



The Phoenix Flier

Issue 699

Thursday 28th February 2022

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to the Phoenix Flier, our first since the short break last week. It's certainly been a rip-roaring start to the new half term which has seen us enjoy a number of events as a whole school. We commenced the first of these with our inaugural Jeans for Genes Day on Monday enabling us to raise valuable funds for the David Ashwell Foundation. Our donations will go towards helping research into Alveolar Capillary Dysplasia (ACD), a rare lung condition affecting newborns. Thank you for your support. Tuesday saw us launch into our annual pancake races which were, as always, hotly contested. It was lovely to see all pupils, even our youngest in Nursery, take up the challenge of this joyful event. The pace of each race was blistering and the pancake flipping skills were way beyond age related norms! Our final whole school event of the week was on Thursday when a brilliant array of characters marched through the school gates to celebrate World Book Day. Teachers and pupils came together for a range of raucous reading activities and assemblies which afforded us the opportunity to get lost in the joy of reading. These whole school events really do add value to our community as they allow different pupils to collaborate and learn together. Whether it is Year 6 pupils reading their favourite stories to the boys and girls in Pre-Prep as part of World Book day, or different year groups cheering each other on in the pancake races. These events provide a platform for a sense of community to blossom and a culture of responsibility towards one another to grow.

It was super to see many parents at the Maths information event after school on Wednesday. The workshops and presentations gave an insight into the methodologies we employ in the classroom and identified how parents can support the learning at home. All parents should by now have received a follow up email with the slides that were presented. If you need any further advice on maths please contact your child's Form Teacher or [consult our curriculum information website here](#).

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge:

What's as small as a mouse but guards a house like a lion?

Photo of the Week:

Arkwright dominate the annual House Pancake Races on Tuesday thanks to some fab flipping.



Tooled Up Education

This week, the sad events in Ukraine might be making your child feel anxious, sad or worried. We've written our weekly ['Wednesday Wisdom' newsletter](#) on how we can best approach conversations with our children (of all ages) about this difficult and distressing topic. If you aren't already signed up to receive Wednesday Wisdom each week, you can do so [here](#). We always include a section at the bottom of Wednesday Wisdom, specifically for Tooled Up parents, full of links to relevant resources.

It's currently Eating Disorder Awareness Week and to help raise the profile of this growing problem, we are adding lots of new content to the library. Take a look and you'll find new webinar recordings with leading experts about the impact of [social media on body image](#) and [body image and eating disorders](#), along with our recent [podcast interview with Eva Musby](#), who gives us a parent's perspective on looking after a child with an eating disorder.

Finally, as it's been World Book Day this week, we wanted to remind you of all of our fantastic [book lists](#). Whether you are looking for books on supporting young people's [mental health](#), [preparing for a new sibling](#), books to promote [kindness and empathy](#) or to open up conversations about [puberty](#), help with talking about [sex and how babies are made](#), [normalising mistakes](#) or helping children to cope in the sad event of a [bereavement](#), we have a list for you. We have lists on [body boundaries, consent and healthy relationships](#), books that will [help children to think philosophically](#), books that celebrate [different kinds of families](#) and [racial diversity](#), books that promote [financial literacy](#) and [gender equality](#) and a list of books about the [Holocaust](#). You'll also find fantastic lists of [fiction for teens](#), [exciting reads for 11-13 year olds](#) and some top [poetry picks](#) for children of all ages. For younger children, we also have book lists about [going to the dentist](#), [starting school](#) and [fire safety](#). Phew! Right now, we are creating a list of books that feature strong characters with 'diffabilities'. If you can think of any good ones, why not [let us know](#)?

The Tooled Up library is already packed with almost 350 evidence-based resources, including interviews with over 80 leading experts from around the world. But, it's your library and we want to know how else we can help you? What new resources would you like to see? Which ones do you love? What could we do better? We always value your feedback and want to ensure that we are giving you the resources that you need. Email us at research@tooledupeducation.com to let us know how we are doing!

