



Little Phoenix



The Newsletter of Yarm Pre-Prep

Number 330

1st October 2021

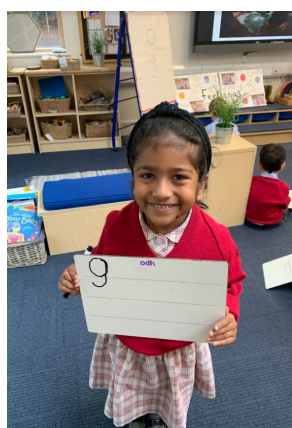
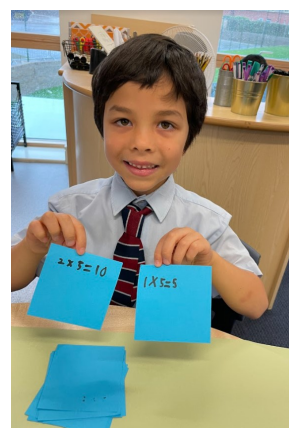
Mrs Speight's message ...

Open Morning was a huge success with many new families visiting our school. They were extremely complimentary about our facilities and more importantly our superb guides. The children spoke eloquently about their experiences at Yarm and it was evident just how much they enjoy their time in pre-prep. I toured a family today who informed me how apparent the children's happiness was. The little girl left smiling and asking whether she could come back tomorrow! Happy children are happy learners. The children are getting excited about the forthcoming Halloween Party which is on Thursday 14th October between 2-3.30pm. This is a non-uniform day for Pre-Prep and Nursery and I'm sure we'll have many witches, pumpkins, cats, wizards etc. Mr Davies may even ask to borrow a wand from Harry Potter. Our Nursery children had a fantastic walk to the Senior School woods on Wednesday and collected many conkers, I wonder whether the children will remember which tree they are from? Have a lovely, relaxing weekend. Warmest wishes,

Joanne Speight



Follow me on twitter: @YarmPrePrep



Times Tables Madness

In Year 2, we started to practise counting and applying our knowledge of 2s, 5s and 10s. We used the Numicon and Base 10 to represent the tables in different ways, as well as using our partners to play 'Tables Tennis'. Learning our 2s, 5s and 10s has never been so much fun.



