

The Phoenix Flier

Issue 688

Friday 26th November 2021

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to this week's edition of the Phoenix Flier which showcases the fun and varied activities and pursuits on offer across the school. It has been a week in which many of our pupils have had to seize the opportunities before them and take a leap of faith. We have seen all of our girls and boys in Year 3 and Year 4 step up to the demands of the poetry competition and our oldest pupils in Year 6 have embraced an afternoon of transition events at the Senior School. It has been superb to witness them navigate these testing experiences and grow as a result. We believe that every challenge can be overcome with the correct mindset, by pushing ourselves and through understanding that you will be supported by those around you. It is a privilege to see our pupils relish these opportunities which will stand them in good stead in all aspects of school and life. It remains a pleasure to develop such a culture at school.

I do hope that you have been able to access your child's reports via our parent portal since they were released earlier this week. The forthcoming parent consultations will allow you to discuss the progress your child has made this term and clarify the report comments. If you are having any issues accessing your child's report please email Miss Abigail Rigg on avr@yarmschool.org who will be able to assist you.

Bill Sawyer

Head's

Challenge:

I have a chain
but I'm not a
prisoner, I
have a frame
but I'm not a
photo. What
am I?

Photo of the Week:

A chance to
try German
street food for
some of our
Year 3
children this
week!



Tooled Up Education

Thanks to all of you who came along to our bonanza week of mental health webinars. For those of you who missed them live, but would like the chance to catch up, the [recordings](#) are now all to be found in the Tooled Up library, along with full notes.

Our expert webinars just keep on coming. This Thursday (25th), at 8pm, we'll be joined by Claire Harvey to discuss how to promote excellent mental health in LGBTQ+ teens. We'll be sharing the research evidence and will discuss what needs to happen at home and at school to ensure teens have positive self-esteem and a great support network. [Book your free ticket now](#). And, on 13th December, we'll be talking to educational audiologist Dr Joy Rosenberg, from Oxford Audiology Solutions, about how families with children who are deaf or hearing impaired can build resilience. Public tickets are available [here](#) but you can enter your promo code Thrive2021 at the top left at the checkout to get your ticket for free as a parent at a Tooled Up school.

If you have teens embarking on their GCSE year, make sure that you share our [GCSE tips video](#) and [tip sheet](#) with them. Encouraging young people to try some of the ideas will help them to improve their organisation and mindset throughout this important year. We also know that university applications are of interest to many parents at the moment. Our interview with Susan Smith from *All Things Careers* provides really usable information on [degree apprenticeships](#) and a video on the UCAS application process will be in the library soon.

Don't forget to follow Tooled up on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#), where we are running competitions for parents in Tooled Up schools and keeping you updated on new resources.

Do you have any burning parenting questions? Did you know that Dr Weston will answer any parenting question that you ask? Have a peek at this week's parenting question on the front page of the [Tooled Up Education](#) site. If you have a question, why not submit it? All questions are treated anonymously and we promise we will answer.

A quick reminder As a parent at a Tooled Up school, you have full unlimited access to the Tooled Up library. If you have not created your account yet, click [here to register for an account](#). It takes less than 2 minutes to enter your details and unique school PIN: YPS1103 and if you need assistance, we are always happy to help at support@tooledupeducation.com. If you already have an account and you have forgotten your password, then simply click on any of the resource links above, click "Lost your password" and follow the instructions.

Dr Kathy Weston



Tips for Students in Their GCSE Year



Your Best Year Yet: Tips for Students in Their GCSE Year



The Role of Clinical Psychologists in Supporting Child and Teen Mental Health, with Dr Tamsyn Noble



Understanding Sleep, Sleep Problems and 'What Works' with Joanna Kippax



Understanding Degree Apprenticeships



Understanding Children's Anger and Optimal Strategies for Managing it with Dr Anna Colton

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!

Year 3 and 4 Poetry Competition Finals 2021

With amazing articulation and powerful projection, the Year 3s and 4s recited their poetry with gusto during the finals competition held last Wednesday. Everyone was wowed by wonderful performances from all of the children taking part. During the judging stage, several other children from each year group took to the stage to share their talented recitals, making the final decisions so much harder to make.

However, an overall year group prize was presented to two performers who delivered with mastery of concept and excellent technique; huge congratulations to Rosa Williams in Year 3 and Kaira Nalawade in Year 4!

Well done to the following Form winners:

- Henry Skidmore— 3B
- Henry Stanley - 3W
- Max Jolly - 3R
- Erin Goh - 4J
- Joint first for Harrison Covell and Anika Sunkavalli – 4N
- Hannah Clarke - 4W



Mr Pengilley



Year 6 Taster Afternoon at the Senior School



PE and Games



Ancient Egypt Workshops

Mrs Jennings organised a meeting with the Oriental Museum and we got to talk to a man called John about Ancient Egypt. John challenged us with this pot and we had to try and guess what it was. Everyone kept on getting the wrong answer, but in the end he told us it was a make-up pot!

