

The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 734—3rd March 2023

INSIDE THIS WEEK... STEAM Week reflections...House Pancake Races...Jeans for Genes Day...

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to this week's Phoenix Flier which gives you a snapshot of Prep School action. It has been a pleasure to see the pupils return after the half term break full of excitement about the next few weeks. We are straight back into the swing of things - all systems are go! Monday saw groups travelling far and wide on a range of excursions and we enjoyed a superb assembly from Kate Blackmore on Kabuki syndrome and the work of Kabuki UK to tee up Rare Diseases Day 2023 on Tuesday. Tuesday also featured the annual House Pancake Races which were hotly contested once again and featured all pupils from Reception to Year 6, who gathered on the playground for much cheering and camaraderie. If the denim dress up vibe wasn't quite enough, we discarded our uniforms for pyjamas on Thursday to celebrate World Book Day! It was lovely to see the importance of books and reading highlighted with a range of brilliant activities.

Throughout the week our sports teams have enjoyed fixtures across the North East against some stiff competition and many pupils have enjoyed a range of trips to support their learning. It is testament to our pupils that they always give a good account of themselves, treat others with appreciation and display excellent teamwork. To this end, it is a regular delight to receive positive feedback about our pupils from other schools, visitors or staff working at venues we travel to. Respect for one another is such an important aspect of our School Values and our wider mission of *Educating for Life*.

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge: Which bird had no wings?

Photo of the Week: Our House Pancake Races took place this week. Find out who won inside.



Tooled Up Education

As we are sure you are all too aware, it's World Book Day this week, so we wanted to remind you of all of our fantastic [book lists](#). Whether you are looking for books on supporting young people's [mental health](#), [preparing for a new sibling](#), books featuring characters with 'diffabilities', books to promote [kindness and empathy](#) or to open up conversations about [puberty](#), help with talking about [sex and how babies are made](#), [normalising mistakes](#) or helping children to cope in the sad event of a [bereavement](#) - we have a list for you. If you can think of any good ones, why not [let us know](#)?

This Friday, it's also Dyscalculia Awareness Day and of course, we've got you covered: Dr Van Herwegen joined us for a thought-provoking [webinar](#) where she outlines commonly believed myths and truths about developmental dyscalculia and explores the latest research evidence about mathematical learning difficulties, with a focus on the school years.

And last but not least, don't forget to follow us on social media for more updates! You will find us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and even [LinkedIn](#).

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: 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



Books About
Puberty and
Growing Up



Books Featuring
Characters with
'Diffabilities'



Books to
Cultivate
Kindness and
Empathy



Books to Support
Children's Mental
Health



Books to Help
Normalise
Mistakes



Books to Help
Teach Children
about Sex and
How Babies Are
Made

STEAM Week

STEAM week went green this year. We kicked off the week with an important message from David Attenborough about why we need to look after our planet. Mrs Shepherd got down to business in the art room, making oysters for a sculpture soon to be unveiled in Preston Park. This linked to a Y6 workshop run by the Tees Rivers Trust about the reintroduction of oysters to the River Tees and how they are helping to filter the water.

Sofia Windfarm came into school to work with our Y5 pupils. We learnt all about the future of green energy and the huge windfarm being built at Dogger Bank. They enjoyed taking part in a competition to build the most efficient wind turbine. Year 6 had a whole day building and costing eco components and structures using K'nex with help from Hartlepool College.

We were also lucky to welcome the Royal Institution to the PAA, where we watched their show about energy along with other local primary schools. Year 3 and 4 took part in two workshops. They programmed micro:bits to work as temperature sensors and they learnt about climate change and endangered animals from Climate Action Middlesbrough. Year 4 also were able to visit the Tees Barrage to see the Archimedes screw and Year 6 visited Nissan in Sunderland to take part in an eco workshop and learn about electric vehicles.

Everyone enjoyed Thursday afternoon at the end of STEAM week, when all classrooms opened their doors and children were able to show off the projects they have been working on. There were some fantastic litter pickers, water wheels, turtle nest protectors and cardboard creations on display, as well as a tudor fashion show from upcycled garments in the hall.

Top marks to the children for their creativity, teamwork, communication and problem solving skills which were very much in evidence throughout the week.

Miss Ward



House Pancake Races

Telford won their first house competition of the academic year as they flipped their way to overall success in the annual House Pancake Races.

