

The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 724—Friday 25th November 2022

INSIDE THIS WEEK...

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to this week's edition of the Phoenix Flier which celebrates many aspects of the Prep School and reflects the vibrant nature of our school lives. As you can see from the photos below and in subsequent pages, learning at Yarm Prep is very much a collaborative and hands-on experience. The projects across the expanse of our STEAM subjects (science, technology, engineering, art and maths) featured in the Phoenix Flier this week lend themselves well to group work, problem solving and critical thinking tasks, but the development of such skills is not limited to these subjects alone. It is at the heart of our curriculum and the resourceful root in our School Values. These skills transcend the classroom and are as relevant in the world today as they ever have been. It is an approach that fits with Educating for Life. The development of such attributes will help our pupils in their later school years and the world of work.

Thinking of the future, our Year 6 pupils enjoyed an afternoon at the Senior School this week during which time they experienced a taste of what life is like in the next phase of the Yarm School journey. Outdoor education tasks, explosive chemistry experiments and a DT project in the workshop were all on the menu and topped off with a BBQ tea! It was certainly a case of smiles all round at the end of the afternoon and excitement about what lies ahead.

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge: This one must be done in your head only - do NOT write it down. Take 1000 and add: 40; 1000; 30; 1000; 20; 1000 and finally add 10. What is the new total?



Photo of the Week: Year 6 have been looking at ways of making strong structures for an animal shelter in science this week.

Tooled Up Education

Video-sharing app TikTok is hugely popular among both young children and teens, which leaves us parents with a fair amount of questions. Is it safe? How can I protect my child from harmful content? Of course, we've got you covered. We created a [resource](#) to answer some of the most frequently asked questions about TikTok as well as a [video](#) that provides a clear overview of the platform. These two resources accompany our recent [webinar](#), where Toolled Up founder, Dr Weston and psychologist, Dr Elly Hanson, discuss worrying content shared on TikTok and outline what parents and carers can do to keep their children and teens safe online.

Andrew Tate, disgraced social media influencer, is an example of the toxic and harmful content that circulates around TikTok, Instagram and co. Tate has become a highly divisive figure, sharing controversial and misogynistic content on social media, and amassing a huge following. Sadly, Tate is extremely popular amongst young men and boys. Have a look at our [discussion topics](#) focusing on how we can respond to this kind of toxic content and this [activity](#), designed to provoke conversations about the importance of remaining critical about the things we see and read online and conscious of its impact on us as individuals.

Once your child has a phone, or access to the internet, it's impossible to shield them entirely from potentially viewing, or being sent, inappropriate content. However, there are tools available which can help to filter or block things that are adult or distressing and, as parents, it's important to familiarise ourselves with the settings on any devices and make use of [parental controls](#). It's crucial to have open and frequent [conversations](#) with your child about digital hygiene, things they might encounter online, and staying safe. Agreeing on [digital values](#) as a family, promoting critical thinking, developing fact-checking skills, and discussing what to do if they do come across something that upsets or worries them, are vital.

The Toolled 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 Toolled Up school, you have full unlimited access to the Toolled 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



TikTok Explained



TikTok: Your Questions Answered



Thinking about Who We Follow and Why



Family Digital Values



Tate Truths: Questions to Aid Discussion with Young People about Toxic Online Content