Tallulah M.

We also learned about the canopic jars. The dog holds the stomach, the jackal holds the lungs and the bird holds the intestines on this jug.

Trisha K.

After that John took us into the mummy room on the Google Meet. He showed us an actual mummy and guess what? She broke her toe and had her hand cut off! He also showed us the sarcophagus and the story behind it.

George P.

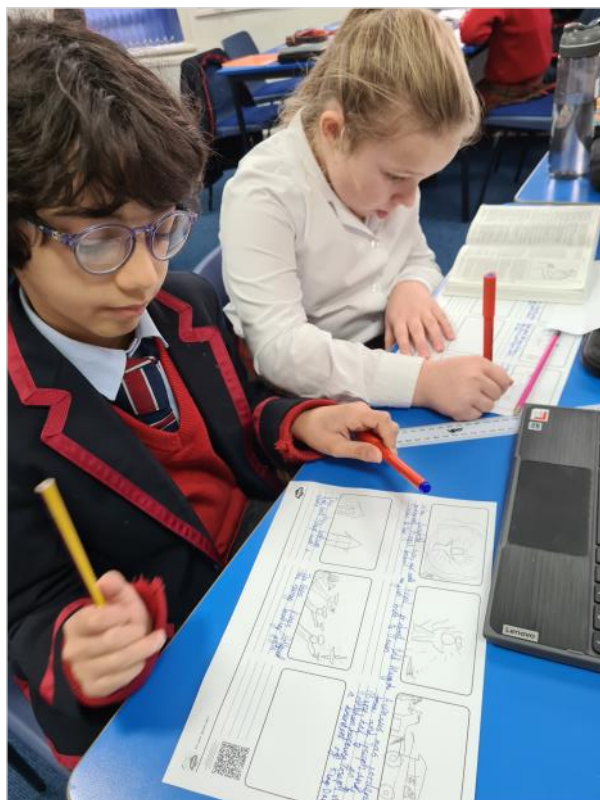
Digital Leaders take the stage!

Our first Digital Leaders Day Out took place last week with a trip to the Princess Alexandra Auditorium. Our pupils and the Digital Leaders from Hartburn Primary School had the opportunity to use the lights and sound equipment, as they explored how technology is used to put on a show in a theatre. Our thanks to Mr Brookes and Mr James for letting us play with their equipment!



Year 5 RE

Year 5 have been comparing the nativity stories found in Matthew's and Luke's gospels and produced some lovely comic strips in chronological order of the events that took place.



Children in Need

Well done to all of the children in the Prep School, who raised an impressive **£235.06** for Children in Need last week, following the chance to dress in something that expresses who they are. Here, 6G show us how to pose for the camera!



After School Care

After School Care is supervised by Miss Emma Jeffries and Prep School staff. The care costs are as follows: 4.30-5.00pm - £2; 5.00-5.30pm - £3 (in addition to previous charge); 5.30-6.00pm - £3 (in addition to previous charge). Children involved in clubs until 5pm, children involved in fixtures and children whose siblings are involved in Prep School clubs and activities are not charged until these activities have finished. **If you are collecting from the Pre-Prep please access the Studio Hall by following the path from the new car park.** Please note the phone number for after school care: 01642 792584. It would help us enormously, if you are running late after 5pm, that you could contact this number.

Morrisons vouchers

As a school, we are collecting the 'It's Good to Grow' vouchers at Morrisons to use towards collecting free gardening equipment for the school allotment (currently being looked after by Year 2!) If you receive any vouchers, please send them in!

Mr Pengilly



Everything you need to know about Christmas in the Preparatory School

PARENTS' EVENING

Your child's form teacher should have been in touch by now to offer you a slot to speak to them regarding their report (released Monday 22nd November). These consultations will take place during the week commencing Monday 29th November via telephone or Google Meet for Years 3-6. If you need further information, please contact your child's form teacher.

Tuesday 30th November

There will be no Y5/6 Netball, Y3/4 Hockey, Y3 Journalling, Y4 STEAM and Creative Writing clubs on this day.

Wednesday 1st December

There will be no Y4 Bakers club on this day.

Thursday 2nd December

This is the last session this term for all Thursday clubs. There will, however, be no F1 in STEAM or Phoenix Challenge today.

Friday 3rd December

Along with our Christmas tree on this day, the Christmas Post Box will be opened. It will be placed outside Mr Stone's office. Please may we ask the children to write full names and forms on envelopes to avoid any confusion.