The yellow house secured victories in Years 3 and 4, while a runners-up placing behind Stephenson in the Year 6 race confirmed their win. Stephenson came second, with last year’s winners Arkwright finishing third and Brunel fourth. Well done to all of the children who took part in slippery conditions (and with self-destructing pancakes!)

Mr Stone and Mr Simpson



	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Year 3	TELFORD	Stephenson	Brunel	Arkwright
Year 4	TELFORD	Stephenson	Arkwright	Brunel
Year 5	STEPHENSON	Arkwright	Brunel	Telford
Year 6	ARKWRIGHT	Telford	Stephenson	Brunel
OVERALL	TELFORD 14	STEPHENSON 13	Arkwright 11	Brunel 6



Year 6 Girls visit Nissan

On Monday all the Year 6 girls took a trip to Nissan to get girls into engineering. It was a great trip taught by Karen, Louis and Andrea who were super hosts and made us feel very welcome. The day started with lots of fun-packed experiments and very interesting conversations about how they have become more 'eco', leaving me and everyone else wanting to learn more. It made me want to become more involved in eco and to do my bit to help. My favourite part was when we put bicarbonate of soda into a glass of vinegar that made the balloon explode and an experiment where we tested how much energy was in a potato, a lemon and an apple. After our delicious lunch we talked about their wind and solar farm that was super interesting. We learned about how great the Nissan Leaf is for the environment and a great car to choose. We also put our windmills (that we made at home) to the test with a hair dryer to see how great they were. Everyone had a brilliant time! They taught us loads and it was all together amazing!

Harriet B.



On Monday the 27th of March 2023 the Year 6 girls went on a school trip to the Nissan factory. This trip was to try to get girls into STEAM and engineering. Karen, Louis and Andrea went through a great eco presentation with a few awesome experiments along the way. We also took part in plenty of demonstrations and enjoyed juice and cookies. My favourite part of the trip was when we did an experiment that included holding a water filled test tube over a burning candle and then catching the steam inside a balloon secured over the top. All the conversations were very interesting. After our delicious lunch, we learnt about all of their wind and solar farms and how they helped with the energy crisis. Finally, we showed everyone our amazing windmills that we made at home. Then, we tested them using Louis' hairdryer and then she handed out prizes to the best. Did you know that one rotation of a large wind turbine can power a house for a day?

Emma A.



PE and Games News



Under 10/11 Girls' Rugby v Dame Allan's

What a fantastic afternoon of Girl's rugby against Dame Allan's school. Both teams put on a show. There were many fantastic tries scored, through individual running and support play. Highlights included an amazing tackle from Nona and an 'out the back of the hand' offload from Beatrix. Everyone showed great determination when tackling as everyone took part in the first ever all contact Girl's rugby fixture. It has been fantastic to see how the girls have grown in confidence over the course of the last half term. Well done everyone!

Mr Simpson

Year 3 Sports

The Year 3s had a super time with Ashville this week. They enjoyed making friends and working on their footwork and netball passing. At the end the girls played some 4 v 4 end ball games and loved their three matches. The U8 boys had a wonderful time at Ashville. They worked hard on their close quarter skills and trying new things. It was great to see them interact and cooperate in team games at the end.

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney and Mr Underwood



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 in the PreP reception.



Thank you!



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).

House Coding Competition

Congratulations to Brunel for winning the House Coding competition. Out of all of the entries, the best overall came from Haashir Imran (5K, Brunel), leading his house to victory. Last year's winners, Stephenson, came second.

Year 4 winner: Thomas Maxey (Stephenson)

Year 5 winner and Overall winner: Haashir Imran (Brunel)

Year 6 winner: Edward Taylor-Petch (Arkwright).

Overall: 1st—Brunel; 2nd—Stephenson; 3rd—Arkwright; 4th—Telford.

OVERALL HOUSE POINTS TOTALS: Stephenson 1250, Brunel 1025, Arkwright 925, Telford 700.

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

Senior School Young Apprentice

We have been welcoming the 6th Form Young Apprentice teams recently, who have been set a task by Lord Sugar (Mr Stone) to come up with a resource for the Year 5 children going on the London trip. We look forward to seeing what they come up with!

Mr Stone



Year 6 Writing

Volcano Story

A deafening boom echoed around the island like a thunderclap. Sending birds sketching and streaking across the sky in an attempt to escape and flee to safety. Shortly after the start of the eruption, a mushroom-like cloud of ash and smoke billowed out of the volcanoes' top. There was a short pause, then molten, red lava started to flow down from the cloud. The rapidly approaching cloud of ash rolled in, engulfing everything in its way in massive black jaws. Then everything went black.

