

The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 746—23rd June 2023

INSIDE THIS WEEK... Year 4 visit Washington Wetlands... Prep Concert... Last weeks of term...

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to this edition of the Phoenix Flier which comes at the end of another brilliant week of learning, laughter and sunshine. We have enjoyed celebrating diversity week across the school through a range of themed assemblies and workshops which have focused on Pride, neurodiversity and disabilities. It has been both humbling and inspiring to hear from members of our school community about their experiences on these important issues. Celebrating differences is fundamental to life at Yarm Prep; it helps to build a culture that is accepting and appreciative of others.

Our Summer Fair is finally here today! It is always a brilliant event and the build up to it requires much teamwork from the fabulous YPSSC, our Estates staff and our Year 6 pupils who run their own stalls in the style of The Apprentice. Year 6 groups have been formulated, tight budgets set, marketing campaigns developed and adherence to a strict set of guidelines has been overseen by Mr Stone and their business mentors from the 6th Form at the Senior School. From listening to the Year 6 groups pitch to the school in assembly this week, it is clear that they are keen to win lots of business at the Fair. We look forward to seeing you at the Fair!

Congratulations to all of our pupils who took part in the Summer Concert last week. They played and collaborated with conviction, creativity and much skill. It was clear they have been working hard towards this final performance for the year which was a fitting celebration of their efforts and talent. Bravo!

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge: What begins with T, ends with T and has T in it?

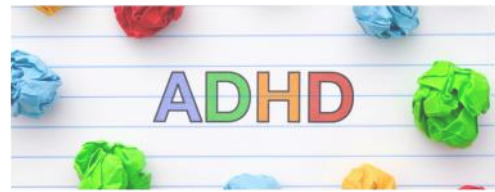


Photo of the Week: To find out about our amazing success in the recent LAMDA examinations, look inside.

Tooled Up Education

Father's Day Special: Unveiling the CEO-Dad Balance

Last year's Father's Day brought us an extraordinary [podcast episode](#). Dr Weston sat down with Paul Pomroy, the CEO of McDonald's UK, for a captivating conversation about his most significant role: being a dad. Discover their insights on optimal parenting styles, work-life equilibrium, and how workplace skills seamlessly translate to family life.



Expert Panel Discussion on ADHD

Join our ADHD Expert Panel Live

Mark your calendars for July 13th at 12pm! Dr Hope Christie leads a [dynamic panel](#) of experts to shed light on ADHD. Delve into causes, the diagnosis journey, teacher support strategies, and even the influence of social media platforms like TikTok on diagnosis rates.

Maximise Performance: Top Tips for Sports Day

As we approach the home run before the holidays, many schools will be inviting you in for sports day events over the coming couple of weeks. Join us in cheering on our young athletes as they showcase their talents!

Don't miss our recent [podcast episode](#) featuring Dr Emma Ross, the trailblazing former Head of Physiology at the English Institute of Sport and founder of The Well HQ. Gain valuable insights into empowering girls, optimising nutrition for peak performance, the significance of comfortable sports gear, menstrual cycle tracking, and fostering a lifelong love of sports.

Discover the secrets to nurturing young athletes and securing scholarships in the USA in an engaging [video discussion](#) between Dr Weston and Holly Cram. Holly, a former professional hockey player for Scotland and Great Britain, shares expert tips on optimal parenting strategies, building resilience, and what it's really like to pursue a sports scholarship in America.

Among our [sports-related resources](#), you'll also find [a list of 100 sports](#) that your children (and you!) could try, along with details of where to find out more. From team sports to individual adventures, aquatic endeavours to earthbound pursuits, this list covers it all.

Ensure your child's sporting success with [expert advice](#) from performance nutritionist Dan Richardson. Discover the secrets to keeping energy levels soaring throughout sports days and events. Share these tips with your young athletes to help them achieve their full potential.

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: 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

Prep Concert

The children played to a packed hall for our final informal concert of the year. It was lovely to have all of our ensembles playing, from recorders and clarinets to brass, strings and choir. We had some wonderful solos and great duet performances. For many of our Year 6 performers it was their last concert at Prep and we wish them every success as they continue to play their music in the future.

