



# The Phoenix Flier

Issue 690

Friday 10th December 2021

## The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

### A message from Mr Sawyer

**W**elcome to this week's edition of the Phoenix Flier. Our end of term festive concerts have continued to bring joy and celebrate the coming of Christmas. Our youngest pupils in the Early Years delivered a sterling performance in their Nativity this week which reflected the traditional Christmas story. On Thursday evening it was the turn of our pupils in Years 3, 4 & 5 in our Festival of Carols. It was lovely to be back in the PAA for this event having not had live performances for far too long. It was a heartwarming event, both the readings and vocal renditions were wonderful. It was a crying shame that Year 6 were unable to perform with the rest of the Prep School cohort, however, they took this turn of events very much in their stride. Their stoic attitude has been a lesson to us all in recent days. We look forward to the final few days of term next week which are set to be fun filled and action packed.

This festive season we are really hoping that you will once again generously support our Christmas giving campaign. Our aim is to provide Christmas hampers to local families via the local charity Yarm Wellness. Details of what you can donate have been sent via email and can also be found in this week's edition of the Flier. I thank you in advance for your help and support.

*Bill Sawyer*

### Head's

#### Challenge:

You will buy me to eat, but you will never eat me. Not even at Christmas. What am I?

#### Photo of the Week:

Conditions for our 'Rock 'n' Roll to the North Pole' challenge have been mixed at best!



## Tooled Up Education

We've been continuing our resource revamp this week, with new versions of [Raising a Resilient Child](#), and some of our anxiety related resources - our [Wobble Worksheet](#) and [I Want to Wow my Wobbles](#). We love how inviting they look to fill in. We'd really love to know what you think!

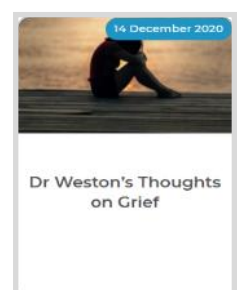
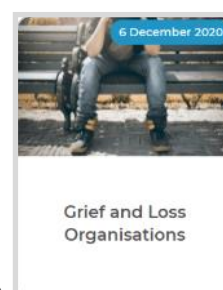
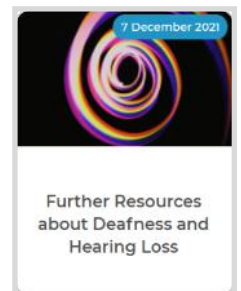
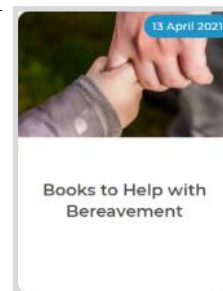
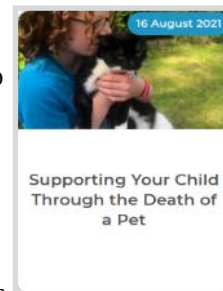
It's National Grief Awareness Week at the moment. Unfortunately, the loss of a loved one is something that 92% of children will go through before the age of 16 and up to 70% of schools have a bereaved pupil on roll at any given time (Child Bereavement Network). For detailed guidance on how to talk to a child who is facing the death of a loved one, search for 'grief and bereavement' on the Tooled Up site. These include a [short audio clip](#) where Dr Weston shares her thoughts, an [article](#) on helping children to cope with loss, tips to help children deal with the [death of a pet](#), and a list of useful [organizations](#). You can also get inspiration from our [list of books to help with bereavement](#) and listen to our [podcast interview](#) with Julia Samuel MBE, author of *Grief Works*, where we discuss how parents and teachers can support young people when someone they love dies.

Did you know that over 50,000 children in the UK are deaf, and that temporary deafness affects 80% of children by the time they are 10? We've just added [20 important facts to know about deafness](#) and also an [amazing list of over 250 useful websites and resources](#) for deaf children, their families and schools. For anyone interested in learning more about deafness, don't forget about our webinar on December 13th at 7.30pm, where Dr Weston will be talking about building resilience in deaf children with educational audiologist and teacher of the deaf, Dr Joy Rosenberg. [Book your free tickets now!](#)

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](mailto: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**





## Prep School Christmas Week of Thanks

### Monday to Friday—Christmas Campaign

This Christmas we have teamed up with Yarm Wellness to help provide Christmas dinner for families in our local area. Over four days in between Christmas and New Year children from

throughout the Stockton borough, who are supported with free school meals, will be provided with activities and a daily nutritious hot meal at Billingham Forum. This has been created by the Department for Education, HAF Fund (Holiday, Activities and Food) campaigned for by Marcus Rashford.