U11 Hockey and Rugby v GSAL (away), with the games beginning at 2pm and an approximate return time of 5pm. Please keep an eye on @YarmPrepGames on Twitter to keep track of any delays returning.

U10 Hockey and Rugby v GSAL (home), with games commencing at 2pm and finishing before the end of the school day.

The Spring Term activities booking form will be open for your children to select their activities from today until Thursday 9th December. Full details will be emailed to you on this day.

Monday 6th December

Last Year 3 swimming session of the term.

Wednesday 8th December

Last activities sessions of the term.

Thursday 9th December

All children in Years 3 – 6 will stay behind after school for tea and preparation for our Carol Service.

Prep School Festival of Carols in the Princess Alexandra Auditorium. Please refer to the email sent out regarding ticketing and organisation of this event ([you can also access it by clicking here](#)), which will be different to previous years due to COVID protocols.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Festival of Carols, which promises to be a wonderful occasion to get into the festive spirit! As there are two performances, we ask that all parents collect their children from the Senior School at 7pm following the final performance.

Friday 10th December

All clubs and activities will be finished by today. There are no clubs and activities running on any day the following week.

WEEK OF THANKS

From the 13th December and throughout the final week of term, we will be collecting items of food again for the local charity *Sprouts* in support of their Christmas Campaign. We are asking for items that can be put towards Christmas hampers for local families over the festive period. As such, we welcome all donations during the last week

of term that can be put towards a Christmas dinner. The closing date for donations is **Thursday 16th December**.

Also during the week we will be holding our annual Reindeer Run, as organised by our wonderful YPSSC and the Christmas Jumper Day. Further details of these events can be found below.

Monday 13th December

The Yarm Prep Concert Choir will be singing carols to the residents of Park House Care Home in Stockton. Children will be back at school for 3.45pm collection.

Wednesday 15th December

Lost Property assembly will take place today, so please have one last look in rooms, bags, wash baskets, etc for any items that do not belong to your child! We endeavour to return as much as possible to the rightful owners.

During the afternoon, Dr Craig from the Senior School will be sharing his fantastic physics show with all Y3-6 pupils.

Year 3 children will all stay behind after school for tea and preparation for their Christmas Show.

5.30pm – Year 3 Christmas Show in the Prep Hall. All Year 3 families are invited to attend. The performance should finish by 6.15pm. Once finished, refreshments will be available.

Thursday 16th December

Mrs Dunkley's dance groups will be performing in assembly. Parents of those performing are welcome to attend between 9.45-10.10am in the Prep Hall. Please arrive promptly.

Reindeer Run for Teesside Hospice (families can make a donation to this fantastic cause ahead of the run via a Just Giving page the YPSSC will be setting up - details to follow!) The run will take place at the Prep School - antlers included!

Year 3 will receive a visit from some elves during the afternoon (but only if they have been good!)

All school bags and kit bags are to go home on this day too please. Form teachers may ask your child to bring something in on the Friday though, such as their Chromebook.

Friday 17th December

Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children (children to bring in £1 and wear their finest seasonal jumper!)

During the morning, every year group will be going down to Yarm Parish Church for our own Christmas service, followed by year group trips to the Senior School woods to enjoy some carols by the bonfire, with Christmas dinner and the end of year assembly completing the term.

Year 3 German

As part of their activities sessions, Year 3 have been experiencing German culture and street food!



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

10 Ways You Can SHARE KINDNESS ONLINE

Last year, around one in five young people aged 10–15 in England and Wales admitted experiencing online bullying: most commonly being insulted or sworn at, or having hurtful messages sent about them. To someone who's being bullied, the world can seem like a bleak, negative place – but just one kind word can be a ray of hope: a turning point that brightens their day and refreshes their perspective. That's why 'One Kind Word' is the theme of Anti-Bullying Week 2021. We're supporting this year's event by bringing you ten top tips for beating online bullying by replacing it with kindness.

1 PRAISE WHERE IT'S DUE

Sometimes a friend or relative might post online about something they're proud to have achieved: maybe an exam they've passed, a new skill they've learned or a task they've completed. Celebrate their hard work and determination by being kind enough to praise them for it publicly.

2 REACH OUT

It's not always easy to tell what kind of mood someone is in just from what they post online. Simply dropping somebody a message to say 'hi', to ask if they're OK or to tell them that you're thinking of them could totally make their day.

3 RECOMMEND FUN THINGS

If there's something you enjoy doing online – perhaps you play a particular game, or you've found a really cool site – share it with someone you think will enjoy it. Even recommending a film or TV show you think they'll like can bring a little happiness to someone who really needs it.

