

The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 728—13th January 2023

INSIDE THIS WEEK... Year 4 visit Darlington Synagogue... Charity work... School Council...

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to our first Phoenix Flier for 2023! The school burst into life last week as the pupils and staff returned full of energy and now that our programme of clubs, activities, trips and fixtures are underway we are once again in full swing for the term. The new calendar year has provided us with the perfect opportunity to reflect on what we want to achieve in terms of our personal goals during the months ahead. We have spent time in assembly discussing ideas from James Clear's book *Atomic Habits* to ensure we establish good patterns around our goals. We have learnt that strategies such as committing to a regular 2 minute stint, priming our environment and sharing goals with the people around you really help to set up a successful new habit. As a school we are testing out this approach to improving our school environment through a sustainability drive around litter. Do ask your child about our current litter campaign and also help them to set and record their personal goals for the term in their pupil diaries.

This weekend sees us welcome visitors as part of our Open Morning. I am grateful to all of the pupils who are giving up their time to represent the school as guides and take part in a range of activities. I am sure they will take pride in the opportunity to showcase aspects of school life and be wonderful ambassadors for us.

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge: Marie is numbering her notebook by hand. The book has 100 pages, so she numbers them from 1 to 100. How many times will she write the figure 8?

Photo of the Week: Year 3 have been finding out the names of body parts this week in French!



Tooled Up Education

Happy New Year from the Tooled Up Team! Now that we are moving firmly into 2023, make sure you keep checking out the [Tooled Up library](#) as we are constantly adding new resources and have numerous [webinars](#) planned over the coming months. January is a time when many people think about the year ahead. If that sounds like you, why not check out our newly updated [Goal Setting Planner](#), and set some small, achievable goals? The whole family can get involved!

Have you browsed through our [webinar resource section](#) yet? It's packed full of webinar recordings with leading experts from the worlds of psychology, health and education, along with accompanying notes if you quickly want to pick up on the key points. You'll find expert advice on [performance anxiety](#), [TikTok](#), [improving sleep](#), [eating disorders](#), [low mood and depression](#), [allergies](#), and so much more.

Remember that our exclusive live events are available to book now and are completely free to you as a Tooled Up member. Here's what's planned for January:

[Ask a Psychiatrist: Live Q&A for parents/educators](#) (January 12, 2023, 7.30pm GMT)

A consultant psychiatrist and a GP will talk us through some of the burning questions parents might have about children and young people's mental health. You're most welcome to send questions in advance which will be asked anonymously, or to ask questions live. [REGISTER HERE](#)

[All About Allergies Follow-Up Webinar](#) (January 19, 2023, 7.30pm GMT)

Following the success of his last Q&A for Tooled Up parents and carers, we invite you to return with more questions for Professor Adam Fox. He will also explain a unique model of working with parents of children with allergies that he is bringing forward in his practice. [REGISTER HERE](#)

[Q&A with a Rugby Great](#) (January 25, 2023, 7pm GMT)

Rugby correspondent Gavin Mairs interviews trailblazing player and ex-headteacher, Floyd Steadman, OBE who will talk about his astonishing story, from being a child of the Windrush generation to playing for and captaining Saracens FC. He also pursued a career in education, having been Headteacher of three independent prep schools. [REGISTER HERE](#)

[The Boat Race and Elite Rowing](#) (January 26, 2023, 7pm GMT)

We talk to James Ball and Caoimhe Dempsey who both managed to secure wins at the Oxford-Cambridge boat race. Here, they reflect on their learning, resilience and what it takes to become who you dream of being in sport. [REGISTER HERE](#)

We'd also like to thank you for all your entries to our Thermomix competition so far. We've had some crackers! As a thank you for all of your support over the last year, we're giving one very lucky Tooled Up subscriber the chance to win a [Thermomix](#) TM6 kitchen appliance worth over £1000. All you need to do is tell us how Tooled Up Education warms your heart. You can send a short video, a quick email, write us a poem, sing a song or do a dance routine! Entries will go into a random draw and the lucky winner will be announced on February 14th. Best of luck!

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.

Year 4 Trip to Darlington Synagogue

I found out that a Torah Scroll costs about £35,000 and takes almost a year or more to make.

William G.

On Tuesday, all of 4J and some of 4N went to the synagogue in Darlington. I learned about the Torah Scroll and how you use a yad to read so you don't smudge the words.

