



The Phoenix Flier

Issue 691

Friday 17th December 2021

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to this week's edition of the Phoenix Flier, our final one for the Autumn Term. As I write, Christmas songs are blaring out on the Astroturf and the whole school is engaged in our annual *Reindeer Run* in support of Teesside Hospice. Antlers, red noses, Christmas jumpers, good cheer and rosy cheeks are in abundance! It is super to see the pupils and staff joining together for this special event to support a very worthy cause. Enthusiasm for charitable giving is very much at the heart of school life and this was evident in the generous donations for Yarm Wellness earlier in the week which allowed us to assemble and donate many Christmas hampers to this local campaign. Thank you for your help in ensuring that local families in need can have a special meal together during the festive period. Our charity campaigns have featured in Form Time and PSHE lessons too this week as we have explored the wonderful book *Last Stop on Market Street*. This has generated valuable discussions around charitable endeavours, the compassionate aspect of our School Values and being grateful for the things we have in our lives.

The holidays are very nearly upon us and I hope they will give us all the opportunity for rest, recovery and relaxation with friends and family. It has been a different end to the term than we had planned for, but this hasn't dampened our spirits. I would like to thank all of the staff who have continued to work with care and dedication until the very end. I am hugely grateful to all parents for their support this term and of course the pupils who continue to embrace each day at school and rise to every challenge. Wishing everyone a safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge:

D, D, P, V, C, C, D, B. Who or what is missing from this group?

Photo of the Week:

A busy week for our Year 3 children saw them perform in their first ever Festival of Carols last Thursday, before recording their Nativity on Wednesday. You can see more images of our festive events inside.



Tooled Up Education

With Christmas just around the corner, you might like to take a look at our seasonal resources, designed to help make the holidays progress smoothly. [50 Ways to Bond with Your Child Over Christmas](#) is full of easily actionable tips and our Christmas screen time [article](#) and short [podcast](#) will help you with strategies to help make screens enjoyable for the whole family, rather than a site of conflict. If your children divide their time between two homes, we also have some great tips about managing the festive season from [Dr Reenee Singh](#).

Our library of resources has doubled in size in the last 12 months and we now have almost 350 evidence-based resources for you to enjoy. As the end of the year rapidly approaches, we've been looking back at which of our resources have been your favourites in 2021. Lots of you enjoyed our [100 Ideas to Try if You Feel Bored](#), and it's one that might come in handy again soon, if the Christmas holidays start to drag! [Boosting children's self-esteem](#) has also been high on your agenda, as have our resources about [cultivating kindness](#). Make sure you keep browsing over the festive period. New resources are added all the time! Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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**



9 December 2021

**50 Ways to Bond with
Your Children Over
Christmas**



9 December 2021

Christmas Screen Use



20 March 2021

100 Acts of Kindness



28 December 2020

**Dr Weston's Advice on
Screen Use at
Christmas**



14 December 2020

**Dr Weston Talks with
Dr Reenee Singh:
Supporting Children
through Parental
Separation**



22 January 2021

**100 Ideas to Try if You
Feel Bored**



19 February 2021

**Children's Self-
Esteem: 10 Things for
Parents to Ponder**

Year 3 Christmas Nativity

Some images from our Year 3 Christmas performance.



Festival of Carols

A selection of images from our Festival of Carols, which took place last week.



Week of Thanks

Our thanks to you all for donating items towards our collection for Yarm Wellness.



Year 5 River Walks

Last week, all of the Year 5 classes took turns to visit the river in Yarm and walk around the meander. We looked at the use of the river, identified the flood plains and examined the flow of water around the meander. We also explored the flood defences around the town.

Mr Harandon



PE and Games News



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. **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.**



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.

4J Hedgehogs

4J have been busy making clay hedgehogs, looking closely at their shape and texture. They used their mixing skills to create the correct colouring and shades of a hedgehog. They look so cute!



Year 3 Crazy Crafts

Crazy Crafts became Crazy Christmas Crafts last week. The children made these adorable snowmen from sports socks. We look forward to more crafting in the spring term.



Year 4 baking homework

Some tasty bakes in 4J this week (but mind those fingers in the oven!)



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 topic of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

The 12 Online Safety Tips of Christmas FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

Christmas is almost upon us once again, and soon some lucky children will be excitedly tearing the wrapping off a new mobile phone, tablet or games console. For some of them, it will be the first time they've owned a device that connects them to the online world. Even for older children, a new device means new corners of the digital landscape to explore – and, unfortunately, new risks to be aware of.

We've put together our top tips so that you can guide your young ones in enjoying their new digital gifts safely and responsibly throughout the year to come. Merry Christmas!

1. ALWAYS SET A PASSWORD

If your child's new device has a password protection feature, use it! It'll help to keep their private information safe and will deny others access to their device without permission. Your children's passwords should be something memorable to them – but something which other people can't guess (it's also a good idea for parents to write it down in case it gets forgotten!).

2. SET UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS'

This really is an essential when your child gets a new device, so they're protected from the outset. Most phones, tablets and consoles allow you to customise their settings to determine which games your child can play, how they can communicate (and with whom), what content they can access and so on. It will give you peace of mind that they can't inadvertently do something they shouldn't.

3. PAY ATTENTION TO AGE RATINGS

One of the first things children want to do with any new device is play games and explore apps. Before they download anything or install a new console game, check its age rating. Many popular games and apps have content that's not suitable for younger ages. The safest long-term solution is to adjust the device's settings so they can only download and use games and apps appropriate for their age.

