

The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 745—16th June 2023

INSIDE THIS WEEK... Teesside Individual Chess... Dance Showcase... Arkwright Charity Day...

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to this edition of the Phoenix Flier. It was wonderful to welcome new families and see all pupils embrace Induction Day on Wednesday. There were certainly some understandable nerves ahead of the day which became sheer excitement as the new classes came together for the first time. The day presented the opportunity for new relationships to be established and it gave everyone the chance to look ahead to the next steps in their journey. It will be an adventure that is both individual and shared for our pupils. Each child will make their own footprints on the journey, but they are not walking alone. They will be guided by teachers and parents and will travel as a team with their peers. Teamwork means many things to us at Yarm Prep and in assembly we looked at how the most successful teams are connected, avoid blaming each other, use supportive language and have an ambitious growth mindset. The new classes will certainly need to apply these tactics to the helium stick challenge they have been set. I wish them every success with this task and know that it will help them work together each time they revisit it.

We were treated to a delightful Dance Showcase on Friday last week as a large number of our pupils filled the PAA stage with high octane choreography and enthusiasm. There was a superb range of dances that really reflected many hours of practice, abundant skill and evident talent in our ranks. Taking the stage at such events takes courage and commitment. It is something to be admired in pupils so young and will stand them in good stead for the next opportunity that comes their way. My thanks go to Mrs Dunkley and all of the staff working to support the show for their efforts and warm congratulations to all of the children involved. Bravo!

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge: What four-letter word can be written forwards or backwards and can still be read from left to right?



Photo of the Week: A fantastic effort this week by Arkwright, who raised an incredible £692 for the Tees River Trust with their house charity day.

Tooled Up Education

Get ready for a month filled with valuable knowledge as we present a new lineup of engaging webinars!

[Off to Primary or Prep School: Tips to Support Your Child](#)

June 15, 2023, 19:30 BST

Join Tooled Up founder Dr Weston as she shares her ultimate strategies to ensure children are prepared for school and ready to excel in the upcoming autumn season.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



Off to Primary or Prep School: Tips to Support Your Child

[Off to Boarding School: Tips for Parents and Carers](#)

June 17, 2023, 16:00 BST

Are you a parent or caregiver navigating the journey of sending your child to boarding school for the first time? Don't miss this webinar! Dr Weston will provide invaluable tips and guidance to support you through this transition. Discover the keys to fostering a smooth and successful boarding school experience.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



2023 Summer Activities for Children & Teens

[Raising a Bilingual Child: Tips for Parents](#)

June 28, 2023, 19:30 BST

Join expert Dr Rose Drury in a webinar tailored for parents raising bilingual children in the early or primary school years, where she will address key questions about the advantages of bilingualism, optimal strategies for language development, and practical tips to support children in thriving in both languages, ensuring parents leave with valuable strategies for supporting their children's language journey.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Prepare for an amazing summer with our new and updated resources! Explore our [handpicked selection](#) of family friendly festivals across the UK and mainland Europe, offering a delightful mix of captivating performances and engaging activities for all ages. You can also take a peek at our [top 10](#) informative, exhilarating and educational ideas for tweens and teens this summer. Additionally, find a plethora of fun and educational summer activities, so check out our [top picks](#), but hurry, as some are filling up fast or require booking before June ends.

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!

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.

Dr Kathy Weston

Dance Showcase

The Prep Dancers were involved in the Dance Showcase on Friday. It was a fantastic event and everyone pulled together to put on a fantastic show. The Prep dancers were so professional and performed with so much energy! It was a delight to watch them from the side of the stage and see all their hard work this year pay off. They received a very big round of applause at the end of every dance which was well deserved. Mrs Dunkley's choreography was outstanding and she was extremely proud of the Prep School and how they performed! Roll on next year!

Miss Whitehouse

On Friday, at the Dance Showcase, I had the most fun ever. It was very exciting and I loved performing on stage because I've never performed a dance on stage before.

Alex W.

I would love to do it all again so I will have a try in senior school. My favourite thing in the Dance Showcase was the dance finale as it was a very enjoyable moment. On stage I did get a bit scared at first, but then I felt all confident and really had the best time.

Willow A.

My favourite routine was Car Wash, because it was really fun and energetic, and I could really feel the vibe and enjoy myself when I did it. I enjoyed performing on stage because I felt self-conscious in a good way, which made me try my hardest to look my best. I would love to do it again, which is what I'm hoping to do in the future at Senior School.

Navina M.

My favourite routine was Don't Stop Me Now because it is really upbeat and fun. I really enjoyed performing on stage since and I would definitely do it again.

Violet M.

My favourite routine was the 'Greatest Showman' because it is such an exciting dance with so much enthusiasm so I definitely give credit to Miss Dunkley for that one. I loved performing on stage because it was such a spectacular sensation and made me happy and proud. I would love to do it all again and in the senior school I hope for many more dance showcases.

Janaki M.

Last week on Friday, Prep School and Senior School collaborated to create an incredible dance showcase. I loved performing and my favourite dance was Carwash from Shark Tale.

Akansha M.

On Friday, the Dance Showcase was amazing. I wish I could have done it all again. My favourite routine was Car Wash because it was so upbeat and energetic and I loved using the bucket as a prop. I also loved performing Don't Stop Me Now because it was so great and upbeat. I felt the vibe during Encanto and loved doing my cartwheel.

Amelie K.

