

The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 727—16th December 2022

INSIDE THIS WEEK... End of term assembly... Festival of Carols... Games review... Y3 Nativity...

A message from Mr Sawyer

Well, that brings us to the end of another action-packed, eventful term at Yarm Prep. It has been a wonderful adventure in learning and growth! What a way to finish our term too, with a fine run of Christmas themed events and productions. Having had the esteemed pleasure of watching all of these events, I am full of admiration for the children who have shown great flare, dynamism and confidence. They have embodied our ambitious aims and have risen to the challenge of working collaboratively to deliver superb performances. Our community has spread good cheer too through singing at local care homes this week and our festive fundraising campaigns for Little Sprouts, Teesside Hospice, The Mustard Seed Project and Save the Children. Thank you all for your support in this regard!

As we part for the holidays, my sincere thanks go to all of the teaching and support staff for their dedication and commitment this term. I am also indebted to my wife and family for their unwavering love and warmth. Finally, I wish every member of our community a wonderful Christmas holiday and a prosperous New Year. I look forward to seeing you all in 2023.

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge: Add me to myself and multiply by 4.
Divide me by 8 and you will have me once more. What number am I?

Photo of the Week: Pictures from our Christmas events, including our Festival of Carols and the Year 3 Nativity can be found inside this edition.



Festival of Carols



Year 3 Christmas Nativity



PE and Games News

Under 10 Rugby v Durham

In our rugby match we played Durham School. We started with a bit of training by getting into a three and passing the ball. At kick-off we felt a bit nervous and we were all a bit tight. We all bunched up and did not get into space, but we all turned on and tackled like monsters and did not concede until half time. We kept thinking we had already won the game but we did not stop. Ronav and I were really good scoring tries and Ollie was called 'The Beast' because he tackled so well. We all tried our best. Well done everyone.

Phoenix E.

Girls' Sport—Review of the Term

It has been a fun-packed, busy term as always with lots going on. The U8s hit the ground running and Arkwright and Brunel made super improvements in their ten swimming sessions. It was great to see their independence grow each week with changing and the majority swam 25 metres unaided. Group 1 swam 200m each which was great to witness. It will be the turn of Stephenson and Telford next term starting on Monday 9th January 2023. In their games they have loved their first taste of hockey and travelled to Queen Mary's, Dame Allan's and Cundall, as well as hosting St Peter's in the last couple of weeks. Their skills have developed and I look forward to seeing them play some 5-a-side games next year.

The Under 9 children have been busy with fixtures v Queen Mary's, Dame Allan's and Durham School, as well as hosting our very own festival with Barnard Castle and Red House amongst others. They have made very pleasing progress this term and they will play 7-a-side games next year which will be exciting to see.

Our U10 and U11 girls have loved their Friday fixtures and once again we play as many girls as we can in these events. We took two teams to the HMC Hockey at Leeds and both teams reached their finals after remaining unbeaten through the day, eventually losing out by one goal to RGS in both games. They should be super proud of their efforts. We also hosted our very own U11 HMC festival and it was great to see the girls enjoying this day of hockey. The U10s and U11s have played Durham, Queen Mary's, St Peter's, Pocklington, and Cundall and it has been great to see many of these girls attending hockey clubs outside of school.

We took U9, 10 and 11s to Barlborough in Derbyshire for the HMC cross-country and the girls gave a good account of themselves. The U9 team of Daisy, Annalise, Rosa, Holly and Ciny worked well as a team in what was a big event with over 80 runners in the event. The U10s again gave their all with Ettie, Aphelia, Heidi and Amelia once again finishing strongly together. The U11s of Beatrix (7th), Dora, Daisy, Louisa and Amelie had a good race and were super role models to the younger pupils. There were over 12 schools present and our teams finished 7th overall.

We entered our U11 Netball team into the School Sport Magazine Cup this year and although it is an U12 competition the girls did fantastically well. They beat both Hymers U12 and South Hunsley U12 before losing out to Ripon Grammar U12 team. To reach the



3rd round of this national competition is a super effort and the girls should be very pleased with their efforts. This sets them up nicely for the netball season which we embark upon in January.

