



# The Phoenix Flier

## The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 752—29th September 2023

INSIDE THIS WEEK... Year 5 visit Robinwood... Year 6 make coastal features... Harvest details...

### A message from Mr Sawyer

**W**elcome to this edition of the Phoenix Flier which gives you a glimpse of Yarm Prep School life. It is clear that our Year 5 pupils had a wonderful time at Robinwood last week. Three days of outdoor adventures and team building challenges certainly sets them up well for the year ahead. The tales of collaboration, teamwork and warm support for one another that have been shared highlight the trip as an excellent bonding opportunity which has created lasting memories. I am grateful that our pupils have these opportunities outside of the classroom as they help to foster skills which are integral to their personal development going forward. It is not only your academic ability and results that count, your capacity to appreciate and get along with others effectively matters a great deal too. It is therefore only right that as educators of the next generation we focus on honing and nurturing such skills.

It was a pleasure to see a number of families at the Stokesley Show last weekend at which we had a promotional stand. It was a successful day during which we chatted to many friends and made new acquaintances. I am sure that our forthcoming Open Morning will be another such opportunity and we look forward to welcoming prospective families along on Saturday. Do encourage your friends to come along if they are interested. Ahead of that, it is our YPSSC Oktoberfest event on Friday in the PAA Bar. Bavarian food and drink, traditional music, fancy dress and fine company. I look forward to seeing some of you there!

*Bill Sawyer*

### Head's Challenge:

Which letter is the odd one out? W, L, O, E, C, M, I, U, S.

### Photo of the Week:

Year 5 had a tremendous few days at the Robinwood Centre in Cumbria last week. They share their memories and some pictures inside this edition.





## Year 5 Robinwood

I enjoyed all the activities but my favourite was raft building because we all helped each other. When we were building we talked to each other to make sure it would float.

*Isla R.*

My favourite memory was the giant swing because it was really exiting to go to the top and encourage others to have a go.

*Rory F.*

My favourite memories of Robinwood are the giant swing, Quest, indoor caving and the parkour alien mission. I enjoyed all the encouragement and support!

*Emily Q.*

I loved all the activities because I learned new things.

*Henry S.*

I loved Robinwood because the instructors were very nice and the food was DELICIOUS! The activities were BRILLIANT too and I loved how everyone encouraged each other!

*Rosa W.*

My biggest challenge was the giant swing and the raft building and we got to encourage people too.

*Ayaana K.*

My favourite was the giant swing when I got to pull Pooh. My biggest challenge was the trapeze and I felt proud when I did it.

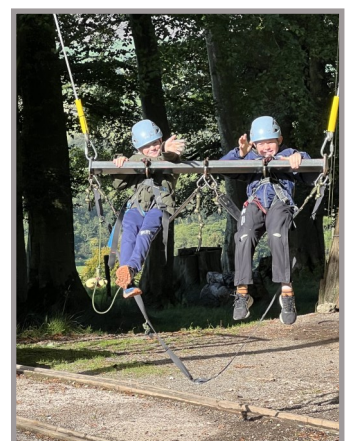
*Rory B.*

I really enjoyed the Giant swing and the Zip wire. My favourite meal was the "Robinwood breakfast" - potato waffles, sausages and bread.

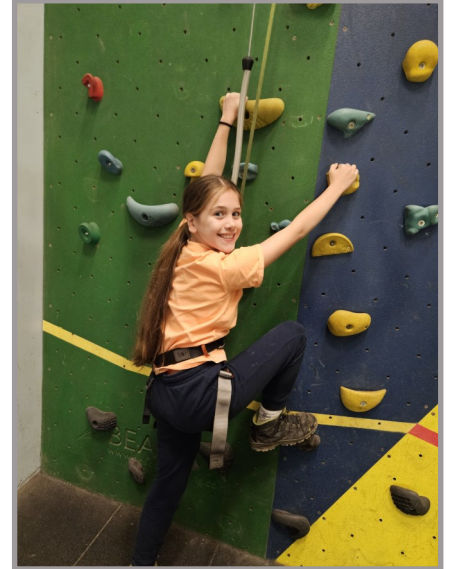
*Jack M.*

I enjoyed the Quest you had to be resilient when solving the puzzles, I loved bowling in the last bit of the Quest. I liked getting knighted at the end of the Quest too.