Mr Gooding

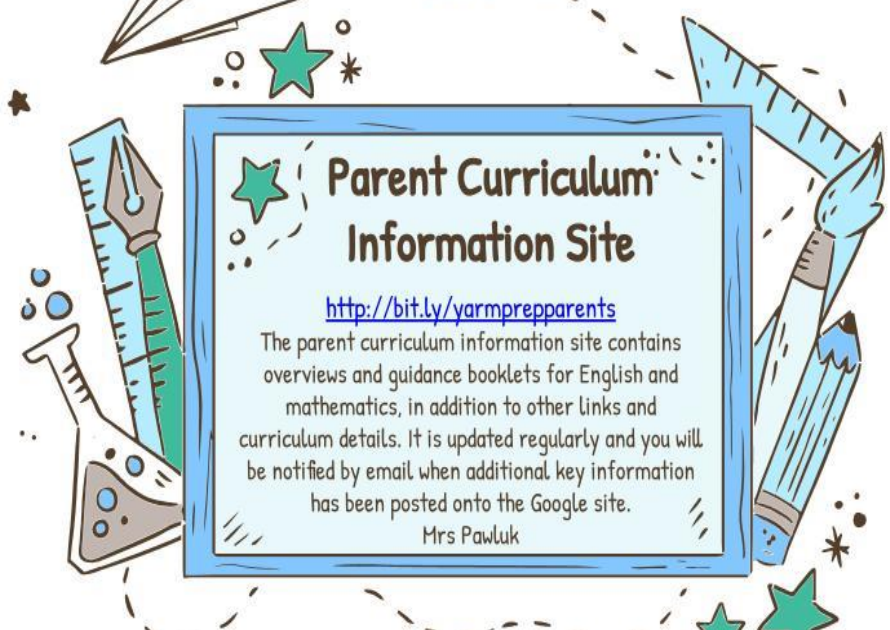


Year 4 at Washington Wetlands Centre

Some highlights from Year 4's recent visit to the Washington Wetlands Centre.

Mrs Jennings





Parent Curriculum Information Site

<http://bit.ly/yarmpreparents>

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

PE and Games

The U11 Boys HMC cricket team travelled to a sun kissed Woodhouse Grove School. We were drawn in a tough group, where we had narrow defeats to RGS and GSAL. We won convincingly against Bootham. This took us into the Plate Competition where we beat Barnard Castle and Ashville to progress to the Plate Final, where we played DSCF. The game was tight throughout and we unfortunately came out two runs short in the chase. A great day of cricket was had by all.

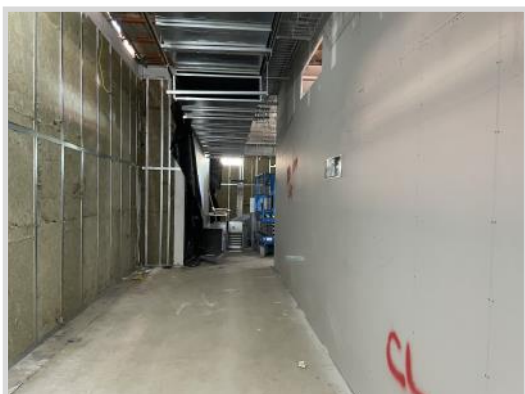
The boys all played their part! Well done boys.

Mr Simpson



New Build Latest

We were thrilled last Friday to hold our weekly celebration assembly in the hall currently under construction!



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



The Last Two Weeks of Term

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](#).

Please can all school books and school library books be returned before Friday 30th June.
Thank you.

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

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: 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.

YPSSC



LAMDA Successes

If you are wondering what LAMDA is, let me fill you in...

Established in 1861, The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) is a post 18, university level drama school located in Hammersmith, London.

Over the years, they have trained many notable actors, among them Timothy West and Benedict Cumberbatch, who is the current president.

Public Examinations are taken by learners nationwide and globally. These are recognised by Ofqual, the qualifications regulator in England, and its counterparts in Wales and Northern Ireland and internationally,

LAMDA-accredited examinations at grade 6 and above are recognised within the UCAS Tariff system for entry to university in the UK learners work their way through the grades, usually starting at the initial grade.

As well as this, personal development and achievement in voice and presentation skills inspires learners to develop as confident speakers in every context of life.

We are super proud of all our LAMDA successes this year and very grateful to parents for their support with practice at home. Each pupil has made brilliant progress and gained confidence as speakers, presenters and performers and have earned a certificate to prove it!

Everyone has worked hard to be awarded highly and this has certainly paid off; this year's cohort has achieved 21 distinctions and 1 high merit.

The highest achievers in each grade this year, deserve a special mention.

The Speaking of Verse and Prose

Grade 4 Navina Muthukrishnan

Grade 3 Erin Goh, Louisa Palmer

Grade 2 Bea Maredia, Edward Taylor-Petch

Grade 1 Laurel Goodhall, Thea Speight

Entry Henry Skidmore, Atticus Win Tin

Solo Introductory Stage 3 Thomas Maxey, Felix Maredia

Shakespeare

Level 1 Louisa Palmer

We wish our Year 6s well as they cross over the road to new and exciting experiences. Keep working at developing your speaking and presentation skills; gain those qualifications and new skills for life.

Happy Summer!

Mrs Ham-Ying



Brunel Charity Day

Last Friday, Ben Hunt, a representative from the Great North East Air Ambulance came to collect a cheque for £703.86 from our recent charity day. This charity was chosen because one of our house members, Will Garrett in 4J, was recently airlifted from Scafell Pike when he became ill during an ascent. Matthew and Beatriz, our current House Captains presented the cheque to Mr Hunt and he gave us some additional information about the service. This was a particularly successful event because of the hard work of the Year 6 Brunellians who had created a superb array of games and stalls for everybody to enjoy. Grateful thanks also to Pippa, our wonderful cook, who helped with the cake decorating, Miss Whitehouse who organised the Year 6 children and Mrs Jennings whose assembly created so much enthusiasm for a very worthy cause. Well done Brunel.