When we all return in January the sports change and girls play netball fixtures against the schools listed above.

Thank you to all girls who have been great ambassadors for the school and a pleasure to spend time with this term. My thanks also goes to the staff who support the department brilliantly.

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney

Boys' Sport—Review of the Term

We have been very fortunate this year as we have seen more consistent rugby over the course of 4 months than we have any other year. This has allowed the boys to play and train more often, making improvements along the way. The U8s have had a wonderful time learning to play tag rugby. They have enjoyed attending workshops with St Peters and Dame Allan's making new friends along the way.

The U9 boys have made the step up to contact rugby and performed well across each fixture they took part in. Their commitment to learn the more physical elements have been admirable and their enthusiasm has been infectious. The training and fixtures all culminated in the boys hosting their own U9 Rugby Festival which provided them the opportunity to enjoy playing a number of fixtures over the course of the day.

The U10s have enjoyed a very successful term, taking on the likes of Durham, Woodhouse Grove and Barnard Castle. The boys are starting to mature into the game, understanding the need for patterns, movement, support and communication. Their season started on a warm day at the Clegg Cup, hosted by Barnard Castle. Their performance set the standard for the coming season and they didn't disappoint. As the season progressed they listened, learned and most importantly tried the new things they were shown. I look forward to seeing what this team can do next year.

It has been most impressive to witness the development of the U11s. Their understanding of the game has gone from strength to strength. Over the course of the term the focus has been to play the game in a way that suits the boys. To observe multiple phases of play, recycling the ball and then using the space out wide has been refreshing to see. Using each fixture as an opportunity to learn, the boys picked up early experience at the HMC Rugby. As the term progressed, games against Dame Allan's, St Peter's and Pocklington helped reinforce their learning.

Towards the end of the term the HMC U11 Tag Festival was enjoyed by 100 pupils from 9 different HMC schools. This event was enjoyed by all who attended. The maximum participation approach allowed the boys to learn and develop and make new friends in a competitive but friendly environment.

Well done to all who took part.

Mr Underwood



End of Term Assembly

Our end of term assemblies are always a special occasion and a celebration of the many achievements across school. It is an opportunity to award **School Colours**, which are awarded to Year 6 children who have excelled in a specific area of school, for example, sports, music, art, chess and drama. They are awarded a special school tie or a pin badge.



The assembly also celebrates the many house competitions that take place, as well a chance to share the house point totals recorded over the term by the children. **House points** are awarded by all teachers throughout the year for good work, positive behaviour, demonstrating the School Values, etc. At the end of each term, the house point totals are added up and divided by the number of children in the house to give each house a ranking. Each house competition also awards a set amount of points (300 for the winner, 175 for runners-up, 100 for finishing 3rd and 75 for 4th), giving a fair score to each event.

Rugby Colours

Wilf Sawyer, Fenwick Mitchell, Matthew Robson, Udham Chahal, Henry Pugh, James Callaghan, Jack Severn, Thomas Ferguson, Seb Dalby, Ethan Cowley, Joe Williamson, Will McDonald

Hockey Colours

Ellie Gates, Nona Dugdale, Louisa Palmer, Willow Arnold, Amélie Kingsbury, Daisy Newton, Gabrielle Burton, Beatrix Allcock, Maisy Vasiliou, Violet Mitchell

Chess Colours

Anjali Ramisetty, Griff Williams, Sid Suryadevara, Monty van Niekerk, Tiger Chahal

Art Stars

Emma Arnold, Imogen Patrick, Edward Whitfield, Harriet Batley, Udham Chahal, Marawan Saad, Jack Severn, Josh Burns, Auden Ashwell, Navina Muthukrishnan

House Rugby – 1st Stephenson

2nd Arkwright; 3rd Telford; 4th Brunel.

