



# The Phoenix Flier

## The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 747—30th June 2023

INSIDE THIS WEEK... Summer Fair... Last week of term... Sponsor our Water Run and Sleepout!

### A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to this edition of the Phoenix Flier which comes at the end of another eventful week! The Summer Fair on Friday proved to be a brilliant afternoon brimming with community spirit. The organisation by the Yarm Prep School Social Committee and many parent volunteers, Mr Stone and the Year 6 stall holders really made for a well-ordered and action packed event. The sun was shining and the fairground rides combined with the delectable food served by our Sodexo catering team really made it a special afternoon for all. Huge thanks to everyone involved and for the generous support from our school community once again.

It was a pleasure to welcome many parents to our Open Afternoon on Tuesday to share in the work of their children over the course of the year. Seeing our pupils talking animatedly about their learning was lovely as was their parents' enjoyment of the opportunity to do so. The DT and art exhibition was particularly impressive too and displayed brilliantly the impact of specialist teaching in this area of the curriculum.

A highlight of our sporting calendar for our Year 6 pupils is the parent and pupil sports event which took place on Wednesday evening. Fun and competitive action was on order and there were certainly some cracking moments of sporting prowess and suitable etiquette from all corners. Everyone left smiling and well fed after a fine barbeque spread. Thank you to all those who attended and for the staff who helped to officiate proceedings.

*Bill Sawyer*

**Head's Challenge:** I'm a five letter word. I am normally below you. If you remove my first letter you'll find me above you. If you remove my first and second letters, you can't see me. What am I?



**Photo of the Week:** A memorable Summer Fair took place last week. More pictures and the big reveal of who won the Year 6 Young Enterprise competition can be found inside.

# Summer Fair



**Congratulations to the following Year 6 teams, who won our annual Young Enterprise competition for their fair stalls:**

**Spinning Tops - Spin to Win** - Noah, Nona, Arvind, Violet, Griff, Amelia (Harry)

**Rapid Rainbows - Colour Chaos** - Annabelle, Tiger, Sumi, Joe, Matthew S (Nathan)

**Rainbow Rulers - Selling Stall** - Max A, Ellie, Jake, Ciara, Matthew R (Arhana)

**Notable individuals:** Bea M, Jack S, Dora B, Udham C (Ella)



Our thanks to the YPSSC for putting together such a vast and exciting range of attractions for the fair. Well done too to our Year 6 children for their stalls—between them they raised an incredible £1306.41 towards YPSSC projects! Thank you as well to the Senior School 'Awe and Wonder' group and Miss Rhodes, for acting as such wonderful mentors to the children.

*Mr Stone*

## Year 4 enjoy Indian food

Aashi in 4G gave a lovely presentation this week about Indian food, including some wonderful samosas made by her mother! This was linked to our class story of 'Asha and the Spirit Bird' by Jasbinder Bilan.

Miss Goodfellow



## Year 6 Comic Strips

Year 6 have been producing their own comic strips this week, as Ben's brilliant example on the right highlights.

Mrs Lofthouse-Hill

### FIXTURES PRO

To find out how to access the Fixtures Pro website and see where the children are playing and when, click [here](#).



**YPSSC**  
PreLoved Uniform



We have a huge and varied stock of preloved uniform available.

Boys & Girls Blazers  
Coats & Goggles  
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 at Prep reception.



Thank you!



## Year 3 Viking Villages

Both 3H and 3B have created wonderful Viking Settlements over the past few weeks in Humanities lessons.

The children worked collaboratively, planning the best possible amenities for their villages. The finished replicas are fantastic!

Well done all of Year 3—  
what fantastic work!

*Mrs Harandon*



# The Last Week of Term

## Saturday 1st July

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

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](#).

## 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.

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

## 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

## **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

## **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

## **Knockout Chess Final**

Our annual Knockout Chess Tournament is always one of the biggest highlights of the busy school year.

The tournament dates all the way back to 1994 and we only missed out 2020 due to the Covid emergency.

Over 100 players entered this year's tournament and when the first round started, we had a record-breaking 50+ children all in action at the same time, filling up two classrooms!

Can Sezen, as defending champion, was hoping to become only the fifth player in history to retain the KO title, but he knew that many tough games were in store for him.

As always with knockout events, there were plenty of surprise results, with some of the younger players doing very well against their older rivals.

Dara Jafari is a case point. He battled all the way to semi-finals in relentless fashion, where his fine run finally came to an end

at the hands of last year's runner-up, Miles Page. Meanwhile, in the other half of the draw, Monty Van Niekerk



was also on terrific form and he beat Henry Stanley in a very close semi-final. Monty had already caused a stir when he knocked out Can Sezen, the defending champion, at the quarter-final stage, after a replay (their first game was drawn by stalemate, after Can slipped up when he was winning).