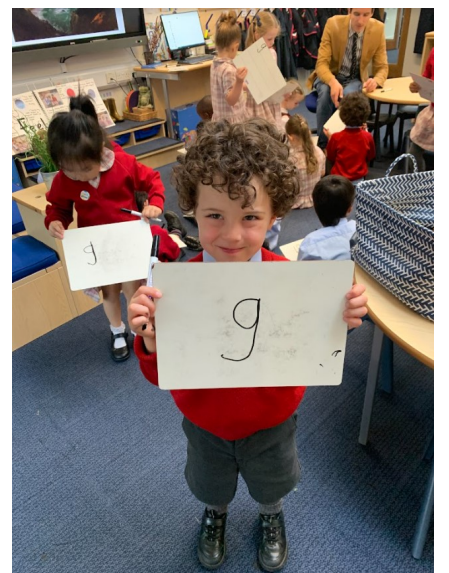
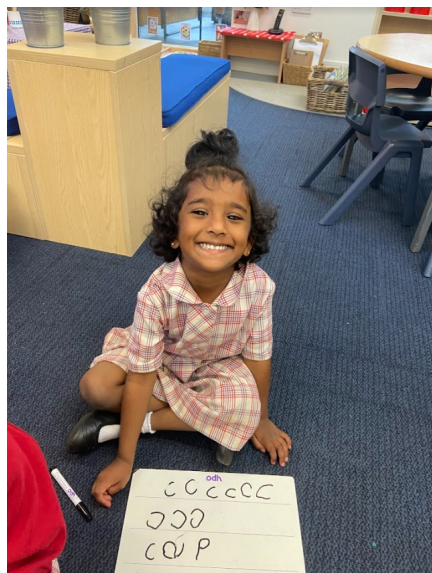
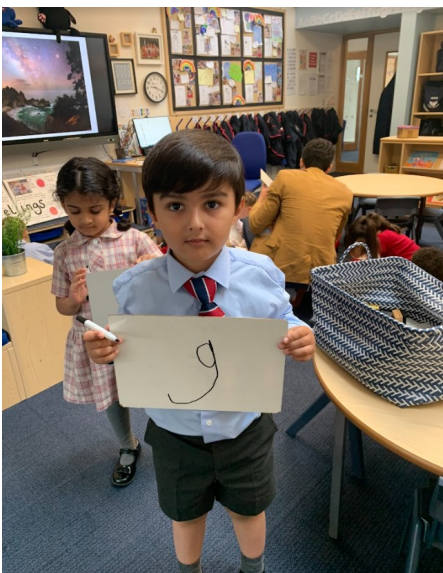
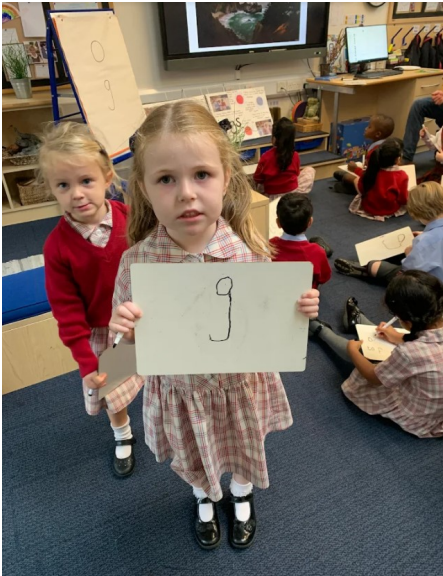
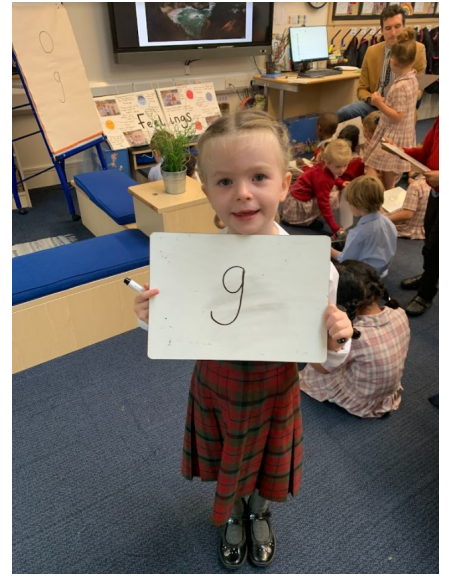
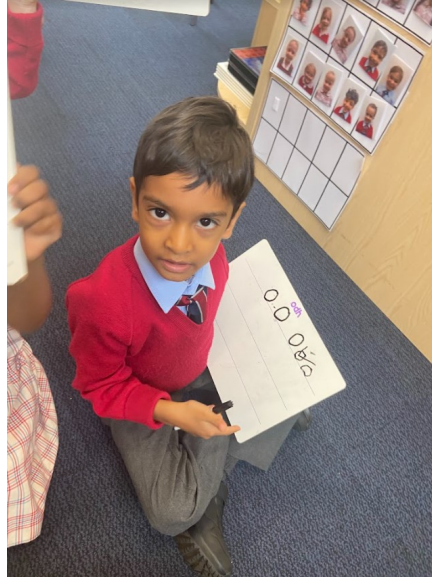
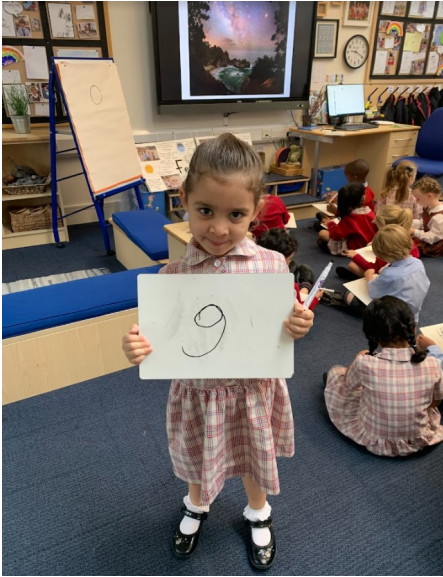
Autumn Scavenger Hunt

With the first signs of autumn and wind blowing through the trees, we decided it was the perfect opportunity to explore the treasure trove that autumn brings. With changing leaves, crunching walkways and conkers waiting to burst open ready to be discovered by little hands, the children were filled with excitement! Why do the leaves change colour and fall off the trees?



