

# The Phoenix Flier

## The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 741—12th May 2023

INSIDE THIS WEEK... Brunel Charity Day... Informal Concert... Summer Fair prep begins...

### A message from Mr Sawyer

**W**elcome to the Phoenix Flier for this week which endeavours to give you an update on school life, a helpful look ahead to the next few weeks and some valuable tips via Tooled Up and the National Online Safety guides. It was a pleasure to see Year 4 depart on Wednesday for their residential stay in Northumberland. Like all of our trips of this nature, it supports an area of the curriculum - in this case recent studies of Roman Britain. Over the next few days they will walk in the footsteps of the people from that period in history, make links with many aspects of their learning to date and take it in new directions. It is a trip that also enriches their independence and builds on their collaborative skills. I look forward to hearing about their adventures on their return and have no doubt they'll be creating some wonderful memories whilst away.

In recent weeks and months we have enjoyed visits from many members of our parent body and the wider community. Such visits, workshops and assemblies are a unique opportunity to hear from experts in their field. It is brilliant to hear our pupils extend their curiosity through a range of searching questions and to watch them get stuck into any practical aspects. Year 6 enjoyed one such opportunity this week through a range of workshops with the cardiothoracic team from James Cook Hospital. They explored real hearts and lungs (kindly provided by Hutchinson Hobbs farm shop) and learnt about the interventions of modern medicine in maintaining our health. Many thanks to Mr Ferguson, Mr Paul, Mr Grant and Dr Matloch for giving up their time and making the learning so hands-on, 'sticky' and valuable.

*Bill Sawyer*

### Head's Challenge: What can be hard and caught but never seen?



**Photo of the Week:** It was the turn of Brunel this week to run their Charity Day, in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance Service.

## Tooled Up Education

As every week, the Tooled Up library has been updated with a range of new resources, such as the [Autism Conference Recordings](#): If you missed our autism conference, don't worry! We have uploaded all of the conference talks to the library, with topics ranging from the latest research to insightful experiences. The topics of the conference day are split into different resources to make it easier for you to find the information you need.

We also added two brand new resources focusing on **school trips**. While some children eagerly count down the days until their school residential, others may experience worry and anxiety. Being away from home, trying new activities, and navigating unfamiliar environments can be both thrilling and challenging for young ones. If your child is feeling a bit uncertain about an upcoming residential trip, we have [actionable tips](#) to help you navigate their concerns together and ensure they feel more prepared and at ease. Additionally, we have included an engaging [activity](#) that encourages children to reflect on their feelings about the trip, enabling parents and school staff to help them develop a personalised plan to address any anxieties.

We also have some exciting webinars coming up in June. For those who are interested in art, Laurence Hedges, Director of Art at Harrow School, [will talk us through](#) some of the 'must see' paintings of all time that we can add to our viewing 'bucket lists' as families. More importantly, he will give us some wonderful ideas and clues as to how we can approach looking at art and how to promote art appreciation in children and young people.

In another webinar, Dr Weston will share her [optimal summer tips](#) to get children school-ready and ready to hit the ground running come autumn. If you are thinking of sending your child off to **boarding school**, we have a [webinar](#) where Dr Weston shares her best tips to support parents and carers whose children are heading to boarding school for the very first time.

Finally, we have a [webinar](#) designed for parents or carers who are **raising a bilingual child** in the early or primary school years. Drawing on the latest research, expert Dr Rose Drury will address parents' most pressing questions about the main advantages of being bilingual, optimal ways to raise a bilingual child, and how to avoid confusing children while wanting them to thrive in both languages.

**T**he 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](mailto:research@tooledupeducation.com) to let us know how we are doing!

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](mailto: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*




### 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](http://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 the Prep reception.



Thank you!



# Brunel Charity Day

Brunel have had another successful charity day! The Year 6 Brunelians worked well together to make their stalls unique and exciting. They persevered through very wet conditions and continued with a smile on their face. All their stalls were so popular and they have raised a great amount of money for a great cause—a total of £703.86!