It is our hope, with your kind support, to provide as many of these families with a small hamper towards their Christmas dinner. If you feel you are able to support this charitable effort please see below the requested items for each class.

### Christmas Campaign Stockton Borough 2021



|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>Tinned Carrots (<b>Nursery</b>)<br/> Tinned Peas (Reception - <b>RD</b>)<br/> Tinned Potatoes (Reception - <b>RS</b>)<br/> Gravy Granules (Year 1 - <b>1S</b>)<br/> Stuffing Mix (Year 1 - <b>1N</b>)<br/> Christmas Pudding (any size) (Year 2 - <b>2B</b>)<br/> Mince Pies (Year 2 - <b>2P</b>)</p> | <p>Any tinned meats (Year 3 - <b>3B &amp; 3W</b>)<br/> Hot Chocolate (Year 4 - <b>4W</b>)<br/> Selection Boxes (Year 4 - <b>4J &amp; 4N</b>)<br/> Christmas Crackers (Year 5 - <b>5W</b>)<br/> Biscuits (Year 5 - <b>5K &amp; 5H</b>)<br/> Chocolate (Year 6 - <b>6G</b>)<br/> Sweet treats (Year 6 - <b>6P &amp; 6L</b>)</p> |
|--|---|

The collection will begin on Monday 13th December and end on Wednesday 15th December. Please send your items in with your child and they will be stored in class. The children will then organise the hamper bags and deliver them to our donation points in time for collection on the last day of term.

### Thursday 16th December

#### Reindeer Run for Teesside Hospice

[Families can make a donation to this fantastic cause ahead of the run via the Just Giving page here.](#) The run will take place at the Prep School - antlers included!

### Friday 17th December

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

As always, thank you in advance for your kind support and generosity this Christmas.

Mr Sawyer



# Everything you need to know about Christmas in the Prep School

## 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 *Yarm Wellness* 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. **Please note that Year 6 will not be performing.**

**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!



## PE and Games



We continued our 'Positive tower of power' feedback sheets during our matches with GSAL on Friday.

Anushri: Good dribbling and what a pass!

Emma: Great left to right and passing.

Eddie: Supportive and superb passing with pace.

Rosie: Tackling from the start and scoring in the first 15 seconds of the match.

Immie: Fierce and super movement of the ball.

Claudia: Never let's us down! Brilliant assist for the second goal.

Isobel: Great tackling.

Monica: Always tries her hardest.

Nethuki: Always chasing the space.

Aisling: Nice defending.

Tabi: Great pass.

Chris: Super interception.

Charlie: Fantastic tackle and then great goal.

Avighna: Terrific passing and tackling.

Emily: Top captain's performance and always positive to those around her.

Jing Jing: Great tackle.

Ying Ying: Super passing down the wings.

Aditri: Good tackling.

Namitha: Trying so hard and never stops running.

Libby S: Great goal scored.

Miss Walker: Great umpiring!

*Mrs Redhead-Sweeney*





## Year 6 Enterprise Activity

We were all really excited about Dr Bandeira coming in and talking about her business. Little did we know how hard it is to run a business. To start off with she worked for someone else as a psychologist but then she realised after a while that she did not like working for her boss! So she decided to start her own business but put it off for more than a year because she was worried about what could go wrong.



Then she moved to England from Hong Kong. There, she started in the pub industry brewing beer and mixing gin. They owned two pubs, The White Swan in Stokesley and The Bay Horse in Hutton Rudby.

Now Dr Bandeira and her husband have started a business where they buy unwanted old office furniture from companies who are refurbishing their offices. They fix it, if it is broken or needs a new coat of paint, then they sell the furniture on and make some money. This also avoids the furniture ending up as landfill.

I learnt that running one's own business means you have to work very hard and make many sacrifices along the way.

*Libby S., Daisy A. and Charlotte F.*

## 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*

## 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*

## Year 4 STEAM Club



A term of designing, modelling and making has seen our Year 4 STEAM club produce some fantastic vehicles!

*Mr Grundmann*

## 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*

## Woodland Activity

A great opportunity this week for Mr Pearce's Woodlands activity to explore the new amphitheatre, which has been built above the car park.

