



The Phoenix Flier

Issue 689

Friday 3rd December 2021

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to this edition of the Phoenix Flier which gives you a window into life at Yarm Prep. It has started to feel very festive in the past few days. We have had dustings of snow, Christmas trees have been put up and we enjoyed our first Christmas performance of the season, courtesy of Year 1 & 2. Having not had a live audience for such an event last year, it was superb to be able to welcome families back to the PAA for this year's Year 1&2 Nativity: *A Little Bird Told Me*. As the lights went down and the cast ventured onto stage, there was a hush from the audience and a palpable sense of excitement for what was to come. Led by the Year 2's, who always take a leading role, the boys and girls sang with real conviction and superb musicality when sharing a unique twist on the traditional story of the birth of Jesus. All in all, it was a brilliant performance from start to finish and one that was very well directed by Miss Ni Chaoilte, with Mr Gooding on the piano and the rest of the Pre-Prep team working in a range of ways to support the event. What a way to kick off our festive celebrations! We look forward to the next instalment, the EYFS Christmas performance, which I am sure will be just as heartwarming.

Saturday evening saw members of our school community join together for a night of dining and dancing at our *Studio 54* themed Prep Ball organised by the Yarm Prep School Social Committee (YPSSC) and hosted at the PAA. There was an abundance of velvet, sparkles and retro styling to fit the 1970s vibe which was complemented further by the brilliant live band, roller skating entertainers and a sumptuous three course meal put on by our talented Sodexo catering team. It was a fantastic event that was well enjoyed by all who attended. Importantly, valuable funds were raised for the Children's Cancer North through proceeds from the night. Huge thanks go to the YPSSC committee for their sterling efforts to make the Prep Ball a success and to everyone who supported the event in a range of ways.

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge:

You are in a cold house in the winter. It is dark. You have only one match. There is a candle and there is a wood burning stove. Which do you light first?

Photo of the Week:

For some, it may well be a little too early but Mrs Hart and the librarians have been busy getting the library ready for Christmas.



Tooled Up Education

This week, we've been refreshing some of our favourite resources to make them more fun and appealing for your children to use. We love the new versions of [How Resilient Am I?](#) and [Who is there for me?](#) and hope that you do too! We've also updated some of our oracy activities - take a look at [My Oracy Profile](#) and [Reflecting on Your Presentation](#). Our [CV for Primary Aged Children](#) has also had a revamp. We'd love to know what you think!

As well as giving some of our older resources a bit of a makeover, we've also been busy filling the library with new ones. Our [Mood Thermometer](#) is a great way to encourage younger children to identify their emotions, build a vocabulary around feelings and come up with some strategies that might help when they experience strong emotions.

We have also just added a recently recorded [webinar](#) to the Tooled Up library, where eating disorders expert, Dr Sophie Nesbitt, debunks common myths and answers frequently asked questions. And, after attending an eating disorders conference last week, we also wanted to let you know about six [free and fantastic, evidence-based resources](#) that you can use to help boost your children's body image. We've also added a [podcast on memory and learning](#) (with the fabulous Dr Duncan Astle), an [interview with lawyer Maria Strauss](#) about schools' responses to Ofsted's report into sexual abuse in schools and a [video about the university application process](#). Phew, it's been a busy week.

Finally, we've been asked to spread the word about a fantastic research project looking at the impact of the pandemic on young people with a diagnosis of ASD and/or ADHD. If you'd like to find out more, or take part in this study, click [here](#). If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the researcher:

Hayley.moore@nottingham.ac.uk

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



29 November 2021

Dr Weston Talks with Maria Strauss: Responding to the Ofsted Rapid Review into Sexual Abuse in Schools



30 November 2021

Dr Weston Talks with Dr Duncan Astle: Understanding Learning - Neuromyths, Memory, Revision and Helping Struggling Learners



30 November 2021

6 Simple Resources to Help Boost Young People's Body Image



24 November 2021

Eating Disorders: FAQs with Dr Sophie Nesbitt



26 November 2021

Mood Thermometer



29 November 2021

Higher Education: What You Need to Know About UCAS, Finance and Accommodation



29 November 2021

How Resilient am I?



29 November 2021

Who is There for Me?

