



The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 753—Friday 6th October 2023

INSIDE THIS WEEK... Year 3 walk to Yarm... PE and Games latest... Curiosity Emporium...

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to this edition of the Phoenix Flier which hits your inbox as the term continues to whizz by and our pupils are flying high! Across every subject, pursuit, discipline, club and activity it is possible to see our pupils really throwing themselves into things with a positive, ambitious, mindset. If you don't give things a go, you will never know what an experience can offer, so promoting a culture where participation and involvement is nurtured for all remains a really important aspect of life here at Yarm Prep. In instances where you overcome a fear of the unknown, the result is growth and a bank of resilience that can be called upon when opportunity knocks at your door in the future. Whether it is performing in the poetry competition, being a guide during Open Morning, taking to the stage for a musical rendition, playing in a fixture or doing battle over the chessboard, taking a leap of faith is much easier in an enabling environment. Therefore we will always work hard to ensure that Yarm Prep offers high levels of encouragement and empowerment for all.

Our new build project continues to move forward and gather pace. The building is about to have mains power connected which will allow for a series of tests and commissioning to take place. Painting, decorating and final finishes are already being applied in some areas too! We are tantalisingly close and are looking forward to seeing how the next few weeks go. To see the progress of the build to date click on this [link](#) to watch a timelapse video of the project.

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge:

Who is silent in parliament?



Photo of the Week:

Year 3 walked down into Yarm this week as part of their humanities studies. Comment and pictures inside!

Year 3 Walk to Yarm

On Wednesday, the children in Year 3 went on a walk along Yarm High Street. This was linked with our humanities topic based on our local area.

The children observed many features of a thriving high street and completed an observation drawing of Yarm bridge.

Here are some of the children's highlights:

"I loved feeling the old stones on the church."
Edie T.

"I liked seeing the flood defences." *Ned F.*

"I enjoyed sketching Yarm bridge." *Lucia RM.*

"We saw a very old church that we may go to when we finish Senior School." *Harris K.*

'We saw a church and the oldest house in Yarm which was built in Elizabethan times.' *Noah S.*

'Did you know that the Town Hall was built in 1710? We noticed that there was a marker on its side measuring how high the floods were in the past.' *Edie T.*

Mrs Harandon



PE and Games News

Under 9 Rugby

The U9 boys travelled to Dame Allan's to play their first ever contact fixture. All of the boys took on this challenge with gusto. Everyone carried the ball well and took on the task of defending and tackling with resilience. I hope the boys can take this experience into future fixtures! Well done all!

Mr Simpson

Under 11 Hockey

On Friday 29th September, Yarm U11's B team played hockey against Ashville. I think it was a good game and Ashville played well despite the score (5-0 to Yarm). We could work on being a bit more spaced out so we have someone to pass to, but overall I think it was a good game and most importantly fun.

Rebecca N.

Under 10 Rugby

Last Friday all of the U10 boys took part in a fixture against Dame Allan's School. Everyone showed great skill in both attack and defence. They boys continue to work on moving the ball wide when in possession I, as well as working as a flat line in defence. This lead to a number of well worked tries and strong tackles. Well done everyone!

Mr Simpson

Girl's Round-Up

We have had a busy couple of weeks and are now at the point when EVERY girl in school has played a School hockey fixture. The Under 8s travelled to Queen Mary's 2 weeks ago, the Under 9s also travelled away to Dame Allan's in Newcastle and played some 5 a side games and thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon.

Harriet said 'We had a lot of fun and met new people'. Scarlett added 'I liked playing the 5 a side games and learnt a lot'.

The U10 played Ashville at home after their residential the week before. Sophia noted that her team scored three goals with both Manha and Daisy on the scoresheet and she was pleased that the team played in lots of positions and rotations during the match. Holly's passing was excellent and Alia was chosen as Player of the Match for her game and was a great leader on the pitch. Isla said 'It was great to play our first fixture' and praised Olivia for scoring the equaliser for her team. Ayaana agreed that the communication was good and Martha said 'It was great to have mummy on the sidelines today'. Rosa added 'I loved the encouragement from the sidelines from the supporters and teachers.'