*Miss Jeffries*





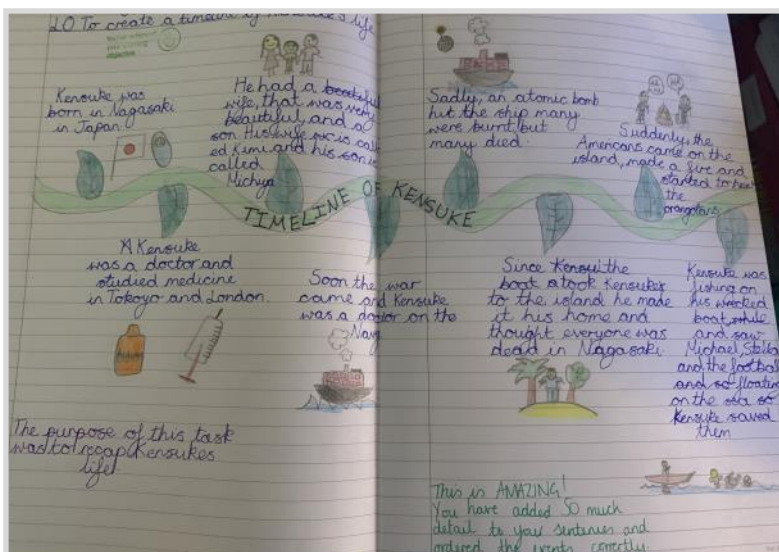
## Year 4 Bakers

A Christmas special this week for our bakers!



## Year 5 this week

Year 5 have been exploring air resistance this week, making parachutes with different surfaces in order to test the rate of air resistance on a chess piece. In English, they have been producing timelines of Kensuke's life finding evidence from the class text to order the events in chronological order.



**Parent Curriculum Information Site—<http://bit.ly/yarmprepparents>**

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.



Looking for gift inspiration?

# BUY OUR CHARITY CALENDAR!



A stunning picture  
each month by a  
Yarm School pupil

All proceeds to the South Cleveland Heart Fund

Organised by Olivia Davies, Upper Sixth

Calendars £10 each from  
Senior School reception

(volume discount available)



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 game of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# ROBLOX



With more than 150 million users worldwide, Roblox is one of the most popular video games of recent times. Roblox allows users to create their own gaming experiences using Roblox Studio: building levels and games then allowing other people to play them. Similarly, players can play each other's creations, either on their own or with other people online. While it's a tool that can help foster creative thinking, Roblox is also intermittently in the news amid concerns over young users' safety.

### No Age Rating

Roblox is rated 7+ by PEGI, but the platform itself doesn't have a minimum age requirement. It does ask for a date of birth when registering, but this can be easily fabricated. The sheer quantity of games available on Roblox means that some will fall into teen/adult categories. Users can also interact with each other freely – and the game has, historically, attracted scammers, griefers and online predators.



### In-App Purchases

Robux is the in-game currency used to buy things like special outfits or emotes, and to play certain sections of the game. A subscription service (costing £4.99 per month) called Roblox Premium offers more privileges and more in-game currency. Robux can also be purchased in batches, for up to £4.99. Children can easily pay for these, or purchase a membership, without realising it.



### Chat Functionality

Users can join group chats with almost anyone through the Chat & Party function. While the chat has some filters, predators still try to find ways around these to prey on young children. There have been recent reports of adults pretending to be children, attempting to groom younger players and encouraging them to chat privately in an unmoderated environment away from the game.



### ODers

An 'ODer' (online dater) joins Roblox to find someone to 'date' online. While there's nothing inherently wrong with finding love on the internet, it becomes an issue in a space that's populated by children and young teens, like Roblox. Online dating is against Roblox's community guidelines, but certain player-built games on the platform are specifically for 'ODers' and should be avoided by children.



### Online Predators

Roblox's developers aim to maintain a safe place for children; they employ human moderators for their players' protection. But there will, sadly, always be individuals who try to bypass these safeguards so they can chat to children and attempt to communicate outside the game. Anyone asking for your child's personal information or to talk privately should be blocked and reported.



## Advice for Parents & Carers



### Take Note of Ratings

Recent press reports drew attention to Roblox's issues with potentially offensive content. Some players were using Roblox Studio to create games featuring nudity, sexual activity and extreme political views. In response, Roblox is introducing a ratings system which will rank content by age appropriateness, with clear warnings if a game is not suitable for younger players.



### Set Parental Controls

Roblox has controls that allow parents to moderate who their children can talk to and which games they can play. To enable these, add your email address to your child's account through the Security menu, and create a secure PIN to stop settings being tampered with. Then head into the Privacy menu where you can apply moderation to in-game chat, personal messages, invites and more.



