

# The Phoenix Flier

Issue 707

Friday 20th May 2022

## The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

### A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to the Phoenix Flier which rounds up a week in the life of Yarm Prep School. We have explored what our School Value *resourceful* means through a range of assemblies and form times across the week. We have looked at the importance of communication and trust when working in a team based environment and the advantages of reframing problems as opportunities. Collaboration was in abundance when Mrs Kingsbury needed help to deliver her assembly on the topic and the story of Nims Purja's mountaineering exploits later in the week helped to exemplify the benefits of using those around you to achieve great things.

Whilst we were 'talking the talk' at school, our merry band of Year 5 pupils were 'walking the walk' in terms of being *resourceful*. Faced with the challenge of a cancelled train on Sunday night for their trip to London on Monday morning, Mr Stone organised alternative transport to make sure the trip went ahead. By drawing on available options, being adaptable to the shifting landscape and not giving in, the pupils made it to the London Eye for their allotted time on Monday afternoon. An awesome effort! Judging by the snippets we have heard, it sounds like it was a brilliant trip after an inauspicious beginning. It was certainly an adventure to be well remembered!

*Bill Sawyer*

**Head's Challenge:** What demands an answer, yet asks no questions?

**Photo of the Week:** A trip to Shakespeare's Globe was one of the highlights experienced by Year 5 on their London trip this week. A preview can be found inside, ahead of a more extensive report next week.



## Tooled Up Education

Did you know that it was the United Nations' [International Day of Families](#) on May 15th? This year, the focus was on urbanisation and its impact on family life and wellbeing. Looking closer to home, we can all benefit from paying close attention to the *quality of our interactions at home, celebrating the aspects of family life that are successful and working to improve those that could use some attention. We've got several resources designed to kickstart tricky conversations about the good and the bad in family life.*

Check out our [top ten tips](#) on making family conversation more productive, particularly when teens are involved and our accompanying [template](#) to use before and during these family audit meetings. If you have younger children, our [My Family Life](#) activity is a great way to prompt reflections on the positives and negatives of everyday life. It's not only in family life that we have tricky conversations.

We also want to encourage children to feel pride in their circle of loved ones, whatever form it takes. Our [Fantastic Families](#) activity can help them to think about all the fabulous families in the world and add their own family unit to the page. You might also like to listen to our podcasts with [Professor Susan Golombok](#) on non-traditional family forms and [Professor Kathryn Almack](#) on same-sex parenting, or check out our [list of books](#) that celebrate different families in all their wonderful variety.

This week, we've also welcomed two experts for webinars on different aspects of family life. First, sociologist Dr Laura Towers spoke to us about **supporting young people through sibling bereavement** and then we were joined by Dr Sarah Foley for a discussion on **post-separation parenting** and what the research suggests to be optimal approaches. If these subjects are of interest to you but you missed them live, recordings will be in the library soon.

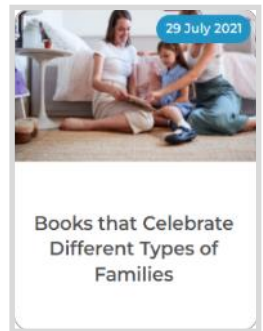
Finally, is your child moving to a new school this year, or next? If you want to be 'tooled up' about transition, then make sure that you join our webinar on **June 22nd at 7.30pm**, when Dr Weston will whizz through some of the best evidence-based tips to support children as they move on to the next educational stage. [Register your free ticket now.](#)

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](mailto: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: 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*





## Year 4 Vindolanda residential

One word to describe the trip would probably be astounding. I have been before and yet I am still flabbergasted at all of the history there. My absolute favourite thing was going to see Vindolanda, the things they find there blow my mind just hearing about them. On the other side of the fort was a replica of what is thought to be a Milecastle (a milecastle is something the Romans stood on, on Hadrian's Wall, between every Roman Mile). Soon after we looked at the castle we went to the museum. I was so amazed by the place that I don't think words could describe how good it is. At the entrance of the museum is a collection of Roman shoes, some from children, some from adults, left shoes, right shoes, every type of Roman shoe you could imagine. We hastily moved along to the next room which was filled with Roman coins made out of lots of different metals. When it came to the end we walked into the giftshop. I bought a lavender beeswax soap for my Mum. Lots of other people bought mood rings which changed colour depending on your mood. Then we went to sit down outside so we could rest.