Jack M.

We learnt about the ram's horn in the synagogue. It was used by Jews to communicate because they didn't have clocks. So when it is blown it means the start or the end of something.

Zara M.

One of the most interesting parts we saw was the Torah Scroll. It was amazing how long it was and if the scribe made even one mistake, he would have to start writing it all over again!

Manha A.

I learned that the writing on the scroll is read from right to left. Jewish books are also opened the opposite way to what we are used to. I thought the trip was extraordinary!

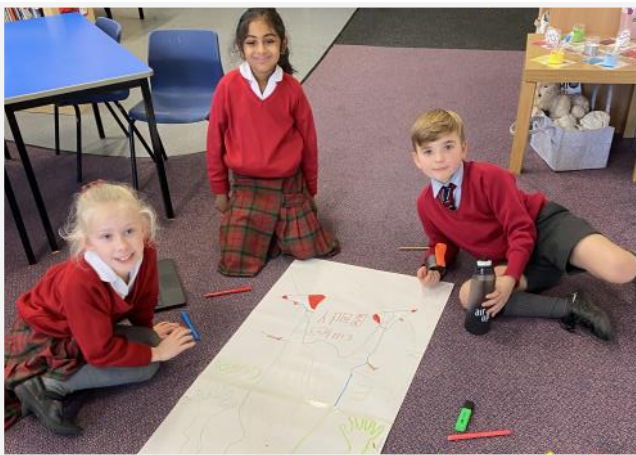
Emily Q.



Year 3 French

This week saw Year 3 complete an independent group task where they were asked to find out the names for body parts using their chrome books and present the information in an interesting way.

Mrs Arrol



Christmas Holiday School



School Council Minutes—Tuesday 10th January 2023

Attendees—Form captains, all house captains and most school captains were present (Brunel and Stephenson vice-captains and one school captain were not present).

This School Council meeting was an OPEN FORUM. Form captains were asked to collate any ideas their forms had that they wanted to raise at council level. These were then shared in small groups before Mr Stone went through each of them.

The School Council then selected a number of ideas that would be shared with Mr Sawyer and Prep MT by the School Captains in their weekly meeting for further discussion.

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

These ideas were selected by the School Council for further discussion between the School Captains, Mr Sawyer and Prep MT:

- Hold an optional talent show for the whole school;
- Shorter assemblies, so they do not run on too long into morning break;
- Call a class at a time for lunch, not a year group at a time (teachers to be asked to do this);
- Girls to be allowed to wear hair down or up (it was discussed why girls have to wear hair up);
- Children to vote on what sports they can take part in in PE lessons;
- More books, especially AR books on the higher levels;
- Special 'cold breaks', where children have the option to stay indoors if it is too cold.

The following ideas regarding clubs and activities were also raised and will be explored by Mr Stone:

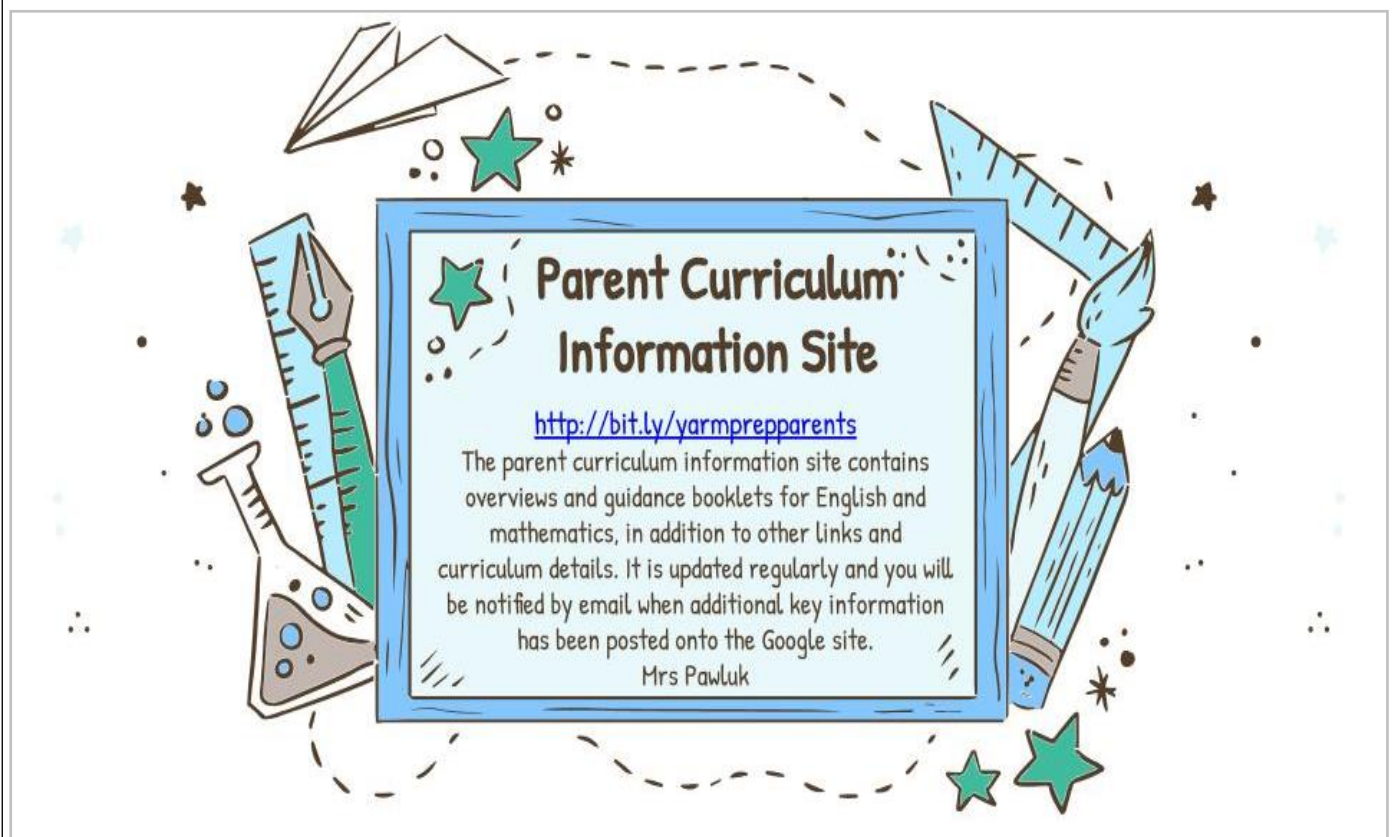
- Airfix, trading cards
- Riding for Y4-6 was asked for.
- Lunchtime sporting clubs for Y5-6 (Y3-4 have some sporting clubs before school).
- Wider range of clubs on Fridays.

Other points to note:

- Some matters were raised that would be best discussed at the Food Council. These included: chocolate mousse, having a wider choice of snacks.
- Teachers to please keep a close eye on bulldog games as some children don't play fairly.

What happens now?

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



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).

Spring Term Clubs and Activities

Clubs for the new term commenced 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

Peer Mentor Training

Today we played the shopping list game to practice listening and we looked over a few scenarios. We looked over SARAH which says a few things about what to do when trying to help people if they are in a friend problem or bullying problem.

Josh B.

Tonight, we played a listening game to develop our memory. We also recapped some scenarios in our peer mentor class group. Finally, we discussed being impartial and listening to all sides of the story. Then we assigned new classes for our new term.

Harlowe B.

We played a game which meant that you had to listen very carefully to what everyone said. Then, we got into the groups that have a class to peer mentor at wet break. After that, we discussed some scenarios in our groups and how we would deal with them as peer mentors. Finally, we made new groups to peer mentor a class.

Ellie G.

Reindeer Run—Thank You

A massive **THANK YOU** from Teesside Hospice and all of us for your support with our Reindeer Run on the last day of the Autumn term. We raised an incredible **£1030** for this brilliant charity!

Year 5 Sustainable Craft

This week Arkwright have started creating either cactus pencil holders or decorative cats using recycled materials. Well done Arkwright!

Mrs Hart



Christmas Mission Thanks

Thank you to all those who donated blankets and slippers this year enabling our community to give the gift of warmth to so many this Christmas. The team from Little Sprouts were delighted by the collection and distributed the care packs prior to Christmas. Thank you to the Year One elves for loading the van!

