

The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 733—17th February 2023

INSIDE THIS WEEK... STEAM Week special... Workshops and visits galore!... Latest Games news..

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to this week's Phoenix Flier which details the events and adventures we have enjoyed recently. Our pupils are immersed in huge amounts in the curriculum and they relish a challenge through the learning experiences on offer to them. These opportunities have been enhanced this week by the fabulous array of outside experts who have generously given up their time to further various aspects of learning as part of STEAM week. The theme has been 'green STEAM' and the pupil led challenges have all had a sustainable angle to them. The teamwork, endeavour and inventiveness we have witnessed from our pupils has been superb. They have been fully engaged throughout and have produced some exceptional work. We are hugely fortunate to be able to run the week and my thanks go to Miss Ward who has coordinated this year's STEAM Week with great aplomb.

After half term we have further exciting events planned from charitable fundraising efforts to our Prep Duologues drama competition. In addition, Year 5 are set to enjoy their residential quest to London and we have a wide range of fixtures and performance opportunities planned. All in all, there is much to look forward to. I wish everyone a safe and relaxing half term break. Recharge those batteries!!!

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge: Which of the words KING, COAT, HEN, RING and NUT does not belong with the others?

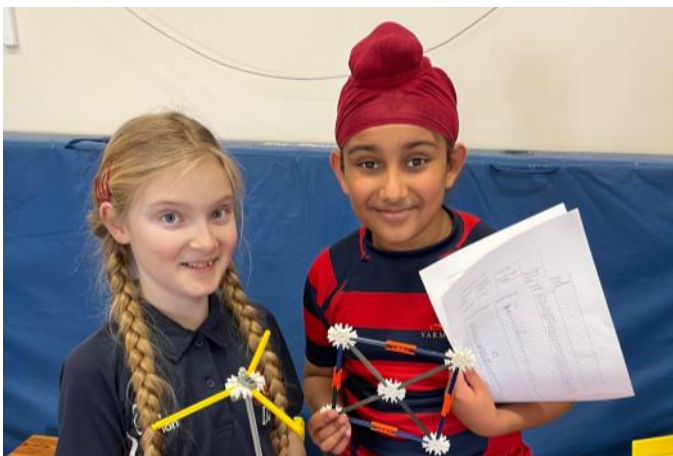
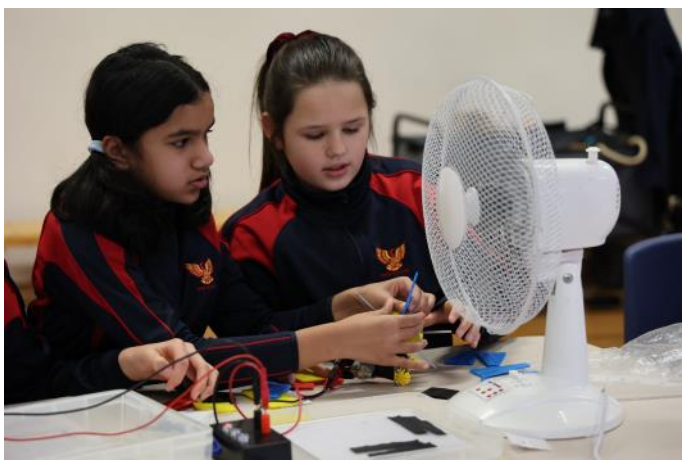
Photo of the Week: STEAM Week has had an eco focus this week. More inside.



STEAM Week

Year 6 Rocket Challenge, oyster workshops, exploring Archimedes' Screws at the Tees Barrage, Sofia Windfarm workshops—there has been so much going on this week during STEAM Week!





We will have a full round-up and reports of what the children have been getting up to in during STEAM Week in the next edition of the Phoenix Flier.

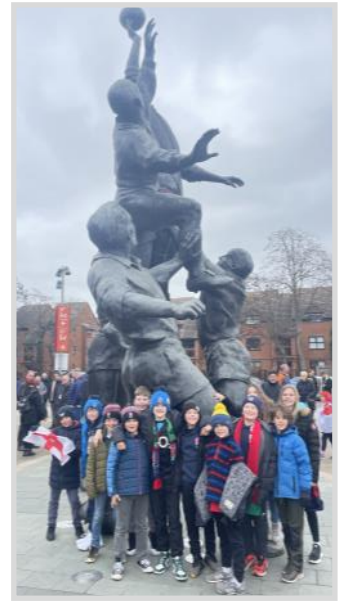
Trip to Twickenham

What a fantastic day. After an early start on Sunday morning and a good run to South West London. We arrived at Twickenham with plenty of time to sample the atmosphere. We took part in some pre-match rugby games and watched the England team arrive. Following this we took our seats and watched both teams warm- up. Once the game started we watched England come away with a bonus point win, which was also gave new Head Coach Steve Borthwick his first win. Following an eventful journey home and a much enjoyed service stop we arrived home. Everyone had a great time with many stories to tell.