*Miss Whitehouse*

Amelia O. - I loved Brunel House Charity Day. We were independent by running our own stalls and we were responsible for counting the money we raised. The rain made it slightly more tricky, but we persevered.

Harriet B. - I was really looking forward to Brunel House Charity day since we had picked a great charity (that someone in our school actually used!) It went really well apart from when it rained, but we got the opportunity to do it at lunch time too. We raised lots of money for a great cause.

Sonny F. - I really enjoyed the day. I was responsible by running the Penalty Shoot Out. The stall was really popular and everyone enjoyed it.

Josh B. - We were really lucky to do a bake sale for Brunel House Charity. Pippa from the kitchen was kind by making us allergy free muffins. I really enjoyed baking, my favourite was making the cupcakes. We sold out in about 20 minutes, we couldn't believe it! I wish I could do it all again!





## PE and Games News

It has been a busy couple of weeks with every girl in Year 5 and 6 having the opportunity to play cricket v Pocklington or Barnard Castle. We hosted both schools on our astro turfs and a number of girls have written match reports for this flier.

Our Wednesday tennis club have enjoyed their sessions at Yarm Tennis club with local coach, Ann. In our lessons we are beginning to look at athletics alongside tennis lessons. The Year 3s are learning the basics of cricket with bowling, batting and fielding being looked at in all lessons to give them solid foundation skills.

*Mrs Redhead-Sweeney*

On Friday the 28th April, it was a rainy morning so we had to play on the Senior astro. We were playing cricket against Pocklington school, the sun was finally out and shining above us. The highlight of the match was Jess and Amelie scoring the most points as a pair. We got 165 runs and Pocklington got 134. Overall, it was a great match.

*Bea M.*

The U9 boys played their first game of the cricket season against NSB at Green Lane. All of the boys played well and were able to put the skills that they had learnt in Games lessons into practice. It was great to see so many children playing cricket. Well done to everyone that took part.

*Mr Simpson*





## Year 6 Homework

A busy few days in Year 6 as they crack on with a wide range of homework tasks.



LEFT: Islamic tile by Jessica F.

Mozzarella and Tomato Salad with Rocket and Basil

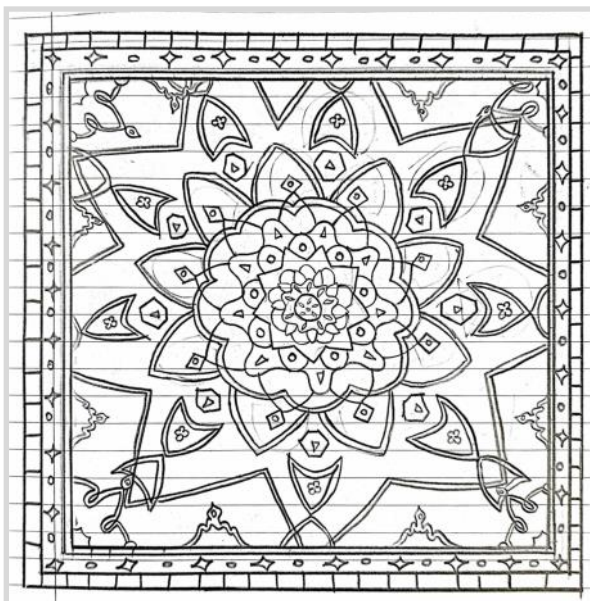


Chicken, Lemon, Garlic and Parsley

Finished product



RIGHT: Making a healthy tapas meal by Jessica M.



LEFT: Islamic tile by Beatrix A.

The picture below shows Jos Butler (England wicketkeeper) running out Martin Guptill. It is from the 2019 ODI Cricket World Cup Final. After a close semi-final, England progressed to the final against New Zealand. Both teams scored the same amount of runs (very rare) and had to play a super over. New Zealand scored 15/1 and England 15/0. Jos Butler got an amazing runout on New Zealand's last ball. England were ecstatic. I think that everyone was nervous in the super over but it was amazing how the players kept

calm and scored lots of runs.

