



# The Phoenix Flier

## The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 754—Friday 13th October 2023

### INSIDE THIS WEEK...

## A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to the Phoenix Flier, which offers you a window into life at the Prep School. I write this newsletter having had the pleasure of attending our first Informal Concert for the year and our annual U9 Hockey and Rugby festivals in the last couple of days. The opportunity to be part of such events was seized upon by our pupils and they were well supported by many parents and families. There was an obvious atmosphere of playing to win and aiming high – a key part of our School Values which is part of the ambitious root of the values tree. Participation is of course vital and is afforded to as many pupils as possible across their time in the Prep School, but we believe taking part should also involve having a competitive attitude. We want our pupils to aim for success in every arena they enter and to carry this forward into their future lives. We aspire to teach our girls and boys to be humble in victory and embrace the deep learning that a loss or setback offers too. We call it *flearning*. Do ask your child what they understand this to mean.

We are excited to hold our parent consultations next week to share how the year has started for your children. These meetings are a vital part of our home school partnership, so I hope that you find them useful. I look forward to seeing those parents who are coming into school next week and those who plan to attend our first curriculum event of the academic year after half-term which is our Maths at Yarm information evening. More details can be found inside.

*Bill Sawyer*

### Head's Challenge:

Can you turn 100 into 200 using just one line?  
100



**Photo of the Week:** 26 teams from a wide range of local schools came to the annual Yarm Team Chess Championships last weekend. It was the home teams who came out on top though.

You are warmly invited to a

# *Maths at Yarm Preparatory School*

Information Event for Year 2 - 6 Parents

Wednesday 8th November 2023, 4 – 4.45pm

Prep School Hall

- ✓ Counting/Number
- ✓ Written calculations
- ✓ Fluency
- ✓ Maths Apps
- ✓ Supporting at home



- ✓ R-Y6 Overview
- ✓ KIRFS
- ✓ Times Table Facts
- ✓ Resources
- ✓ Parent Workshops



*How does the school teach calculations?*  
*Why is fluency so important?*  
*How can I support my child at home?*  
*What websites can I use at home?*

To allow us to plan and cater for the event, please can you fill in the Google Form below by **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November**, indicating whether you will be attending.

<https://forms.gle/MWzkhLmR7uxaTPxC7>

*Yarm Preparatory School, Grammar School Lane, Yarm TS15 9ES*

*Telephone: 01642 781447*



# Yarm Team Chess Championship

Our annual team tournament is one of the longest-running chess events in the world and we were delighted to welcome a bumper crop of teams to this year's event.

Last year, we had 12 teams of four players; this time, we had 26!

This led to a very tough competition in both sections and our 40 plus players from Yarm Prep School had to work extremely hard against not only the best Yarm teams, but also against teams from all four boroughs of Teesside.

Ultimately, Yarm A (Dara, Paari, Scarlett and Hugo) proved to be a shade stronger than their rivals and they became champions of the Under-9 section.

Yarm B (Harrison Gurney, Austin, Freddie Bonner and Freddie Wilson) finished in second place, just half a point behind the champions.

Yarm A (Miles, Lolwa, Kaira and Henry) also won the Under-11 section, ahead of Yarm C (Eric, Kavan, Manha and Fathe), who finished in a very impressive second place.

Yarm D (Haashir, Phoenix, Harrison Covell and Samuel) was another team on great form and they forced their way into third place, ahead of the chasing pack.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the event such a great success.

For more information on this tournament and CSC in Teesside please use the hyperlinks below.

<https://cscteesside.blogspot.com/2023/10/28th-yarm-team-chess-championships.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/CSCTeesside/>

Mr Marsh





## PE and Games News

### Under 11 Schools' Rugby Tournament

The recent tournament was a great challenge for all of the players, and it was great to see that the dedication and hard work that we have shown in games lessons pay off. Most of the players didn't feel extremely confident at the start, but with some perseverance from their teammates, they soon got stuck in. Everyone did their very best to help the team succeed, and after a full day of rugby, it felt amazing to lift the trophy and get a round applause from the spectators. The last thing I want to say is thank you Mr Underwood and Mrs Hart for taking us and being so supportive.

*Rex W.*



### Under 10 Rugby v Ashville

Last Friday the U10 boys travelled to Ashville College in Harrogate. The two games that were played gave all of the children the opportunity to continue to develop in the areas of the game that have been identified over the past few weeks. Both games were competitive with us having the edge in attack! Well done everyone!

*Mr Simpson*



### Under 11 Schools' Hockey Tournament

The U11 girls travelled to GSAL (Leeds) for the annual Hockey tournament and were very excited on route. With 9 schools entered into the 'A' tournament we knew it would be a long day and no easy games.

The girls started well drawing 0-0 with GSAL (who eventually went on to win the whole thing) and straight after had the same result with St Peters. Lowla was excellent in goal, and the girls worked hard creating a short corner but were unable to score. In the 3rd game we played the runners up Pocklington who beat us 0-1 and they really took the game to us and we soaked up a lot of pressure.

As the games came thick and fast we drew again 0-0 with Dame Allan's and lost 0-2 to Barnard Castle in what was our poorest





## 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](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>

performance. The girls lost shape and allowed Barney too much time on the ball.

After a debrief we had 3 games left and the girls actually began to play with belief and were much more positive. A super entertaining 1-1 with Hymers (Heidi scoring) followed another 0-0, this time with RGS and we dominated that game but struggled to find the back of the net.

In our final game of the long day we ran out 2-0 winners v Hill House from Doncaster (Heidi and Kaira scoring) and played some fantastic up-tempo hockey showing real quality in both our passing and shape on the pitch.

It was great to finish so positively and the girls should be proud of their efforts during the day.