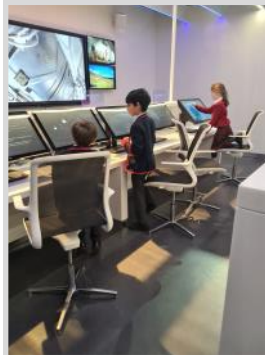
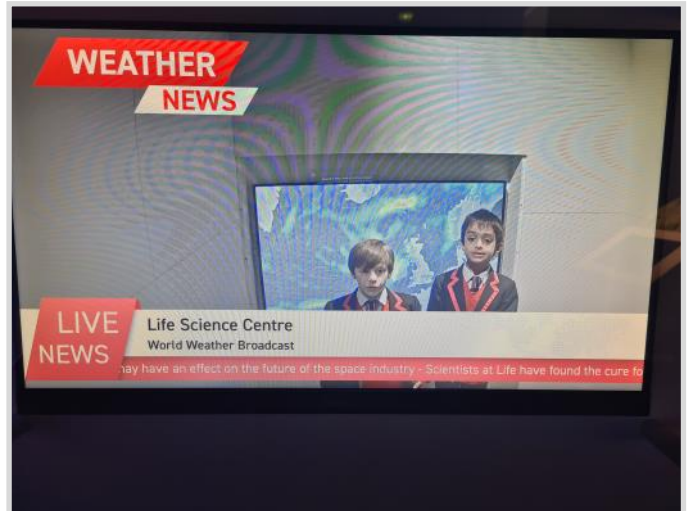
Mr Simpson

On the 12th February some of the Year 6's were lucky enough to be drawn from a hat to go on a rugby trip to go to watch England play in the Six Nations against Italy. We were so fortunate to be able to get this amazing opportunity and it was definitely one of the days I will remember forever. It started off with a very early wake up call as the meet time at school was 6am. This was an early start to ensure a prompt arrival with time left to absorb the wonderful atmosphere of England Rugby's home. It was then the long four and a half hour drive down to the outskirts of south-west London in a Yarm School minibus filled with 12 children buzzing with excitement. The staff (Mr Sawyer and Mr Simpson) took turns in driving with a few toilet stops on the way. After a long-winded journey we arrived at the famous green of Rosebine car park. Here we had our packed lunches and prepared for the journey around the stadium. We started with a quick stop off at the shop where we each got our own memory to take home. We then had a go at some of the games that were set up around the ground. After a thrilling go on everything we took our places on the stairs up to our seats to watch the players come off the coach and walk into the changing rooms. The atmosphere was building as we took our seats 15 minutes before kick-off and we were all absolutely buzzing. The players came out and we sang the national anthem with the rest of the 81,609 fans in the stadium. The noise rang out and the players took their positions and began their round two match. The first half flew by with brilliant tries from both teams and we were already excited for the next half. It was just as we had thought and just as exciting with an overall score of 31-14. It was after a fulfilling game that we packed up and started our way on the four hour drive on the M1. Overall it was a day I will remember forever, and we were so lucky to get the opportunity. I hope others will get the same chance to go in years to come.

Wilf S.



Year 3 Visit Centre for Life



Crumble Club

In Crumble club we have been making boxes which will test if a material is an electrical conductor or an electrical insulator. If the object conducts electricity, the sparkle strip lights up one colour and if the object does not conduct electricity, it lights up a different colour. Some of the children even created flashing patterns and used a push switch to activate their device.

Miss Ward



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.

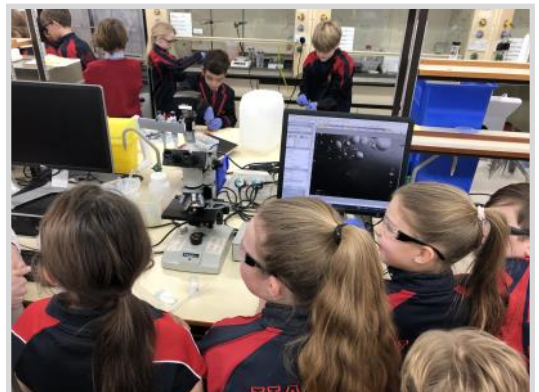


Thank you!