Thus, we had a terrific final in store between Miles and Monty, which started in front of a large crowd of more than 20 spectators. Both players were on top form, fully focused and eager to play their way onto the famous roll of honour.

Monty had the white pieces and set off by trying to occupy the centre of the board with his pawns, but a rare early slip allowed Miles to take a slight advantage when his knight nipped in to take one of the pawns.

Both players then concentrated on developing their pieces as they entered a tense middle game. Miles suddenly spotted a double tactic involving a pin and a fork, which forced the win of one of Monty's bishops. Monty tried hard to fight back, but Miles set up another crafty knight fork, winning Monty's rook. From that point onwards, it was all down to whether or not Miles would remain focused enough to force a checkmate and not a stalemate (which Can had allowed in the quarter-finals, after which Monty had won the replay).

Miles duly delivered checkmate to become the new champion and the spectators – all of whom has watched the game in an enthralled state of silence – broke into an extended spell of spontaneous applause.

Congratulations to both players on producing one of the best finals of the entire series.

Monty has made a big impression during his year of Prep School chess and has had many successes.

Miles still has another year at our school and he will no doubt already be thinking about trying to reach his third consecutive KO final in 2024 (which has only been achieved by two people to date).

Well done to everyone who played in this year's event and helped to make it such a great success!

*Mr Marsh*

## Coming Up at the PAA

### The Lightbulb

#### Princess

A delightful new show full of sparkle and song, for everyone aged 4 and up. Can you help a very unusual princess solve an unexpected problem?



Without the twinkle of fairy lights, the holiday season could be cancelled! It's up to our intrepid explorer, her pals and YOU to illuminate the world again.

### Fireman Sam - Saves the Circus

When all of his friends go away, Norman Price decides to find adventure in Pontypandy and become the star of a visiting circus. But with a tiger on the loose and faulty lights, the adventure soon turns to danger. Can Fireman Sam come to the rescue and save the circus?

Join Sam, Penny, Elvis, Station Officer Steele and Norman in an



all singing, dancing, action-packed show. You can become a fire-fighter cadet and then watch the magic of the circus.

## Brunel Dance Activity

Brunel have worked so hard in their Monday carousel activity. They worked as a team to learn a choreographed routine and even had the chance to make up their own parts too!

[To see how they got on, click here!](#)

*Miss Whitehouse*

## Year 5 Community Activity

Year 5 Community Crew designed and lead a scavenger hunt for the Year 2s to help them find their way around the Prep school when they arrive in September. They followed clues to unscramble the password RESPECT to unlock the treasure box.



*Mrs Kirk*

## Tooled Up Education

It's World Wellbeing Week, a special time to focus on the various aspects of wellbeing that contribute to our happiness and success. In today's fast-paced world, the importance of wellbeing in our lives and our children's lives can't be emphasised enough, which is why we have a [range of wellbeing resources](#) available in our Tooled Up library.



Books to Support Children's Mental Health

### Books and Resources for Children's Mental Health

Navigating the vast sea of books and resources to support your child's mental health can be overwhelming. That's why we've [handpicked](#) some highly recommended options and organised them into easily digestible sections.

From inspiring fiction that cultivates a positive mindset to practical workbooks, we have something for every young mind.

### Mindfulness Apps for Peaceful Minds

Mindfulness apps can be valuable tools in helping children and teens improve their wellbeing. With numerous options available, we've compiled a [list](#) of evidence-based examples that can aid better sleep and effective coping with challenging emotions.

### Expert Q&A: Building Meaningful Connections

Watch an [insightful Q&A](#) session featuring Dr Gauri Seth, a psychiatrist and parent coach, in conversation with Dr Weston. They will delve into strategies for sustaining emotionally deep and meaningful connections with our children, even amidst our busy and stressful lives.

### Happiness Checklist for All Ages

Our [happiness checklist](#) is a wonderful tool for children and young people of all ages. They can assess each statement and use any that don't resonate with them as a starting point for family discussions. It's a fantastic way to foster open communication and promote understanding of each other's emotions and needs.

### Mindful Drawing Ideas for Calm Moments

In collaboration with mindful drawing teacher Fiona Meakin, we're delighted to offer you a collection of top [drawing ideas](#). Engaging in drawing, painting, or any creative activity can be incredibly calming and soothing for both children and adults. These ideas are perfect for those moments when you or your child need a little extra calm, or simply on a rainy day.