Internet Safety Conversation Starters



Taking a Closer Look at TikTok

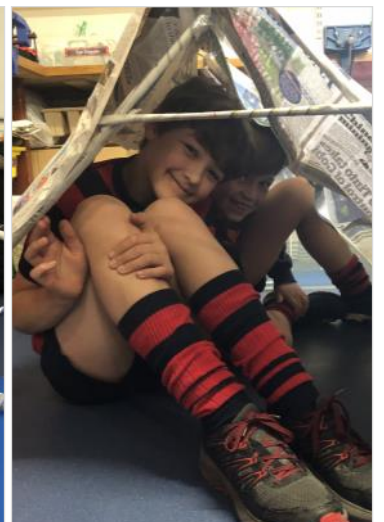
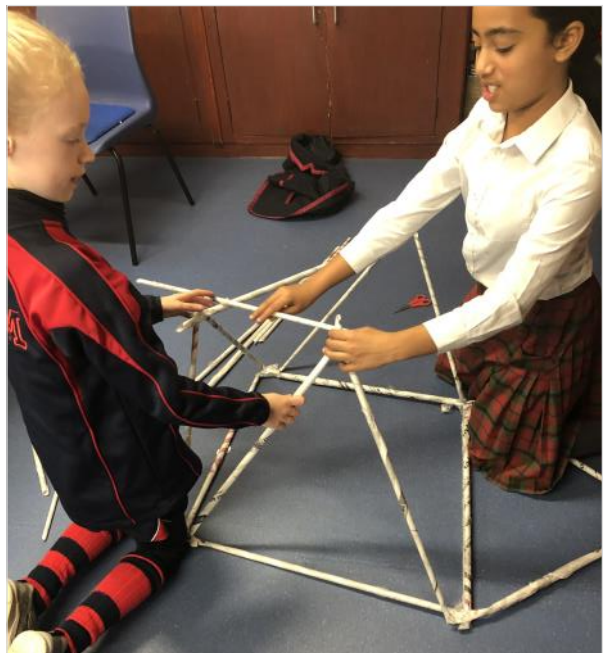
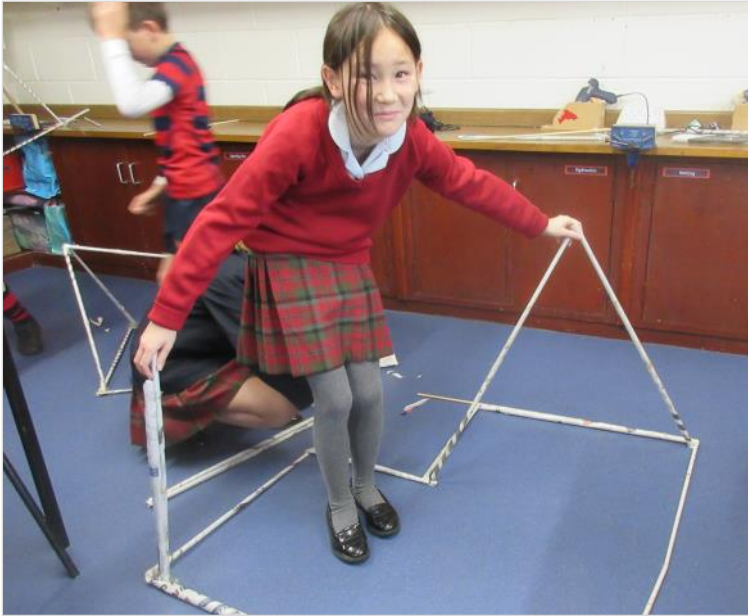


Online Safety: Using Parental Controls

Year 6 DT

Here are Y6 making frame structures out of newspaper, an exploratory task linked to designing and making a shelter for a pet.

Miss Ward



Year 4 Investigates...

Year 4 have been investigating the properties of solids, liquids and gases. There was a balloon with air, one with water and one with ice.