6W Visit to Micropore Technologies

Last Tuesday 6W had the privilege of going to Micropore to do some experiments on the subject we are learning in science. At Micropore we started with some safety rules and got introduced to Tom and Faye who were lovely. We took a plate and placed some water and oil and looked under the microscope and found some interesting results. We also got to make worms and used green/pink liquid to make the stuff just like boba tea to pop.

Willow A.



Year 6 Memory Boxes

Year 6 have been studying autobiographical and biographical forms of writing in English. They brought in objects which have particular significance in their life so far, which they shared and discussed with the class and wrote about...

Tuesday 7th February

A Picture of My Family and I

This is a picture of my family and I when I was little. I chose this picture because it was one of the first times when we pictures we look as a family.

My First Hard Cricket Ball

This is my first hard cricket ball. It is special to me because I love cricket and I got it when I got picked for Yarm U11's cricket team. It reminds me of when I got my first cricket for Yarm.

My First Lego People

These Lego people are very special to me because they are from my first Lego set, the Harry Potter castle. This gives me the memory of when I used sit in my room for hours and hours working on Lego sets, something that I still do now.

My First Kumon Certificate

My first Kumon certificate is important to me because it started my love for maths and pushed me to keep on going. It reminds me of when I started Kumon.

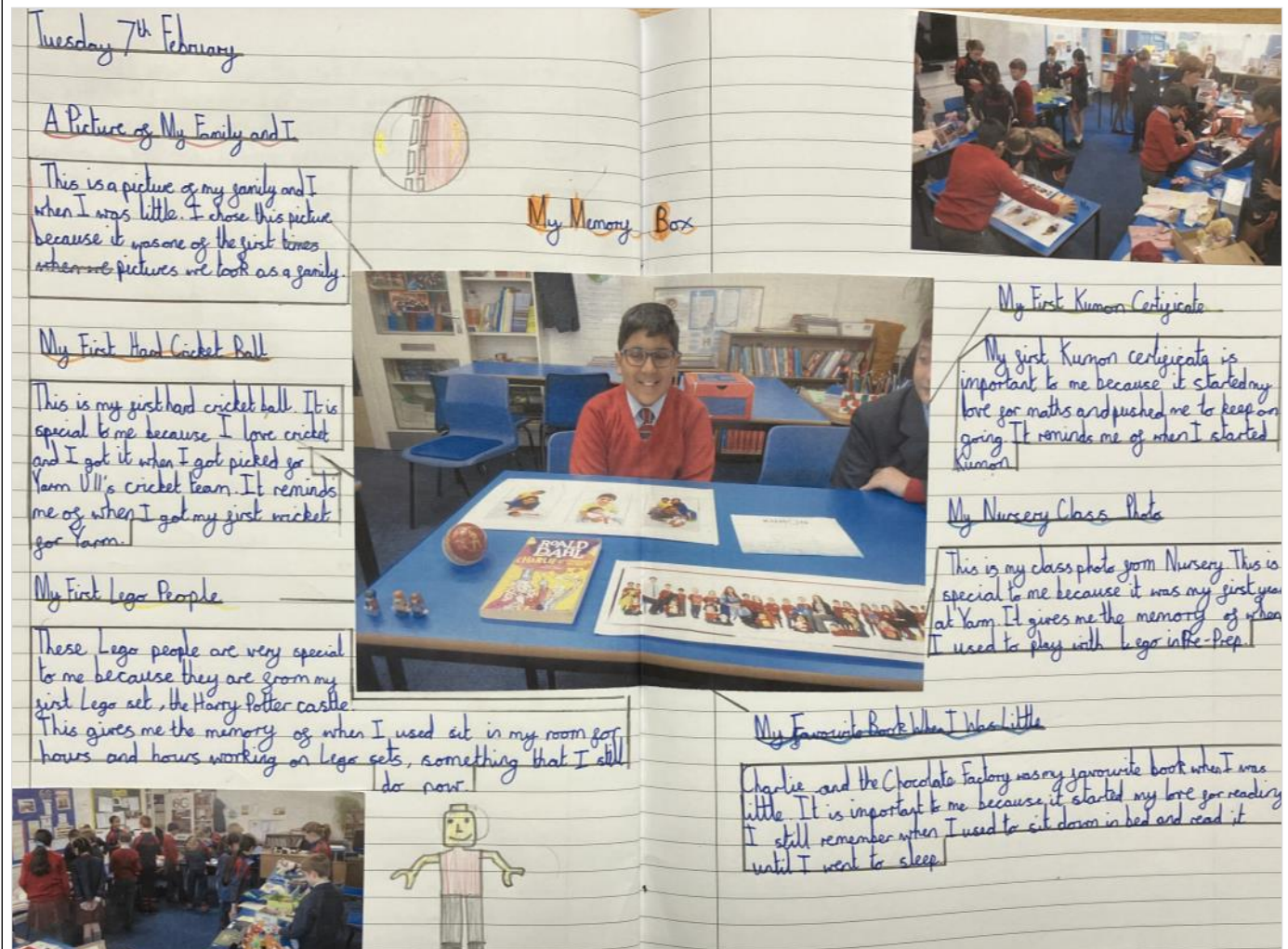
My Nursery Class Photo

This is my class photo from Nursery. This is special to me because it was my first year at Yarm. It gives me the memory of when I used to play with Lego in the Prep.

My Favourite Book When I Was Little

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory was my favourite book when I was little. It is important to me because it started my love for reading. I still remember when I used to sit down in bed and read it until I went to sleep.

My Memory Box




PE and Games News

Under 8 Sports

U8's had a fabulous time away at Cundall on Tuesday with all girls involved in 7 a side matches! This was a step on for some but a good test of the skills so far. Footwork was pleasing and the knowledge of rules has improved for all. Well done Year 3!

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney



Year 4 PE

Great to see the improvements our Year 4 children have made in PE this half term. The emphasis has been basketball and we finished the week with a tournament putting into practice the skills covered over the last five weeks. Shooting, dribbling and passing have been key and the confidence building has been clear to see. Well done Year 4.