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: YPSII03 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



Books to Support
Children's Mental
Health



Books to Cultivate
Kindness and
Empathy



Dr Weston Talks with
Eva Musby: A Parent's
Story of Supporting a
Child with an Eating
Disorder



Body Image and
Eating Disorders in
Children and Young
People Featuring
Sophie Medlin



Social Media and
Body Image with
Professor Tracey
Wade



Gender Equality and
Books

House Pancake Races

Shrove Tuesday saw a day of domination by Arkwright, who cruised to victory in our annual House Pancake Races with three wins from the four races.

Our Year 6 children were first out of the blocks, with Nethuki Mudduwa showing some seriously impressive pancake flipping skills. Arkwright won ahead of Telford, and it was the green house who also won the races in Years 3 and 4 too. Top flipping titles in those year groups were awarded to Henry Skidmore and Alice Scacco respectively.

After the usual Pre-Prep races (no flipping involved), the final race—Year 5—saw Brunel cause an upset by stopping the Arkwright juggernaut with a splendid win. Noah Abbas and Rehan Krishnamoorthy showed some expert flipping and pan control for their houses.

Overall though the victory went to Arkwright, who win the title outright for the second time since the races began in 2016.

Mr Stone



Race results:

Year 3: ARKWRIGHT, Stephenson, Telford, Brunel.

Top flipper: Henry Skidmore.

Year 4: ARKWRIGHT, Brunel, Stephenson, Telford.

Top flipper: Alice Scacco

Year 5: BRUNEL, Arkwright, Stephenson, Telford.

Top flippers: Noah Abbas, Rehan Krishnamoorthy

Year 6: ARKWRIGHT, Telford, Stephenson, Brunel.

Top flipper: Nethuki Mudduwa.

OVERALL SCORES (9 points for the win, 6 for 2nd, 4 for 3rd, 3 for 4th):

ARKWRIGHT 33

Brunel 21

Stephenson 18

Telford 16

The winning house is awarded 300 house points towards their house total, followed by 175 for 2nd, 100 for 3rd and 75 for 4th.



Previous Winners:

2021— -

2020— Stephenson

2019— 4-way tie

2018— Stephenson

2017 – Arkwright

2016— Brunel

School Council

Attendees

All form captains, all house captains and the school captains who were present (some Year 6 captains were absent due to the HMC sports tournaments).

We discussed matters as one group, taking it in turns to make our point. We used the findings from the form captains survey to guide our discussion

The focus of the meeting was to discuss and agree on some expectations that everyone in school should expect from each other, to help us all stick to the School Values.

Mr Stone thanked the captains for asking their forms for their thoughts.

We began by looking at the survey results to see what children from all of the classes thought would be good expectations (or 'golden rules') to reiterate across the school. The captains discussed the responses in groups and shared further ideas.

The captains agreed that we should expect all children to follow these expectations, with the School Value they relate in brackets:

- Include everyone (Compassionate)
- Be kind to each other (Compassionate)
- Respect the playground equipment (Responsible)
- Walk safely to lessons and lunches (Safe)
- Tidy up after yourself (Responsible)
- Go to the toilet during breaktimes (Responsible)
- Line up quietly and quickly as soon as the bell rings (Responsible)

It was agreed by the captains that we should look to share these rules across the school by:

- Tying them into our school values
- Display some posters around the school
- Talking about them in form times and PSHE lessons
- Run a poetry competition to share awareness of the expectations

What happens now?

School captains will take these minutes to discuss with Mr Sawyer in their weekly meeting.

Our next meeting will be in May.

Minutes recorded by Mr Stone

House Coding Competition

We held our second ever House Coding Competition prior to half-term. There were over 40 entries across Years 4-6, with children tasked with incorporating Mario and Pokemon characters into a Scratch animation based on Japan.

WINNERS:

Year 4: Hannah Clarke

Year 5: Thomas Ferguson, Edward Taylor-Petch, Marawaan Saad

Year 6: Edie Redhead-Sweeney, Ewan Paul, Namitha Naveen

Overall winner: Hannah Clarke

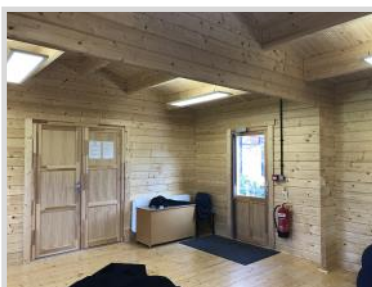
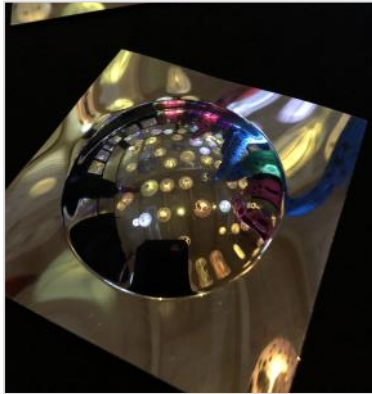
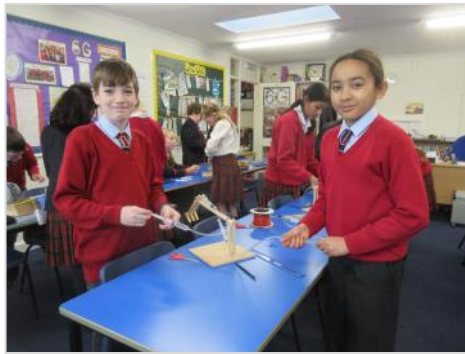
OVERALL HOUSE SCORES:

1st	STEPHENSON	300
2nd	Arkwright	175
3rd	Brunel	100
4th	Telford	75

The winning house is awarded 300 house points towards their house total, followed by 175 for 2nd, 100 for 3rd and 75 for 4th.

STEAM Week

More images from our STEAM Week, which took place prior to half-term. You can also see the amazing transformation of one of our outdoor classrooms into an infinity room art installation in the style of Yayoi Kusama.



PE and Games News

A netball special this week! Our Year 3 children had a great time as Ashville and took part in a netball workshop.

Years 5 and 6 enjoyed a STEAM-themed Japanese lesson prior to half-term, playing baseball, which is a huge team sport in the country!

On our most recent Friday fixtures we had every girl in Year 5 travelling to St Peter's and all of Year 6 playing at home against both St Peter's and GSAL. I estimate that over 200 girls across the two sites played netball for their school that day, which was wonderful to see!

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney



Embroidery Activity

In embroidery activity, Year 5 and 6 have made bookmarks. They used a variety of stitches and techniques in their designs.

Mrs Hart



MP replies!

Prior to half-term, we reported how 6G pupil Eva T. had contacted her local MP about tackling climate change. She has since received this reply!



News this week

Conflict in Ukraine

The events in Ukraine are both worrying and concerning for all of us, and we are sure it will have been brought up by your children, who will have been asking questions or seeking reassurance from you as the crisis develops. It is possible that they will have seen a variety of graphic or distressing images or footage of the conflict via the news and possibly via social media too, and this might affect them.

As teachers, we are well placed to help pupils talk about what they are seeing online and in the news, and guidance on this has been shared with colleagues to help support this in a timely and sensitive manner. There are also some excellent advice and resources for you to use at home too to support any discussions, which I have linked to below. Dr Kathy Weston has also written a thorough, helpful [‘Wednesday Wisdom’ that is well worth reading and can be found here.](#)

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact us.

Mr Stone and Mrs Speight

[BBC Newsround](#) - All of their reports on the conflict, presented in a child-friendly and neutral manner

[Childline](#) - Worrying about Russia and Ukraine

[Childnet](#) - Supporting your child if they see upsetting content online about what is happening in Ukraine

Telford Charity Day—Tuesday 8th March

Telford would like to support the ZARACH Charity, who are raising money to provide beds, duvets, pyjamas for children who live in our region and don't have access to these basic needs.



For a £1 donation, children can bring in their slippers or dressing gown into school to wear in the classroom!

Year 6 Telfordians will be running a series of stalls and fun games at break and lunchtime to raise money towards buying beds for children in need. **Please could your child bring into school a small sum of money, up to £5, in pound coins or 50p pieces so they can enjoy themselves supporting the Telford children's stalls.**

Thank you.

Mr Pearce and Mr Harandon

Red Nose Day Disco—Friday 18th March

Friday 18th March is going to be a busy day for the children in Years 3-6. It is Red Nose Day and we are delighted to tell you that we're planning a special Red Nose Day Disco for the Prep children!



For Comic Relief, children can come into school in the morning wearing red clothes or an item of red (non-uniform) and should bring in **£1** to donate to the charity.