The Under 11s, following their successful matches against Durham the week before, showed real improvements both in front of goal against Ashville and



PE and Games News (continued)

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

Headlanders Netball Club in Darlington where Mrs Jolly coaches. Contact dheadlanders@outlook.com for further details re. Wednesday night training. 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

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

in their passing during this latest match.

Zara said 'It was a great afternoon of sport'. Trisha loved the fact that the set play from games on Tuesday was seen with Heidi driving down the right to the baseline and pulling the ball back for Kaira to finish. Alice noted that her team spaced out more this week and deserved their 2-2 all draw.

Ellie liked the fact that there was lots of support on the sidelines once again. Yasmeen noted that Lolwa was voted Player of the Match for her team and scored a hat trick in a thrilling 5-0 win. Olivia G also scored a couple to add to a great win after their goalless draw the week before.

Well done to every girl who has worn the shirt with pride and tried so hard for their team. It has been a great couple of weeks.

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney

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)

Curiosity Emporium

On Tuesday lunchtime we welcomed James Waive, a former Prep School pupil and now in Upper Sixth, to our Curiosity Emporium session. His presentation was entitled 'Every Photo has a Story' and the Prep School children were able to compare and discuss why photos could be interpreted in many ways depending on the viewer. Two photos alongside each other made to look separate were actually just one shot and contrasted two very different buildings. There was lots of discussion and some brilliant questions and observations from the pupils.

Thank you very much to James for taking the time to share his presentation and making the session so enjoyable. We wish him all the best with his university applications to study general engineering.

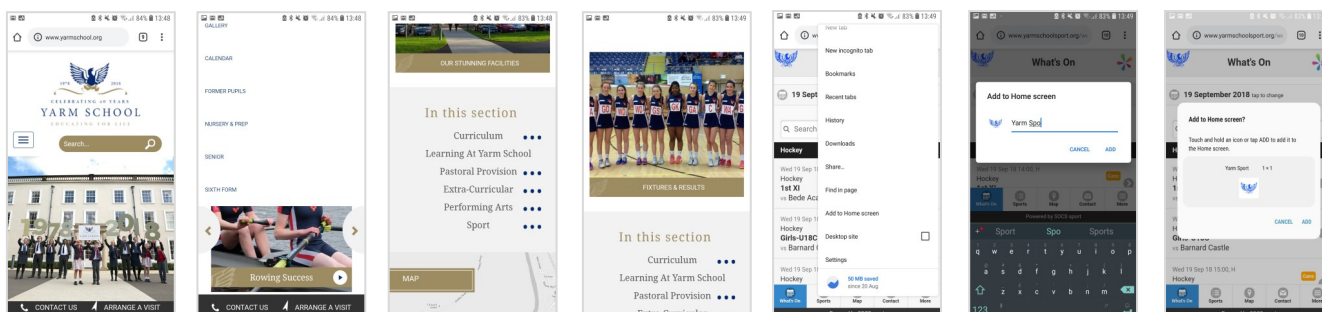
Mrs Lofthouse-Hill



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:



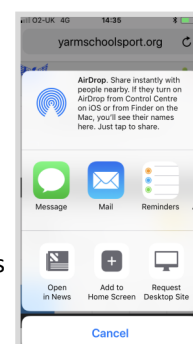
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| 1. Access the Yarm School website via the browser on your device. | 2. Click on 'Senior School' at the top of the page. | 3. Click on 'Sport' which appears down the left-hand side. | 4. Click on 'Fixtures and Results'. | 5. In the top-right corner 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. |
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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

Languages

3H were showing how we use our faces to communicate in WoLloW this week.

Mrs Arrol



Prep Baccalaureate

We have launched the Prep Baccalaureate 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

Harvest Collection

Thank you for all of the items donated towards our Harvest collection over the past week. We handed the goods over to Sprouts in assembly today, who were extremely grateful.