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney



Under 11 Hockey

On the 10th of February 9 boys from Year 6 were selected to take part in the 'In2' hockey competition. The boys selected were: Wilf, Fenwick, Sonny, Seth, Thomas, Henry, Mathew, Ethan and myself (James). The match was overall a relatively equal game against Teesside High School, with the final score being 3-0 to Yarm. The goals were scored by Wilf and myself (2). We played on the Senior School astro and this match was also the first competitive match with short corners that we had played.

James C.

Under 10 Hockey

The U10 hockey boys travelled to Ashville College, Harrogate to face the hosts and St Peters, York. Both teams played really well, keeping clean sheets in all four games. There were many amazing passages of play and goals scored. The boys continue to show great promise and development.

Mr Simpson

The game started slow with both schools attacking each other hard until Ahmad scored late in the first half. The shot travelled right through Ashville's defence until it slammed into the back of the net. At the start of the second half Phoenix scored to make it two-nil. The shot went right past Ashville's defence and catapulted into the back of the net. Following this Yarm controlled the ball for the rest of the game. Yarm kept on creating chances but Ashville were determined to score and did an outstanding job of stopping Yarm, however their attempts were in vain. Final score: Yarm 2 Ashville 0.

Joseph A.



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).

Running Club

Running club loved their new route round Yarm!

Miss Whitehouse



Telford Charity Day

14th March 2023 for RDA Unicorn Centre

Telford would like to support the Unicorn Centre, who are a member of The Riding for the Disabled Association which is the national charity for riding and driving for the disabled, and physiotherapy on horseback. They help children and adults

with disabilities by providing horse riding lessons and therapy sessions. The charity has been based at a specially built riding centre in Hemlington, Middlesbrough, since 1998, so this year they are celebrating their 25th anniversary!

It takes a lot of money to look after their 15 horses, pay the wages of all the people who work at the Centre and pay the bills for things like the horses' food and bedding, vets bills, equipment, wages, electricity and water bills – in fact it comes to over £200,000 a year!

It is the intention of our house to raise awareness and money for the Unicorn Centre. On Tuesday 14th March we will run a charity event with each pupil in Years 3-6 paying £1 to the charity. Form teachers will collect the money during registration. In order to raise awareness children can wear a bright piece of clothing or something horse/unicorn themed.