I wiped my brow and frowned. The sky was completely clear - not a cloud in the sky and it was way hotter than it should be. I continued up the rock-strewn mountain. The light backpack on my back felt like a boulder on my back. My feet felt sticky and I wished that I hadn't left my spare bottle at my hotel. I was rapidly approaching the peak of the mountain (or at least what I thought was a mountain) When I set off I thought there was something strange about the mountain I was about to climb. I turned around suddenly fearful. My heart leapt into my mouth at the sight I could see. The peak of what I had thought of as a mountain was engulfed in black smoke. How could I have been so stupid? The mountain was not a mountain as I had thought but a volcano. I turned around searched for an escape route but my path up had been covered by a field of boulders that now blocked my path. The cloud of ash and smoke was close now. I could only see one shelter; a patch of scorched grass beneath a boulder. I dived into shelter. A few seconds later, I heard a deafening boom and I was engulfed in blackness...

My hands ached. My feet throbbed painfully. I climbed to my feet, trying to ignore the stabbing pain coursing through my body. My jaw dropped in awe at the sheer devastation before me. Trees were uprooted and blackened. The once green and beautiful mountain slopes were blackened and streams of red lava flowed on top like blood on the dead mountain. I took a step forward and screamed. The top of the volcano was only millimetres away. Black ground crumbled away beneath my feet. Red lava flowed and twisted like a demon trying to escape from its smoky prison of lava. I desperately clawed at the earth for a grip but to no avail. I was the volcano's prize now, it wasn't going to give me up. I fell, twisting and squirming into the mouth of what I was sure was going to be my death.

Luckily, I fell on a small ledge sticking out of the volcano's side. Feeling dizzy, I put my hand over my mouth to stifle a cough and gasped as it came away covered in blood. I was tired now, poisonous gases rising up and finding their way into my mouth and nose. Unable to stop myself, I lay on my back and rested my head on my hand. Before I fell asleep, I heard the faint murmuring of voices of people and the short,

rasping barks of dogs. I was too tired to care, maybe I was just hallucinating. Finally surrendering by sleep, I closed my eyes and fell asleep.

Auden A.

Why are school residential trips so important?

If I asked a group of adults what their fondest memories from primary school are, I'm sure many of them would say the exciting residential trips. Don't you agree? School trips are fun and encourage children to develop their independence. The best part of school trips is learning about the world around us; something that you can't learn in a classroom. Read on to find out what the benefits of residential school trips are.

Firstly, residential trips are fun! I will never forget the residential trips I have been on and the memories I made. There is something really exciting about sleeping in one big bedroom with lots of your classmates and waking up to a day full of adventures, with no parents around! Likewise, residential trips teach children independence and life skills, like setting the table, making beds and organising their possessions.

Secondly, I feel that residential trips are a great way to build and strengthen friendships and work with others in team building situations. Some people may think residential trips are a way to get children out of school and pause their learning, while others think they are learning about the world around them and experiencing real life. Many children struggle with friendships in school, however residential trips encourage children to make friends with children they may not normally play with.

In addition, there is only so much children can learn stuck inside the walls of a classroom. Children do lots of indoor activities, e.g. writing, maths and if they are out in the fresh air they can experience so much more. They can learn about academic subjects, but in the world around them. For example, children can learn a lot about Science and Geography, while on a trip to a beach or mountain.

Furthermore, residential trips allow teachers to get to know children in a different environment. Children often act differently when they are out of the classroom and teachers may get to know a different side to each individual. They may have skills and qualities that the teacher hasn't been aware of in the classroom. They may also overcome challenges they face in a classroom, for example, standing up to a peer.

On the other hand, some people think that residential trips are just a way of 'getting out' of school, but in fact the lessons you learn are priceless. For these reasons I'm sure you will agree that residential trips are an essential part of

everyone's childhood.

Harlowe B.

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.



My Story - Paul Merson

On Friday 12th May 2023 we will play host to an evening with one of Football's most famous and much

loved characters, Paul Merson.

Following Paul's 2021 BBC Documentary, he will speak openly

about his battles with addiction and depression throughout his hugely successful career both on and off the pitch with host for the evening, Middlesbrough Football Club legend and

SEND—Parent Support/Info

former Hartlepool United Manager, Craig Hignett.