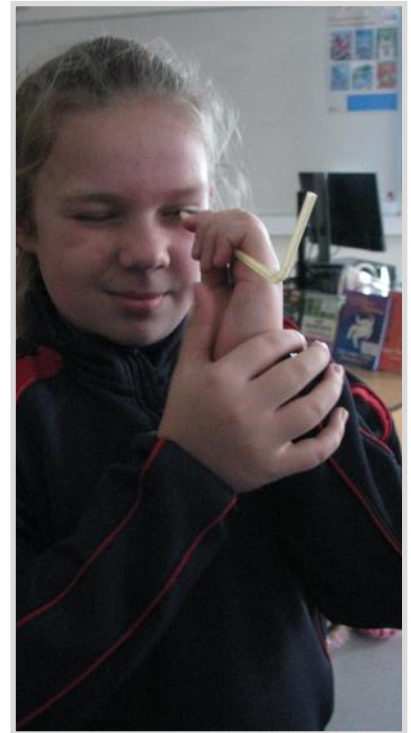
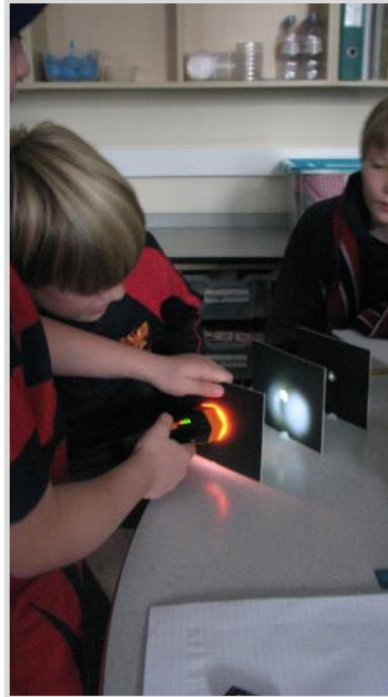
Mrs Jennings and Miss Ward



Years 3 and 6 Light Experiments

Year 6 have been proving how light travels in straight lines. Meanwhile, Year 3 have been investigating reflective materials.

Miss Ward



Year 5 Science

Year 5 have been investigating air resistance this week in science.

Miss Ward



PE and Games News



Under 10 Hockey v Queen Mary's

The defenders were amazing and Florence's new nickname is now 'Flying Flo'! Our player of the match was Kaira.

I thought we were awesome against Queen Mary's. *Alice S.*

We thought this was one of our best fixtures of the term because we played so well and worked hard as a team. *Yasmeen S.*

It was a tense match and very difficult to score. *Hannah C.*

We think that the fixture was fun to play in! *Alice S.*

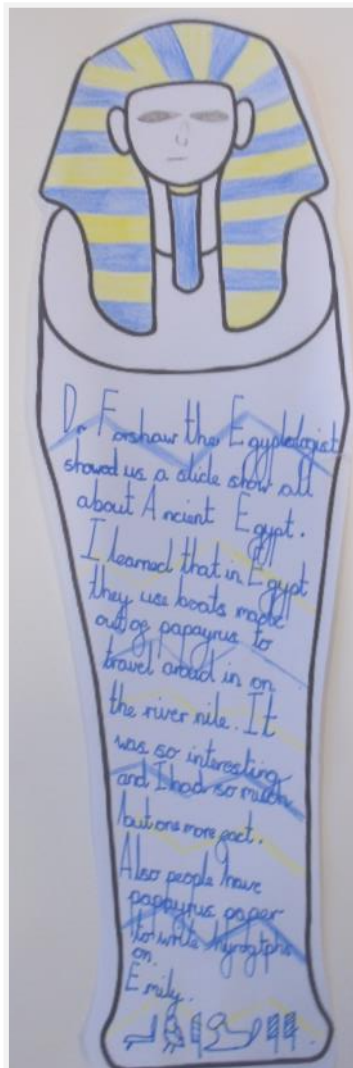
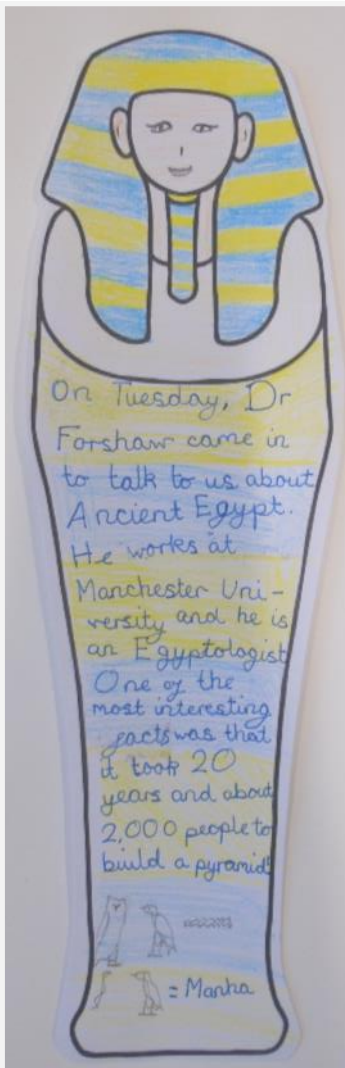
Under 10/11 Rugby v Bronte House

