

The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 720—Friday 14th October 2022

INSIDE THIS WEEK... Chess news... HMC Hockey success... Poetry competitions.... Basketball ...

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to the final edition of The Phoenix Flier for this half term. What a wonderful seven weeks it has been since we welcomed the start of the new academic year! There has been much going on in the run up to the break that awaits us. Our parent consultations this week have allowed for the development of each child to be celebrated and acknowledged. These meetings are a vital part of our partnership with each family and lead to each child flourishing at school. We have also been able to host a number of events in recent days. Our chess event at the weekend was a huge success and saw every boy and girl leave the tournament a better player. The informal concert on Wednesday afternoon was an opportunity for our musicians to step up and perform in front of a packed hall. Their efforts were warmly received by the audience and quite rightly so! On Thursday, we hosted our U9 hockey and rugby tournaments which were blessed with Autumnal sun and great support from the touchlines. The games were played in the right spirit and showcased the teamwork and developing skills of all involved. Whether such opportunities present themselves over the chess board, on the sports pitch or as part of a recital, there is a requirement to commit to the cause. In many respects it takes courage and ambition to be able to do so. It won't always go well, but more often than not you grow as a result of the exposure. The pupils willingly embrace such endeavours and it is brilliant to see this day in day out at school. It makes life at Yarm exciting, empowering and packed full of progress. I wish everyone a wonderful break and look forward to more action and adventure next half term.

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge: How can you go eight days without sleep?

Photo of the Week: The 27th running of the Yarm Team Chess Championships took place weekend, with the home team score some great results. Full report from Mr Marsh inside.



Tooled Up Education

It's Black History Month, an event which celebrates the achievements of important people in the history of the African diaspora and the continued contributions of Black people around the world. It also promotes continued action in tackling racism and ensuring that Black history is represented in our schools. It's key to involve the most important community members in this annual celebration: our children. The Tooled Up library offers various booklists, articles and activities that are there to support you in doing just that.

Research shows that talking with children, openly and honestly, about [issues of race, racism, tolerance and acceptance](#), is the best way to [reduce bias](#). Today's need for equity and inclusion requires young people to be [exposed to diversity](#) in and out of school, learn to [cultivate kindness and empathy](#) and [challenge harmful talk](#). Did you know about the [far-reaching psychological and social consequences of kindness](#)? Why not nudge your children to try our [kindness challenge](#) and then get them to reflect on how it makes them feel? Encouraging children to consider the [qualities that make someone a good friend](#), articulate what makes them happy or sad in interactions with others, and helping them to cultivate a sense of respect for their peers are equally important in raising kind and [resilient children](#).

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: 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



Supporting Your Child to Step Away From and Challenge Harmful Talk in Their Peer Group



Researcher of the Month: Dr Jesus Alfonso D. Datu Discusses the Power of Kindness



100 Acts of Kindness



Race and Tolerance Book & Film List



Books to Cultivate Kindness and Empathy



Friendship Issues in the Primary Years: 15 Reflective Questions for Parents



Dr Weston Talks with Bennie Kara: Embracing and Valuing Diversity in Schools



Yay or No Way! The Friendship Quiz



Dr Weston Talks with Professor Christia Spears Brown: Why Biases Matter and How to Reduce Them

greater racial

Yarm Team Chess Championships

The first major junior event of the new school year took place last weekend at the Prep School.

The 27th Yarm Team Chess Championships - one of the longest-running series of chess events in the world - brought a day of Autumnal sunshine and an abundance of excellent games.

12 teams, from five different schools, were in action throughout the busy day and the top places were strongly contested all the way up to the moment the last pawns were pushed.

Numerous players were experiencing tournament chess for the first time, especially in the Under-9 section, but that didn't stop our teams from achieving marvellous scores.

Yarm B (Rory Fitzgerald, Fathe Chahal, Stan Dugdale and Rosa Williams) are the new Under-9 champions, closely followed by Yarm A (Austin Oman, Hugo Kelly, Scarlett Yang and Ziad Salim) and Yarm C (Manha Abdullah, George Youdale, Olivia Clark and Dara Jafari), who finished second and third respectively.