4 OFFER TO HELP

Sometimes you might see a friend or family member posting a question online or asking for help with something they can't do themselves. Don't just ignore it – if you can help, get in touch. Something that's difficult for them might be no trouble for you!

5 POST POSITIVELY

Lots of people seem to go online purely to complain about things or be negative. Just because you're communicating online (and not face to face) doesn't mean you can't be positive, though! Post about things that make you happy and that you're thankful for. It could brighten someone else's day.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with more than 10 years of experience in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



6 SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION

If somebody that you know has done something positive or shown kindness themselves, go online and thank them with a message or a post. Expressing your gratitude costs nothing and showing someone that you appreciate them will really make them feel good.

7 BE UNDERSTANDING

Showing empathy towards others is an act of online kindness which often gets overlooked. If you notice that someone you know is upset, drop them a message. Sometimes people just need someone else to listen to them and understand their situation.

8 SHARE INSPIRATIONAL POSTS

When you see something online that inspires you or makes you feel happy, share it with people you know. A spot-on quotation, a beautiful photo or an uplifting video can lift someone's spirits and help them to feel better about life.

9 THINK BEFORE COMMENTING

Thinking before we act can be just as important as acting in the first place. Taking a second to consider what you're saying in advance could stop you from posting something negative, hurtful or offensive – even if you don't mean to. It's better to post positively or not post at all.

10 LIKE, LOVE AND ENGAGE

If somebody posts something that you like on social media, don't just scroll past – take the time to like it, love it or leave an appreciative comment! Reacting positively to other people's posts might seem like a small gesture but could mean a lot to them.

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#WakeUpWednesday



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Key Dates

NOVEMBER

- Sat 27** Prep Ball (PAA; 7pm-Midnight)
- Mon 29** EYFS/Prep Parents' Evenings (4-6pm)
- Tue 30** EYFS/Prep Parents' Evenings (4-6pm)
No STEAM, Netball, Hockey, Journaling or Creative Writing clubs today

DECEMBER

- Wed 1** Y5/6 Poetry Competition
No Baking clubs today
Riding will take place today
- Thu 2** **No Phoenix Challenge or F1 in STEAM today**
Last sessions for Thursday after school clubs this term
- Fri 3** **Christmas post box opens!**
U11 Hockey and Rugby v GSAL
(away; 2pm start; 5pm return)
U10 Hockey and Rugby v GSAL
(home; 2pm start)
Spring term activities bookings open
- Mon 6** Last Year 3 swimming of the term
- Wed 8** Last activities sessions of the term
- Thu 9** **Prep Festival of Carols**
Y4/5 parents—5pm; Y3/6 parents 6.30pm
All children staying behind after school
- Fri 10** **ALL CLUBS & ACTIVITIES END FOR THE TERM**
- Mon 13** **Week of Thanks**
Donations for *Sprouts* welcome
Concert Choir visiting Care Home (1.40pm)
- Wed 15** Lost Property Assembly
Dr Craig's Physics Show
Year 3 stay behind at school
Year 3 Christmas Play (Prep Hall; 5.30pm)

Awards:

Head Teacher Awards:

Year 5— Will M.

Year 6— Effie P., Felicia J. (2), Katie C., Ben S., Eva T.

Peer Mentor of the Week

Name: Khushee

Friends: Zara, Effie, Avighna, Charlotte and Katie

My best mentor: My mum because she always helps and supports me

Favourite TV show: Sponge Bob Squarepants

Favourite fruit: Bananas

Favourite subject: DT

When I am older... I want to be a professional at martial arts.

Khushee helped sort out an upset between two Year 3 girls who were having a bit of an argument. She did this by talking it through with them both and making them smile. and laugh together.



**The answer to
the Head's
Challenge from**

Weekly certificates

	Values	Endeavour
3B	Olivia C.	Felicity W.
3R	Zara M.	Emily B.
3W	Alia M.	Cooper W.
4J	George P.	Haashir I.
4N	Anika S.	Ollie B.
4W	Hugo M.	Alice S.
5H	Violet M.	Max A.
5K	Darcey-Rue R.	Seth T.
5W	Eva M.	Amelia I.
6G	Aisling T.	Alfie M.
6L	Zach B.	Emma S.
6P	Jude T.	Yingying L.

Christmas Holiday School

Christmas Holiday School will run from Monday 20th—Wednesday 22nd December 2021. Further details will follow in the next few weeks.



Miss Whitehouse

Year	Monday 20/12	Tuesday 21/12	Wednesday 22/12
EYFS/Pre-Prep	Cinema	Festive Farm at Newham Grange	Panto at PAA
Prep	Cinema	Beamish	Panto at PAA