The disco will take place in the Prep School hall on **Friday 18th March, from 6pm until 7.30pm.** All pupils are invited and will be able to enjoy the usual party games and activities organised by teachers and dance to a range of 'bangers' played by some teaching DJs!

Tickets for the disco will be **£2 each** (money to be brought along on the night), with all proceeds going to Comic Relief as part of Red Nose Day. We do need confirmation of pupil attendance for catering and safety purposes, as every child will be given something to eat during the event. As such, [please could you fill in this online consent form](#) by **Tuesday 15th March.**

On the day of the disco, children attending the party will go home as usual and can then return for the 6pm start. Please be advised that children will have to be dropped off at the Prep School car park and met by our teachers to walk to the Prep site. Staff will be in attendance from here to supervise the children to the disco. **Please ensure that your child brings their water bottle to school on the day of the disco as they will be drinking water from these during the event to cut back on single use plastic cups.**

Parents can collect their children at 7.30pm from the Prep School. If the Prep car park becomes full, please use the Senior School car park as an alternative and walk up to the Prep site. Please complete the online consent form by Tuesday 15th March to secure a place for your child at the disco. Please note: the disco is only open to Prep School children.

Thank you as always for your support.

Mr Stone

After School Care

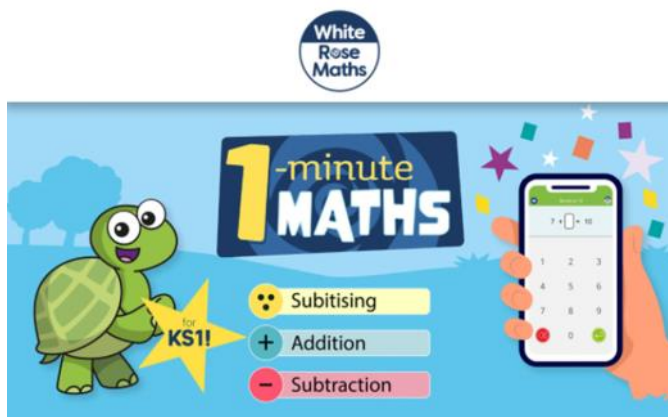
After School Care is supervised by Miss Emma Jeffries and Mrs Sylvia Taylor. The care costs are as follows: 4.30-5.00pm - £2; 5.00-5.30pm - £3 (in addition to previous charge); 5.30-6.00pm - £3 (in addition to previous charge). Children involved in clubs until 5pm, children involved in fixtures and children 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 your estimated time of arrival.

Mr Stone

1 Minute Maths App

Great news! White Rose have launched a maths app, suitable for Reception to Year 3, to support the development of fluent numbers skills and increase confidence. All in easy one-minute chunks!



The app is free and there is no need to set up an account. More information can be found here <https://whiterosemaths.com/1-minute-maths>

Mrs Speight and Mrs Pawluk (Maths Leads)

Uniform Showroom Opening Hours

Please note that the uniform showroom opening hours for the rest of the Spring Term are:

Tuesday 1pm - 5pm

Thursday 1pm - 5pm

Individual appointments outside of these times can be arranged if necessary, please contact Lesley or Jane in the showroom on 01642 792588 or via uniformshop@yarmschool.org with any queries.

Our uniform suppliers Perry continue to provide our online ordering service via their website www.perryuniform.co.uk. Standard delivery is free. Perry

customer services can be contacted on 0113 238 9520. If you have any queries regarding the uniform Lesley and Jane in the showroom are also available to help.

Animal Farm review

During half-term, a group of pupils as part of a collaboration between Year 6 and First Year visited The Newcastle Theatre Royal to see an adaptation of George Orwell's, "Animal Farm". First published in 1945, this is the story of how a group of animals rebel against their human master, hoping to create a society where all animals are equal, free and happy.

This is a political play that explores the issues of revolution, communism and the power of language. The pigs deliver emotive and intimidating speeches in order to manipulate the other animals into obeying them.

Directed by Robert Icke, the play has received fantastic reviews, and is

being described as, "A piece of theatrical magic" and "One of the must-see plays for 2022". The director uses dramatic



costumes and clever puppetry to fully realise the characters. The puppets were highly detailed and resembled each character accurately. The lighting and sound effects helped create suspense and drama. Boxer's death was a moment of particular tragedy in the play, especially given that he seemed to stand for all that was good and true.