I found the Dance Showcase an amazing thing to boost my confidence and it was great fun. I loved performing on stage because I felt I knew the dances so well that I felt I wouldn't make a mistake. I would definitely love to do the dance showcase



again and it would be great fun.

Fenwick M.

The Dance Showcase was absolutely amazing even though I was only in two dances (Don't Stop Me Now and Finale) and it was my first time doing it. My favourite routine by far was Don't Stop Me Now because of all the amazing lights and choreography. I really liked performing in the auditorium because it made me feel part of something bigger than what we do at Prep School normally. More than 100 dancers were there doing the show with me and it was so much fun! I am definitely doing it again in Y6!

Alex P.

In the Dance Showcase, my favourite routines were A Million Dreams and Car Wash, because they were both so lovely and at the end of both of them I kept telling myself "That dance was the best dance you have ever done in your life". I enjoyed performing on stage because when you did it made you feel special and brilliant. I would definitely like to do it again in all my years at Yarm School. The best part, without any doubt (and I think you'll all agree), was dancing with my friends.

Manha A.

I loved the Dance Showcase so much. It was such a fun and thrilling experience! I loved all the dances, but if I had to pick my favourite routine it would have to be Encanto. I love the excitement and energy in the dance and as Noah and I had a solo, as we were both Bruno. I also really enjoyed dancing on the stage in front of a massive audience. I would really like to do it again - luckily I will be able to when we go to Senior School. I can't wait!

Jack S.



Teesside Junior Individual Chess Championship

The 10th Teesside Individual Chess Championships took place at Yarm Preparatory School on Saturday and the tournament attracted 118 entries from a 19 local schools.

We had a fabulous day of chess, with all of the title battles proving to be tough, with no easy wins to be had anywhere.

The parents enjoyed basking outside in the sun of the glorious day while the children battled it out in a packed hall.

A lot of the visiting children were new to us, giving the tournament an extra competitive edge.

The Under-7 section had a heavy Yarm presence and our hard work over the course of the year bore a considerable amount of fruit, with Jayden Wang winning the tournament with a perfect score of 5/5, taking the title of Under-7 Boys' Champion too. Lucas Ziyang Liu and Agam Vats shared second place and Zoyaa Soni earned the title of Under-7 Girls' Champion. An impressive clean sweep for Yarm and a clear sign that we have some very promising players coming up to the Prep. School in September.

Under-9 section was the largest section and our players did well to keep pace with more experienced star players from local chess clubs. Manha Abdullah is the new Under-9 Girls' Champion after playing her best chess all day. Rory Fitzgerald, Dara Jafari, Henry Stanley and Fathe Cathal continued their fine form to share third place in the tournament.

Monty Van Niekerk was our top scorer in the Under-11 section, with a fine, unbeaten score of 4.5/5, which earned him a memorable second place.

Kavan Sidhu, Haashir Imran, Can Sezen and Miles Page shared third place, half a point behind Monty, which shows how tough this section was. Nikita Suryadevara and Lolwa Soliman shared the Under-11 Girls' title which was another great achievement for our players,

The tournament proved to be a fitting finale for our calendar of major Teesside events and a final chance to practise for all of our players who will soon be competing in the Gigafinals of the Delancey UK Schools' Chess Challenge.

Thank you to all of the Yarm chess players and staff who helped to make the day such a great success.

Now we just have the internal Knockout Championship left from our exceptionally and highly successful busy year of chess. We will have a report on that event for your perusal very soon!

For more information and photographs please go to:

<https://cscteesside.blogspot.com/2023/06/10th-teesside-individual-chess.html>

https://cscteesside.blogspot.com/2023/06/10th-teesside-individual-chess_11.html

Mr Marsh



Arkwright Charity Day

This year for the Arkwright House charity day, we raised money for the Tees Rivers Trust. We felt this was a most worthy charity as the river Tees runs through Yarm and most of the school's pupils live very close to the river or one of its tributaries. The charity's job is to monitor the river Tees and its tributaries' habitats and keep it clean and free from pollution - which is a challenging task as it is always under threat. Kate Baxter from the Tees Rivers Trust came to our school and told us during an assembly of all the wonderful ways they are keeping the river vibrant and protecting the natural habitat of the rivers. Her assembly must have really inspired the pupils as we made an incredible £692!

The children were asked to wear something floral or green on the day and the Year 6 Arkwrightians put on a great variety of amazing challenges and stalls for the children to spend their money on during the morning break. It was great fun.

Max A. and Edward TP.



PE and Games News

Year 3 Cricket Workshop with St Peters

We welcomed St Peters from York to the School on Tuesday last week. It was a busy afternoon with over 100 children playing cricket together. They enjoyed some diamond cricket, along with a non-stop game as well as a bowling challenge together. It was lovely to see them making friends and remembering each other from our netball and football games last term. Our Year 3 children should be proud of themselves and their hosting skills. Bertie led our three cheers wonderfully to bring our time together to a fitting end.