It was a clean sweep for Yarm in the Under-11 section too, with Yarm A (Miles Page, Can Sezen, Kaira Nalawade and Lolwa Soliman) edging out Yarm C (Kavan Sidhu, Benjamin Fulford, Eric Pinedo and Henry Stanley). Yarm B (Griff Williams, Monty Van Niekerk, Alex Wormald and Haashir Imran) played well too and they earned themselves third place.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the day such a great success.

Mr Marsh



Poetry Competitions

It was a year of firsts in the two poetry competitions this year, with the events moved to coincide with National Poetry Day. Mr Gilbert, the Head of Senior School English, came along to assist the judges on Thursday with the Y3/4 competition, which saw a wide range of poems and delightful recitals by the children.

On Friday we were joined by Mrs Mason, one of the Senior School librarians, who joined the judging panel. The standard of entries was incredibly high and included the first ever Shakespeare recital heard in a poetry competition, from Dora Bonner.

Faced with some difficult decisions, the scores awarded to the children were higher than normal, such was the quality on show. Well done to all of the children who took part in the competition, including those who took part in the class 'heats' and those who stood up at the end and recited their poetry!

Mr Pengilley



Poetry Competition Winerers

3B	Aditi Kumar
3H	Paari Muthukrishnan
4G	Thomas Maxey
4J	Angus Ferguson
4N	Cooper Willis
5F	Kaira Nalawade
5H	Anika Sunkavali
5K	Can Sezen
6G	Thomas Ferguson
6H	Dorothy Wray
6L	Louisa Palmer
6W	Navina Muthukrishnan
Year 6 Overall	Wilf Sawyer
Year 5 Overall	Erin Goh
Year 4 Overall	Rosa Williams
Year 3 Overall	Emily Williamson

PE and Games News



HMC Hockey

On Wednesday I got to go to HMC hockey. As soon as we got to GSAL we got put into our teams. On my team was Maisy, Pippa, Dorothy, Harriet, Beatriz, Amelia O'C and Eva (who was our goalkeeper). Beatriz was put captain on our team. In our first match, we played against St Peters School, and we won 1-0. Next we played against RGS and we knew this would be a tough game since they are really good. Sadly we lost 0-2. After, we went against Ashville and won 2-0. Harriet and Amelia had scored those goals. We went against Hymers next and I scored to make the final score 1-0. This meant we were in the semi-finals. In the semi finals, we went against Barlborough. I scored so that meant we won. Now we were in the finals, and to make us even more happier we got told we were the first Yarm School team to ever get in the finals! We were against RGS again and we all got disheartened. In the end, we lost 1-0 which was really annoying because we could have won and I was just about to score to make it a draw. Everyone became upset and started crying. The other team had made it to the finals but lost to RGS too. But I think it was a great day because we came 2nd out of 10 other teams.

Anjali R.

On Wednesday 5th of October Year 6 girls played 6 competitive matches at the HMC hockey. The minibus was buzzing with excitement and we were all struggling to keep still! When we got there it took a bit of time to warm up to start with, but after a few minutes Gabrielle was racing down the pitch, Willow, Amelie and Louisa scoring goals and Ellie and Nona barely letting the ball into our D. After stiff



competition, the final score of each of the first three matches was 1 - 0 to us (the goals were scored by Beatrix, Amelie, Gabrielle and Louisa). After waiting for a while and eating our lunch, our match against Hymers was about to take place. We were all slightly nervous as this was one step from the finals but everyone smashed it and the final score was 3 - 1! Then it was the final against RGS. Sadly the final result was 1 - 0 to them, but to get through to the finals of HMC was incredible! Well done!

Beatrix A.

Under 10 Rugby

The U10 boys welcomed Cundall to Green Lane. Everyone that played showed a great determination and willingness to get involved in the game. There were some amazing tries scored and thundering tackles made. A close game saw the Yarm teams come away with wins! Well done everyone.