PATOSS is an organisation that works with and supports individuals with specific learning difficulties. They run Parent Webinars, which cover a very broad range of topics; everything from supporting reading and spelling at home, to what dyslexia and dyscalculia actually are. If you're interested in finding out more you can visit their website: <https://www.patoss-dyslexia.org/Parents>

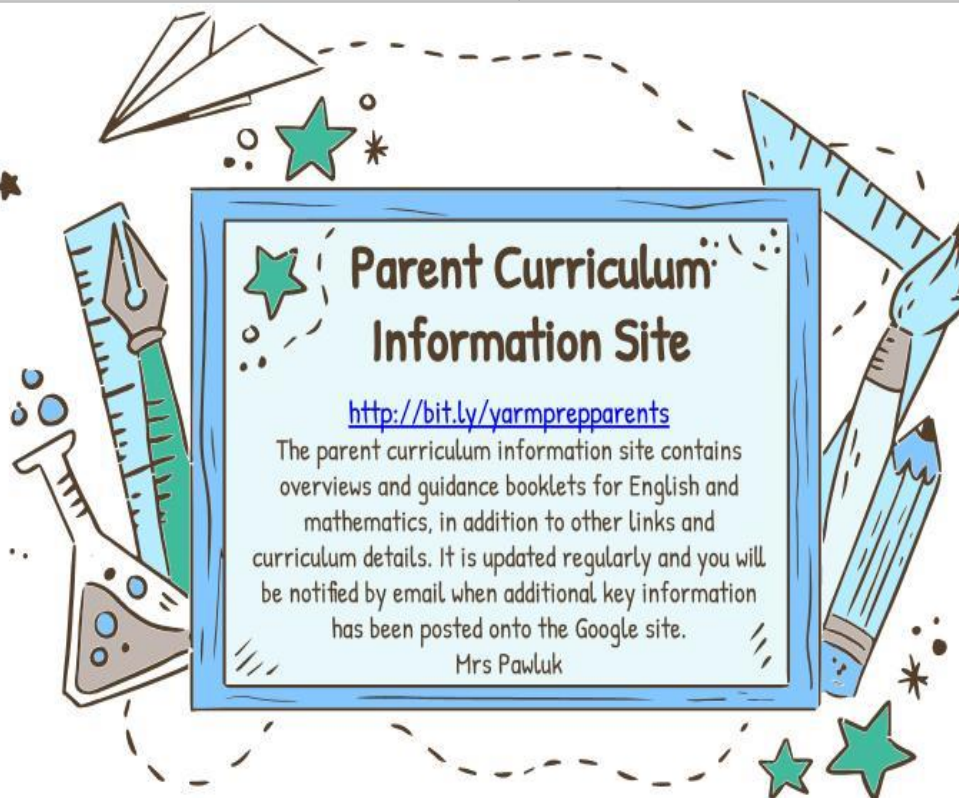


Internet Safety

All Yarm School families can join Parent Zone's Digital Schools programme, giving you access to stacks of resources and training about what children getting up to online.

[Click here for full details.](#)

Mr Stone





YARM SCHOOL ASSOCIATION PRESENT

GLASTY ARMBURY

SATURDAY 17TH JUNE 2023

EARLY BIRD TICKETS £65

WWW.YARMSCHOOLASSOCIATION.ORG

SUMMER BALL MEETS FESTIVAL
LIVE MUSIC FESTIVAL FEEL DELICIOUS FOOD
IN THE PAA, ATRIUM, AND TERRACE

FESTIVAL BALL 1970-2020

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 apps 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 SPOTIFY

Spotify is a digital music, podcast and video service which gives users access to millions of songs and other content from creators all over the world. Since launching in 2008, Spotify has revolutionised the way music is listened to: it now offers the ability to manage and share more than 100 million tracks and five million podcast series, plus personalised recommendations, new release updates and the option to create collaborative playlists. As of February 2023, it is the world's most popular audio streaming subscription service with 489 million users globally.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXPLICIT LYRICS

As per Spotify's terms and conditions, people need to be at least 13 to use it. That said, the platform doesn't censor lyrics unless instructed to do so in the settings – so it's worth noting that young teenagers could still be exposed to age-inappropriate songs which contain explicit references to sexual behaviour, violence, discriminatory language and swearing.