*Stan D.*







One of my memories of Robinwood is the indoor caving because we got to do a scavenger hunt. We had to be ambitious and responsible to go inside because it was really dark.

*Meadow E.*

I enjoyed all of the activities because I developed new skills. I was resilient and, most importantly, everyone had lots of fun!



*Imogen C.*





# PE and Games News

## U11 Rugby v St Peters

Last Friday the U11 boys welcomed St Peters School to Green Lane for the first fixture of the season. The boys showed some great defensive prowess, with crunching tackles being made as well as some great offloads in the tackle. There are plenty of learning points that we can take going forwards! Well done everyone.

Mr Simpson



## School and Club Sports links

It is great to see so many of our pupils attending local clubs and we highly recommend joining one to aid learning further.

### Hockey

**Stockton Hockey Club** - Junior training takes place Monday nights on the Yarm Sc senior astro 5.30pm-6.30pm <https://www.stocktonhockeyclub.co.uk/teams/team/11741808>

**Stokesley Girls Hockey** —This takes place on Wednesdays 5.30pm-6.30pm on the Yarm Sc senior astro 5.30pm-6.30pm <https://www.stokesleyhockeyclub.com/>

**Norton Hockey Club**—Junior training starts again on Sunday 24th Sept at Norton astro. 10.30am-12pm. <https://www.nortonhockeyclub.co.uk/>

### Netball

[The link here](#) gives you clubs in the North East, contacts, training venues and exact timings for each age group.

**Grangetown** coach Michelle runs a U8/9 training session for Yarm pupils on Thursdays 3.55pm-4.55pm at school, as well as a host of age group teams. For further info email: [grangetownnc@hotmail.com](mailto:grangetownnc@hotmail.com)

**Headlanders Netball Club** in Darlington where Mrs Jolly coaches. Contact [dheadlanders@outlook.com](mailto:dheadlanders@outlook.com) for further details re. Wednesday night training. [https://www.facebook.com/DarlingtonHeadlanders/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/DarlingtonHeadlanders/?locale=en_GB)

### Rugby

**Stockton Rugby Club** who train at Stockton CC - <https://stocktonrugby.co.uk/minis/under-11/>

**Yarm Rugby Club** - <https://yarm.rfu.club/teams>

**Darlington Mowden RFC** - <https://www.mowdenpark.com/>

**Darlington RFC** - <https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/darlingtonrfc/>

### Tennis and Squash

**Yarm Squash Club and Yarm Tennis Club**—<https://yarmsquashclub.co.uk/>, <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/yarmtennisclub>

### Cricket

**Yarm Cricket Club**—<https://yarmcc.play-cricket.com/home>

**Stockton Cricket Club**—[www.stocktoncricketclub.co.uk](http://www.stocktoncricketclub.co.uk)

**Norton Cricket Club**—<https://norton.play-cricket.com/Teams>



## PE and Games News (continued)

### U10 Clegg Cup Rugby

After a damp start at Barnard Castle the U10s played some outstanding rugby to kick start their rugby season. Our first game, against a solid Mowden side, showed promise. Our defensive work at the breakdown secured a lot of ball for Yarm to run at the opposition and score tries. It was a little tougher in our second game against St Peters, who had a couple of exceptional runners who were very difficult to bring down. After an extended break we faced DRFC who scored 2 tries before half-time. To Yarm's credit their heads could have dropped but they answered the challenge very well by scoring 4 tries to DRFC's 1 in the second half. To round off the matches we faced Durham in our final game. Quite fittingly the game ended in a draw as both teams were evenly matched. It was an impressive performance overall from the boys and special congratulations goes to Roland Morris for being awarded the player of the festival. Well done.



Mr Underwood

### Prep Bacallaureate

We have launched the Prep Bacallaureate for this year over the past few days, with your children each receiving the Prep Bacc passport to complete over the coming year. It has been great to see so many children, from Year 3 to Year 6, embracing the many tasks and projects that form the award already. Don't forget to come to the club on Tuesday lunchtimes with Mr Stone to get things signed off!