On a related note, Mary Magdalene Church on West Street, Yarm are having a service for the Harvest Festival on Sunday 8th October and are also raising money for Sprouts. The service is from 10.30am on Sunday 8th October and is followed by a bring and share lunch and raffle. Any donated food items will be going to Sprouts Food Charity and raffle profits are going to Zoe's Place Hospice.



YPSSC
PreLoved Uniform



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

Boys & Girls Blazers
Coats & Cagoules
Hats
Summer uniform
Winter Uniform
Games Kit Items
PE kit Items

From Nursery through to Year 6.

Prices start from £1!

If you are looking to add to your uniform wardrobe or simply want a few spares, visit our website www.yppssc.co.uk or scan the QR code below to complete a stock check/order form.

All clean and reusable donations of outgrown uniform are welcome too- just bag them up and either pass them on to a committee member or drop them off at Prep reception.



Thank you!



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 8th September *New Families Welcome Event*
Friday 29th September *Oktoberfest @ PAA*
Saturday 25th November *Winter Ball*

Coffee mornings

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

Thursday 21st September 9-11am

Thursday 12th October 9-11am

Wednesday 15th November 9-11am

Monday 11th December 9-11am

Drinks evening

Thursday 12th 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

This week at Tooled Up, we're thinking about connection, reflecting on and maintaining the healthy and supportive relationships that make families work. Whatever the age of your child, our resources can support you in maintaining such a connection to your children.

Having an open conversation about *how you are doing as a family unit can help democratise family life, encourage openness, reflection, action and deepen connections.*

Family Audit Activities

Our audit activities for families with [younger children](#) and with [older children](#) provide a helpful and supportive framework for reflecting what is working well in our family lives, and what can be improved.

[Let's Connect Activity](#)

This activity for children and parents encourages a conversation about the different connections we make every day, and how to make our interactions richer and more meaningful.

[Connecting With Our Children Whilst Living High Stress Lifestyles](#)

In this webinar, we talk to psychiatrist and parent coach, Dr Gauri Seth, about how we can sustain emotionally deep and meaningful connections with our children whilst living very busy, stressful lives!

[Separation Anxiety In Pre-Adolescent Children](#)

Is your child struggling to say goodbye to you? Is this point of 'disconnect' causing distress? Psychological wellbeing practitioner Chloe Chessell suggests techniques parents can use to reduce and manage separation anxiety.

[Staying Connected With A Child At Boarding School](#)

In this webinar, we are encouraged to consider ways that parents can sustain connection if children are non-residential during the week or over term-time.

Have you or your child experienced estrangement? One in four adults will experience this in their lifetime. This previous edition of [Wednesday Wisdom](#) contains some interesting research on family estrangement by Dr Lucy Blake and other tips for connecting to nature and the outdoors.

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!

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, click on any of the resource links above, click "Lost your password" and follow the instructions.

Dr Kathy Weston

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 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.

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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](#)

OCTOBER 2023

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 Yarm U9 Invitational Rugby and Hockey (School site; 11.30am start; 3pm finish)
Fri 13	U10/11 Hockey v Queen Mary's (2pm start)
Mon 16	Y3 Activities Carousel 2 begins (Arkwright/Brunel still swimming) Parents' Evening (4-6pm) No clubs run by form teachers after school
Tue 17	Parents' Evening (4-6pm) No clubs run by form teachers after school U8 Hockey/Rugby Workshop with Dame Allan's (away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)

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)

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)

Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3H	India B.	Edward G.
3J	Darcie M.	Annabelle L.
3P	Jayden G.	Myla GB.
4F	Emma W.	Austin O.
4J	Isla L.	Felix M.
4S	Zac S.	Ted H.
5G	Jack A.	Emily B.
5H	Angus F.	Fliss W.
5K	Evelyn C.	Dax C.
6H	Ella L.	Alex P.
6L	Lolwa S.	Ronav G.
6W	Francesca F.	Violet F.

Head Teacher Awards: Nael S. (Y3); Rory B., Jenson C., Amaya S., Ayaana K., Cooper W. (Y5); Olivia G., Francesca F., George P. (Y6).