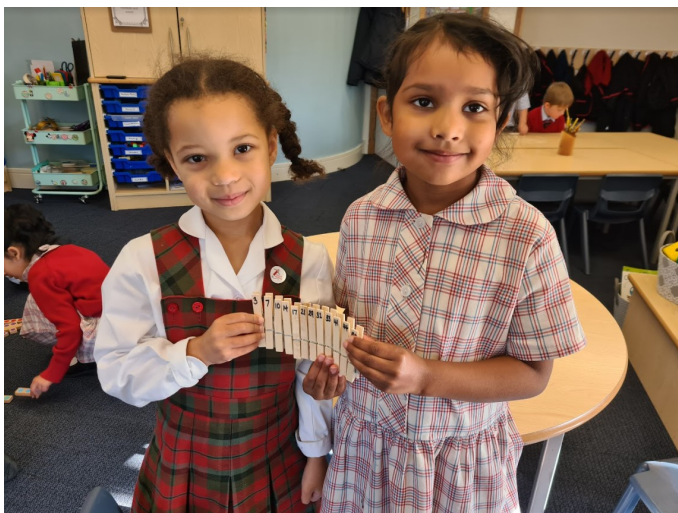
Song of Sounds

The children in Reception have learnt some new graphemes this week as they continue their journey through the Song of Sounds. As well as blending sounds together to read some CVC words, the children have also started reading some 'tricky words', knowing that these words cannot be 'sounded out'. We wonder if the children can remember the words 'I' and 'my' from this week?



Maths is all around us!

Year 1 have been working so hard to develop their maths skills. The children have been challenging themselves with number work; counting forwards, backwards, comparing and ordering. This week we have been using more maths language and solving problems, in and out of the classroom. We were very impressed to see the children working collaboratively with classroom challenges and spotting maths in the environment on our maths walk around the senior school site. We are great mathematicians!



Naomi Haigh 26th September 1992-2nd September 2021

At School, many members of our community are still mourning the death of our much-loved and inspirational music teacher, Naomi Haigh, who died tragically at the beginning of term. Our hearts and thoughts go out to her dad, Chris, a violin teacher at the School, mum Julia, known by so many in our community, brother Oliver and their extended family. Such a short life, yes, but one so richly full of life, purpose and passion. Naomi was, in every sense of the word, a force of nature.

I first encountered Naomi, playing cello in the band for a Crash Bang Wallop production; whilst, at this point, I didn't know who she was, I was transfixed by her playing; oozing musicality with a tangible love of what she was doing. Naomi had drawn me into her world of creativity. A huge talent, I was so excited interviewing Naomi for the role of Visiting Music Teacher. It was a testament to her intellectual ability that, when interviewed by former Headmaster (germanophile and a former German teacher) David Dunn, the whole of their interview was conducted in German; he was bowled over like I have never seen before or since! Naomi's contributions to all things musical in all parts of the School just grew and grew. Joanne Speight, Bill Sawyer and the Nursery and Reception teachers were equally blown away when Naomi swept in to Pre-Prep to teach Early Years music, complete with a parachute, guitar, ukulele, accordion, phenomenal voice, a plethora of puppets and a personality which transfixed the children and instilled a love of music into our youngest pupils. Many families have loved the "Sounds Fun" sessions mum Julia and Naomi ran for preschool children and Mrs Leary remembers the joy these sessions brought to her family's lives as well as her clear love of the great outdoors and her passion for travel and new experiences. As for her individual pupils, they will cherish the love of creating, thinking outside the box, the magic of discovery and a hunger for learning that Naomi inspired in them. Sasha Dugdale saw Naomi as Yarm School's local Sinfonia. She described how her children were always full of beans after any workshop with Naomi, so stunned were they by the magic and playfulness with which she approached music. A poignant memory for them is dancing reels to her jubilant accordion playing early this summer with her dear family. Our final musical memory at School of our talented Naomi was listening and watching her work with our outstanding 5th year musicians, Tegan and Ava. The dots leapt off the page in their exquisite and innately musical performance. I am so grateful that Naomi filmed their final rehearsal of Bridge's Miniatures as a lasting memento of their musical journey together; little did we realise at the time that this would be a significant and poignant moment that we will all cherish, one I shared with dad, Chris at the end of the summer term, saying how proud he must be of his wonderful daughter.

However, the "bigger picture" was what made Naomi even more special. We all still smile (and feel a tad dull and unadventurous ourselves) hearing that she had popped to Saltburn for an early morning dip in the sea, enjoyed the sunrise or had a quick wild swim in the Tees before work. We are still amazed at her passion and concern for the environment, her breadth of knowledge and her burning desire to make the world a better place. How many of us can say we have funded a school project in Uganda, working together with the villagers to make their dream a reality, raising thousands through many physical and musical challenges as well as supporting charities closer to home?