The U10 and 11 boys made the long journey to Bradford to play their annual fixture with Bronte House School. This fixture is always competitive and enjoyed by all. This again was true, with all of the boys showing great commitment and spirit. There were many quality tries scored and tackles made. It is a pleasure to see the boys enjoy their rugby and continue to develop their skills.

Mr Simpson

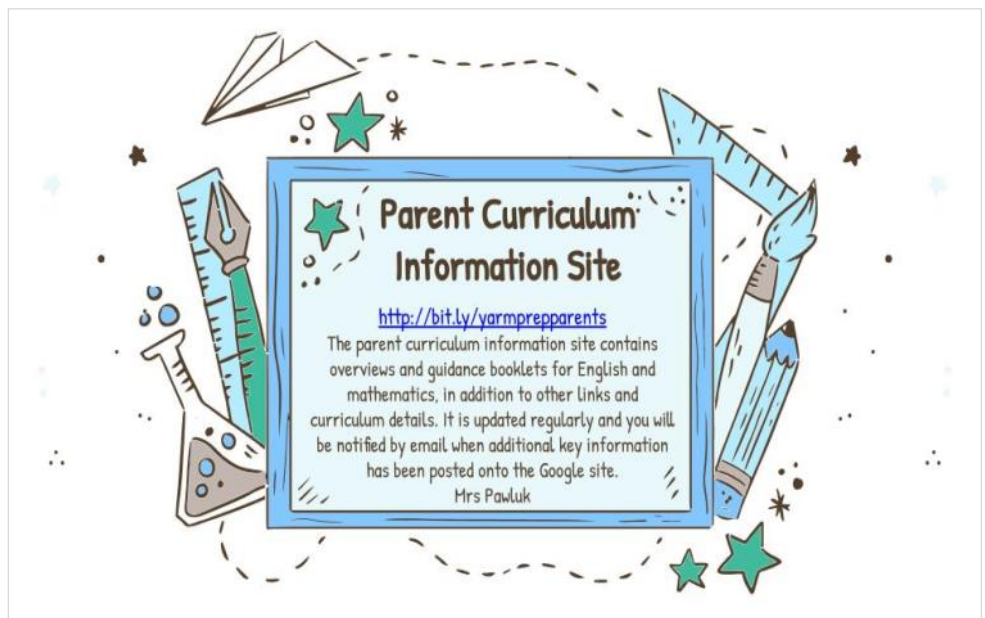


Dr Forshaw Visits Year 4



On Tuesday, we welcomed Dr Forshaw to school to talk to the Year 4 children about the Ancient Egyptians. The children are currently learning about this topic in history and this talk supplemented their visit to the Oriental Museum at Durham last week. Dr Forshaw is an Egyptologist and his knowledge of this subject is vast. He has visited Egypt on many occasions and was able to describe what it is like to explore the interior of a pyramid. Perhaps one of the most fascinating facts Dr Forshaw shared was that a pyramid took twenty years to build and approximately 20,000 people were involved in its construction. He also spoke about the use of the River Nile and showed a reconstruction of Meketre's boat (he was one of the Chancellors in the Middle Kingdom.) Dr Forshaw surprised the children when he informed them that children had to work, the boys in the fields and the girls at home and that only the very wealthiest children were educated. Finally, the floor was opened to questions and as ever there were many curious children with super questions. Thank you Dr Forshaw for spending time with us and sharing your extensive knowledge of life in Ancient Egypt.

Mrs Jones



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](#).

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).