On the day, our Y6 pupils will also run various stalls such as a tombola, "guess the number of sweets in the jar" and various challenges. Therefore, it would be wonderful if your child/children can also bring in small amounts of change e.g. 10p, 20p, 50p and £1 coins (no more than £5) in order to participate in the events. There will be prizes up for grabs!

Telford House staff

Prep Duologues Competition

The time has come to launch this year's Prep Duologue Competition. This is a great opportunity for anyone who enjoys performing to get involved and have a go! All you need is a partner and a script! **Full details are available on your child's Google Classroom.**

What each duo needs to do:

- You need to choose a duologue (2 person scene). Y3-4 entries should last about 1 to 2 minutes and Y5-6 entries no more than 4 minutes in length.
- If you need help finding something let me know (email: dpb@yarmschool.org). You could select a scene from your favourite film, TV show or play. We have put together a Google Folder (on the Classroom) with some ideas of scripts if you get stuck. However, you may just decide to select something of your choice and write out, then act out, the script yourself. This is fine too! **Please keep checking your emails for a response from Mr Brooks about your scene!**
- These can be rehearsed in break and lunchtimes as well as after the school day has finished. Please see Mr Stone if you would like to arrange some rehearsals.
- There will be a couple of Lunchtime sessions organised with Mr Brookes to work on the pieces once you have

learned them.

- You need to think about basic costumes, props and where the scene is set. Have a go at 'blocking' your scenes.....where the characters move, etc.

If you wish to enter please fill in this form on your Classroom.

There will be a performance on Wednesday 15th March at 4pm in the Prep School Hall, along with a judging panel, and we will select some winners.

Mr Brookes and Mr Stone

Coming Up at the PAA



Wizard of Oz

Click your heels, clap your hands and enjoy an adventure Over the Rainbow as we're off to see... The Wizard of Oz at the Princess Alexandra Auditorium.

Dorothy Gale and her little dog Toto are forever getting into trouble on the farm in Kansas. Alongside her Aunt Em, Uncle Henry and her three hapless farmhand friends, she dreams of traveling to a place where troubles melt like lemon drops over the rainbow.

Her wish is granted courtesy of a terrible twister which takes her far away to the magical land of Oz where the beautiful Glinda the Good sends her off down the yellow brick road to the Emerald City.

Book today -

<https://www.thepaaonline.org/whats-on/the-wizard-of-oz-2/>



Cirque - The Greatest Show

Escape the ordinary and enter the world of the extraordinary!

It's time to step into the light. Escape with us for a night like no other, where we take you into a world where musical theatre meets jaw-dropping circus spectacular.

We bring the world into colour as showstoppers from everyone's favourite West End and Broadway hits combine with breath-taking, amazing aerialists, incredible contortionists, and thrilling trapeze artistes.

The brand-new show everyone is talking about for 2023.

Book today - <https://www.thepaaonline.org/whats-on/cirque-the-greatest-show/>

House Assemblies

In Our first house assembly of February, Stephenson house discussed online safety. 2023's theme was, 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'.

As a group we all debated the different devices we use at home or at school that need an internet connection. There were a few that were pointed out, for example, phones, televisions, Chromebooks and gaming devices such as, Xbox, Nintendo switch etc.

Miss Bradley also pointed out that 64% of the whole world population uses the internet but 100% of the Stephensonians at the assembly used the internet. We all should be aware that we are very lucky as a community.

Thomas F.

Jeans for Genes Day

Tuesday 28th February

We will be running our annual 'Jeans for Genes' Day on the first Tuesday back after half-term. Children are asked to bring £1 in to wear their jeans for the day, with all money raised going to **Kabuki UK**.

Kabuki UK is a small charity that was set up by a group of Mum's in 2011 whose children have Kabuki syndrome. Kabuki syndrome is a rare genetic condition that occurs in 1 in 32000 and is a multi-system disorder. People with Kabuki syndrome often have congenital heart defects, hypotonia, feeding difficulties, cleft palate, hearing problems, learning difficulties and kidney problems to name just a few.

The aim of the charity is to support families with children with Kabuki syndrome and also to raise aware of this rare syndrome. The support starts with newly diagnosed families to offer them information, resources, advice and support in those difficult and scary first few months. They organise an annual family day that is usually attended by ~160 from the UK (and sometimes overseas), and also smaller regional days, so that families can get together, chat, network and support each other. They also provide grants to families for equipment such as specialised bicycles and wheelchairs.