House Hockey – 1st Arkwright

2nd Brunel; 3rd Telford; 4th Stephenson.

House Points – 1st Stephenson 4432 (average 77.8 per child)

2nd Telford 4277 (76.4); 3rd Arkwright 3800 (73.1); 4th Brunel 3470 (69.4).

OVERALL HOUSE LEADERBOARD:

4th - Brunel 325; 3rd - Telford 375; 2nd - Arkwright 575

1st - STEPHENSON 675

Stephenson take a healthy lead into the Spring term and look on course to win the coveted House Shield for the fourth year in a row. But there are plenty of house competitions coming up in next term, including chess, coding, general knowledge, pancake races (!) and a brand new typing competition! It's all to play for!

Mr Stone

Tempest Photographs

Parents that ordered school photographs after 30th November deadline will receive them from Tempest through Royal Mail delivered to their home address.

Those ordered before the 30th November were delivered to school today and will be in your child's school bag/ or will be delivered to us in the New Year. If you have a query please call Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 3).

Mrs White

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

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).

Reindeer Run!

Our annual Rudolph Run took place for all year groups on the final day of term (Wednesday 14th December). [To support this event, we ask families and friends to sponsor the children via this Just Giving page set up especially for the run.](#)

4J Christingles

4J have been making Christingles in their RP lessons this week.



Festival of Carols

To view our Festival of Carols again, [please click here](#). Our thanks to Chris de Jong (Governor) for filming the performance.

Year 4 STEAM Club

The Year 4 STEAM club completed their tipper trucks last week—just in time for the end of term!



Spring Term Clubs and Activities

Clubs for the new term will commence from Monday 9th January 2023. You should, by now, have full details of what your child will be doing in their planners.

Places are still available in the following after school clubs: Tuesday Y5/6 Cricket; Wednesday Y3/4 Running Fun; Thursday Y3/4 Crazy Crafts; Thursday Y4/5 Journaling. If your child would like a place, please contact gns@yarmschool.org.

Mr Stone



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.ypsc.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!

Macrame Activity

Years 4/5 Macrame have been making Christmas trees in their activities session. Lolwa said "These were fun and



really easy to make! We have really enjoyed Macrame this term and would love to do it again."