Christmas Appeal—Little Sprouts

This year, more than ever, families in our community are worrying about the cost of heating their homes during the winter. We are once again collaborating with **Little Sprouts** to support the most vulnerable in our area. In the run up to Christmas we are collecting children's slippers and blankets/throws.



The slippers can be new or pre-loved that are still in good condition. So as to ensure a range of sizes, we suggest donating a size close to those of your children.

Both new and pre-loved blankets are extremely useful. If you have extra blankets/throws in your cupboards which go unused please consider donating them to a family. The perfect way to reuse and recycle and give the gift of warmth this Christmas. Please just ensure that they are clean or freshly laundered. Maybe you also know some keen knitters who would be interested in making some for this worthwhile cause.

We will start collecting the items in December, so please hold on to them until then!

Thank you in advance for your kindness.

Mrs Sawyer

Christmas Holiday School

Our Christmas Holiday School runs from Monday 21st—Wednesday 23rd December 2022. [If you would like to book a place for your child\(ren\), please click here](#).

Mr Simpson

Sustainable Crafts

Arkwright have started their activities carousel with great enthusiasm. They have started to create various different sustainable Christmas decorations for our school library.

Mrs Hart



Year 6 Homework

Thomas F. (6G) was tasked with writing a story about two characters—one with a fixed mindset and one with a growth mindset.

As Bill and Tom walked along the street they saw a brightly coloured poster saying, 'learn a new instrument!' Excitedly, Bill dashed to the poster and gazed in awe while Tom walked on. Tom muttered to himself, "The piano didn't work for me and nothing will! C'mon Bill!" Tom exclaimed, but Bill could not take his eyes off the poster, Bill beckoned Tom to come over and reluctantly walked over. "Bill, I could never play an instrument again, I was hopeless on the piano and no other instrument would work!" Tom said defeated.

Bill questioned, "Well have you even tried another instrument, mate?"

Tom replied, "No, but I don't want to though!"

"I'm going to play the guitar!" Bill said proudly, "I am going to play like Brian May! And so could you!"

"No way, music is not my thing, I have got my football anyway," Tom said.

"Why not try something New?" Bill said, Tom started to walk away in disbelief. Bill shouted after him, "We are going to have a lesson together at 1 on Saturday In the Town Hall!"

That Thursday night, Tom, anxious and confused, thought to himself long and hard about playing the guitar. He could not play! He could not play! The next day at school, Tom, with no sleep, could not concentrate and was thinking non-stop about the guitar. Outside that lunchtime, Bill came over to Tom and persuaded him to play. But Tom just said "No, no, no!" This was a horrible day for Tom!

That Saturday, Tom got dressed and walked downstairs, sat down and played computer games till 12:30 until Bill came in and pleaded, "You have to do this! Try something new! The lesson is about to start!" Reluctantly, Tom got out of his chair and walked with Bill to the town hall where the lesson would take place. When they got there, the teacher, Mr Simmonds, gave them both a guitar and sat down. When they started to play, Tom somehow managed to play quite well! His hand went up and down the fretboard easily and he was having a LOT of fun. The lesson seemed to go so quickly! As a result, Tom really enjoyed himself as he smiled with passion. After the lesson, Mr Simmonds came over to Tom and announced, "You have a lot of potential, would you like official lessons?"

"Oh yes please!" Tom exclaimed with delight.

Tempest Photographs

The proofs of the individual photographs (and the sibling photographs for those parents who requested them) should be at home with you by now. If not, please check pupil bags as they were sent home on Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

Details of how to order images are on these proofs, along with the relevant order link and your unique order number. Should you have any questions regarding your orders, please refer to [Tempest's website by clicking here](#).

Mr Stone

Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who took part in our *Children in Need* fundraising efforts last week, when the children were invited to

come in to school wearing something spotty. We raised a fabulous **£209.55** for the many causes supported by the event!

Mr Stone



More Year 6 Homework



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!

Christmas in the Preparatory School

Monday 28th November—Ticket booking for the Prep Carol Service closes. Details regarding this were released last week via email.