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](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: YPSII03 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*

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](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# Online safety tips for parents & carers to KEEP CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE OVER SUMMER

School's out ... for summer! Yes, it's that time of the year again: around six weeks at home for ecstatic youngsters. For many young people, a bumper stint off school means a welcome chance to spend even more time with their games console, phone, tablet or smart TV. So whether your children are likely to be scrolling on Snapchat, nestling in front of Netflix or frying foes on Fortnite, we've put together some top tips to help you keep them safe online this holiday.

## THERE'S NO NETWORK LIKE HOME

Teenagers, especially, tend to be delighted to find that a coffee shop, restaurant or shopping centre offers free WiFi. These public networks are much less secure than home WiFi, though, so discourage your child from making online purchases or entering personal details when out and about.



## LIGHTS OUT, SCREENS OFF

This is a golden rule: try to limit how much screen time your child has towards end of the day. Staring at the screen of a phone or tablet for too long before bed severely impacts a child's quality of sleep – which can play havoc with their concentration, mood and energy levels the next day.



## FOCUS ON FACTS

The internet is phenomenal at spreading gossip. When children of certain ages aren't in daily contact at school, the digital rumour mill can go into overdrive. Remind your child not to believe everything they're told online – especially if the person involved isn't around to provide their side of the story.



## KEEP TALKING

It sounds blindingly obvious, but having regular chats with your child about who they're talking to online, what games and apps they're using and what shows they're streaming is a huge benefit. It doesn't have to be every day or even every week, but it can signal potential issues well in advance.



## PRIVATE INFO STAYS PRIVATE

It's worth checking your child's social media or gaming profiles occasionally to make sure they aren't inadvertently giving away too much information. Details such as their full name, address or where they go to school could all be used to track them down by individuals with sinister intentions.



## LIMIT SOCIAL AUDIENCES

When they're old enough, young people love to broadcast their summer holiday highlights all over social media. The unfortunate truth, however, is that we don't always know who might be viewing this content. Check the settings to ensure that only friends and family can see your child's posts.



## DEMONSTRATE GOOD HABITS

Children often learn their digital behaviour from watching the grown-ups around them. So make sure your child observes you being positive and supportive on social media, for example – and, especially, sees that you know when it's time to switch the screen off, even though you're having fun.



## WATCH FOR EXCESSIVE GAMING

With no school, children often take every opportunity to fit in 'just one more go' on their favourite game – sometimes at the cost of their daily routine, or having family time. A little extra gaming is to be expected in the holidays, but it could become problematic if it evolves into a recurring habit.



## IT'S 'THE GREAT OUTDOORS' FOR A REASON

For most northern hemisphere-dwellers, this time of year is a rare opportunity to enjoy the outside world in pleasant weather. Remind your child how amazing it is to feel the sun on their back and fresh air in their lungs. Disney+ and Minecraft will still be there on drizzly Sundays in October.



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## Key Dates

### JULY 2023

<b>Sat 1</b>	Year 6 Sleep Out finishes (8am)
<b>Mon 3</b>	Pre-Prep Celebration (PAA; 5pm)  Lesson 6 in forms for Y3-6 (points count, etc)
<b>Tue 4</b>	Prize Giving rehearsals all morning  <b>Prep Prize Giving</b> (PAA; 5.45pm)
<b>Wed 5</b>	<b>Prep Sports Day</b> (Middlesbrough Sports Village (10am-12.30pm)  Lost property sort
<b>Thu 6</b>	Quiz Club National Final (REARRANGED; Now online; 10-11am)  <b>Nursery Celebration Assembly</b> (Studio Hall; 2pm)  Lost Property assembly
<b>Fri 7</b>	<b>Water Run</b>  End of Year assemblies  <b>End of Term; no after school care</b>  (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:

Teapot

**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](mailto:nortonhockey@hotmail.co.uk) to book

### Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
<b>3B</b>	Hugo K.	Henry F.
<b>3H</b>	Emily W.	Atticus WT.
<b>4G</b>	Dax C.	Bella M.
<b>4J</b>	Olivia T.	Stan D.
<b>4N</b>	Daisy C.	Holly B.
<b>5F</b>	Kavan S.	Harrison W.
<b>5H</b>	Maisie S.	Ollie B.
<b>5K</b>	Laurel G.	Charlie DB.
<b>6G</b>	Anjali R.	Lucy W.
<b>6H</b>	Udham C.	Tiger C.
<b>6L</b>	Harlowe B.	Beatrix A.
<b>6W</b>	Alex W.	Amelie K.