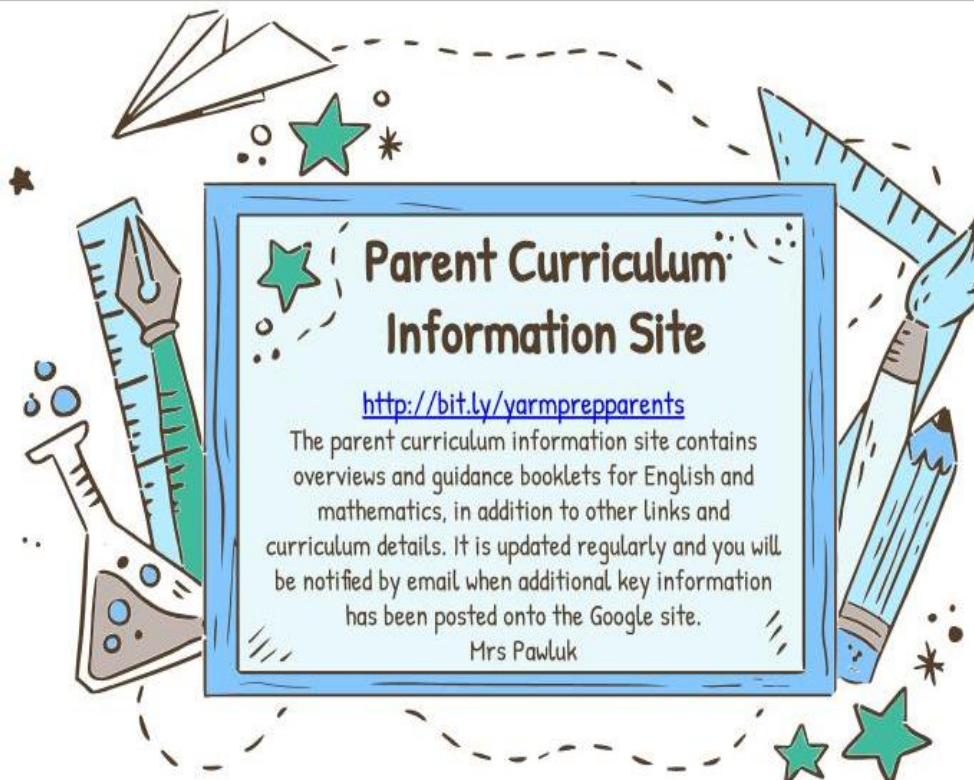
Miss Ward

Flood Proof Houses

This term the children in year five learnt about the effects of flooding. As a result, they decided to create a flood-proof house with consideration around design, materials and aesthetics. After making the house in small groups, we decided to put the houses to the ultimate test - can they survive the flood?'

Mr Hutchcraft





Parent Curriculum Information Site

<http://bit.ly/yarmpreparents>

The parent curriculum information site contains overviews and guidance booklets for English and mathematics, in addition to other links and curriculum details. It is updated regularly and you will be notified by email when additional key information has been posted onto the Google site.

Mrs Pawluk

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 HOW TO COMBAT ONLINE BULLYING



Defined as "ongoing hurtful behaviour towards someone online", cyber-bullying makes its victims feel upset, uncomfortable and unsafe. In the digital world, it has numerous forms – such as hurtful comments on a person's posts or profile; deliberately leaving them out of group chats; sharing embarrassing images or videos of someone; or spreading gossip about them. Cyber-bullying can severely impact a young person's mental health... so, in support of Anti-Bullying Week, we've provided a list of tips to help trusted adults know what to look for and how to respond to it.

1. GET CONNECTED

Playing online games together with your child or connecting with them on social media (providing they're old enough) is not only fun but also an excellent way of establishing some common ground to discuss things you've both seen or done online – as well as keeping an eye on who your child is communicating with in the digital world.

2. KEEP TALKING

Regular chats with young people about their online lives are good practice in general, but they can also be an excellent refresher to help prevent cyber-bullying situations. Topics you might want to revisit include why it's important to only connect online with people we know and trust, and why passwords should always remain secret (even from our best friends).

3. STAY VIGILANT

Observe your child while they're using technology and just after they've used it. Are they acting normally, or out of character? Possible signs of a problem may include seeming quiet or withdrawn, jumpy or anxious, angry or repeatedly checking their phone. When you feel it's the right time, you may want to check in with them to see if everything is OK.

4. MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE

If an online bullying incident does occur, it may take a while before your child is ready to open up about what happened. Just gently remind them that they can always come to you with any problems – and that they won't be in trouble. You might also suggest a trusted family member they could turn to, in case they feel too embarrassed to tell you directly.

5. BE PREPARED TO LISTEN

When conversations about online bullying do take place, they're likely to be difficult, emotional and upsetting for both you and your child. Actively listen to your child while they're bringing you up to speed, and try not to show any judgement or criticism – even if they haven't dealt with the situation in exactly the way you would have hoped.

FURTHER SUPPORT AND ADVICE

If you or your child need additional help with an online bullying issue, here are some specialist organisations that you could reach out to.

Childline: talk to a trained counsellor on 0800 1111 or online at www.childline.org.uk/get-support/

National Bullying Helpline: counsellors are available on 0845 225 5787 or by visiting www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/cyberbullying.html

The NSPCC: the children's charity has a guide to the signs of bullying at www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/ and can be reached on 0800 800 5000

6. EMPOWER YOUR CHILD

Depending on their age, your child might not want a parent 'fighting their battles for them'. In that case, talk through their options with them (blocking the perpetrator, deleting the app and so on). By allowing your child to choose the path they take, you're putting them in control but you're also demonstrating that you're there to support them along the way.