Wednesday 30th November—Last lesson 6 activities sessions of the term. Last riding session of the term today. Last Wednesday after school clubs of the term today.

Thursday 1st December—Flu vaccinations for Reception-Year 6 children. To book a vaccination, please refer to the details published in the Phoenix Flier.

Friday 2nd December—Our Christmas Mission to support *Little Sprouts* begins at school. We are asking for support for the most vulnerable in our area by collecting children's slippers and blankets/throws. The slippers can be new or pre-loved that are still in good condition. So as to ensure a range of sizes, we suggest donating a size close to those of your children. Both new and pre-loved blankets are extremely useful. If you have extra blankets/throws in your cupboards which go unused please consider donating them to a family. Please just ensure that they are clean or freshly laundered. Collection points will be located in the main entrances of Pre-Prep and the Year 3/4 building at the Prep School, and are open until Monday 12th December.

Monday 5th December—Reports will be released to parents at 4pm via the new parent portal. Details in the Phoenix Flier. The **Christmas Post Box** will be opened. It will be placed outside Mr Stone's office. Please may we ask the children to write full names and forms on envelopes to avoid any confusion. Last Monday carousel activities sessions of the term. Last Year 3 swimming session of the term. The **Spring Term activities booking form** will be open for your children to select their activities. **All clubs and activities finish this week.**

Wednesday 7th December—All children in Years 3 – 6 will stay behind after school for tea and preparation for our Carol Service. **5.30pm – Prep School Carol Service in the Princess Alexandra Auditorium.** Please refer to the email sent out regarding ticketing of this event. We look forward to inviting you all to the Carol Service, which promises to be a wonderful occasion to get into the festive spirit! Following the performance, children are to be collected from the Senior School Sports Hall and you are all invited to join us for festive refreshments.

Friday 9th December—We will be beginning our annual 'Carols on the Gate' during morning drop-offs from today. Please come along and join in! We will be collecting for *The Mustard Seed Project*. **Mrs Dunkley's dance groups** will be performing in assembly. Parents of those performing are welcome to attend between 9.45-10.10am in the Prep Hall. **Under 11 Rugby v Dame Allan's** and **Under 10 Rugby v St Peters** at Green Lane. 2pm start. **Under 11 Hockey v Dame Allan's**, taking place on the Prep Astro from 2pm. The **Spring Term activities booking form will close at 9am** in the morning.

All clubs and activities will be finished by today. There are no clubs and activities running on any day the following week.

Monday 12th December—2pm – Some choristers will be singing carols to the residents of Park House Care Home in Stockton. Children will be back at school for 3.45pm collection. **Year 3 children** will all stay behind after school for tea and preparation for their Christmas Show. **5.30pm – Year 3 Christmas Show in the Prep Hall.** All Year 3 families are invited to attend. The performance should finish by 6.15pm. Once finished, refreshments will be available. The closing date for donations for our Christmas Mission is today. **PLEASE NOTE: Nursery finishes at 3pm; Pre-Prep at 3.15pm; Prep as usual at 3.45pm. After school care is available.**

Tuesday 13th December—Lost Property assembly will take place today, so please have one last look in rooms, bags, wash baskets, etc for any items that do not belong to your child! We endeavour to return as much as possible to the rightful owners. **2pm – Some choristers** will be singing carols to the residents of Middleton Retirement Village. Children will be back at school for 3.45pm collection. **PLEASE NOTE: Nursery finishes at 3pm; Pre-Prep at 3.15pm; Prep as usual at 3.45pm. After school care is available.**

Wednesday 14th December—All school bags and kit bags to go home today please. **Christmas Jumper Day**, in aid of Save the Children. Children to bring in £1 to wear a Christmas jumper of their choice. During the school day, the children will enjoy their own carol service at Yarm Church. **Reindeer Run for Teesside Hospice.** Antlers are included. We welcome donations via a Just Giving page the YPSSC will be setting up – details to follow. School Christmas lunch! At the end of term, we shall ensure that your child's locker is cleared of Christmas cards and that any coats, hats, gloves and scarves also find their way home to you.