Mrs Sawyer



Mustard Seed Project

Thank you to everyone who donated to The Mustard Seed Project over the Christmas season. Whether it was by donating via our retiring collection at the Festival of Carols, popping some pennies in the buckets during Carols on the Gate, or from teachers donating in the staffroom pot, we raised a brilliant £921.27 over the Christmas period!

Mrs White

PE and Games News

Great to start the term with so many smiling faces. The girls have begun their netball in games lessons and all children from Year 4 are playing basketball in PE lessons. We also begin swimming with Stephenson and Telford whilst Arkwright and Brunel begin their gymnastics lessons. Fixtures also start on Friday this week and we post these on SOCS/Fixture pro (via the School website) and on the team boards. Each week we also produce a 'week ahead' with a more detailed schedule for all.

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney



House General Knowledge Quiz

Stephenson secured their second House General Knowledge Quiz title in a row, building up a commanding lead in the annual house competition as a result. An average score per pupil of 149.5 was the highest for quite some time and, with the likes of Takashi Yamaguchi (3B, Stephenson) scoring 235 and Thomas Ferguson (6G, Stephenson) scoring 255 out of a possible 300, there was little doubt who would win overall. The highest individual score came from Marawan Saad (6H, Arkwright), who scored an incredible 260, but with the results averaged out, his house had to settle for 2nd with 135.0.

Brunel came third with an average score of 127.8, with Telford 4th with 126.4.

Previous House General Knowledge Winners: 2022— Stephenson; **2021—** Arkwright; **2020—** Brunel; **2019—** Brunel; **2018—** Arkwright; **2017—** Brunel; **2016—** Brunel; **2015—** Brunel.

HOUSE POINTS STANDINGS:

1st—STEPHENSON 975

2nd—Arkwright 750

3rd—Telford 450

4th—Brunel 425

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.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!

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.

STAY SAFE ON NEW DEVICES

Whether you're an internet newbie or a pro at surfing the web, it's always important to keep online safety in mind. We've pulled together a list of top tips to make it easier for you to protect yourself and your devices in the digital world - helping you steer clear of hazards like misleading information and vicious viruses. There's never a bad time to refresh your internet safety knowledge, but it's an especially smart thing to do before you start using any shiny new devices!



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Key Dates

JANUARY 2023

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 POSTPONED UNTIL MARCH 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 (2pm) 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: 2

Chinese New Year—Friday 20th Jan

We are looking forward to celebrating the Chinese New Year next week at school. As well as a host of assemblies and activities, we will have a special lunch on one day next week too. If your child celebrates Chinese New Year, we would also like to invite them to come in traditional Chinese dress for the day on **Friday 20th January**. All other children are invited to come dressed in red (either completely in red, or just a top and the rest in uniform). Red football shirts are acceptable.

Development works affecting car park—Tuesday 17th January

In accordance with the construction plan, the foundations and the concrete slab need to be completed over the course of a day. However, the volume of specialist vehicles needed for this work will require a large part of the car park to be closed for a full day. **The scheduled date for this work is Tuesday, 17th January.** Please be aware that the car park will be operational but on a limited capacity. If the car park is full, vehicles will be directed by our Estates team to utilise the Senior School car park. It would help a great deal if parents made alternative arrangements to reduce the number of vehicles trying to use the available parking. With this in mind, please explore options you have for lift sharing on this day or alternative parking. If this is not possible please leave ample time for drop off and collection.

The school day will finish as follows:

Nursery - 3pm; Pre-Prep - 3.15pm; Prep - 3.45pm

After School Care and Clubs will run as usual and pupil pick up points will still operate from their usual places.

Form Captains Assembly

	Captain	Vice-Captain
3B	Elizabeth H.	Hugo K.
3H	Atticus WT.	Emily W.
4G	Charlie M.	Jenson C.
4J	Alia M.	William G.
4N	Kaiden G.	Roland M.
5F	Alice S.	Rex W.
5H	Erin G.	Ahmad I.
5K	Alex P.	Pradyoth K.
6G	Sonny F.	Eva M.
6H	Marawan S.	Edward W.
6L	Auden A.	Oliver X.
6W	Janaki M.	William A.
Arkwright	James C.	Louisa P.
Brunel	Matthew R.	Felicity L.
Stephenson	Thomas F.	Annabelle A.
Telford	Bea M.	Matthew S.

Bronze Music Award: Rosa W., Manha A.

Silver Music Award: Amelia O'C.