Soon we would head back to the remarkable place, the Sill, which my friend, Erin will tell you about and she will talk about some fire lighting and some foraging.

When we went back to the Sill I collapsed on my bed exhausted from the day we had just experienced. It was so fun. I loved it.

As I entered my room, my roommate, Trisha and I were amazed (and very happy!) because we had an ensuite and also a large space to have free time in. The food was the best, including waffles with chocolate sauce and whipped cream. The fire lighting with our guide was splendid as well because we could see the metal wool and the cotton burn into charcoal ashes. It was very





weird because in one activity, foraging, we got to taste leaves and flowers with our foraging expert. From Haribo Tangfastic-flavoured leaves to tiny, spicy, pink flowers, it was an amazing tasting experience. If I could say what this experience was like in 3 words, it would be "best experience ever!"

*Harry H. and Erin G.*

My favourite part was the walk to the Sycamore Gap because it was fun since we could talk to our friends on the way.

*Samuel I.*

I think it was amazing experience for me to have fun with my school friends.

*Satoshi Y.*

I think the best activity we did at Vindolanda was probably the fire lighting we did on the last day. Firstly, we used the cotton wool, wire wool and battery method which worked well. We used the positive and negative side of the battery to make a spark then it lit up and made a fire. The second way we made a spark was we put cotton wool and wire wool together and put fire ash on it, we then rolled it up in our hands then rolled it up on wood. we then got another piece of shiny wood and put it on top of the other shiny wood and pushed it on top of it and it made a massive spark but it is hard to make a fire with it that is the second way to light a fire. The third way to make a spark. This is probably the easiest way to do it. First is to get a lot of cotton wool and wire wool then scrunch it up then flatten it out the same with the wire wool then get flint and steel and point it down and try and make a spark it might not work the first time try a couple of times and it will work. If it does not work press harder on the flint and steel and it will work if that does not work make sure to point it down like at 90 degrees or point it at the stretched out cotton wool and stretched out wire wool and it will work great.

*Miles*

On the amazing trip there were lots of exciting things like hiking but the things I really like the most would be the fire making, the den building, the food (especially the pasta bolognese and the chocolate fudge cake). They were really good. And the thing that was more exciting than all of them together was when we met the archaeologists and also when we went with Ian to the Sycamore Gap. Did you know that beds in Roman time were made of straw and hay bales.

*Lolwa S.*





## PE and Games News

### Under 11 Cricket v Ashville

On Friday 13th of May, the Under 11 boys had a fixture against Ashville School. It was a 10 over match. It was my first match with hard ball. I wanted to make a good start and that's what I did. In the first ball of the match I got someone out. I bowled at the batsman, then caught it. Theo was a great wicketkeeper during the match. Freddie and James got a few wickets as well. I got three wickets in total. At the end of the innings Ashfield got 56-6. It is a good score but we won the match by 22 runs. We got 78-0. Everyone played really and everyone enjoyed it.

*Waleed A.*

### Girls Sport

Busy time for the department with every girl in school playing sporting fixtures over a 7 day period! It was great to see all our Year 6 girls in action v Queen Mary's last Friday. Some girls were making cricketing debuts for the school and it was great to see them throw themselves into the fixtures.

The Year 3s travelled to Ashville, Harrogate for a tennis workshop and it was lovely to see them enjoying some time together. The Year 4 girls travelled to play cricket fixtures v Durham and once again every child in the year was involved. Finally our Year 5s are due to play Dame Allan's today at Green Lane and we are hoping for the dry weather to continue.