PLEASE NOTE: Nursery finishes at 3pm; Pre-Prep at 3.15pm; Prep as usual at 3.45pm. NO AFTER SCHOOL CARE (N.B. Buses will run as usual). Please ensure you have arranged for your child to be collected from school at 3.45pm.

Monday 19th - Wednesday 21st December—CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SCHOOL. If

you would like your child to attend, please complete the form which will be emailed to you by Mr Simpson. This is always a much enjoyed and busy Holiday School and staffing and outings need to be arranged well in advance.

Mr Stone



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 games 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

FIFA 23

FIFA 23, like its many predecessors, is a massively popular football simulator featuring lifelike recreations of thousands of real-world players, drawn from teams around the globe. While the gameplay is subtly improved year on year, the publisher EA Sports' tweaks tend to focus on FIFA Ultimate Team mode, which can tempt gamers of all ages to spend real money recruiting better players for their side. With each new release of FIFA comes a host of new players to unlock – meaning that youngsters can feel pressured to keep buying to compete with their friends.

AGE RATING
PEGI 3

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

RELEASE RAZZAMATAZZ

FIFA 23 will be the last in the blockbuster series, before EA goes solo with its own football title next season. This 'end of an era' vibe – coupled with a huge advertising budget making the new release almost impossible to miss – will elevate FIFA 23 into even more of a 'must have' for football-mad young gamers, no matter how minor the updates are on last year's version.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CHAT

Based on a popular sport which appeals to people of all ages, the FIFA franchise draws a huge audience of both children and adults. Communication is a key element, with many players enjoying in-game audio chat via headsets. With the mixed age range of players and a lack of regulation, however, chats can often turn offensive or toxic – especially in the heat of competitive matches.

IN-GAME PROMOTIONS

Unless precautions are taken, dedicated FIFA fans can spend significant sums when attempting to improve their Ultimate Team. Most top-level players can be unlocked by simply participating in matches, but some sought-after stars can be obtained more quickly in limited-time promotions which cost a large amount of FIFA points (the in-game currency, often paid for with real money).

CIRCLING SCAMMERS

The popularity of FIFA Ultimate Team (FUT) mode has led to online scammers convincing many impressionable gamers to pay real money for non-existent FUT coins and player cards, or directing unwary FIFA fans to phishing sites. If your child gives these individuals their login details, the scammers can access not only their carefully built team but potentially your payment information.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

One match on FIFA (usually around 15 minutes, but often lengthened by extra time and penalties) almost invariably leads to another. It can be a powerful temptation for young players, regardless of unfinished homework or an approaching bedtime. If the 'just one more game' mindset starts to impact a child's daily routine, it could be a sign of gaming disorder: a recognised mental health issue.

GAMBLING-ADJACENT BEHAVIOUR

Ultimate Team has become a major feature in FIFA due to the revenues it generates. It can also be addictive, with children striving to earn coins and level up while swapping, selling and buying players. Spending FUT coins to open a player pack (which many experts have likened to gambling) is designed to be an exciting act – with bright lights, fanfare and attention-grabbing prizes.

Advice for Parents & Carers

BE SELECTIVE WITH CHATS

It's enormous fun for FIFA players to chat online with friends, even as their teams do battle in the game. It's probably the safest idea, though, to restrict contact with strangers. By turning off voice chat in FIFA and allowing cross-party chat in their device's settings, your child can speak to people who are already on their friends list but won't be able to talk to (or hear) strangers online.

CONTROL SPENDING

If your child plays Ultimate Team mode on FIFA, ensure their account isn't linked to your payment methods – so they'll need your permission to make in-game purchases. Alternatively, you could use parental controls to limit spending – or set up a pre-paid 'allowance'. When excitedly clicking options on screen, it's easy for a young person to forget the real-world repercussions of online purchases.

STAY ALERT FOR SCAMS

There are some key things to remember about potential FIFA scams. Firstly, EA never contacts users via any method other than emails to the account holder (which may well be you). Neither will they ever ask for a player's username or password outside the game itself. EA's terms and conditions outlaw the buying of FUT coins, so anyone selling them should be treated as suspicious.