Mr Simpson



Girls' Sports Update

Diwali

In Year 3 RE lessons we have been learning about the Hindu festival of Diwali. We have talked about the meaning of Diwali and the story of Rama and Sita. This week, the



children loved creating their own Diva Lamps.

Mrs Harandon



Another busy last week of the half term and great to see so many girls involved in school fixtures. Our Under 9s were excellent away at Queen Mary's on Thursday and scored some lovely goals. We certainly have some talented girls in this year group. The U10 and U11 squads were hosts to Cundall Manor on Friday and all managed to get on the pitch and enjoy some playing time alongside their friends. My thanks to Miss Whitehouse for coordinating this busy afternoon for all the girls. We also took the U11 netballers to Hymers to play in the 1st round of the U12 Magazine Cup, the first time we have entered. The girls managed to score a golden goal winner (Violet Mitchell) to progress through to the next round on Monday 14th November away to South Hunsley School. This week finishes with the U11 rugby players playing away to Dame Allan's and the U9s involved in our

Year 5 Community Spirit

The Year 5 Community Spirit group headed down to Pre-Prep to support our younger children in their philosophy lesson. We listened to a story and helped the children respond to the statement, "Wouldn't it be lovely if..."

We also managed to hear some children read. Year 5 were very impressed!

Mrs Simpson



What is religion and why is religion important?

Have you ever wondered why religion is important? Or why it even exists? Well here, I will explain all about religion, what it is and why it's important.

Religion is a belief in a greater good and a set of rules that a group of people have decided to follow in order to live a better life. It all started in what today is India, about 4000 years ago. There, Hinduism was invented, the first religion historians know of. It had no single founder and it was a blend of many Indian and some Asian cultures. It flourished through the medieval times and it is still a major religion today. Through the ages, other religions developed, some with, some without founders. These include Judaism, Buddhism, Christianity and eventually in 570 CE, Islam, probably the final major religion to be created.

In the past, people relied upon religion to explain things that they could not understand. For example, people didn't know how the earth was created and who had lived before them so many religions have stories about how their gods created the earth. In Christianity for example, God makes two people, Adam and Eve, who are the first people in the world. Adam and Eve appear like those who wrote about them, because those people were trying to explain their world. Most of those who perform miracles in the bible are also shown as boys which matches the belief of the time that boys were better, stronger and more worthy to be in charge.

Both of these points I have made, suggest that religion is a belief that people share, although it may not actually be true, simply what they would like to believe. As well as this, in some religions, such as Islam, religion may have been used against people, or may have been used to change how they think. In most religions, people believe those who have done sins, particularly towards their god, should be punished. This could be used to persuade other people that the sinner had done wrong or should be punished more severely because they had betrayed god. But although religion can be a disadvantage, it is also very important to all sorts of people, all round the world.

