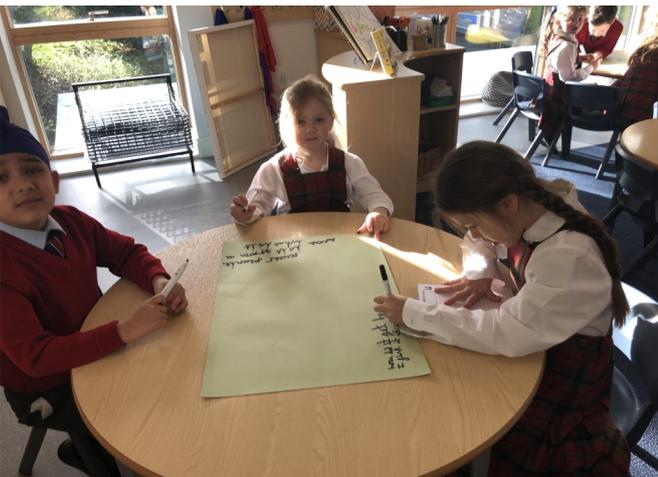


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An Alien Has Landed

We returned from the half term holiday to discover a strange occurrence in Year 2. It all began after lunch on Monday when we discovered some intriguing, glittery gloop underneath a tree in front of the Pre-Prep. A trail of purplish glitter was then followed through the Studio Hall, up the stairs and appeared to be leading to the lift. We were astounded to discover a small green alien with huge eyes, hiding inside. We are yet to find out how this charming alien has landed at our school but we believe she may be named 'Aurora.' Research has led to us looking at images of the Aurora Borealis and we wonder whether our alien originated there? When we left school on Monday evening, Aurora was sitting on top of a bookshelf surrounded by silver shards which we surmise may be her space ship. By Tuesday, Aurora was witnessed reading, in a locker and even sitting on Mrs Barton's chair! Whilst visiting the woods, we saw further evidence of our alien's activity too, more purplish trails. On Thursday, we decided to share the story of Guy Fawkes with Aurora. We are all hoping that Aurora stays a little longer as she has already created quite an impression in Year 2.



Bonfire Night

The children in Nursery have had so much fun exploring Bonfire Night. They have participated in many different activities including mark making, creating patterns in glitter and painting firework pictures. We hope you were able to celebrate this tradition at home too.



Build a bonfire!

The bonfire celebrations began with a crackle, a sparkle and the smell of toasted marshmallows as the children in Reception enjoyed a Guy Fawkes themed woodland session. After hearing the story of this famous moment from history, the children enjoyed retelling the events through roleplay and shared a story around the campfire whilst enjoying a toasted s'more. Would any bonfire celebration be complete without trying to write your name with a sparkler? Super letter formation from all!



Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Year 1 have loved revisiting the traditional tale, Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We have sequenced the story, made models of the Bear's house and even cooked up some delicious porridge during our Woodland School session. This has been a most enjoyable first week back at school.





2020/2021 Term Dates

Autumn Term, 2020

Finish - Friday, 18th December 2020 (after school)

Spring Term, 2021

Pupils return - Monday, 4th January 2021

½ term begins - Thursday, 11th February 2021
(after school)

Pupils return - Monday, 22nd February 2021

Finish - Friday, 26th March 2021 (after school)

Summer Term, 2021

Pupils return - Thursday, 15th April 2021

Bank Holiday - Monday, 3rd May 2021

½ term begins - Thursday, 27th May 2021 (after
school)

Pupils return - Monday, 7th June 2021

Finish - Friday, 2nd July 2021 (12 noon)

Polite Reminder - Extra layers for the woods

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

Nursery & Reception collection time

Please note Nursery & Reception children finish at 3.15pm.

Please collect your child/ren at this time from the usual area. After School Care will remain as normal.

Many thanks for your continued cooperation.

YPSSC Pre-loved Uniform

Need school uniform? YPSSC have plenty of pre-loved stock with all money raised going back to the children through YPSSC events. Simply order online using the link below.

<https://tinyurl.com/y2yfwmy8>

Children in Need- Friday 13th November

Next Friday we shall be raising money for Children in Need with a sponsored 'Big Chill'. All children are invited to come to school in cosy loungewear and/or comfy clothes ready to take part in an afternoon of mindful activities including yoga, meditation, journaling and other relaxation remedies. Please bring a £1 donation and drop it into the bucket on your way into school. Thank you for your support.