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney



HMC Athletics

Friday brought with it beautiful sunshine and a bus filled with 36 excited children from Years 4, 5 and 6 on their way to York for the HMC Athletics Championships 2023. The day began with the 4x100m relay heats, which saw every Yarm team advance to the finals later in the day. Over the course of the morning, the girls stepped onto the track to battle it out for points in sprints and middle distance races. Manha made it through to the Under 9 Girls' 80m final, finishing an impressive second place for silver! Thea and Gabby echoed this success in the Under 10 and Under 11 Girls 80/100m heats, qualifying for the finals against competitive fields. Thea fought hard to defend her title, finishing a brilliant second place. In the 200m, Nikita also finished second in the Under 11 Girls' final after a gutsy run round the bend. A special mention must go to our newest Under 10 Girls 200m Champion, Mimi, who crossed the finish line to cheers from her peers (and teachers)! In the middle distance races, Nona dug deep to finish 4th in the Under 11 girls' 800m final. Whilst the girls raced around the track, the boys competed across a range of disciplines on the field. Henry jumped to a well-earned 3rd place in the Under 11 Boys' High Jump.



After a short break for lunch, it was the turn of the boys to step onto the track. Inspired by the girls' impressive performances earlier in the day, Max (U9), Rex (U10) and Alex (U11) all qualified for the 200m finals. Satoshi and Jack sprinted to success too, qualifying for the Under 10 and Under 11 80/100m finals. Over on the field, the girls continued their success with Lolwa leaping to earn the title of Under 10 Girls' HMC High Jump Champion. In the throws, we found two HMC Champions in Daisy (U9) and Heidi (U10). Both girls also claimed the HMC records, Daisy threw the Vortex Howler over 19 metres, with Heidi throwing the Turbo Javelin 14.54m. A shout out must also go to Amelie (U11) who finished 2nd in the Under 11 Girls' Turbo Javelin and Sumi who finished the afternoon's field events with a third place finish in the Under 11 Girls' High Jump.

The day concluded with the highly anticipated relay finals. Every team gave it their all and the Under 10 Girls stormed to victory, sealing their triumph to win the overall Under 10 Girls' trophy out of 16 schools. Yarm boys showed brilliant teamwork and resilience and a huge congratulations to Yarm girls for finishing second overall. What a fantastic effort from everyone involved.

Miss Walker

Year 6 Lakes residential

Under 9 Cricket v Durham

Last week the U9 boys welcomed Durham School to Yarm. All of the boys in Y4 took part in the fixture. It was a great experience for all, demonstrating how far they have come on the term. There were many runs scored, wickets taken and catches claimed. Well done everyone!

Mr Simpson

HMC Tennis

On Tuesday 13th June we took 2 pairs of boys and girls to play in the HMC annual doubles tennis competition at Dame Allan's. Oliver and Hugo were 1st pair and won 2/3 matches in the morning against RGS 'C', Ashville 'B', ensuring they topped the group. This meant they then progressed to the Cup. The standard was very high and the boys beat RGS 'B' team but lost to RGS 'A' and Dame Allan 'A' team, meaning they finished 3rd overall out of 16 teams. This is an excellent result.

Our 2nd pair of Sid and Noah beat GSAL 'A' but narrowly lost to Dame Allan's and QEGS. They progressed to the bowl competition and they played well beating QEGS 'B', Choristers and just losing once to Dame Allan's—5-6—in what was a thrilling match. Sid and Noah won the Bowl competition which again is a great result.

In the girls competition our 1st pair of Bea and Nikita shook off their 5-6 defeat to beat Ashville 'B' and Dame Allan 'C' so went onto the Plate competition in the afternoon. Our 2nd pair of Ellie and Dot again lost the first match 5-6 v Dame Allan 'A' but secured two good wins v GSAL 'A' and Dame Allan 'C' teams. This again meant they went onto the Plate so we had to play against ourselves. Bea and Niki won the Plate with 2 victories against Ashville 'A' and Yarm 'B'. They therefore won the Plate which was great to see. The 2nd pair beat Ashville so secured 2nd place in the Plate. All in all it was a super day of tennis and the children learnt a lot about doubles play and challenging themselves on full-size tennis courts.