Year 5 and 6 Poetry Competition Finals 2021



Well done to all of the Year 5 and 6 poetry competition finalists. The quality of the entries this year was incredible, giving our judging panel of Miss Rowlands, Mrs Speight and Mrs Ankers (Head of First Year, Senior School) a very difficult task in choosing some winners. What amazing talent!

We can't wait for next year!

Mr Pengilley

Form Winners

5H—Lucy Wakefield

5K—Thomas Ferguson

5W—Joe Williamson

6G—Ewan Green

6L—Jude Thompson

6P—Libby Scott

Overall Winners

Year 5—Wilf Sawyer

Year 6—Nethuki Mudduwa



Parent Curriculum Information Site

<http://bit.ly/yarmpreparents>

Just to highlight this site again, please check for some recent additions including maths overviews, reading event slides, etc. If there is anything else you deem useful that you would like us to include, please let us know.

Mrs Pawluk

PE and Games



It has been a busy few weeks with every girl and boy in school playing against a variety of opposition. The girls in particular have travelled some miles, including to Norton where we played Red House at U11 level, Durham where our U10 and U11 teams played, Newcastle where our U8 and U9 squads enjoyed an afternoon of fun and finally this week saw all girls in the U10s and U11s playing The Grammar School at Leeds. It really has been frantic but fun to see our girls throw themselves into matches with great enthusiasm and competitive spirit!



We have also started our *Positive Power* feedback where girls on the sidelines waiting for their moment to shine on the pitch comment on what they can see. Here are a few from our fixtures against Durham last week:

Nethuki - "Great tackle and spectacular passing."

Tabi— "Hitting into space."

Avighna— "Amazing tackle and good control."

Effie = "Fantastic energy."

Sofie— "What an interception."

Aisling—"Super goalkeeping."

Monica— "Great goalkeeping."

Immie—"Scored a great goal."

Emma— "Excellent passing out wide."



Rosie— "Super in front of goal, scoring two."

Amelia O— "What a really good tackle."

Eva M.— "Super goal."

Beatrix— "Brilliant running with the ball."

Gabrielle— "Wow! She is so fast!"

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney

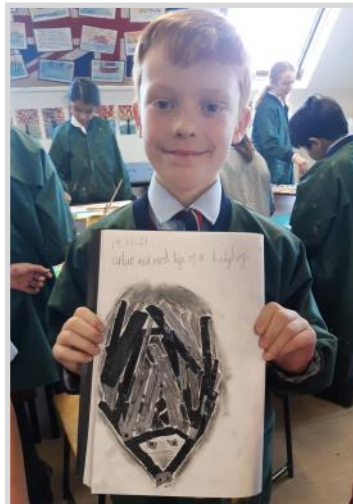
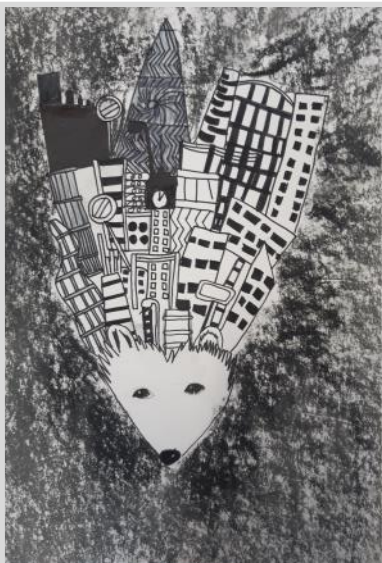


5H Friction Investigation



Mrs Symington's Art Gallery

4J are enjoyed exploring rural and urbanisation of hedgehogs. Great thought and planning was used when drawing and painting. It was so much fun using ducktape to create an urban hedgehog and its spikes.



Year 5 Embroidery

Y5 have been busy learning embroidery skills and have completed their first hoop designs.



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 to let us know your estimated time of arrival.**

Mr Stone

Christmas Calendar Competition 2021

Thank you very much to all pupils who took part in Olivia Davies' 2022 Calendar Competition - 'What do you think makes a good heart?'

The artwork submitted was absolutely beautiful, everyone thought very carefully about how to answer the question in a creative manner and it was a pleasure to receive such lovely images.