Many of us felt privileged to have met and worked alongside Naomi. Stephen Edwards writes touchingly to Naomi;

'I never knew your schedule but would find your company in the dining hall like a prize, like a favourite song coming on the radio, taking me back for some delightful moments to remind me of who I was. I never even knew your instrument, as your thoughts and words had already escaped the day to day, and were instead ranging over praise for books and writers, festivals and courses, offered up only to share never to show off. For a long time I didn't even know your name; our conversations had become too acrobatic and thrilling to go back to that starting point. You told me you had started wild swimming in the Tees en route to work and it felt like part confession, part instruction, but mostly just a wish to share joy. Maybe only you could mention marimba, movement and meditation in the same sentence, and make me want to be in the midst of your enthusiasms. One afternoon after we talked on the wrong side of the school bells, you walked off and I voiced to myself out loud 'Who is she?', somewhat tipsy from the exchange, mesmerised by your energy that filled me, and made me feel the centre of it all. Your time given to me was an immeasurable gift.'

Naomi Haigh 26th September 1992-2nd September 2021

At Naomi's funeral, an excerpt from The Paradoxical Commandments by Kent M. Keith was read:

“The biggest ideas may easily fail
Think big anyway.
People really need help but may exploit you if you do help them.
Help people anyway.
People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centred.
Love them anyway.
Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable.
Be honest and frank anyway.
If you do good, people may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.
Do good anyway.
The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.
Do good anyway.
What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.
Build anyway.
Give the world the best you have and you might get kicked in the teeth.
Give the world the best you have anyway.”

Naomi's short life was full; full of love, full of life, full of ideas and full of inspiration: what a legacy.

Mrs K Staggs





Second Hand Uniform

As part of our ongoing initiatives to encourage sustainability, we offer a second hand uniform service; good quality, second hand uniform items are available to purchase from the Uniform Showroom which is located on the Senior School site. If you wish to sell/donate good quality uniform you no longer require, please drop items at the Uniform Showroom or phone Lesley Porter, Showroom Manager, for more information on 01642 7925.

Second hand Nursery, Pre-Prep and Prep School uniform can also be donated to the YPSSC and sold to raise funds for the Prep School. Please contact the Prep School Committee for more information: ypssc@hotmail.com

YPSSC Meeting Minutes

Please find the minutes from the YPSSC meeting on the 16th September at the link below

[YPSSC Meeting Minutes](#)

Harvest Collection

Friday 8th October

This harvest at Pre Prep, we shall be supporting breakfast schemes in local primary schools. Our mission is for every child to bring one box of cereal to school on Friday 8th October to donate to this important cause. We believe every child should start the day the healthy way and we are keen to help! We are looking forward to celebrating our teamwork with a giant game of cereal box dominoes in the garden. Bring your box of cereal to join in the fun!



Phonics Stay and Play

Our phonics 'Stay and Play' sessions are a chance to see how we teach phonics in your child's year group. In Nursery, we shall be having a 'Bring Someone Special to Nursery' afternoon, where you will be able to join your child at play. Please find dates for each year group below.

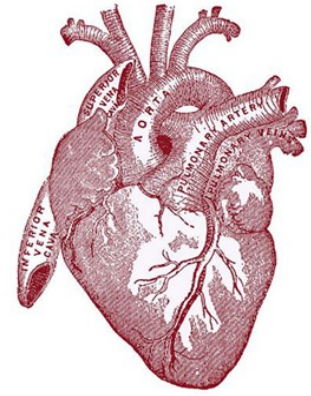
Further information will follow shortly.

Nursery— Wednesday 17th November

Reception—Tuesday 9th November

Year 1—Thursday 11th November

Year 2—Tuesday 2nd November



Art Competition

To be featured in a charity calendar

The theme is:

**What do you
think makes a
good heart?**

There will be a winner
from each year,
appearing on one page
of the 2022 calendar

**Open to all year
groups.**

This brilliant competition is a great way for you to be super creative and make something really exciting! Painting, drawing, photography... give it a go!

Now for the important stuff:

Please create your work on an A4, landscape piece of paper. Write your name, year and your class on the BACK of your work.

**Please submit your
work to Mrs
Shepherd or Mrs
Symington by 11th
October.**



**GOOD
LUCK
and enjoy!**

**All money raised from
selling the calendars
goes to the South
Cleveland Heart Fund**