This play was relevant and thought provoking. For us, the main message we left the theatre with was that communism hasn't worked to date because those in power tend to exploit it to benefit themselves.

We thought the production was fantastic and would recommend it to everyone.

All those who went to the play will be meeting at the amphitheatre later this half term to discuss further our thoughts on George Orwell's novel, 'Animal Farm' and the play's interpretation of this.

Adam, Ewan and Zara P.

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

Thank you—Jeans for Genes Days

We raised an impressive £385.06 on Monday 28th February—Jeans for Genes Day—for the David Ashwell Foundation! Thank you to all of the school community for your support.

Coming up at the PAA

The Chicago Blues Brothers

Friday 25th March 2022 7:30pm

Direct from London's west end, join the Chicago Blues Brothers and their 9 piece band, for a brand new 2-hour all singing, all dancing hit parade bringing you the greatest movie anthems of all time, performed live in concert.

Featuring the greatest hits from both Blues Brothers Movies with some of the greatest movie tracks of all time. Classic soundtrack anthems from Footloose, Back to the future, The rocky horror picture show with a few surprises and plenty of lunacy thrown in.

Dig out those trilby's, shades and polish your dancing shoes because we are bringing the party to you in this 2 hour spectacular of non-stop music and laughter.

You'll dance, you'll sing, you'll have the time of your life.

Tom Rolfe's – Easter Egg-stravaganza Magic Show!

Wednesday 13th April 2022 2:00pm, 6:30pm

Pop down to the PAA this Easter for an 'EGGstravaganza' of a show featuring Yarm's Panto favourite Tom Rolfe who promises a jam packed production filled with Magic, Mayhem, Comedy, Singing, Dancing, special guests and plenty of fun for all the family!

Running time approx 60 mins plus free Easter egg for each child after the show!



Holiday School Dates

Please note our Holiday Schools will run on the following dates this academic year:

Easter—4th to 8th April

Summer— 18th July to 5th August

Full booking details will be sent to parents in good time prior to the start dates.

Mr Simpson

Sustainable Crafts

Brunel have been creating some leaf pointillism garlands in their activity session this week.

Mrs Hart



At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and educators with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. Please visit nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Part of our Online Information Series



What you need to know about ...

FAKE NEWS

est. 2017

£FREE - TODAY ONLY



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WHAT IS FAKE NEWS

Parveen Kaur, Kids N Clicks Founder

Fake news can be false information, photos or videos purposefully created to confuse or misinform. It can also be genuine information that has been manipulated to deceive. It is important that children learn how to distinguish between real news and fake news, so that they don't inadvertently share something which isn't true or believe something which could be misleading.



KNOW THE RISKS

SHOCK VALUE

Fake news can cause upset or shock to readers or viewers. Many fake news stories are written with appealing headlines and have content designed to create 'shock value', so the news spreads rapidly (common examples include the 'death' of a celebrity, company giveaways, news relating to supernatural events, or terror-related posts that provoke reactions).

EMBARRASSMENT

Fake news is often deliberately created to misinform people – whether for fun, out of malice or to support an ideological or political agenda. As it's often difficult to tell the difference, young people can easily believe what they see and then share something which is a hoax or a joke, leading to embarrassment or ridicule.

INFLUENCE BEHAVIOUR

Ultimately, fake news is designed to shape people's beliefs, thoughts and decisions: influencing them into believing something which has been misreported or which simply isn't true. This can shape how children think, behave or act in real life. It can especially affect their trust in the media or even in democracy itself.



SPOT THE SIGNS

CONSIDER THE SOURCE

Fake news stories can sometimes be identified simply because they are too ridiculous or outrageous to believe. Make sure that the website that published the story is a credible source, like a major news network or local paper which has the resources to fact-check published stories.

CHECK THE URL

Does the website address at the top of the page look real? An easy way to spot suspect stories is if they're located on a news site with an odd domain name. So check the URL. Some shady websites try to incorporate a legitimate news source into their URL (such as www.therealbbc.co.uk) or will slightly misspell a popular domain name.