Over the last few years They have been able to run an information day for families about the more medical side of the syndrome and advances that have been made and have

also funded an evidence based management guideline for healthcare professionals on Kabuki syndrome. Their work is only possible due to charitable donations and fundraising. Due to Covid there has been less fundraising over the last few years which has obviously had an impact on the income of the charity.

Mr Stone

Year 6 Writing

“Why Are School Residential Trips So Important?”

Why are school residential trips so important? I mean, after all, isn't it just a bit of a fun time away from school where you don't have to do any homework and, more to the point, you don't have to do any chores at home either. One thing is for certain, you don't learn anything apart from how to cause mischief in the dead of night, do you? Read on to find out more...

Personally, I believe that school residential trips are so important for so many reasons. The main one being that you can learn so many new life skills that could one day save your life or if not, could certainly get you out of serious situations. For example, if you went somewhere in The Lake District, you would learn to survive if you got lost in the woods, how to keep warm, be healthy and most importantly, how to find food, water and shelter.

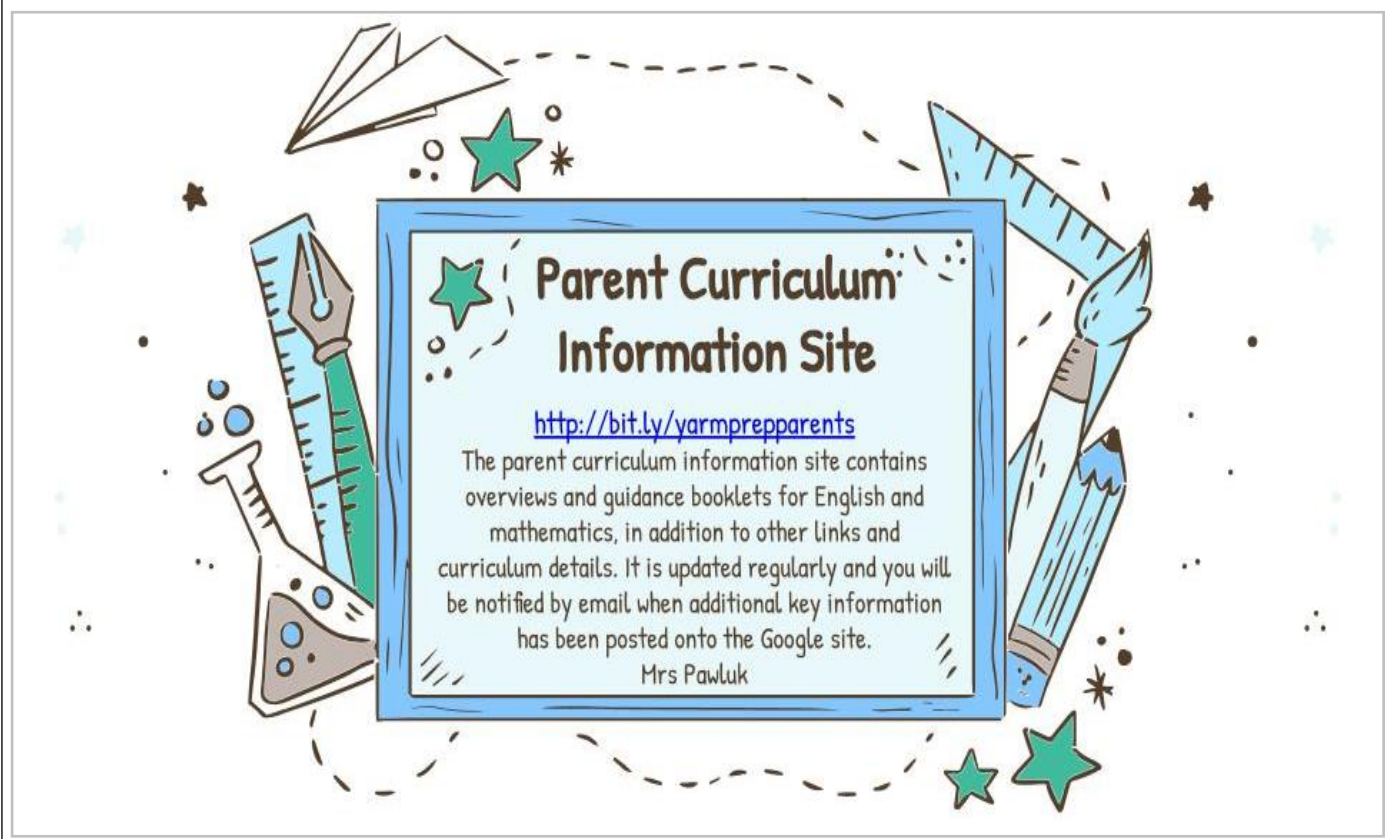
Going on school residential trips can give you lots more independence and skills that are vital to have when you become an adult. Research has shown that people who had