The winners are:

Olivia Clark—Year 3

Oliver Bridle—Year 4

Janaki Madhavan—Year 5

Chris Isukapatla—Year 6

The runners up are:

Harry Hollingsworth—Year 4

James Armstrong—Year 4

Effie Peacock—Year 6

Katie Cheesman—Year 6

Nethuki Mudduwa—Year 6

The calendar is in aid of the South Cleveland Heart Fund and is on sale now. It features stunning artwork from Yarm pupils and it's even got reminders of our term dates to keep you on track next year!

Calendars are £10 each, cash only, and can be purchased from Senior School reception. If you buy more than one calendar then you can enjoy a substantial discount - see below:

1 calendar - £10; 2 calendars - £15; 3 calendars - £25; 4 calendars - £30.

These are guaranteed to go quickly so grab your copies as soon as you can

Well done, everyone.

Mrs Shepherd

Stephenson Charity Day

It was with great pleasure that our Stephenson house captains presented a cheque to the Vision 25 charity from Stockton-on-Tees in assembly last week, following their charity day earlier this term.



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

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.

Please note there is no after school care on the last day of term. Children will finish at 3.45pm. Buses will be running after school on this day as usual.

Please ensure you have arranged for your child to be collected from school at 3.45pm.

Monday 20th Wednesday 22nd December

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SCHOOL

If you would like your child to attend, please [complete this form](#). This is always a much enjoyed and busy Holiday School and staffing and outings need to be arranged well in advance.

The staff would like to thank parents for their support in these last, extremely busy weeks of term. May we also take this opportunity of wishing you all a very merry festive season!

Yours sincerely

Mr Gavin Stone

Deputy Head

Year 5 Sustainable Craft activity

Year 5 have decorated Orcadian scallop shells with intricate patterns and bold colours in their sustainable craft activity this week.

Mrs Hart



Phoenix Challenge

Congratulations to Dora Bonner of our *Phoenix Challenge* club, who won £70 in a competition the club recently entered, run by the *Cleveland Scientific Institution*. Well done Dora!

Mrs Lofthouse-Hill

Year 6 Poetry

As part of their homework menu, 6L have been writing poems about Victorians. Here is an example from James R.

V Victorians gave us christmas trees
I I can't wait for one of these
C Charles Dickens was a writer
T The books he wrote made people's days brighter
O Of all the inventions they have done
R Riding bicycles are my favourite one
I In the Victorian era the British population doubled
A And caused all sorts of trouble
N Now thinking about what they have gifted
S So we should be glad they existed

Last day of term

A reminder that there will be no After School Care on the last day of term. Parents are politely asked to collect their children on time at 3.30pm (Pre-Prep) and 3.45pm (Prep).

Mr Stone

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.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

"Inappropriate" means different things to different people. What's acceptable for one age group, for example, may be unsuitable for a slightly younger audience. Online, young people can chance upon inappropriate content in various ways – from pop-up ads to TikTok videos. The increasingly young age at which children become active in the digital world heightens the risk of them innocently running into something that they find upsetting or frightening. Trusted adults need to be able to help children be aware of what to do if they're exposed to age-inappropriate content.

WHERE IS IT FOUND?

SOCIAL MEDIA

Age-inappropriate content is easily accessible through many social media platforms. TikTok, for instance, is hugely popular with young people but is arguably best known for clips featuring sexualised dancing or profanity. Some social media users also express hate speech or promote eating disorders and self-harm, which could cause lasting damage to a child's emotional and mental health.

GAMING

Gaming is an enjoyable source of entertainment, but many popular titles can expose children to inappropriate material such as violence, horror, gambling or sexually explicit content. Playing games unsuitable for their age risks normalising to children what they are seeing. Some games also include in-game chat, where other (usually older) online players often use language that you probably wouldn't want your child to hear or repeat.

STREAMING

The range of video streaming services available online means that users can find almost anything they want to watch on demand. Children are therefore at risk of viewing TV shows and movies which contain nudity, drug and alcohol abuse, explicit language and extreme violence. Unfortunately, these streaming platforms can't always determine that it's not an adult who's watching.