GROOMING TACTICS

Although Spotify doesn't come with dedicated chat functionality, concerns were raised in January 2023 after reports of an 11-year-old girl being coerced into sharing explicit pictures of herself on the platform. The case highlighted predators' tactics of sharing empty playlists with other users: their messages were being exchanged undetected through edited song titles and descriptions, bypassing security measures.

OVERSHARING

Spotify provides a perfect way to play music, with the ability to connect to another device, such as a Bluetooth speaker or an in-car stereo. While this is a useful feature, it's also easy to forget your surroundings and inadvertently play content which isn't appropriate for all listeners (especially those under the age of 18), potentially causing alarm or distress.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE PODCASTS

Spotify's podcast community has grown exponentially and it's become a popular base for millions of users to listen to shows, stories, interviews and more – with content covering an array of topics. This includes some material which isn't suitable for minors, including audio which is obviously adult-themed, but can be just as easily accessed as everything else.

ACCESS TO SPOTIFY LIVE

If your child has a Spotify account, they'll also be able to access the platform's audio-only chat service: Spotify Live. While it's a separate stand-alone app, Spotify Live allows people to listen to live discussions on the main Spotify platform and, more notably, lets users enter virtual rooms to chat with other users, opening up direct conversations with strangers and individuals who might not necessarily be there for the right reasons.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SWAP TO SPOTIFY KIDS

If you're concerned about what your child might hear while streaming music, Spotify Kids is a separate, ad-free service specifically designed for children aged 12 and under. It allows younger users to enjoy human-curated, child-friendly content (such as music and audiobooks) and is available to users with a Spotify Premium Family subscription – meaning that parents can view and manage the content their child listens to.

CENSOR EXPLICIT CONTENT

Regardless of what type of account your child uses to access Spotify, there is an option to turn off explicit content in the settings – greying out all songs marked with an 'E' tag. If your child has their own individual account, it's easier for them to turn it back on – whereas with a family plan, you're in control and your child can't alter the setting without knowing the password.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



TALK ABOUT THE RISKS

As with any platform, it's good practice to talk to your child about what they should be aware of when using Spotify. For instance, it's important they're aware never to share any personal information with strangers, and what they should do if they're exposed to inappropriate content. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear so that they feel comfortable raising any concerns with you.

KEEP AN EYE OUT

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Spotify or you've noticed they're being particularly secretive about how they're using it, encourage them to talk about what they're listening to. It's always prudent to show an interest in their online habits from the outset – so you're confident they're using apps and services in the right way, for the right reasons, and they're not being drawn into anything they shouldn't be.

Source: <https://newsroom.spotify.com/company-info/> | https://www.spotify.com/privacy/files/Parental_Guide.pdf | <https://www.spotify.com/us/live/> | <https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/police-confirm-investigation-launched-after-25916035>



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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: 22.02.2023

Key Dates

MARCH 2023

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
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
Thu 16	Year 5 Good Work Assembly U9 Hockey v Dame Allan's (away; 2pm start, 4.15pm return) U9 Netball v Dame Allan's (home; 2pm start) Reception trip to Locomotion, Shildon
Fri 17	Red Nose Day for Comic Relief Prep New Year Disco (Prep Hall; 6-7.30pm) U11 HMC Hockey (11am start, 3.45pm return; venue TBC)

U10/11 Netball v Dame Allan's (TBC)

U10/11 Netball v Gateways & Ashville

(at Ashville; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)

Bring Mothers/Grandmothers to Pre-Prep Day

Mon 20

ABRSM examinations this week

Parents' Evening (4-6pm)

Last Year 3 swimming of the year

Clubs and activities finish this week

Year 4 Drama Week

House Chess—Matchday 3

Show Racism the Red Card—Year 5 workshops

Year 4 Good Work assembly

Tue 21

Parents' Evening (4-6pm)

Wed 22

House assemblies

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

Solution to previous Head's Challenge:

Ring

Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3B	Freddie B.	Hugo P.
3H	Harrison G.	Gonzalo V.
4G	Jack A.	Thomas M.
4J	Leo S.	Angus F.
4N	Roland M.	Daisy C.
5F	Eric PF.	Zoe X.
5H	Zara P.	Anwita D.
5K	William L.	Alex P.
6G	Lucy W.	Maisy V.
6H	Marawan S.	Bea M.
6L	Nikita S.	Ben W.
6W	Fenwick M.	Edward T-P.