Mrs Jones



Jewellery and Earrings

The wearing of jewellery is not permitted. The wearing of earrings and ear studs is not permitted for safety reasons. Please avoid ear piercing which will necessitate the wearing of ear studs at school. Children will be asked to ensure any ear piercings are taken out as soon as possible. It is recommended and expected that any ear piercings take place in the school holidays, not during term time. If your child has had their ears pierced, we recommend that they wear small, clear and discreet plastic 'placeholder' retainers at school.

Mr Stone

Coming Up at the PAA

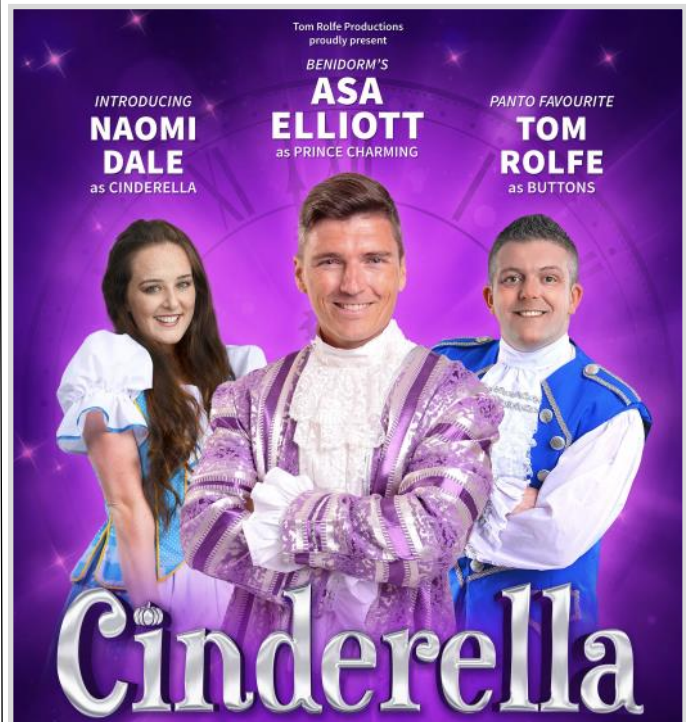
Cinderella

Don't miss the most magical pantomime of them all CINDERELLA.

Starring Benidorm singing sensation Asa Elliott as Prince Charming, Yarm regular Tom Rolfe as Buttons and a full

supporting cast for the PAA's biggest festive family panto ever, cram packed with all the usual fun and chaos with one or two surprises thrown in for good measure!

Early bird tickets - all seats £12.50 until 31st July.



Santa Rocks

Santa's busy getting ready for the annual 'Snow Ball' and all is going well until the wicked Jack Frost zaps the North Pole of all it's festive cheer! Luckily Santa has a jolly plan to keep everything under control and tries to raise enough festive cheer in time for the party!

Early bird tickets end 7th July.

Diversity Week

As part of Diversity Week, we were delighted to welcome back former pupil (and current 4th Year Senior School student) Sam C., who gave a fascinating talk about neurodiversity and what it means to be neuro diverse. Sam's talk was amazing, honest, heartwarming and informative about his daily challenges. Several children came to ask him questions at the end as well.

Mrs Jones



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 AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial intelligence – particularly in terms of how it generates natural language – has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat, for example). One form of AI to become especially popular has been the 'AI friend' or chatbot, as children eagerly experiment with these new-found computer-generated companions. There are now numerous apps available with this 'virtual friend' functionality, with the likelihood of it being added to other successful platforms soon.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI chatbots may not always be able to recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. So there's a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could very likely hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it's being told or replying insensitively to a young user who's already struggling could potentially impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they've been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour (as many originate from the USA or the UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview). This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours.

COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child's own powers of critical thinking, creativity and ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts are warning that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties, for instance).

Advice for Parents & Carers

CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If your child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they're aware of and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with your child and perhaps do your own research to ensure you think they're suitable. Once you're totally happy, you could sit with your young one and begin exploring AI chatbots together.

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If your child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment: ideally in a shared space at home, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside your child to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it's appropriate. It's important to make sure that children are still getting plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps your child can download and use. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to your child. In particular, emphasise that AI isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something that isn't entirely impartial or accurate.

Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.



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#WakeUpWednesday



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Key Dates

JUNE 2023

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](#)

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)

Solution to previous Head's Challenge: Noon.

Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3B	Amelie T.	Andres O.
3H	Emma W.	Georgie D-B.
4G	Benjamin H.	Rory F.
4J	Jack M.	Rosa W.
4N	Roland M.	Henry S.
5F	Alice S.	Ella L.
5H	Zara P.	Erin G.
5K	Haashir I.	Can S.
6G	Seb D.	Felicity L.
6H	Harriet B.	Dorothy W.
6L	Beatriz G.	Oliver X.
6W	Fenwick M.	Matthew R.