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney



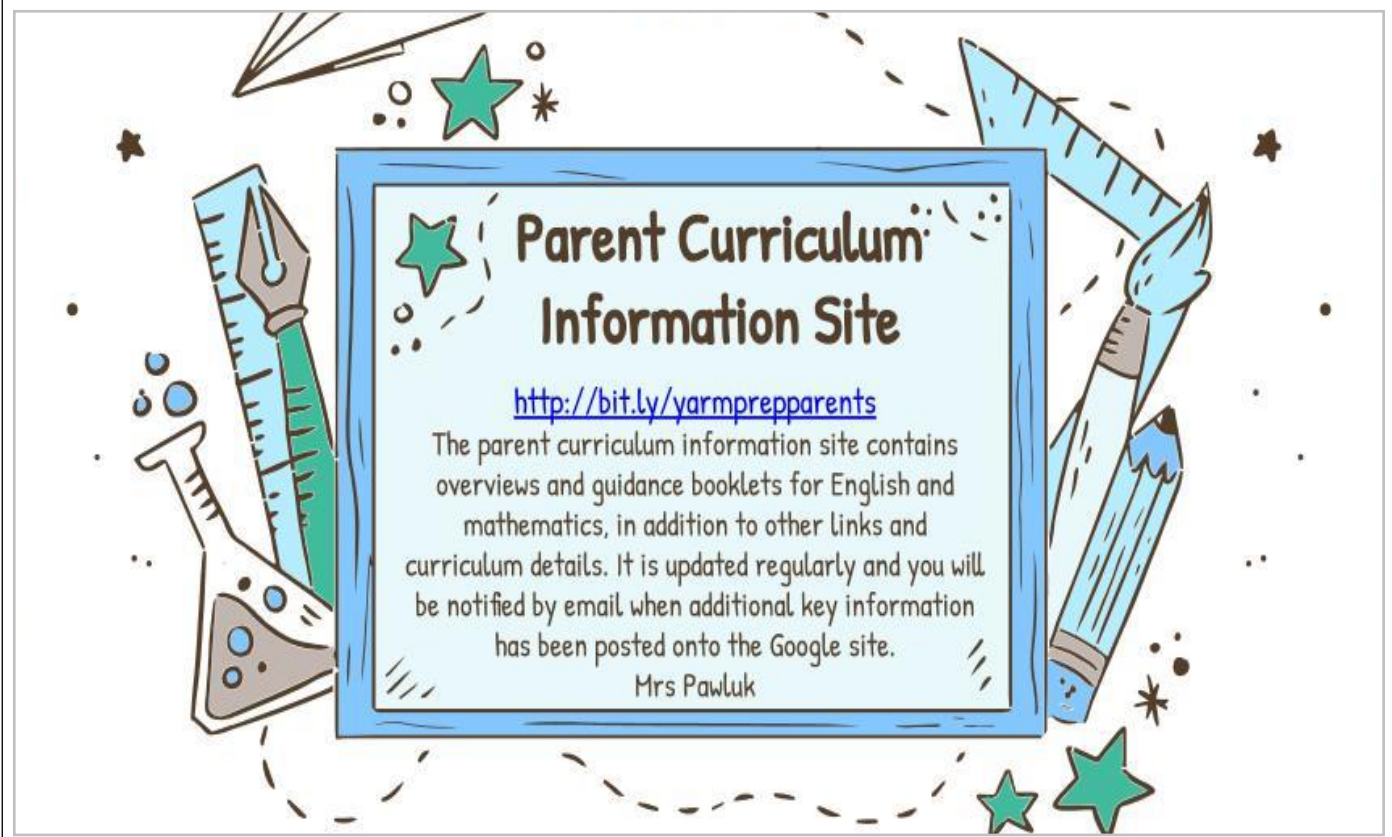
**Hockey Sessions
for all aged 5-10**

We at Norton Hockey Club are delighted to invite you to join us for 6, 1 hour Saturday sessions of Hockey fun!

11am - 12pm on Saturdays from 10th June till 15th July

£40 for the 6 sessions, price includes a Stick, Ball and T-shirt

Please email nortonhockey@hotmail.co.uk to book



Parent Curriculum Information Site

<http://bit.ly/yarmprepparents>

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

Mrs Pawluk

School Council

School Council Minutes – Thursday 8th June 2023

Attendees—Form captains, all house captains and most school captains were present (4G Form Captain and one School Captain were absent).

This School Council meeting focused on what would make the school a better place. Form captains were asked to collate any ideas their forms had that they wanted to raise at council level, so we could collate these.

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

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

What makes the school a good place?	What would make the school a better place?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good variety of lessons • It's safe • Good facilities • Lots of opportunities • Lots of different clubs and activities • A wide variety of sports • Good outdoor facilities • Inclusivity - we celebrate and learn about different religions and cultures • School Values are known and shared widely • Teachers • Buses • Good trips • Lots of places to go to calm down • Using environmentally friendly things • Residentials • Assemblies • Sensible rules and regulations • Anybody joining the school is made to feel welcome • Practical activities in lessons • Very knowledgeable teachers • Food • Lots of people to help out, like Peer mentors • Opportunities to take responsibilities • Diverse school • You feel safe making mistakes • It's kind and caring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to learn more sports in games lessons • An indoor space at playtimes • Some lessons and assemblies are repetitive (i.e Y6 notice this) • Girls and boys to play each other's sports • Mix up the year group for other subjects/lessons (i.e. like we do with the Summer Fair) • More time to practice other HMC-style competitions (e.g. cross-country) • Alternative sports if a child does not want to play rugby, etc in a lesson • More rules around the use of the adventure trail • Baking and crystal clubs • Clean the adventure trail beams more regularly • More environmental theme days • Open the library more • Trial Pokemon cards and football again • More sporting fixtures • More athletics in preparation for Sports Day • More residentials • More choice for snacks and lunch • More variety in the library, with students selecting • Shelter to play under • Tennis fixtures • Hot Dogs for lunch one day • Stars awards instead of colours for chess, etc • More woodland opportunities

YPSSC Summer Fun Fair 2023

Colours

Wear your brightest colours!!!

Friday 23rd June 2023 @ Prep School

Prep Children 2-5pm

Pre Prep with grown ups from 2.30pm

Year 6 stalls & Games

Fairground Rides*

Archery* – Mini Golf* - Gel Aim*

Food stands

Stalls, stands & tombola

Tom Rolfe entertainment*

Petting Zoo*

Hamper Raffle

****CASH ONLY****

For the grown ups...

Summer Mini Bar TBC

www.ypssc.co.uk

KIDS
£5 wrist band
unlimited ride
access
£2 adult entry

Summer Fair LATEST—ONE WEEK TO GO!

Friday 23rd June - 2-5pm

We are delighted to announce the full return of our annual Summer Fair, taking place on Friday 23rd June (2-5pm) with the theme this year being 'Colours'. As such we want to make the fair open to all children in the school community as well as their parents, many of whom would usually have other commitments over the course of a weekend. While this takes place during a school day, the impact on your child's education will be minimal.