On Wednesdays our U9 and U10 children train at Yarm Tennis Club and are making real progress with their shot selection. All in a busy week, but very rewarding to see so many children play for the school.

*Mrs Redhead-Sweeney*





## Year 5 London trip

A taste of what Year 5 got up to in London this week. A full report will appear in next week's Flier.





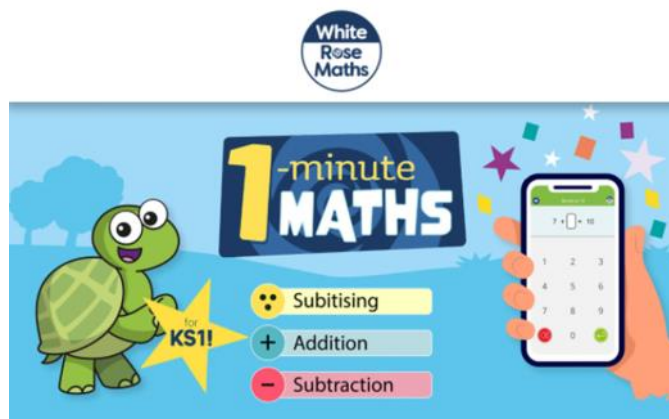
## News this week

### 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)



### 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

### 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.

Mrs Pawluk

### Ear Piercings and Jewellery

The wearing of jewellery is not permitted. The wearing of earrings and ear studs is not permitted for safety reasons. Please avoid ear piercing which will necessitate the wearing of ear studs at school. Children will be asked to ensure any ear piercings are taken out as soon as possible.

It is recommended and expected that any ear piercings take place in the school holidays, not during term time.

Mr Stone

**Jubilee Poetry Competition**

To celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee we will be planting a tree in our school grounds.

We would like to invite the children from all year groups to write their own Jubilee themed poem to be read to the rest of the school during the planting ceremony.

All entries must be handed in to Mr Stone (Prep) or Mr Pengilley (Pre-Prep) by Friday 20th May.

## Summer Fair—Friday 24th June

We are delighted to announce the full return of our annual Summer Fair, taking place this year on Friday 24th June (2-5pm) with the theme this year being 'Platinum Party'.

The Social Committee and the Year 6 pupils are already planning on making it a fantastic event for all, with a range of stalls and games for all ages aimed at raising money for YPSSC projects.

Holding the event on a Friday proved to be very popular with the children prior to COVID, and the success was repeated last year (albeit without parents). As such we want to make the fair open to all children in the school community as well as their parents, many of whom would usually have other commitments over the course of a weekend. While this takes place during a school day, the impact on your child's education will be minimal.

We would like to draw your attention to a few logistical matters regarding the fair.

It will be a **non-uniform day**.

**Lunch** will take place as normal.

**School will finish at the usual times** - 3.30pm for Pre-Prep and 3.45pm for Prep.

**Pre-Prep children** can be collected from 2.30pm to come to the fair.

Although the school day finishes at the usual time, parents of Pre-Prep children are welcome to collect early and bring their children to the fair.

**Years 3-6 will need to bring some money.** £10 max in change should be plenty to have a go at the variety of games and activities taking place! This will be collected by form teachers for safekeeping during morning registration and handed out prior to the fair. All proceeds go to the YPSSC and the many projects they support the school with. We will not be using tokens this year, which we did last year.

**The fair will be fully supervised.** Teachers will be present supervising those children at the fair from 2pm. From pick-up onwards we would love parents to come along and join the fun too!

**Pick up, after school care and buses will run as normal.** Pick up from after school care from 4pm will be from the Pre-Prep.

**Year 6 will be expected to stay until 5.30pm.** A letter has gone out to Year 6 parents with full details.

**There will be no after school clubs on this date.** Gymnastics, drama and digital leaders will not be taking place.

Further details will follow in the coming weeks!