been on residentials in their childhood had better jobs that required more independence and confidence than those who hadn't. A perfect example would be learning how to manage your money in a big city like London - you would need to have some independence to know what to buy and what not to buy in markets, while ensuring you have budgeted enough to buy further meals.

Finally, I strongly believe that going on school residentials offers a lot of education and also creates a new topic for when the pupils go back to school as they can write recounts of the trip, what they learnt, how good they thought it to be and also what questions they have about it. You would also learn loads of new and interesting facts and loads of famous landmarks as well! In general, it is a life changing experience that could inspire pupils to change the world some day. It is a win-win situation!

To conclude, I believe that school residentials are amazing things that can truly be inspiring and you can also have loads of fun... all at the same time! I agree that sometimes pupils can act up and can mess around at night but you have just got to take it in your stride and appreciate what you are witnessing. You should try and be responsible and be grateful for the experience that you're getting. Either way, you are bound to get something out of it: whether that is learning how to be more independent and confident; learning funky facts about famous landmarks; being inspired to change the world; or even if it is just getting a taste of the real world as you may never have truly known what it was like.

Seth T.



**YARM SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS ...**

TOTALLY 80S

**FRIDAY 17TH MARCH
7PM - 11PM**

Dress for the 80s

**Magician & DJ
Light Bites**

IN THE PAA BASEMENT BAR

**TICKETS £20 EACH FROM
WWW.YARMSCHOOLASSOCIATION.ORG**

Bring £1 coins!

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.

10 WAYS GAMING CAN SUPPORT POSITIVE OUTCOMES

in Children and Young People

Gaming, of course, is phenomenally popular with children and young people. In 2021, for instance, more than three-quarters of teenagers played online games, with almost 70% of primary school aged children doing likewise. If enjoyed in moderation and supported by a healthy routine (staying hydrated, good sleep habits, taking breaks and so on), gaming can actually benefit a person's mental health. As long as we stay alert for potential risks, games can be much more than what we see on the surface: they can be a way to socialise, an avenue for creativity and a route to solving problems. Check out our top ten tips on how gaming online can sometimes work to your child's advantage ...

THE FEEL-GOOD FACTOR

Gaming is so popular because at the base level, it's enjoyable for the player. Succeeding in any game or contest releases dopamine in our brains: the 'feel-good' chemical that makes us happy or excited. Those emotions can be incredibly beneficial for mental wellbeing – as long as young players don't become reliant solely on playing video games to make themselves feel happy.

ACHIEVEMENT & PRIDE

A sense of achievement is incredibly important to all of us and can be particularly valuable to someone who's feeling unhappy or distracted. It's easy to get caught up in our thoughts, which can sometimes take a negative turn. So even achieving something small – like finishing a difficult level in a Mario or Sonic game – can feel like conquering Everest and give us renewed optimism.

SOCIAL SALVATION

Gaming can be an incredibly social activity. When playing online with trusted friends, what usually start out as chats specifically about the game can often develop into conversations about school and life. Even if they've had a bad day, simply knowing that a friend is there, on the other end of their headset, can provide young gamers with a sense of security and some welcome laughs.

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

In many online games, teamwork is crucial to winning. Often, people who are struggling with their mood tend to feel like they fail or let others down a lot. Working as a team with trusted friends or family in a game can reinforce a young person's self-importance: striving for a common goal and succeeding together can remind them that they're an integral part of something bigger.

REAL-WORLD RELATABILITY

Because many major releases are shooting or action games, when some people hear "gaming" they think of guns, explosions and violence. What's less recognised is how many titles explore relatable issues such as overcoming anxiety or coping with grief. These games allow young players to understand their emotions more deeply and realise they aren't alone in how they might be feeling.

A DIGITAL COMFORT

Video games can provide a reliable constant. No matter what happens in school or between friends, playing a favourite game is something that youngsters can look forward to all day and can help them de-stress. Let's not forget, games are fun – and, when approached safely, an interactive activity in which the player has a degree of control over what happens next can feel immensely reassuring.