We would like to draw your attention to a few logistical matters regarding the fair.

- It will be a non-uniform day.
- Lunch will take place as normal.
- School will finish at the usual times - 3.30pm for Pre-Prep and 3.45pm for Prep.
- Pre-Prep children can be collected from 2.30pm to come to the fair. Although the school day finishes at the usual time, parents of Pre-Prep children are welcome to collect early and bring their children to the fair.
- Years 3-6 will need to bring some money. £15 max in change/coins (no notes please) should be plenty to have a go at the variety of games and activities taking place! This will be collected by form teachers for safekeeping during morning registration and handed out prior to the fair. All proceeds go to the YPSSC.
- Parents can buy a rides wristband prior to the event. There will be a wide range of fairground rides for the children to go on, with a wristband being available to purchase before the fair for £5. **Please see the details regarding this on the next page.**
- The fair will be fully supervised. Teachers will be present supervising those children at the fair from 2pm. From pick-up onwards we would love parents to come along and join the fun too!
- Pick up, after school care and buses will run as normal. Pick up from after school care from 4pm will be from the Pre-Prep.
- Year 6 will be expected to stay until 5.30pm. A letter has gone out to Year 6 parents with full details.
- There will be no after school clubs on this date. Gymnastics, football and drama will not be taking place.

A message from the YPSSC:

There will be rides, stalls, animals, games and delicious snacks, food and ice creams! Tom Rolfe will also be making an appearance with an exclusive mini show down in Pre-Prep first. As it is a non-uniform day why not dress in your brightest colours!

Wrist bands can be bought for £5 from our website - www.ypssc.co.uk - which allow for unlimited ride access. Pre-ordered wristbands will be given to your child by their teacher at 2pm on Fair day; additional wrist bands will be available on the gate. All other stalls will take only cash. Grown-ups £2 entry.



In addition to all this fun and excitement we will be doing our Colourful Hamper raffle- more details of how to take part to follow. Tickets will be £2 each and available to buy through the website as well as being sent home with your children, and also available on the day.

There are so many ways to be involved and enjoy the Funfair- donate some prizes, volunteer some time, but most importantly come and enjoy the fun of the funfair!

To get in touch email ypssc@yarmschool.org or visit our website or join the whatsapp groups for updates:

YPSSC official - <https://chat.whatsapp.com/C8LBv1LGyN053t9HVOADaM>

YPSSC volunteers - <https://chat.whatsapp.com/4d23P8hXCZJJrcgwND8QjT>

See you at the Fair!

[CLICK HERE to buy your Summer Fair raffle tickets and ride wristbands!](#)

YPSSC Summer Fair

Volunteers Wanted!!

We appreciate volunteers valuable time in helping with YPSSC events.

We are now looking for volunteers for the summer fair-

****Thursday 22 June from 2pm to sort donations**

****Friday 23 June 12-2pm for setting up**
****2-5pm to attend stalls**

This year the summer fair theme is Colours!

If you can help, please let us know which stalls you would prefer or any that you would like to avoid!

Tombola - Wine bottle tombola – Plants - Lucky jars/bags - Soft toys/Adopt an animal - Slushie machine - Candy floss – Raffle - Preloved Uniform - Refreshments

We also would love donations for the above stands please, that can be left at school from 12th June.

Thank you very much as always YPSSC
ypssc@yarmschool.org

The Last Three Weeks of Term

We are rapidly approaching the end of the school year on Friday 7th July. We hope the final three weeks of term will provide the children with many memorable experiences and just wanted to keep you updated with regards to the arrangements, as it is a very busy time for all.

Next to some events, you will be asked to confirm attendance by completing the [events attendance form](#). This is one single form, covering all of the key events. Please do take some time to fill in the form in conjunction with reading this letter, as it helps us significantly with event planning.

Monday 19th June

Diversity Week - We will be celebrating Diversity this week throughout the school through assemblies and lessons.

ABRSM examinations week - Some children are involved in music exams on this day and on Tuesday.

Tuesday 20th June

Reception Musical Showcase - Starting at 9.30am in the Pre-Prep Studio Hall. If you are a **Reception parent** and wish to attend, [please confirm this by completing the events attendance form](#).

HMC Girls' Cricket - Some Year 6 girls will be taking part in this tournament all day, hosted at St Peter's, York. Times and further details will be confirmed with those playing in due course.

Wednesday 21st June

Nursery Sports Afternoon - One of the highlights of the Pre-Prep calendar! The event takes place at the Pre-Prep.

We will be hosting the event in two groups, each lasting for 45 minutes. We are able to invite two family members per Nursery child into school for this event. If your child does not usually attend Nursery on a Wednesday afternoon, you are more than welcome to attend for your allotted time. **N1 children** will take part between 1.30-2pm, while **N2 children** will take part between 2.30pm - 3.00pm. Following your child's session, you are welcome to take them home.

Reports released to parents - the end of year report for your child will be made available via the Parent Portal from 4pm. If you have any problems logging in, please contact [Mrs Banham](#).

Transition to Year 3 event - An event for parents of **children currently in Year 2** who will be joining Year 3 in September. Meet Mr Sawyer and the Year 3 team to find out about the year ahead. The children will be kept in after school care at the Pre-Prep. Begins at 4pm in the Prep Hall. If you wish to attend, [please confirm this by completing the events attendance form](#).

Reception children will be going on a trip to Saltholme today and will return before the end of the school day.