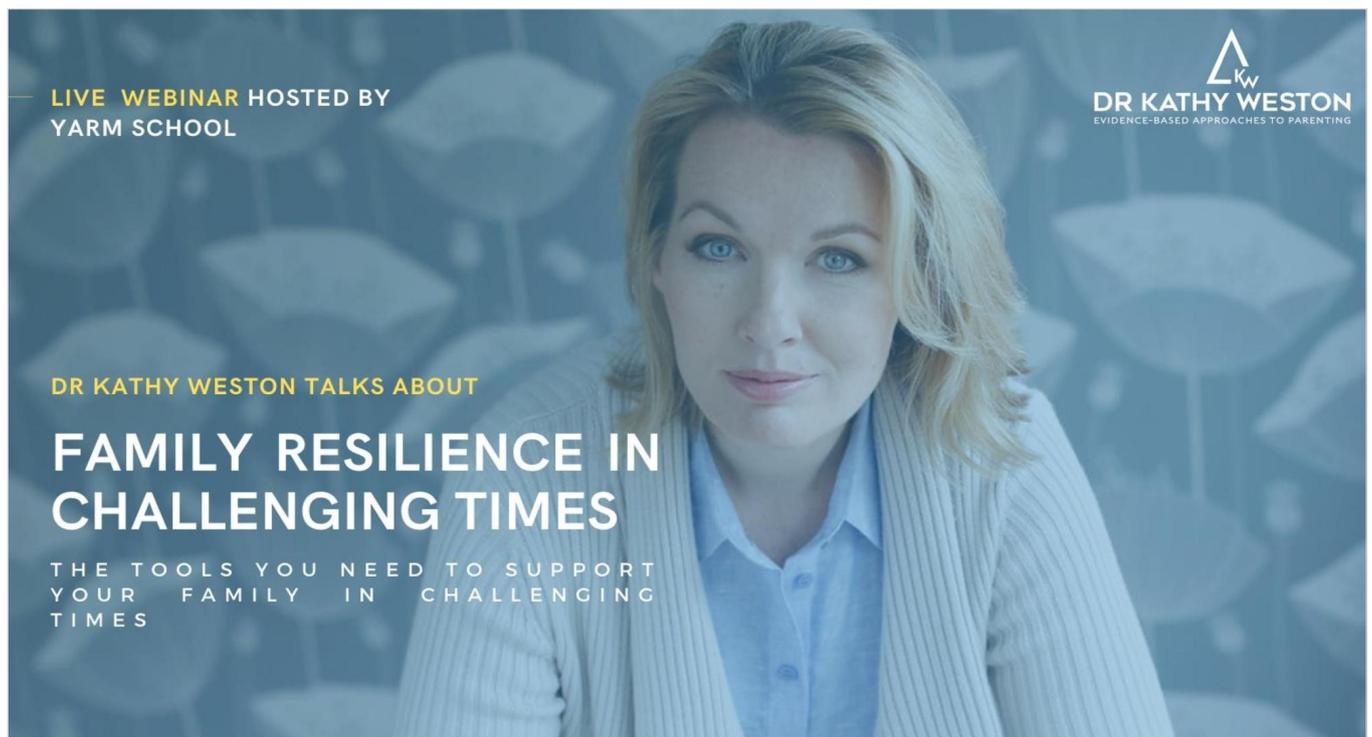


New Uniform

The long awaited kilts have finally been delivered and will be sent up to Pre-Prep soon. Unfortunately, some of the kilts lengths were not available so we have substituted these with a slightly longer length. However, these kilts will take the usual delivery time of 8-12 weeks. Apologies, we are still waiting for a small delivery of tunics.

Following on from a very successful parent talk in January of this year, the School is delighted to announce a further talk for parents by one of the UK's leading experts on parental engagement in children's lives and learning. Dr Kathy Weston is a published author, writer, award winning radio broadcaster and a regular speaker at educational events across the UK. In this live webinar Dr Weston will look at a range of factors that contribute to family resilience and how to help our children navigate some of the challenging circumstances they face. Her advice is backed up by extensive research but is delivered in an informative and engaging manner. In essence, it will provide simple, clear advice to help your children flourish in school and life. If you are interested in attending, you can find out more below or register for the event here: <http://bit.ly/DrKathyWeston> (Please note that a charge of £3 will be added to your termly extras bill as a contribution towards the cost of the session).

Mr Sawyer



Click [here](#) to register in advance for the webinar.

In this live webinar, Dr Kathy Weston will give evidence-based tips on how to think about family resilience during challenging times, such as ongoing COVID-19 Crisis.

Dr Weston will look at factors that contribute to family resilience and practical steps that parents can take to help children become emotionally resilient. She discusses the relationship between resilience and academic achievement in general and touches upon the issue of digital resilience. She will talk about how to build positive self-esteem and how to give your child the tools they need to cope with failure.

She will discuss topics such as parental and child anxiety, adaptive strategies for coping, how best to manage the transition back to school after long periods of home learning and how thinking 'outside the box' can help children thrive at the current time.

Dr Weston will use the recent evidence-based tips, to give you the tools you need to support your family.

Places will be allocated strictly in order of registration so be sure to register now to save your space.

For more information about Dr Weston please visit her website [here](#).