4. KEEP NUMBERS AND DEVICES PRIVATE

Make sure your child understands that they should never share their phone number with someone they don't know or accept a friend request from them. They should also appreciate that it's a good idea to mainly keep their device out of sight, never lend it to a stranger, and never put it down somewhere that other people could steal it or take it to use without asking.

5. HAVE 'THE MONEY CONVERSATION'

Before your children start using their new device in earnest, talk to them about in-app purchases and other ways that money might be spent through their device. Once they understand, you might want to agree on a spending limit and reassure them that they can come to you if they're uncertain, or if they have made a purchase by accident.

6. DISCOURAGE DEVICE DEPENDENCY

Of course, children who've just got a new device will naturally want to spend as much time on it as possible. But whether they're zapping bad guys, watching videos or connecting with friends, it's easy for them to get attached very quickly. Gently remind them that having family time, going outdoors and getting some exercise are still fun, too. And the device will be there when they get back.

7. EXPLAIN SECURE WIFI NETWORKS

Your home WiFi is protected by a password that only your family knows, whereas public networks (like those found in coffee shops, for example) can be accessed by anyone. It's important that your child grasps this difference because, if they're using a portable device on an unsecured network, then a hacker could access their personal information without them even knowing.

8. LIMIT SCREEN TIME

Using a device for too long, especially just before bed, can interfere with a child's sleep quality and reduce their concentration and overall enthusiasm. It might be helpful to agree on certain times of day when they don't use their device. Most devices' settings let you specify a screen-time limit, helping your child to stay fresh and focused in order to perform well at school.

9. ONLY PAIR WITH KNOWN BLUETOOTH DEVICES

Your child may want to connect to another device via Bluetooth, so they can listen to music wirelessly or share pictures and videos with nearby friends. But if they use Bluetooth to link with a device that they don't know, they're at risk of a stranger being able to see their personal information or having someone transmit a virus onto their device.

10. TURN LOCATION SETTINGS OFF

It's safest to disable the device's location services (if it's a portable device) so your child doesn't inadvertently make other people aware of where they are. You can usually do this via the device's privacy control settings. Turning location settings off not only means your child's whereabouts can't be tracked by others, it also significantly extends battery life.

11. STAY AWARE OF THE SURROUNDINGS

It's quite common to see adults not looking where they're going while engrossed in their phone. Children are even more easily distracted. In some cases, children have been hit by cars or cyclists because they were staring at their device and lost track of where they were. Remind your child that screens and walking don't mix. If they need to use their device, they should stop in a safe place first.

12. BE THERE IF THEY NEED TO TALK

Even when you've made a device as secure as you can, there's still a possibility of your child seeing something that bothers them, or someone they don't know attempting to contact them. If this happens, listen to their concerns, empathise and reassure them. Once they've explained what happened, you can decide if you should take further action like blocking or reporting another user.



National
Online
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



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Key Dates

DECEMBER

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
Clubs and activities commence

Fri 14 U10/11 Football v GSAL (away; times tbc)
U11 Netball v Red House (home; 2pm)

Sat 15 Prep Open Morning (9am-12noon)

Tue 18 U8 Netball Workshop with Queen Mary's
(away; 2pm start, 4.15pm return)
Dr Forshaw Egyptians talk with Year 4

Wed 19 School Council (1pm)

Thu 20 U9 Netball v Queen Mary's (away; 1pm start)

Fri 21 U10/11 Hockey v Cundall Manor
(away; 2pm depart, 3pm start, 5pm return)
U10/11 Netball v Queen Mary's
(home; 2pm start)
U11 Girls' County Hockey Tournament
(Norton; 2pm start, 4.15pm return)

Mon 24 House Chess—Matchday 1

Tue 25 Primary Schools Singing Day (PAA)
U8 Netball/Football v St Peters
(away; 2.15pm start, 4.30pm return)

Wed 26 Maths Information Event (Prep Hall; 4pm)
House Chess—Matchday 2

Fri 28 U10 Netball v Barnard Castle
(home; 2.15pm start)
U11 Netball v Barnard Castle
(away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)

Mon 31 Activities Carousel 3 begins (Y4-6 only)

Chinese New Year Week

House Chess—Matchday 3

FEBRUARY

Tue 1 **Chinese New Year**
Curiosity Emporium (Library; 1pm)

Thu 3 HMC Cross-Country
(Barlborough Hall; 5pm return)

Fri 4 U10/11 Hockey v Pocklington
(away; 2pm start, 4.45pm return)

Peer Mentor of the Week

Name: Thomas

Friends: Orson, Waleed, Alfie, Jacob, etc!

My best mentor: My mum because she shows me how to cook meals and how to do all sorts of things.

Favourite TV show: The Mandalorian

Favourite fruit: Apple

Favourite subject: Science

When I am older... An astrophysicist.



The answer to the Head's Challenge from last time was:
I am cutlery.

Weekly certificates

	Values	Endeavour
3B	Holly B.	Evelyn C.
3R	Jenson C.	Amaya S.
3W	Rosa W.	Jack M.
4J	Erin G.	Miles P.
4N	Xinhao W.	Thomas S.
4W	Pradyoth K.	Kavan S.
5H	Lucy W.	Rehan K.
5K	Janaki M.	Daisy N.
5W	Josh B.	Annabelle A.
6G	Chris I.	Charlotte F.
6L	Zara W.	James R.
6P	Nethuki M.	Eleanor W.