Thursday 22nd June

Year 3 York residential - Zoom meeting for parents - Year 3 parents will have received details of how to join us for the information session on Zoom, commencing at 4pm. If you need further information, [please contact Miss Bradley](#).

Friday 23rd June

Summer Fair - [Please check pages 9-11 of this edition](#) of the Flier for full details.

Pick up, after school care and buses will run as normal. Pick up from after school care from 4pm will be from the Pre-Prep.

Year 6 will be expected to stay until 5.30pm. A letter has gone out to Year 6 parents with full details.

There will be no Friday after school clubs today.

Monday 26th June

Today is the last activities carousel session of the year.

Tuesday 27th June

Nursery Musical Showcase - Starting at 9.30am in the Pre-Prep Studio Hall. If you are a **Nursery parent** and

wish to attend, [please confirm this by completing the events attendance form](#).

Open Afternoon - Parents of **children in Years 3-6** are invited to come along to our open afternoon to celebrate your child's work and meet their Form Teacher. In addition, there will be an art and DT exhibition in the Prep Hall, as well as musical performances. Refreshments are also available. If you are a **Year 3-6 parent** and wish to attend, [please confirm this by completing the events attendance form](#).

Wednesday 28th June

Pre-Prep Sports Morning - Taking place on the Prep Astro, this a wonderful occasion to see the children enjoying some fun sporting activities. We are able to invite two family members per child at the following times: Reception - 9am-9.45am; Year 1 - 10-10.45am; Year 2 - 11-11.45am.

After the sports morning, parents will have the opportunity to spend some time with their child in their classroom for a 'book look'.

Today is the last Wednesday activities session of the year.

Year 6 Pupils v Parents Sports - A time for **parents of Year 6 children** to dust down their trainers and participate in some 'competitive' sports with and against their children. The event begins at 5pm and ends at 6.30pm, after a barbecue. If you are a **Year 6 parent** and wish to attend, [please confirm this by completing the events attendance form](#).

Thursday 29th June

Year 3 York residential - Year 3 depart for York this morning, returning on Friday afternoon.

Friday 30th June

All clubs and activities have finished today for the year.

Y3 York residential returns at 3.45pm.

There are **U10/11 girls' cricket** matches at home to Cundall Manor, starting at 2pm, as well as **U10 boys' cricket** matches away to Aysgarth today. The boys will return to school at 5pm.

Year 6 Sleep Out for Shelter - We are inviting our Year 6 children to participate in our 'Sleep Out' on the Prep School site on the evening of Friday 1st in support of Shelter, the housing and homelessness charity.

The Sleep Out will take place on the Prep Astro, with the event beginning once the school day ends at 3.45pm. Throughout the afternoon and evening a number of activities will be taking place to keep the children entertained, including a talent show, quizzes and sporting activities. They will have a snack soon after school, followed by a barbecue tea later on in the evening. In the morning a cooked breakfast will be served, with the children ready to be collected from the school gates by 9am on Saturday 1st July. Please note that children will not be allowed to bring mobile phones or tablets, or any sweets.

Sleeping arrangements will see the children supervised by teaching staff, with the boys and girls on different sides of the astro. We will spend time with them discussing the most sensible way of sleeping outdoors prior to and during the event. Children will need to bring the following by Friday morning: cardboard box(es), sleeping bag, blanket, extra layers of clothes and a wash bag (including toothbrush). If your child is on any medication, please provide this in a named and sealed bag on the day of the event.

To support Shelter, we are also asking children to ask their families to donate to a *Just Giving* page set up for the event. [You can access this by clicking here.](#)

To confirm your child's participation in the event, [please complete this form by Wednesday 22nd June.](#)

Saturday 1st July

Year 6 Sleep Out for Shelter - Children can be collected from 8am and no later than 9am on the Saturday morning.

Monday 3rd July

Pre-Prep End of Year Celebration - The Pre-Prep End of Year Celebration takes place on Monday 3rd July in the Princess Alexandra Auditorium at the Senior School at 5pm. **All children in Pre-Prep (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)** participate in this event and are expected to attend. Children will remain in school at the end of the day and be given a buffet tea prior to the event. All family members are welcome to come along.

Nursery finishes at 3pm today.

Tuesday 4th July

Prep Prize Giving - All children in Years 3-6 will be participating in this event, commencing at 5.45pm in the

Princess Alexandra Auditorium and last around one hour. This is a ticketed event, with details sent out earlier this week. [If you have not yet booked tickets, please click here.](#) The closing date for ticket requests is Thursday 22nd June.

Nursery finishes at 3pm today, R/Y1 at 3.15pm and Y2 at 3.25pm.

Wednesday 5th July

Prep Sports Day - Commencing at 9.30am at Middlesbrough Sports Village, our annual Sports Day for **Years 3-6** returns, with all of the children participating in all of the organised events! House points will be up for grabs still and we invite parents to spectate around the outer ring of the stadium. The event will finish at approximately 12.30pm. All of the children will be participating in every event, with the emphasis on participation and having fun. Please ensure your child comes in their house-coloured PE top. All children must bring a bottle of water too. Snacks and packed lunches will be provided by school.

Children will return to school afterwards and can be collected at the normal times.

Nursery finishes at 3pm today, R/Y1 at 3.15pm and Y2 at 3.25pm.