Benjamin Fulford in Year 6 has made a start to his projects by collecting foil crisp packets for the *Nite Light* charity. These, in turn, will be made into sleeping bags for homeless people. If you have any foil crisp packets (or those with foil inside them), please bring them to school where a collection point is being set up.

Mr Stone



### Holiday School Dates

**October half-term 2023:** 23rd to 27th October (5 days)

**Christmas 2023:** 18th to 21st December (4 days)

**Easter 2024:** 2nd to 5th April (4 days)

**Summer 2024:** 15th July to 2nd August (15 days)



# Year 6 Humanities

6H used modelling clay to create their own coastal features. Here, they showed the process of cliff erosion where they had to create a cave, arch, stack and stump. The children had lots of fun doing this.

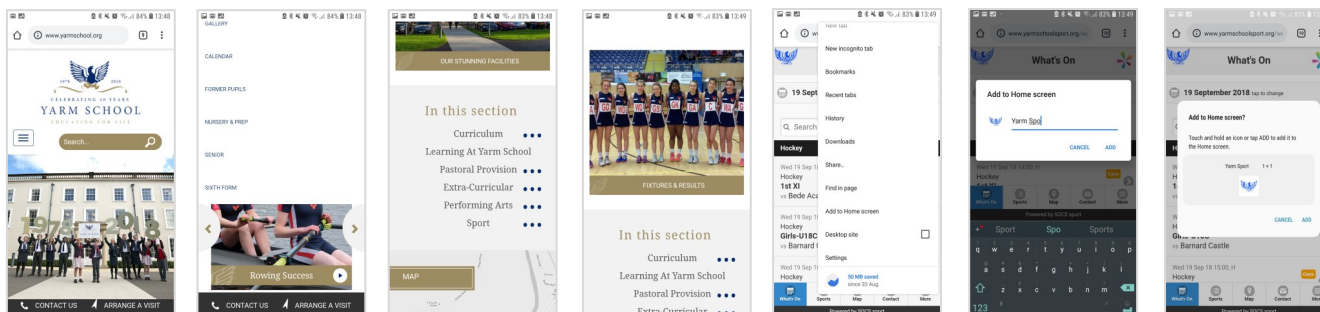
Mr Harandon



## How to set up Fixtures Pro on your Smartphone

It's how to find details of sports fixtures and team line-ups for the Prep School. It is also very easy to set up on your Apple or Android device. Please follow these instructions.

### FOR ANDROID DEVICES:



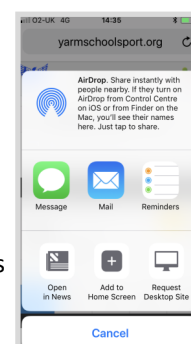
1. Access the Yarm School website via the browser on your device.
2. Click on 'Senior School' at the top of the page.
3. Click on 'Sport' which appears down the left-hand side.
4. Click on 'Fixtures and Results'.
5. In the top-right corner of the browser, click on the three dots, then click on 'Add to Home screen'.
6. Give the link a name.
7. Add to your phone home screen.

### FOR APPLE DEVICES:

Follow steps 1-4 above, then:

5) At the bottom of your phones screen drag your finger up and you have a square and arrow icon (photo left) and if you click this you can then see the icon that says 'Add to home screen'. Click this.

6) Congratulations! You are all set and on your phone screen you should see the Yarm School logo which is now your very own shortcut to team sheets etc.



## Message to Parents

The schools Capital Development Manager, Mr Alan Hodgson, would like to reassure the school community that Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) has not been used for the construction of any of its school buildings; Nursery, Pre Prep, Preparatory and Senior school sites.

## 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](#).

## Parent Handbook Reminders

**Chromebooks**—As the Chromebooks will be the responsibility of the children, they are to be taken home each day after school. They will need to charge them at home too, as well as complete any homework, as we will be unable to provide charging facilities at school. It is not the responsibility of class teachers to do this and there should be no Chromebooks on charge in classrooms.