*Mr Stone*

**PICTURE RIGHT AND BELOW** are our Year 6 groups working with their Yarm Sixth Form business mentors, something they are doing every week in the lead-up to the fair.





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 of many issues 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.

# LONELINESS ONLINE:

## What Causes It and Ways to Feel Better

Have you ever been online and felt a little bit lonely?  
In a recent study, 14% of 10–12-year-olds said they often felt lonely, so you're not the only one who sometimes feels that way. We spoke to a group of children and teenagers, who told us some of the things that make them feel isolated when they're online.

### CAUSES OF LONELINESS ONLINE

-  Seeing photos or videos of friends having fun without me
-  Being excluded from group chats or games with friends
-  Friends or family not replying to texts or answering my calls
-  People being unkind to me online
-  When friends leave my group chat

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

So if these things happen to you and you start to feel down, what can you do? The same young people also told us how they make themselves feel less lonely when they're online – and we've collected some of their advice to share with you.

- ☒ Tell a friend or a trusted adult that you feel lonely
- ☒ Watch funny videos of cats and pandas
- ☒ Watch yoga videos and do some exercises
- ☒ Play single-player games you enjoy
- ☒ Listen to happy music
- ☒ Listen to your favourite audiobooks
- ☒ Send nice messages to your friends and family
- ☒ Play games with friends who you trust, if they're online too

### TAKE A BREAK

Sometimes the best thing you can do is to take a break from technology and do something offline that makes you feel happy.

Here's what our group suggested!

- ☒ Paint or draw pictures
- ☒ Play with a pet
- ☒ Write about your feelings
- ☒ Hang out with your family
- ☒ Get outdoors & enjoy nature

### FURTHER SUPPORT

Remember, it's normal to feel a bit lonely sometimes – but if it's really upsetting you, and you have no-one to talk to, you can call Childline for free on

**0800 1111**



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



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## Key Dates

### MAY

- Mon 23** Year 6 Lakes residential departs
- Tue 24** Yarm Schools Quiz (Prep Hall; 10am)  
U8 Cricket workshop v Dame Allan's (home; 2pm)  
Year 2 trip to Edinburgh
- Thu 26** School Jubilee Party  
Y6 return from the Lakes
- HALF-TERM BEGINS (AFTER SCHOOL)**  
After school care and clubs run as usual
- Fri 27** Staff INSET
- 
- Mon 6** Pupils return  
Knockout Table Tennis begins  
Dance Showcase rehearsals begin  
Y5 trip to Komatsu, Birtley  
Y3 swimming continues  
Mr Chahal visiting Y6 Enterprise group
- Tue 7** Y5 trip to Komatsu, Birtley



- Wed 8** Arkwright Charity Day  
Dance Showcase rehearsals
- Thu 9** U9 Girls' Cricket v Queen Mary's  
Away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)  
Dance Showcase—Full rehearsal (until 6pm)  
Y2/3 Transition Morning  
School Council (1pm; Lab)
- Fri 10** Dance Showcase (details below)  
HMC Athletics  
(Gateshead Stadium; 11am start, 4pm return)  
U10/11 Girls' Cricket v Barnard Castle  
(home; 2pm start)

**The answer to the Head's Challenge from last time was: throw the ball directly upwards.**

### Weekly certificates

	Values	Endeavour
3B	Felicity W.	Ciny Z.
3R	Stan D.	Amaya S.
3W	Fathe C.	Olivia T.
4J	-	-
4N	-	-
4W	-	-
5H	Dora B.	Beatriz G.
5K	Emma A.	Arvind K.
5W	Anjali R.	Jake M.
6G	Katie C.	Eva T.
6L	George F.	Elizabeth A.
6P	George H.	Immie M.

### Head Teacher Awards:

**Year 6:** Yuhe T., Theo S., James R., Jingjing L., Charlotte Fer., Libby S., Lucia C., Aisling T., Edie R-S., Claudia P., Ella F., Daisy A.