Thursday 6th July

Nursery Celebration for N2s (children moving to Reception) - This wonderful occasion takes place in the Studio Hall, commencing at 2pm. Please can all children wear their Nursery uniform. Any children who do not usually attend Nursery on a Thursday afternoon should be dropped off at 1.30pm. If you are an **N2 parent** and wish to attend, [please confirm this by completing the events attendance form.](#)

Lost property assembly - We will have a clear out of the lost property cupboards and hope to reunite some items with their rightful owners. Please may we ask parents to have a good root around at home and, if you find any uniform that does not belong to your child, send it in for the assembly.

Nursery finishes at 3pm today, R/Y1 at 3.15pm and Y2 at 3.25pm.

Friday 7th July

Water Run for the Mustard Seed Project - Our final

fundraising event of the school year. Every child in the school will be taking part in our second annual Water Run, so a change of top and a towel are advised! We only ask that families make a donation to the Mustard Seed Project, [which can be done via our Just Giving page for the event by clicking here](#). Please note: we know water is a precious resource so we will not be using large quantities of it. Staff will be using water pistols and sponges, while there will be a sprinkler at the end too.

End of term - no after school care - Term ends at 11.30am for Nursery and Pre-Prep and 12noon for Years 3-6. There is no after school care so we ask all parents to collect their children at the correct time please.

Monday 10th July - Friday 4th August

Summer Holiday School - Mr Simpson will be sending further details and the booking form in the coming days.

And that will be that! A packed final few weeks but, we hope, they will provide your child with a fitting finale to the academic year. If you have any questions about any of these events, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mr Stone

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

Chess Lessons with Mr Marsh

Private Chess Lessons with Sean Marsh at the Preparatory School are given in a similar way to the very successful Instrument and Speech and Drama tuition. Lessons of 30 minutes duration would be offered on either an individual or

paired basis, dependent upon parental preference, and would take place at the Preparatory School every Monday or Wednesday. Lesson times will be offered on a rolling rotation, thus minimising disruption to the class teaching timetable.

Sean Marsh will teach these individual/paired lessons, whilst maintaining his usual Monday and Wednesday Chess Activity and lunchtime and afterschool chess clubs. He understands the value of the productive learning that can take place on a one-to-one basis and that a significant increase in the pupil's understanding of chess can occur during such lessons.

If you are interested in having chess lessons with Mr Marsh or would like to find out more, please email jg@yarmschool.org.

Mr Grundmann

YPSSC News

YPSSC would love to welcome all parents to our Monthly YPSSC social coffee mornings at 'The Keys' on Yarm High Street commencing next week! Enjoy a cup of coffee with cake and catch up with other parents.

9-11am on the following dates: Wednesday 14th June, Thursday 21st Sept, Tuesday 17th Oct, Wednesday 15th Nov, Monday 11th Dec.



Please also note down our evening social on: Tuesday 17th Oct

7.30-9.30pm evening drinks @The Keys.

We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

YPSCC

Year 5 Sustainable Crafts



This week in our Sustainability activity, year 5 have completed their Cacti pencil holders. Well done everyone, you showed super creativity using recycled materials.

Mrs Hart

Coming Up at the PAA



Chicago Blues Brothers - Crusin for a Bluesin Tour - Sunday 15th October, 7.30pm

The Chicago Blues Brothers have put the band back together and are 'Cruisin for a Bluesin' taking you to the music capitals of the USA for one night of spectacular live music. this award-winning show is bringing you the very best in Rhythm and Blues, Soul, Country and Motown with a few surprises and lots of lunacy thrown in for good measure.

All performed in the hard-hitting style that has made the Chicago Blues Brothers the biggest and most loved Blues Brothers shows in The World.

Halloween Spooktacular - Monday 30th October, 2.30pm and 6.30pm

Join Tommy The Ghostbuster and all the gang as they embark

on another spooktastic adventure this Halloween!

All is going well at Sorcerer High until a new pupil joins and causes chaos amid the preparations for the Halloween Ball. Luckily Tommy the Ghostbuster is on

call to zoom in and save the day but all doesn't go to plan as a plethora of creepy chaos, mesmerizing mummy's and gruesome gunge gets in the way!



Term Dates

Autumn Term, 2023

Preparation Days	Tuesday, 29th August 2023
	Wednesday, 30th August 2023
All Pupils Return	Thursday, 31st August 2023
Half Term Begins	Friday, 20th October 2023
	(after school)
Pupils Return	Monday, 6th November 2023
Finish	Friday, 15th December 2023
	(after school; no after school care)

Spring Term 2023

Pupils Return	Thursday 4th January 2024
Half Term Begins	Thursday 15th February 2024
	(after school)
INSET	Friday 16th February 2024
Pupils Return	Monday 26th February 2024
Finish	Thursday 28th March 2024
	(after school; no after school care)

Summer Term 2024

Pupils Return	Thursday 18th April 2024
Bank Holiday	Monday 6th May 2024
Half Term Begins	Thursday 23rd May 2024
	(after school)
Pupils Return	Monday 3rd June 2024
Finish	Thursday 4th July 2024
	At 12 noon
	(after school; no after school care)

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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about LOOT BOXES

Marketed as increasing a player's enjoyment of a game, loot boxes are usually purchased or given as rewards. When opened, they unlock items for use in the game, such as better weapons or new characters to play as. Loot boxes feature in many games and are therefore available to various age groups. They have often been criticised for emulating gambling: the odds of unlocking certain items can seem astronomical, while the money being spent is often high compared to the potential reward. It's imperative that trusted adults understand the risks that loot boxes can pose.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MOUNTING COSTS

Loot boxes can be bought with in-game currency or earned as rewards for completing tasks – but many of them are paid for with real money. Prices vary from game to game, and purchases can stack up quickly. It's easy for children to overspend on loot boxes, especially if they really want the item on offer – a recent study found that 31% of young gamers were unaware loot boxes actually had a cost at all.