ADVERTS

Online adverts frequently include age-inappropriate content: usually gambling and nudity or partial nudity, although adverts for alcohol or e-cigarettes are also common. Some search engines also feature adverts that are responsive to your search history: so if you've recently looked up a new horror movie, shopped for lingerie or ordered alcohol online, then the ads appearing on screen could reflect this the next time your child borrows your device.

18

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK IT THROUGH

Embarrassment or fear of getting into trouble can make it difficult for children to talk openly about age-inappropriate content they've watched. Remind your child they can always come to you if they're troubled by something they've seen online, without worrying about consequences. Before offering advice, discuss what they saw, how they felt and how they came to find the content in question.

CAN WE HAVE A CHAT?

CONNECT, DON'T CORRECT

If your child's been particularly distressed by exposure to content that wasn't suitable for their age, it's important to offer guidance to prevent them from repeating the same mistake – but it's equally vital to help them deal with the emotions that the situation has raised. You could tell them about any similar experiences you might have had at their age, and how you dealt with it.

BLOCK, REPORT, CONTROL

After discussing the problem, you and your child can take action together. This could include blocking any inappropriate sites and reporting any content which violates a platform's rules. To further safeguard your child online, set up parental controls on internet-enabled devices that they use. This will significantly reduce the chances of your child being exposed to age-inappropriate content in future.

GET SPECIALIST HELP

Age-inappropriate content can potentially have a negative impact on a child's mental health, which is sometimes displayed through changes in their behaviour. If the problem becomes more severe, you might consider reaching out to a mental health professional or an expert in this field who can provide you and your child with the proper support.

STAY CALM

Even though it is obviously difficult to stay rational in a situation where your child has been put at risk, it's essential to think before you react. Your child may well have hesitated to open up to you about watching inappropriate content for fear of the consequences, so being calm and supportive will reinforce the notion that it would be easy to talk to you about similar issues in the future.

Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is a Registered Counsellor with The Health Professions Council of South Africa, and she runs a private practice offering counselling to children, teenagers and families. Her main focus is creating awareness and educating the community on the mental health pressures of today's world, as well as resources and techniques to understand and cope better.



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#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.education.gov.au/documents/about/program/bullying-prevention/terminology> | <https://www.education.gov.au/education/training-professionals/professional-learning-program/teaching-inappropriate-content-factsheet> | <https://www.wednesday.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/children-made-two-year-7.pdf>



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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 01.12.2021

Key Dates

DECEMBER

Fri 3	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 <i>Sprouts</i> 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)
Thu 16	Dance Assembly (Prep Hall (9.50am) Reindeer Run (all day) Elves visiting Nursery—Year 3 (all afternoon)
Fri 17	Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children Christmas Dinner Carols at Yarm Parish Church End of term assembly End of term No after school care
Mon 20	Christmas Holiday School (until 22nd December)

2022

JANUARY

Wed 5	Pupils return Spring Term commences House General Knowledge Quiz
Mon 10	Sustainability Week

Awards:

Head Teacher Awards: Year 5— Udham C. **Year 6—** Emma S., Eleanor W., George H., Kit F., Libby S., Aditri K., Jude T., James R., Freddie B., Will F., Theo S.

Peer Mentor of the Week

Name: Elizabeth

Friends: Rosie, Neev, Lily, Libby, Immie, Ella and many, many more!

My best mentor: My gymnastics coach.

Favourite TV show: Zero Chill

Favourite fruit: Strawberries

Favourite subject: DT

When I am older... I want to be a hairdresser.



We have noticed Elizabeth taking her peer mentoring duties very seriously recently, helping to support children with their playtime games, displaying a patient and caring attitude. Well done Elizabeth.

The answer to the Head's Challenge from last time was:
A bike.

Weekly certificates

	Values	Endeavour
3B	Annalise D.	Angus F.
3R	Meadow E.	Manha A.
3W	Alia M.	Drax C.
4J	Eric P-F.	Satoshi Y.
4N	Yasmeen S.	Xinhao W.
4W	Ettie A.	Pradyoth K.
5H	Marawan S.	Beatriz G.
5K	Jessica F.	Louisa P.
5W	Felicity L.	Gabrielle B.
6G	Lily C.	Jacob B.
6L	Taha A.	Ben P.
6P	Wilf D.	Archie A.

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