AVOID 'EXTRA TIME'

If your child's spending a lot of time on FIFA 23 and seems less enthusiastic about other activities in their life, you could consider restricting how long they can play for each day with the parental controls in their device's settings. Even if they're not playing on their console or computer, there's a FIFA companion app for smartphones – but that can be limited through parental controls, too.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor of technology and entertainment website Dexerto and has been working in the gaming media for three years. A long-time fan of the FIFA franchise, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have also been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar, among others.



Sources: <https://www.windowscentral.com/youngster-spends-over-10000-florin-bar-hill-lighting-production-game-designed> <https://www.ps4life.com/questions-and-answers/tum/addictive-behaviour-gaming-disorder/> <https://www.eurogamer.net/articles/2022-11-10-ea-sports-fifa-23-european-council-call-for-better-regulation-of-fifa-base-following-new-report>



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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 12.10.2022

Key Dates

NOVEMBER

Sat 26	Prep Ball (PAA; 7pm-Midnight)
Mon 28	LCM examinations Y3 Nativity rehearsals begin
Tue 29	U8 Hockey & Rugby v St Peters (home; 2pm start) Children Challenging Industry morning for 6W
Wed 30	Pre-Prep Nativity (5.30pm; PAA)

DECEMBER

Thu 1	Flu vaccinations (all morning; R-Y6) Y4 Good work assembly
Fri 2	U10 Rugby v Durham (away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return) U11 Rugby v St Peters (home; 2pm start)
Mon 5	PREP CHRISTMAS POSTAL SERVICE OPENS! Clubs and activities finish this week Reports released to parents (4pm) Last swimming for Arkwright/Brunel today House assemblies
Tue 6	EYFS Nativity (2pm; Studio Hall)
Wed 7	Prep Carol Service (5.30pm; PAA)

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

Solution to previous Head's Challenge:

A shirt

IMPORTANT—Parent Portal

We have recently switched to a new management information system called iSAMS. As part of this transition, the Parent Portal that you will have previously accessed via the Yarm MIS (if your child was in the School last year and previously), will no longer be used. Instead, we will be using the iSAMS Parent Portal going forward which will enable you to view remotely the academic information relating to your child via a secure login.

In addition to school reports, the portal will enable you to

view the core information held on our system relating to your contact details, making it easier for you to update this important information as and when it alters. For obvious reasons, it is important that we hold accurate and up to date information regarding your child and it is essential that you provide a valid mobile telephone number and email address as a point of contact **for each contact**. A shared email can't be used on the new system, therefore please email a second email address and for a respective contact to Pre-Prep georgina.banham@yarmschool.org or Prep louise.white@yarmschool.org.

Key Dates:

- Registration email release to parents **Monday 21st November**, time for any issues to be resolved 21-25 November
- Reception to Year 6 Autumn Term Reports released to the Parent Portal **Monday 5th December 4pm**

You will not be sent paper copies of reports so it is important that you have completed the portal registration and login process **prior** to the report release date to try and prevent any delay in report availability. Please keep the log on details in a safe place for future reference.

Mrs Pawluk

Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3B	Amani R.	Takashi Y.
3H	Atticus WT.	Felix M.
4G	Benjamin H.	Martha L.
4J	Manha A.	William G.
4N	Amaya S.	Rory B.
5F	Lewis D.	Chloe X.
5H	Harrison C.	Florence P.
5K	James A.	Georgie W.
6G	Felicity L.	Lucy W.
6H	Harriet B.	Jack S.
6L	Louisa P.	Nikita S.
6W	Olivia J.	Nikita S.

Head Teacher Awards:

Y4: Angus F., Stan D., Manha A., Imogen C., Rosa W., Felicity S.

Y6: Nona D., Wilf S., Akansha M., Edward TP., Oliver A., Arvind K., Noah A.

Bronze Music Awards: Noah A., Rehan K.