POTENTIAL ADDICTION

The sense of anticipation, and the feeling of joy when unearthing a rare or badly wanted item, can make opening loot boxes very addictive. As the boxes give out semi-random items which vary in usefulness or rarity, players often end up striving for the less common items – as well as chasing the 'buzz' of finding one. Loot boxes can be compared to scratch cards, delivering similar highs and lows.

NORMALISING GAMBLING

Because loot boxes cost money for the chance – but no guarantee – of scooping a big reward, it's easy to see the link to gambling. Players spend a set amount of money, with no idea of what they'll get in return once the loot box is open. It could be the best item in the game, or the worst. Many games are beginning to phase out loot boxes completely to avoid breaking local gambling laws.

ADVANCED SCAMS

Most games don't let players trade the items they get in loot boxes, but a few titles do allow exchanges with other players. This could lead to young gamers being tricked or harassed into trading items they paid for or won fairly. Rare items from some games can be quite valuable and are bought and sold on the 'grey market', using external sites – leaving children vulnerable to being scammed.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER THE ODDS

It's a smart move to check the odds on the items in the loot boxes, to see how hard it is to find a particular reward. Show your child and explain to them whether it's likely (or not) that they'll find the item they want inside the box. Of course, there's a sizeable element of chance – but if an item says it's likely to drop once out of every 10,000 boxes, it's wise to adjust your child's expectations.

RESTRICT SPENDING

Even if you're happy for your child to purchase loot boxes, it's safest to restrict how much they can spend. Options include adding a temporary payment method, or making sure they ask permission first. If a credit or debit card is linked to the gaming account, excited young players could soon run up an eye-watering bill. Ensure your child recognises how much each box costs and understands that they're using real money.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most video gaming consoles, as well as the individual games, allow parents and carers to place purchasing restrictions on the child's account. This is an effective way to avoid overspending or prevent children from buying any loot boxes in the first place. Not all games offer this feature, so it's best to investigate your options on each new game before your child starts playing it.

DISCUSS THE RISKS

Be open with your child about how much loot boxes (and individual item purchases) cost and how the system works, in terms of probability. If a child realises it's unlikely they'll get that rare reward, they may prefer to spend their money on a guaranteed item – like a skin in the online store – instead of gambling on a loot box. Outline how other people might try to exploit online trading systems to steal their valuable items.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



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Key Dates

JUNE 2023

Mon 19	Diversity Week Telford House Duty ABRSM examinations week
Tue 20	Nursery New Starters Information Evening (6.30pm; current N1 families invited) U11 Girls' HMC Cricket (at St Peter's; 11.30am start, 4.30pm return) Reception Musical Showcase (Studio Hall; 9.30am)
Wed 21	Reports released to parents Nursery Sports Afternoon (1pm; Pre-Prep) Y2 Transition event for parents (4pm; Prep Hall) Reception Trip to Saltholme
Thu 22	Y3 York trip—Zoom meeting for parents (4pm)
Fri 23	Summer Fair (2-5pm)
Mon 26	Clubs and activities finish this week
Tue 27	Open Afternoon (2-6pm) Nursery Musical Showcase (Studio Hall; 9.30am)
Wed 28	Pre-Prep Sports Morning (9-11.30am) Y6 Pupils v Parents Sports (Astro; 5-6.30pm)
Thu 29	Year 3 York residential departs
Fri 30	Year 3 return from York (3.45pm) Year 6 Sleep Out (after school until 9am Saturday) All clubs and activities finish today U10/11 Girls' Cricket v Cundall Manor (home; 2pm start) U10 Boys' Cricket v Aysgarth (away; 2pm start, 5pm return)

JULY 2023

Sat 1	Year 6 Sleep Out finishes (8am)
Mon 3	Pre-Prep Celebration (PAA; 5pm) Lesson 6 in forms for Y3-6 (points count, etc)
Tue 4	Prize Giving rehearsals all morning

Prep Prize Giving

(PAA; 5.45pm)

Wed 5

Prep Sports Day

(Middlesbrough Sports Village (10am-12.30pm)

Lost property sort

Thu 6

Quiz Club National Final

(REARRANGED; Now online; 10-11am)

Nursery Celebration Assembly

(Studio Hall; 2pm)

Lost Property assembly

Fri 7

Water Run

End of Year assemblies

End of Term; no after school care

(Pre-Prep finishes 11.30am; Prep at 12noon)

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

Solution to previous Head's Challenge:

$$5+5+5=550$$

Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3B	Hugo P.	Austin O.
3H	Shanvi P.	Robert W.
4G	Charlie M.	Jenson C.
4J	Leo S.	Sophia B.
4N	Isla R.	Cooper W.
5F	Eric PF.	Ronav G.
5H	Trisha K.	Yasmeen S.
5K	Thea S.	Phoenix E.
6G	Sonny F.	Henry P.
6H	Griff W.	Amelia O.
6L	Louisa P.	Miguel RM.
6W	Olivia J.	Jake M.