**Appearance**—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*

## DT Requests

### Tinkershed

This week we have opened the Tinkershed. This is a 'makerspace' cabin on the playground where children can tinker, express their creativity and make whatever they would like to. In a bid to make the tinkershed as sustainable as possible, we would be grateful for donations of items throughout the school year. The remit is quite broad: Interesting packaging, old pieces of fabric, plastic bottle tops, junk modelling items, leftover bits of wool or anything that you think children would enjoy using as a building material.

The tinkershed is also a place of disassembly so any unwanted electrical items, or non-electrical items which would be interesting to dismantle, would be also gratefully received. Please remove any batteries prior to sending in though! Thank you.

### Lego and K'Nex

We are also looking to augment our stocks of Lego and K'Nex. If you have a surplus of either these at home and are willing to donate it to school, it would be appreciated and put to good use.

### D&T Curriculum - Slippers and Pencil Cases

To support textile projects in the D&T room, we would be grateful for any donations of old slippers and old pencil cases for disassembly. These can be donated at any point during the school year on a continual basis. Thank you for those donations already received.

*Mrs Smith*

## 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*

## Harvest Collection

For our Harvest Assembly this year, we are collecting for a local charity, Sprouts. Sprouts is a charity based on Teesside set up to educate and help local people and community groups with food. We look forward to welcoming the Sprouts team into our assemblies on Friday 6th October, to hear more about how our donations will help others around the local area.

We would be grateful if your child could bring one or two tinned and/or long-life items in the lead up to the assemblies please. Tables will be set up in the Pre-Prep foyer and the Prep Calm Area to receive these collections. **Items can be brought in any time between now and Friday 6th October.** Many thanks in advance for your support.

*Mrs Kirk*





# Hello from the YPSSC

*(Yarm Prep School Social Committee)*

The YPSSC is made up and run by parent volunteers, like a PTA, our function is to provide a social network for the whole school community and raise funds for the children and local charities.



We are using Classlist!! An amazing app that keeps all events and info in one simple app. Get the app to never miss an event



**Dates for the diary – tickets available via Classlist**  
**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September** *New Families Welcome Event*  
**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September** *Oktoberfest @ PAA*  
**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November** *Winter Ball*

## Coffee mornings

*A chance to relax and meet other parents and catch up with what events are coming up*

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 9-11am

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 9-11am

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 9-11am

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 9-11am

## Drinks evening

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 7.30-9.30pm

**@ The Keys, 65 High Street Yarm  
TS15 9BH**

## Class reps

Each class has a parent rep who is a great 'go to'. Your class rep can be found on the Classlist app.

## PreLoved Uniform

As an Eco School we are very keen on preloved uniform and have a good and varied stock.

Just drop us a message on the app and we'll see what we have.

Donations are ALWAYS welcome- we can find homes for clean items in good condition



## Tooled Up Education

With the term well underway, our programme of webinars for you has plenty to offer. Explore our diverse series of webinars below, and follow the links to register.

October 4, 2023 - 10:30 BST

### [The Story of Afro Hair – Book Discussion with Kandace Chimbiri and Professor Damien Page](#)

Join Kandace Chimbiri and Professor Damien Page as they discuss Kandace's book 'The Story of Afro Hair, 5,000 Years of History, Fashion and Styles', which details the fascinating 5,000-year history of Afro hair. This webinar will be of interest to anyone wishing to learn more about Black history and how to celebrate children's individuality and identity.

November 14, 2023 - 19:00 GMT

### [Intercultural Couple Relationships with Dr Reenee Singh](#)

Intercultural, interracial and interfaith couples are on the rise all over the world. In this webinar, we'll look at what the latest research tells us about intercultural relationships, the discussion around them, and a few practical tools and techniques which both teachers and intercultural parents will be able to adopt.

November 21, 2023 - 19:30 GMT

### [Understanding Girls with Dr Tara Porter](#)

Clinical psychologist and author Dr Tara Porter explores why girls are struggling with their mental health so much at present and the potential underlying causes. In our webinar, she will discuss factors which may contribute to girls' suffering, and provide parents with ideas for supporting their daughters.