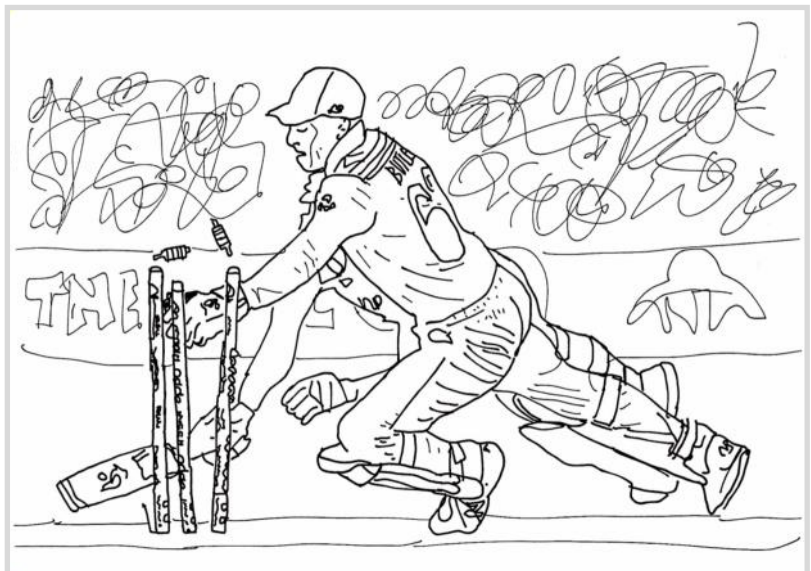
Right: My favourite sporting moment by Auden A.

### Parent Curriculum Site

<http://bit.ly/yarmprepparents>

Just to highlight this site again, please check for some recent additions including maths overviews, reading event slides, etc. If there is anything else you deem useful that you would like us to include, please let us know.

Mrs Pawluk





## 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](#).

## Contact Details

Please don't forget to inform the school office of any changes to your contact details, namely mobile number, address or email address so that we can contact you in the event of an emergency.

*Mrs White*

## Plastic Bottle Collection

To help the community and be more sustainable I am creating a greenhouse out of plastic bottles and I need your help. My challenge is for you to bring in at least 5 plastic bottles each that have been used. Whoever brings in the most bottles in the next three weeks will win a prize. I believe in you Prep to help the community and increase levels of sustainability!

*Jasmine Scollay, Senior School*

## Whole School Photograph

**Parents are now able to order a copy of our whole school photograph!**

Tempest Photography are pleased to report your whole school group photograph taken at Yarm Preparatory School is available to view and order via the following weblink:

<https://http.st/160361-370WSG>

There will be a two-week free delivery to school option starting from the day you receive this weblink. Alternatively, select direct delivery to an address of your choice (P&P applies).

For assistance, please call 01736 752411 – Select option 3 to place an order (P&P applies) or option 5 for customer services. PLEASE NOTE: School are unable to deal with any queries.

By the time of writing, Mrs White will have sent emails regarding the purchasing of the class, HMC sports and Orchestra photographs. Please check your inboxes for details of how to purchase there.

*Mr Stone*

## Informal Concert

An appreciative audience of over 100 enjoyed our first informal concert of the summer term. As always we had a wonderful range of solo, duet and ensembles performances from children in all year groups. It is lovely to see such a wealth of talent coming through on so many instruments.

The concert concluded with a choral performance of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Choral singing has really grown this year and it was great to see around 70 children singing in harmony with such control, enthusiasm and expression,

Our next informal concert will be on 15th June: look out for further details.

*Mr Gooding*



## Eva Jumps to Success

It was lovely of Eva M. (6G) to share her tales of show jumping success in our celebration assembly last week. Aided by Mrs Jones, Eva told us all about show jumping and how it is the ultimate challenge! Well done to Eva for all of success (as demonstrated by her vast collection of rosettes and awards!)