7. REPORT BULLIES ONLINE

Cyber-bullying often takes place through a particular app, social media platform or online game. If this is happening to your child, encourage them to report the offender to the app or game in question – ideally with screenshots to support their complaint. Most games and apps have reporting tools specifically to stamp out abusive behaviour and protect users.

8. ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

Protecting themselves online is the priority, of course, but young people should also feel empowered to help if they witness other people falling victim to cyberbullying. Even if they don't feel confident enough to call someone out on their abusive behaviour online, they can still confidentially report that person to the app or game where the bullying occurred.

9. SEEK EXPERT ADVICE

Victims of online bullying frequently experience feelings of isolation and anxiety, a loss of self-esteem and potentially even thoughts of self-harm or suicide. If you think that an incident of cyber-bullying has affected your child's mental wellbeing, then seek psychological support for them. There are some useful contact details in the central panel below.

10. INVOLVE THE AUTHORITIES

If the nature of any online bullying makes you suspect that your child is genuinely in imminent physical danger – or if there are any signs whatsoever of explicit images being shared as part of the bullying – then you should gather any relevant screenshots as evidence and report the incidents to your local police force.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



NOS
National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Key Dates

DECEMBER

Wed 14 **END OF TERM—3.45pm**
No after school care today

Mon 19 Christmas Holiday School
(until Wed 21st December)

JANUARY 2023

Thu 5 **Pupils return; Spring Term begins**
Early finishing times: 3pm (Nursery), 3.15pm
(Pre-Prep), 3.45pm as usual (Prep)
After School Care as normal
House General Knowledge Quiz

Fri 6 Early finishing times: 3pm (Nursery), 3.15pm
(Pre-Prep), 3.45pm as usual (Prep)
After School Care as normal

Mon 9 Sustainability Week
Clubs and Activities commence
Y3 swimming for Stephenson/Telford begins

House typing competition
Tue 10 Y4 trip to Darlington Synagogue (4J + half 4N)
School Council

Fri 13 Senior School entrance assessments
U11 Netball v Red House
(Home; 2.15pm start)
U10/11 Football v GSAL
(away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)

Sat 14 Open Morning (9am-12noon)

Tue 17 Curiosity Emporium (1pm; Library)
Y4 trip to Darlington Synagogue (4G + half 4N)
Year 1 Maths Stay & Play
U8 Netball v Queen Mary's
(away; 2.15pm start, 4pm return)

Wed 18 Great North Air Ambulance assembly

Thu 19 U9 Netball v Queen Mary's
(home; 2.15pm start)

Fri 20 Chinese New Year celebrations

U11 County Hockey Cup Final v Red House (TBC)

U10/11 Netball v Queen Mary's
(away; 2.15pm start, 4pm return)

U10/11 Hockey v Cundall Manor#
(away; 2.15pm start, 4.30pm return)

Mon 23 House Chess begins

Tue 24 Primary Schools Singing Day (PAA)
U8 Netball & Football workshops with St Peter's
(away; 2.15pm start, 4.30pm return)

Thu 26 VEX IQ Robotics Competition
U9 Football v Newcastle School for Boys
(away; 2pm start, 4.15pm return)

Fri 27 Inter-School Quiz Championship—Regional Heat

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

Solution to previous Head's Challenge:

Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3B	Harriet A.	Henry F.
3H	Freddie W.	Georgie D-B.
4G	Felicity W.	Emily B.
4J	George Y.	Leo S.
4N	Holly B.	Olivia C.
5F	Brian F.	Ettie A.
5H	Vedh A.	Erin G.
5K	Laurel G.	Sylvia D.
6G	Thomas F.	Sonny F.
6H	Griff W.	Harriet B.
6L	Seth T.	Oliver X.
6W	Janaki M.	James C.

Head's Awards: Y4—Emily Q., Alia M., Sophia B.

Y5—Alex P.

Y6—Ethan C., Felicity L., Alex W., Daisy N., Amelie K.

Bronze Music Award: Bea M.