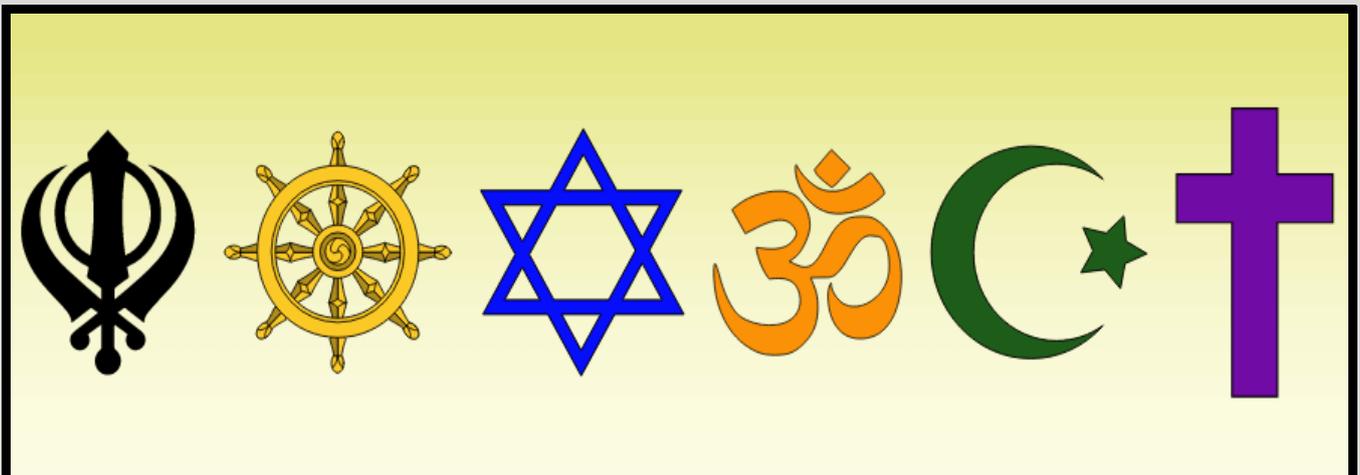
Religion is also important because it plays a massive part in the culture and history of so many countries. It unites people and encourages people to not sin or break the rules of their religion. For a lot of people, it makes them feel happier and a better person and it can improve the quality of the work they do for an employer. It can make them feel better about themselves. It can make people argue less and religion can have a very positive impact on a person's lifestyle. For many, especially Muslims, religion can make you more grateful and when a loved one dies, it can make people feel better because the majority of religions believe in life after death and make them feel that the ones they love are not really gone.

Although religion can be serious, it also brings fun, for it is a thing with many different colours and is not black and white. Most religions have festivals, such as Christmas, Diwali, Ramadan and Easter. This can mean seeing family members people haven't seen in a long time, celebrating and carrying on old traditions of the past as well as inventing new ones.

Conclusion

In my opinion, religion, although it has brought conflicts, is very important to all sorts of different races of people and it is, in the present day, a set of instructions to live a better life.

Dora B.



STEAM Round-Up

Separating mixtures, making salads and using disclosing tablets to look at the plaque on our teeth have all made for a very busy time in the STEAM department in recent weeks!



Parent Handbooks

You can access the parent handbooks on the school website [by clicking here](#). At various points over the coming weeks, we will post some reminders and key pieces of information from the handbook.

Music lessons

If your child is in Years 3-6 and is interested in taking part in individual peripatetic music lessons, [please fill in this form and Mr Gooding will get back to you](#).

Music News

We have a number of music events coming up this term, so please pencil some of these in.

16th November—Year 3&4 Informal concert, 4 p.m. in the Prep hall for solos and choir.

17th November—Small ensembles concert at 7.00 p.m. in Yarm Parish Church - a joint event with Senior School

Participants to be announced at a later date.

We have so much young talent in our school that it is not possible to include every child in every concert. We do our best, however, to give everyone a chance at least once in the academic year. Letters will come out in the coming weeks with precise details of who is in each concert.

Mr Gooding

Term Dates 2022/23

Autumn 2022—Thursday 1st September—Wednesday 14th December 2022 (Half-term: Saturday 15th— Sunday 30th October inclusive).

Spring 2023—Thursday 5th January—Friday 31st March 2023 (Half-term: Friday 17th—Sunday 26th February inclusive).

Summer 2023—Thursday 20th April— Friday 7th July 2023 (Half-term: Saturday 27th May—Sunday 4th June inclusive).