December 5, 2023 - 19:30 GMT

### [An Insight into Auditory Processing Disorder \(APD\) with Kate King](#)

Difficulty in processing what we hear can have a significant impact on learning, daily living and social interaction. APD can be hard to identify, sharing traits with both ASD and ADHD. In this webinar, Kate King explains what parents and teachers might observe and provides practical strategies to support learners.

December 7, 2023 - 19:00 GMT

### [Mistakes and Mattering with Dr Kathy Weston](#)

Join Dr Kathy Weston as she talks about the importance of normalising mistakes in family life to reduce academic anxiety, and allow children an optimal chance of doing well in school. She looks at current research in this area and the practical ideas it offers to parents.

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!

As a parent at a Tooled Up school, you have full unlimited access to the Tooled Up library. If you have not created your account yet, click [here to register for an account](#). It takes less than 2 minutes to enter your details and unique school PIN: YPS1103 and if you need assistance, we are always happy to help at [support@tooledupeducation.com](mailto:support@tooledupeducation.com). If you already have an account and you have forgotten your password, click on any of the resource links above, click 'Lost your password' and follow the instructions.

# TOOLED UP®

BECAUSE EVIDENCE MATTERS



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.

# Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

## PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

## ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

## AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

## DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

18  
CENSORED

## FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

## ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

## TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

## BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

## Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upcombe 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.



Source: <https://hipol.app/about/privacy.html>

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# Coming Up

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

## SEPTEMBER 2023

Sat 30 Open Morning (9am-12noon)

## OCTOBER 2023

**Tue 3** Curiosity Emporium (1pm; Library)  
Year 3 Walk to Yarm

**Wed 4** Schools U11 Hockey and Rugby Tournaments  
(at GSAL, Leeds; 11am start, 4pm return)

**Thu 5** National Poetry Day  
Y3/4 Poetry Competition

**Fri 6** Y5/6 Poetry Competition  
Harvest assemblies  
U10/11 Hockey v Cundall Manor  
(away; 2pm start, 4.15pm return)  
U10 Rugby v Ashville  
(away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)  
U11 Rugby v Ashville  
(home; 2pm start)

**Sat 7** Teesside Team Chess Championship  
(Prep School; 9.30am-2.30pm)

**Wed 11** Food Council (1pm; Lab)  
Autumn Informal Concert (4pm; Prep Hall)

**Thu 12** Reception trip to Ormesby Hall

# 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

# Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3H	Rosie L.	Violet P.
3J	Zoyaa S.	Eliza S.
3P	Hinako Y.	Arian L.
4F	Emily W.	Freddie B.
4J	Annabelle A.	Jude C.
4S	Ziad S.	Hugo K.
5G	At Robinwood	At Robinwood
5H	At Robinwood	At Robinwood
5K	At Robinwood	At Robinwood
6H	Heidi K.	Kavan S.
6L	Wahaj M.	Trisha K.
6W	Harry H.	Miles P.

Pupils Return	(after school) Monday 3rd June 2024
Finish	Thursday 4th July 2024 At 12 noon (after school; no after school care)

## Autumn Term 2024

Preparation Day	Tuesday, 27th August 2024 Wednesday, 28th August 2024
All pupils return	Thursday, 29th August 2024
Half term begins	Friday, 18th October 2024 (after school)
Pupils return	Monday, 4th November 2024
Term ends	Friday, 13th December 2024 (after school; no after school care)

## Spring Term 2025

Pupils return	Monday, 6th January 2025
Half term begins	Thursday, 20th February 2025 (after school)
INSET Day Friday	21st February 2025
Pupils return Monday	3rd March 2025
Term ends Friday	4th April 2025 (after school)

## Summer Term, 2025

Pupils return	Wednesday, 23rd April 2025
Bank Holiday	Monday, 5th May 2025
Half term begins	Thursday, 22nd May 2025 (after school)
Pupils return	Monday, 2nd June 2025
Term ends	Thursday, 3rd July 2025
(after Prize Giving)	