### Disable Messages

It's advisable to block all messaging if you have concerns over your child's safety. If they're playing with friends they know in real life, encourage them to chat in another way (like on the phone), so you know exactly who they're talking to and how. Accounts can be tweaked to allow messages from specific groups of people, such as friends or users that your child follows.



### Block and Report

To report players in a game, find the Roblox symbol on screen (or the 'Settings' button on some devices). Identify the offending player and click the flag icon. Clarify why the player is being reported by choosing a reason from the list. If you think a particular game is inappropriate, you can also flag it for a moderator to check by following the same steps but selecting 'Game' instead of 'Player'.



### Encourage Creativity

It could prove a little too complex for younger children, but Roblox Studio is a great place to start learning the fundamentals of game design. Many budding developers have created Roblox games which have become popular among the community. There are plenty of tutorials on making games on sites like YouTube. You never know, your child's creation might be the next big thing!



### Meet Our Expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for several years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGBible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



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<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-58100000>



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## Key Dates

### DECEMBER

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>Fri 10</b> | <b>ALL CLUBS &amp; ACTIVITIES END FOR THE TERM</b>  |
| <b>Mon 13</b> | <b>Week of Thanks</b><br>Donations for <i>Yarm Wellness</i> welcome<br>Concert Choir visiting Care Home (1.40pm)  |
| <b>Wed 15</b> | Lost Property Assembly<br>Dr Craig's Physics Show<br><b>Year 3 stay behind at school</b><br><b>Year 3 Christmas Play (Prep Hall; 5.30pm)</b>                                |
| <b>Thu 16</b> | Dance Assembly (Prep Hall (9.50am)<br>Reindeer Run (all day)<br>Elves visiting Nursery—Year 3 (all afternoon)   |
| <b>Fri 17</b> | Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children<br>Christmas Dinner<br>Carols at Yarm Parish Church<br>End of term assembly<br><b>End of term</b><br><b>No after school care</b> |
| <b>Mon 20</b> | Christmas Holiday School<br>(until 22nd December)   |

### 2022

### JANUARY

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>Wed 5</b>  | Pupils return<br>Spring Term commences<br>House General Knowledge Quiz   |
| <b>Mon 10</b> | Sustainability Week<br>Clubs and activities commence   |
| <b>Fri 14</b> | U10/11 Football v GSAL (away; times tbc)<br>U11 Netball v Red House (home; 2pm)                                    |
| <b>Sat 15</b> | Prep Open Morning (9am-12noon)   |
| <b>Tue 18</b> | U8 Netball Workshop with Queen Mary's<br>(away; 2pm start, 4.15pm return)<br>Dr Forshaw Egyptians talk with Year 4 |
| <b>Wed 19</b> | School Council (1pm)   |
| <b>Thu 20</b> | U9 Netball v Queen Mary's (away; 1pm start)  |

## Peer Mentors of the Week

**Name:** Eleanor

**Friends:** Tabi, Zara, Khushee, Nethuki are my closest friends.

**My best mentor:** My mum because she shows me what to do and challenges me.

**Favourite TV show:** Fuller House

**Favourite fruit:** Apple

**Favourite subject:** Art

**When I am older...** I want to be a vet.

**Name:** Tabi

**Friends:** Eleanor, Zara and Khushee

**My best mentor:** My mum and my dad.

**Favourite TV show:** Free Reign

**Favourite fruit:** Apple

**Favourite subject:** Computing

**When I am older...** I want to be an Olympic show jumper.

We have two Peer Mentors of the Week this week for the first time this year, after a number of teaching staff noted how kind and considerate Eleanor and Tabi have been towards others of all ages!



**The answer to the Head's Challenge from last time was:**

## Weekly certificates

|           | Values      | Endeavour    |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>3B</b> | Ciny Z.     | Leo S.       |
| <b>3R</b> | Benjamin H. | Daisy C.     |
| <b>3W</b> | Olivia T.   | Felicity S.  |
| <b>4J</b> | Thea S.     | James A.     |
| <b>4N</b> | Kadi A.     | Brian F.     |
| <b>4W</b> | Will B.     | Hannah C.    |
| <b>5H</b> | Imogen P.   | Samuel E.    |
| <b>5K</b> | Benjamin W. | James C.     |
| <b>5W</b> | Miguel RM.  | Tiger C.     |
| <b>6G</b> | Chris I.    | Charlotte F. |
| <b>6L</b> | Khushee A.  | Jake D.      |
| <b>6P</b> | Kit F.      | Rorke A.     |