YPSSC

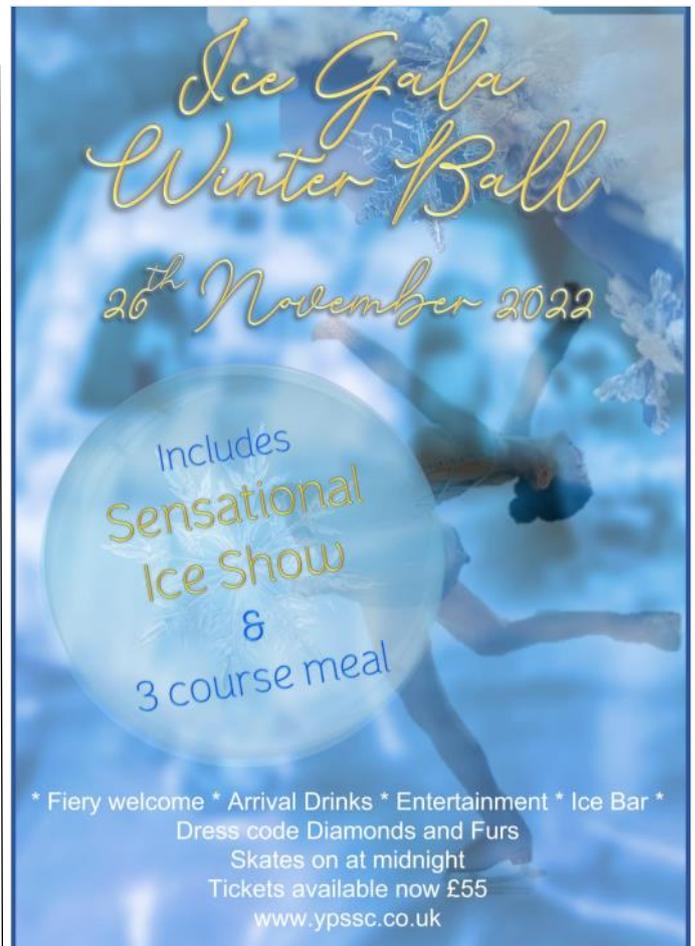
YPSSC Ice Gala Winter Ball—Saturday 26th

November; 7pm-Midnight

The YPSSC Winter Ball is just 6 weeks away, on Saturday 26th November 2022. [Tickets are limited, get yours before it's sold out!](#)

Ticket sales close on 31st October.

You may book a table for up to 10 guests (12 maximum). Alternatively please specify your child's Year Group on your booking, and we will seat you with other



parents in the same year.

What will we eat?

We are delighted to announce the sumptuous menu to be served during the evening ([click here](#)).

What else can I expect?

A spectacular show is planned in between courses, just like our breath-taking [2018 Circus ball](#).

What will I drink?

Enjoy a welcome drink included in the ticket price and taste the ice cold Schnapps from the outdoor Ice Bar! Once you have ordered your ball ticket, we will send you information to pre order your drinks to be delivered to your table on arrival.

Earlybird Happy Hour

New for this year! Drinks will be available from 6pm in our Ice Bar. Once you have your ball tickets, we will send you more information to book your space.

What charity is it supporting?

This year's nominated charity is [The David Ashwell Foundation](#).

How can I help?

To help the charity, we would welcome donations of auction and raffle prizes. Please contact your Year Rep or email ypssc@hotmail.com. [See our 2021 Supporters here.](#)

How do I buy raffle tickets?

[Raffle tickets are on sale now.](#) You are welcome to buy these even if you can't make it to the ball. We have some amazing prizes!

YPSSC team

Flu Immunisation Programme

The School Aged Immunisation Service will be coming onto School on Thursday 1st December 2022 to administer the nasal flu spray to children from Reception to Year 6. If you would like your child to receive this vaccination, please provide consent using the link below no later than Thursday 24th November 2022.

<https://www.hdftsais.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

School Code: HD111771

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Wheatley

Former Pupils News

Former Pupil Parents - Christmas Drinks

We are privileged that many of our Former Pupils now send their children to Yarm and would love for you to come along to our FP Christmas Drinks event.

Join us in the Princess Alexandra Auditorium Lounge Bar for drinks on **Saturday, 17th December from 7:30pm until 11:30pm.**



You are invited to arrive at the School from 7:30pm. Upon arrival, you can enjoy a complimentary welcome drink (prosecco, lager or a soft drink) while delicious light bites prepared by our outstanding Chef will be available in the

Atrium. Our bar will be in full service, allowing you to purchase drinks of your choice until around 11pm.