## Coming Up at the PAA

### Pinocchio—JUNE 4, 2023 2:30PM

One of the best loved classics for children comes to life, literally. Crickets, cats, foxes and, of course, the world-famous puppet, will spring out of our collection of dusty, old, magic books while Patrick Lynch from CBeebies pulls all the strings and turns all the pages to bring you the true story of Pinocchio, no lie. Who nose? He might even find his father and become a real boy. Come and join him on his incredible journey, you'll have a whale of a time!

### Rhythm of the Dance - Thursday 27th July, 7.30pm

Rhythm of the Dance has brought audiences around the world to their feet for over two decades and is returning with a brand new production. Rhythm of the Dance is an array of everything Irish dance has evolved into, from its roots in 'Sean Nos' (meaning old-style), to the militant, clean, modern style we see on stage today. With lyrical and contemporary influences, it will be Irish in essence, with a new edge and promises to be an exploration of how far you can push the boundaries of Irish dance.

## Summer Fair

Preparations are underway for the Summer Fair, with the Year 6 teams meeting and working with their business mentors from the Senior School for the first time this week. Each team will be designing, marketing and running a stall at the fair, and can call on the support of their mentor for advice and ideas.



Full details of the Fair, which takes place on Friday 23rd June, will go out to parents early next week.

*Mr Stone*

## Arkwright Charity Day

Arkwright Year 6 members will be raising money for the [Tees Rivers Trust](#) by organising a selection of stalls and sporty challenges for the children in the Prep School to take part in during Wednesday 7th June.

Could the children please bring in a £1 donation if they wish to wear something green/floral/motifs of British animals/fish on their clothing and some coins of no more than £5 to spend on the stalls and challenges during the day.

## Running Club

Another great week for running club! This week we went round the river and explored Yarm.

*Miss Whitehouse*



## Year 4 celebrate the Coronation

I went to a camp festival from Friday to Sunday and we had a special picnic. When we got home we watched the Coronation. We put up bunting and mini flag and a huge pole that had a union jack flag at the end.

*Daisy C.*

I watched all five hours of the Coronation, and particularly enjoyed the part when all the participants walked through the hall of Westminster Abbey, showcasing all the jewellery that would be used. Many of my grandparents joined us at my house and we had a Coronation garden party.

*Cooper W.*

I went to a street party in Darlington and I made a coronation crown there out of different materials. I also watched the coronation concert on the television. In the street party there were cupcakes with Union Jack flags on them. It was a memorable weekend.

*Evelyn C.*



YARM SCHOOL DANCE PRESENTS

HOLLYWOOD WALK OF FAME



**FRIDAY 9TH JUNE**

6.30PM IN THE PAA

£7 Adult, £3.50 Concessions, Free for Yarm Pupils

Purchase Tickets Online [www.thepaaonline.org](http://www.thepaaonline.org)



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# FORTNITE

CHAPTER  
4

AGE RESTRICTION  
PEGI  
12

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Fortnite may be something of a veteran in gaming terms (having launched back in 2017), but it remains massively popular – with more than 250 million people playing online every month. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons', which bring more subtle changes. The latest iteration, Chapter 4 Season 2, adds a cyberpunk-themed city and anime-style areas, for example, along with new weapons and characters.

## ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player offline mode in Fortnite: it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away of a certain length – such as days out and holidays – than you might have expected.

## IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic skins, rare weapons and so on – which don't really impact on gameplay, but can cost quite a significant amount. These items are bought with game's currency, V-Bucks – which can be earned through playing, but are also often purchased from the game's store for real-world money.

## POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like *The Walking Dead* to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as *Street Fighter*. This means you could find your child asking questions about the creature from *Alien* or who Gerd from *The Witcher* is a little sooner than you'd possibly anticipated.

## CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with vast numbers of gamers ... of various ages. Crossplay lets friends play with and against each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation or PC – while party chat allows them to communicate during the game. This chat feature can also, therefore, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

## VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them. That said, there's no blood or gore: the violence is generally rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood (fishing mini-games, for example). The machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

## FREQUENT UPDATES

The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment's map and a different over-arching theme (such as 'medieval', 'pirates' or 'party'). These regular renewals help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep returning to their screens.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to want to play Fortnite alongside their friends. With this in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of your child's social group and trying to coordinate their gaming around certain hours of the day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help your child feel that they're getting adequate opportunity to socialise with their friends online.

### SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into splashing out on those sought-after items before they disappear again for weeks. This could potentially lead to surprise outlays on your card if your child is tempted into an impulse purchase. You could consider setting up a prepaid card for them to use – or ensuring that any online purchases require adult authorisation.

### USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite's seasonal updates are free – but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 (and are available as part of larger bundles) and can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for chores like tidying their room.

### BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with more trusting younger audiences means that there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game: make sure your child knows this.

### ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously via the same TV or computer. That's ideal for siblings or when your child's friends visit – but it also offers you an opportunity to spend time doing something fun with your child, while also being able to make sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows, you might even teach them a thing or two!

## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site *GGRecon* and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including *IGN* and *TechnoRadar*.



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# Key Dates

## MAY 2023

<b>Sat 13</b>	<b>Open Morning (9am-12noon)</b>
<b>Mon 15</b>	Telford House Duty Year 5 Drama Week
<b>Tue 16</b>	Year 2 Trip to Edinburgh School Captains Day U8 Cricket Workshop with Ashville (home; 2pm start)
<b>Wed 17</b>	Experience Day for prospective Y2-5 pupils Food Council (Lab; 1pm)
<b>Thu 18</b>	Year 1 trip to Souter Lighthouse U9 Girls' Cricket v Durham School (home; 2.15pm start)
<b>Fri 19</b>	Y5 Drama performance to parents (Prep Hall; 4.15pm) U11 Girls'/Boys' Cricket v Dame Allan's (home; 2pm start)
<b>Mon 22</b>	Arkwright House Duty <b>Year 6 Lakes residential departs</b>
<b>Tue 23</b>	Primary Schools Quiz (10am; Prep Hall) U8 Cricket Workshop with Dame Allan's (home; 2.15pm start)
<b>Thu 25th</b>	Year 6 return from the Lakes (7pm) <b>Half-term begins (after school)</b> After School Care as usual Reception visit Hullaballo Theatre Year 4 Sports Afternoon

## JUNE 2023

<b>Mon 5</b>	<b>Pupils return</b> Brunel House Duty Dance Showcase rehearsals (P6 until 5pm)
<b>Tue 6</b>	U8 Cricket Workshop with St Peter's (home; 2.15pm start)
<b>Wed 7</b>	Arkwright Charity Day Dance Showcase rehearsals (P6 until 5pm)

<b>Thu 8</b>	Y2/3 Transition Morning for pupils Dance Showcase rehearsals (2-6pm) School Council (1pm; Lab) U9 Girls' Cricket v Queen Mary's (away; 2.15pm start, 4.45pm return) U9 Boys' Cricket v Durham (home; 2pm start)
<b>Fri 9</b>	Dance Showcase (PAA; 6.30pm start) HMC Athletics (Venue TBC; 11m start, 4pm return)
<b>Sat 10</b>	Teesside Individual Chess Championship (Prep Hall; 9.30am-2.30pm)
<b>Mon 12</b>	Healthy Eating Week
<b>Tue 13</b>	Year 4 trip to Washington Wetland Centre HMC Tennis (at Dame Allan's; 10am start, 4pm return)

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

## Solution to previous Head's Challenge:

Pea

## Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
<b>3B</b>	Freddie B.	Jude C.
<b>3H</b>	Scarlett Y.	Felix M.
<b>4G</b>	Jack A.	Felicity W.
<b>4J</b>	Angus F.	Emily Q.
<b>4N</b>	Max J.	Henry S.
<b>5F</b>	Aphelia S.	Tallulah M.
<b>5H</b>	Anwita D.	Hugo M.
<b>5K</b>	Thea S.	William L.
<b>6G</b>	Rehan K.	Monty vN.
<b>6H</b>	Emma A.	Griff W.
<b>6L</b>	Charlie M.	Nikita S.
<b>6W</b>	Violet M.	James C.