PROBLEM-SOLVING PRACTICE

It can be difficult for young people to handle the feeling that nothing is going right or that their problems are insurmountable. Gaming can help alleviate that by presenting challenges to be overcome, either solo or alongside trusted friends. Defeating a powerful monster or solving a tricky puzzle reminds young gamers that even the most daunting obstacles can be faced and conquered.

THE GREAT ESCAPISM

A certain amount of escapism is fabulous – allowing us to temporarily park some stress while exploring a world other than our own. For children, gaming can be like reading a novel or watching a film: a moment in the day when the fantastical becomes real, firing their imagination and immersing them in a story. Who wouldn't want to venture to the stars? Or battle monsters to save the planet?

TRIED & TRUSTED

There can be reassurance in repeating tasks. It often promotes a controlled outcome, which is ideal when life feels overwhelming or out of control. Replicating an experience, such as playing the same level of a game over and over to perfection, gives the player a sense of control and familiarity: it's like listening to a favourite song that always makes you feel happy or confident.

ENCOURAGING CREATIVITY

Inventiveness is a huge part of many modern games: in Minecraft and Roblox, for example, players regularly dream up amazing structures or new ways to play. Using our imagination to create something (whether digitally or physically) is massively beneficial for the brain; that's why Lego is sometimes used in the medical sector as both a stress reliever and a brain injury rehabilitation tool.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upscombe is a writer who specialises in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. Author of 15 guidebooks for children on games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft, his work has also been published in the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247.



Source: https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0024/234808/childrens-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2022.pdf

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Key Dates

FEBRUARY 2023

- Mon 27** **Pupils return**
Y6 girls to Nissan Skills Foundation (all day)
- Tue 28** House Pancake Races
Jeans for Genes Day
School Council (1pm)
U8 Netball & Hockey with Ashville
(away; 2.15pm start, 5pm return)

MARCH 2023

- Wed 1** HMC Football & Netball
(at Hymers School; 11am start, 5pm return)
- Thu 2** World Book Day (children in fancy dress)
In2Hockey North-East Finals (TBC)
- Fri 3** U10/11 Netball v Cundall Manor
(home; 2.15pm start)
U11 Hockey v St Peter's
(home; 2.15pm start)
U10 Hockey v St Peter's
(away; 2.15pm start, 4.30pm return)
- Sat 4** UK Chess Challenge—School Round
(Prep Hall; 9.30am start, 2.30pm finish)
- Mon 6** 6G/6W to Murton Park (5pm return)
- Tue 7** 6H/6L to Murton Park (5pm return)
Year 1 trip to National Navy Museum
Curiosity Emporium (1pm)
- Wed 8** Informal Concert (4-5pm; Prep Hall)
U11 Mowden Sevens
(away; 1.30pm start, 5pm return)
Nursery Holi Colour Run
- Thu 9** U9 Football v DCSF
(away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)
- Fri 10** U11 Hockey v Dame Allan's
(home; 2pm start)
- Mon 13** LCM examinations week
House Chess—Matchday 1

- Tue 14** Telford Charity Morning
Y5 London trip—Zoom meeting for parents
(email gns@yarmschool.org for details)
Y1 Stay and Play (8.40-9.30am)
U8 Football v DCSF
(away; 2pm start, 4.15pm return)
U11 Hymers Rugby Sevens
(12pm start, 5pm return)
- Wed 15** Prep Duologues performance (4pm; Prep Hall)
House Chess—Matchday 2

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

Solution to previous Head's Challenge:

Water

Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3B	Amelie T.	Lizzie R.
3H	Wilbur M-S.	Edith G.
4G	-	-
4J	Felicity S.	Emily Q.
4N	Evelyn C.	Holly B.
5F	Aphelia S.	Rex W.
5H	Florence P.	George P.
5K	Thea S.	Phoenix E.
6G	Henry P.	Rehan K.
6H	Amelia O'C.	Edward W.
6L	Darcey-Rue R.	Matthew S.
6W	Wilf S.	Matthew R.

Head Teacher Awards:

Year 4: Jack A.

Year 5: Georgie W., Samuel I., Benjamin F., Laurel G., Harry H., Rebecca N.

Year 6: Ben W., Darcey-Rue R., Beatriz G., Ellie G., Dora B.