The event is open to all former pupils so please share the invitation with friends from your time at Yarm.

If you are interested in attending please complete the form: <https://bit.ly/FPdrinks22>.

The form will close Friday 9th December 2022.

Mrs Craig

Harvest Collection



Thank you to everyone who donated tins of protein-based food (Prep) and boxes of cereals (Pre-Prep) towards our Harvest collection for the *Sprouts* charity. We enjoyed the assembly last week from Debbie from the charity and Reverend Darren Moore from Yarm Parish Church.

Mr Stone

Eagles Basketball Trip

The Prep School went on their annual trip to watch the Newcastle Eagles! This time they took on a strong London Lions side. Everyone who came had a great time and enjoyed cheering on the Eagles and even featured on the Dance Cam! A huge thank you to all the staff for helping me make this trip a massive success.

Mr Simpson



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 for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about VIRTUAL REALITY

Virtual reality (VR for short) has existed for decades, but it's only in the last 10 years that the technology has really become publicly available. With VR's rapid rise as a gaming and educational medium, there are plenty of unknowns regarding its use – for adults and children alike. Is it safe? How long should someone use VR for? How expensive is it? What's clear is that VR is becoming ever more ubiquitous in everyday life: from companies using it for training to at-home fitness. Knowing what the technology is capable of is more useful than ever.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PREMATURE EXPOSURE

13+

While VR has already found its way into schools worldwide – allowing teachers to take their class on digital field trips – most manufacturers advise an age restriction of 13. This safeguard is based on the idea that children's brains, eyes and bodies are still developing. With the technology still in its infancy, not enough research has been conducted as to how VR affects children in the longer term.

EYE STRAIN

One of the main worries about VR is that essentially having TV screens so close to your eyes could harm them with prolonged use. Lenses inside each headset have been specifically designed to trick the human eye into focusing to infinity (just as they would in the real world) to mitigate possible eye strain. Even so, longer VR sessions should be limited to adults only.

PHYSICAL ACCIDENTS

When used correctly, VR isn't dangerous as there are safety features built in. A common concern is that a child wearing a headset could bump into real-world objects while playing – so creating a clear, tidy gaming space is essential. Headsets also come with 'Guardian' or digital barrier systems that can be set up beforehand, indicating where walls and furniture are located so nobody trips over and hurts themselves.

SOCIAL VR

VR is more immersive than normal gaming and makes players feel very present in the moment. There are additional online safety fears, therefore, relating to trolling and abusive comments as players engage with each other in social VR spaces. Personal information shouldn't be given out and privacy and safety controls (who can see your real name, for example) need to be activated where possible.

MOTION SICKNESS

Children who are prone to travel sickness might encounter what's known as 'simulator sickness'. This is nausea caused by the eyes seeing images which tell the brain that the person is moving, while the rest of the body knows it is stationary. Most apps have features to reduce this discomfort, while some games simply don't feature locomotion to make for a more comfortable experience.

VIOLENT CONTENT

Among the growing range of VR games and apps, not all of them are appropriate for young players. Violent content can be far more visceral and disturbing in VR, so it's important to consider the age and maturity of your child before giving them access to this type of gameplay. As the majority of VR content is digital, online store access is easy – so careful curation is advised.

Advice for Parents & Carers

START OFF SLOWLY

Just like regular video games, if your child wants to try VR the best way to reduce risks is moderation. Keep their VR sessions to short stints and for young adults new to the technology, build up their usage time gradually to let them get acquainted with it. If they feel any discomfort, remove the headset and try again at a later point.



NO SURPRISES

It's easy to get lost in the moment in VR – and possibly forget where you might be standing in the real world. A minimum 2m x 2m play area is recommended, with no plant pots or other delicate objects within reach of flailing arms. Take pets into account, too: don't let the cat or dog walk into the room, for example, because a VR player won't see them and could certainly trip. A child is far more likely to get over-enthusiastic in VR, posing a risk to themselves and anything in their path.