VERIFY FACTS AND IMAGES

Authentic news is usually backed up by official data or surveys and previous, similar instances of the occurrence being reported. Similarly, fake news stories often include photos which have been manipulated. Perform a Google reverse image search to see if the picture has been stolen from another source and doctored.

RESEARCH THE WEBSITE

Be wary when a big story comes from a news organisation that you've never heard of. Some hoaxers will quickly set up a website just to spread fake stories and so-called 'breaking news'. Use the internet archive to research how long a site has been running – and check if the same story is being reported by more credible news outlets.

ARE ALIENS HARVESTING OUR WIFI?!



Supposed footage of alien craft

Our groundbreaking exposé on page 4 ...

FURTHER SUPPORT

REPORT THE CONTENT

Google and many social media platforms now have dedicated methods for fake news stories to be reported to them. This can range from sending a feedback message to Google via the page itself to the 'Report Post' buttons on Facebook and Twitter.

PROVIDE REASSURANCE

If your child feels as though they have been negatively impacted by a fake news story, or has suffered some form of embarrassment because of fake news, it's important to be supportive and reassuring. Discuss with them how not everything that's posted online is true.

IMPROVE THEIR DIGITAL LITERACY

If your child has been tricked by a fake news story, try to encourage them to think more rationally about what they see and hear on the internet. Advise them to question the motivation behind a story – such as why it's been written, and if it's trying to make them form a specific opinion or influence their actions.

OUR EXPERT PARVEEN KAUR



Parveen Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



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Key Dates

MARCH

Sat 5	UK Chess Challenge (school round) (Prep Hall; 9.30am-2pm)
Tue 8	Curiosity Emporium Telford Charity Morning Year 2 trip to Durham Cathedral
Wed 9	Informal Concert (4-5pm; Prep Hall)
Thu 10	Year 4 Football v DCSF (home; 2pm start)
Fri 11	HMC Boys' Hockey (at Pocklington) (9.15am depart, 11am start, 3.45pm return) U11 Netball v DCSF (away; 2.15pm start, 4.30pm return) U10/11 Hockey v Ashville (away; 2.15pm start, 4.30pm return)
Mon 14	ABRSM examinations today 6G/half 6P Evacuees Day at Murton Park (8.15am-5pm) Year 5 Mars Day House assemblies
Tue 15	6L/half 6P Evacuees Day at Murton Park (8.15am-5pm) HMC Chess (U9/U11 teams) (QEGS; 8am depart, 5.45pm return) Year 2 Maths Stay & Play (8.50-9.30am)
Wed 16	Reports released to parents (4pm) Prep Duologues performance (4pm; Prep Hall)
Thu 17	Colour blindness awareness assembly U9 Netball v DCSF (away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return) National Schools Quiz Competition—Local heat (online event; 2-3pm)
Fri 18	***NEW EVENT*** Red Nose Day Disco (Y3-6; Prep Hall; 6-7.30pm) Red Nose Day for Comic Relief U11 Hockey and Netball v Dame Allan's (home; 2pm)

Mon 21	Parents' Evening (4-6pm)
Tue 22	Parents' Evening (4-6pm) Y3 Netball and Hockey with Dame Allan's (away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)
Wed 23	Curiosity Emporium ***NEW EVENT*** Belfast Sports Tour Meeting for parents (4pm, via Zoom)
Thu 24	U9 Netball and Hockey v Dame Allan's (away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return) Year 1 trip to Raby Castle (all day)
Fri 25	U10/11 Netball and Hockey v Dame Allan's (home; 2pm start) U11 Football at DCSF (away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)
Tue 29	Show Racism the Red Card—Y5 workshops ***REARRANGED*** Reception Maths Stay and Play (8.50am)
Wed 30	Y4 trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park (5pm return)
Thu 31	Yarm U9 Football and Netball Festivals

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

Weekly certificates

	Values	Endeavour
3B	Annalise D.	Holly B.
3R	Manha A.	Jenson C.
3W	Olivia T.	Martha L.
4J	George P.	Eric PF.
4N	Ollie B.	Ahmad I.
4W	Joey P.	Will B.
5H	Noah A.	Matthew R.
5K	Thomas F.	Auden A.
5W	Josh B.	Joe W.
6G	Charlotte F.	Wilf W.
6L	Jingjing L.	Theo S.
6P	Isabelle G.	Emma S.