KEEP A WATCHING BRIEF

It may seem that a VR player is in their own world, but all VR headsets allow external viewing via a linked monitor or mobile phone. This is the best way to ensure whatever a child is playing is appropriate. More VR supervision tools are on the way, such as securing specific apps behind unlock patterns or sending an approval notification to the parent if their child wants to purchase a game.

ANTI-NAUSEA OPTIONS

It's wise to get used to VR while comfortably seated and progress to standing or 'room-scale' VR (where players physically walk around an area) later. Look at the in-app options first: switching between seated and standing adjusts the player's height, while a vignette or 'tunnel' darkens the peripheral vision to reduce nausea. Teleportation Mode and Snap Turning are also important options for enhancing comfort.



RESEARCH CONTENT

There will be information online about most games and apps, explaining what type of experience they provide. They'll list age ratings indicating how violent the gameplay might be; comfort, so you'll know the intensity of the experience; and how much access the game requires to personal information or features like the built-in microphone.



Meet Our Expert

Peter Graham is the editor at XR (extended reality) and Web3 specialist site gmw3.com and has been writing about VR, augmented reality and the immersive tech industry for more than seven years. He's served as a panel speaker and a judge at awards events and game hackathons.



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Key Dates

OCTOBER

- Mon 17** October Holiday School begins
- Fri 21** October Holiday School finishes
- Mon 31** Pupils return
After School Care as normal
Y3 Activities Carousel 2 beings
(Arkwright/Brunel Y3 still swimming)

NOVEMBER

- Fri 4** U10 Hockey v Barnard Castle
(away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)
U11 Hockey & Rugby v Barnard Castle
(home; 2pm start)
- Tue 8** Stephenson House Charity Event
U8 Hockey & Rugby v Cundall Manor
(away; 2pm start, 4pm return)
*****NEW EVENT***** Yorkshire Vet Author Visit
(PAA; 2-3pm; Years 4-6)
- Wed 9** School Council
- Thu 10** Year 3 trip to Captain Cook Museum
Year 6 Good Work assembly
HMC Cross Country
(Barlborough Hall; 10.40am depart, 5pm return)
- Fri 11** Remembrance assembly
U10/11 Hockey v Pocklington
(away; 2pm start, 5pm return)
U10/11 Rugby v Pocklington
(home; 2pm start)
- Mon 14** *****NEW EVENT***** Netball Cup v South Hunsley
(away; 2.30pm start, 5pm return)
Activities Carousel 2 begins for Y4-6
- Tue 15** HMC Chess
(QEGS; 8am depart, 5pm return; Y5/6 teams)
Year 4 trip to Durham Oriental Museum

[You can find the Yarm School calendar by clicking here](#)

Solution to previous Head's Challenge: A river



YPSSC PreLoved Uniform



We have a huge and varied stock of preloved uniform available.

Boys & Girls Blazers
Coats & Cagoules
Hats
Summer uniform
Winter Uniform
Games Kit Items
PE kit Items

From Nursery through to Year 6.

Prices start from £1!

If you are looking to add to your uniform wardrobe or simply want a few spares, visit our website www.ypssc.co.uk or scan the QR code below to complete a stock check/order form.

All clean and reusable donations of outgrown uniform are welcome too- just bag them up and either pass them on to a committee member or drop them off at Prep reception.



Thank you!

Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3B	Amelie T.	Jude C.
3H	Gonzalo V.	Harriet B.
4G	Meadow E.	Imogen C.
4J	Stan D.	Angus F.
4N	Henry S.	Cooper W.
5F	Eric PF.	Aphelia S.
5H	Anwita D.	Vedh A.
5K	Niall E.	Harry H.
6G	Nona D.	Anjali R.
6H	Sid S.	Pippa J.
6L	Matthew S.	Beatrix A.
6W	Ellie G.	Janaki M.