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney



#### 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.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 off at a Prep reception.



Thank you!



# Poetry Competitions

As the hall fell silent in anticipation, the children in the Prep School were entertained by the quality of choice and delivery in this year's poetry competition. It was a pleasure to see so many children enjoying the performance of poetry and delivering a range of styles in both competitions.

On Thursday, the children in Years 3 and 4 amazed the judges with humour in the form of 'Teacher's Prayer' by Alan Ahlberg, to the sinister and mysterious delivery of Shakespeare's 'Song of the Witches'.



The competition continued on Friday, opening with a gory and murderous poem, 'The Lesson' by Roger McCough. This signalled the quality of the poems and performances to follow.

Every performance created some in depth deliberation from our judges, but an overall year group prize was presented to four performers who delivered with mastery of concept and excellent technique; huge congratulations to Zoyaa Soni in Year 3, Amelie Tailor in Year 4, Cooper Willis in Year 5 and Emily Woolnough in Year 6.

Well done to all involved as well as the following Form winners:

Hannah Mhando - 3H

Edward Williams - £J

Karunya Garg - 3P

Emily Williamson - 4F

Bertie Hercock - 4J

Elizabeth Hedges - 4S

Stan Dugdale - 5G

Rosa Williams - 5H

Rory Brearey - 5K

Joint winners, Florence Athey and Thea Speight - 6H

Kaira Nalawade - 6L

Vedh Arcot - 6W

Mr Pengilley



## 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)



## 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

## 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.



## How far Can Wollow go?

If you are off on your travels during the half term holidays please pack your Wollow the hippo bookmark. It would be brilliant if you could send a photograph of



you holding the bookmark while you are on holiday. Let's see how far Wollow the hippo can travel by the end of the year. Could you learn how to say hello in the local language too? We can't wait to see where Wollow the hippo goes.

Mrs Arrol will be sending a Wollow bookmark home with every child prior to the half-term. Any photos taken on your travels can be sent to Mrs Arrol: [aar@yarmschool.org](mailto:aar@yarmschool.org).

## Yarm Fair Week

### Yarm Fair: 19th - 21st October 2023

During the week commencing Monday, 16th October, traffic around Yarm will face some disruption as the Fair comes to town. Whilst a very popular local event, it is a shame that the dates of the Fair coincide with term time rather than our half-term holiday, as is normally the case, and certain aspects of school life will be impacted as a result. We therefore ask you to please ensure that you and your children understand the details shared below.

- The Fair itself takes place on 19th, 20th and 21st October. As a result, the A67 Yarm High Street will be closed as follows:
  - Tuesday, 17th October 6.00pm - 11.00pm
  - Thursday, 19th October 5.45pm - 10.45pm
  - Friday, 20th October 5.45pm - 10.45pm
  - Saturday, 21st October - 11.30am - midnight
- Please note that when the High Street is closed, traffic is permitted to go around the Fair via West Road, but this is often very slow and congested, so please plan for heavier traffic than usual.
- On Tuesday-Friday that week, all clubs will run as normal. However, we ask that you make every effort to collect your child on time.
- After School Care will run as normal but we ask that parents collect their children by 5.45pm at the latest.
- Parents' Evening consultations booked to take place in



school on Tuesday-Wednesday will go ahead as planned, but please allow additional time to travel to school.

- Thursday Squash club will carry on as normal, but please can parents endeavour to collect from the Squash Club just before 5pm. Any children not collected will go into after school care at the Pre-Prep, but please note the slightly earlier finishing time.
- The main school gates will be closed by 6.00pm. On Thursday and Friday.

Mr Stone

## Coming Up at the PAA

### Halloween

**Spooktacular** (click on the link for tickets)

**Monday 30th October**  
**2.30pm and 6.30pm**

Join Tommy The Ghostbuster and all the gang as they embark on another spooktastic adventure this Halloween! Will everything turn out okay in the end? Will the party go ahead? Will everyone live spookily ever after? Find out by booking your tickets today! Fancy dress encouraged!



### The Lightbulb Princess

**Friday 3rd November 2pm**

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

**Sunday 5th November**  
**12pm and 3.30pm**

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?



## Music Assemblies

Throughout this week we have hosted a series of music assemblies where our peripatetic teachers demonstrated a wide range of instruments, from the piano to the harp via the flute.



If, following on from this assembly, your child has expressed an interest in learning any of the instruments explored, [please fill in this form and Mr Gooding will get back to you.](#)

Mr Gooding



**FUN AND FREE HALF TERM HALLOWEEN CAMPS**

**GRANGETOWN NETBALL**

**Friday 3rd November**  
**Y5 & Y6 9-12pm**  
**Y7 & Y8 1-4pm**

**Email: [grangetownnc@hotmail.com](mailto:grangetownnc@hotmail.com) to book your FREE place!**

Grangetown Youth and Community Centre, TS6 7HP

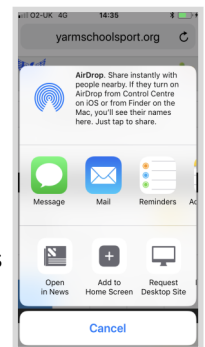


It's how to find details of sports fixtures and team line-ups for the Prep School. It is also very easy to set up on your Apple or Android device. Please follow these instructions.

- |   |   |  |                                     |   |                          |                                   |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 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. |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|

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.



**ARTWORK SHEET TO BE RETURNED**



## Artwork Sheet








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
Child's Name:



Child's Last Name:




My Teacher / I give teacher to write in this child's name in BLOCK CAPITALS

































































































































































Some ideas and examples of children's drawings to inspire you!

-  Crackers
-  Stockings
-  Christmas Jumpers
-  Stained Glass Windows
-  Penguins

-  Snowman
-  Christmas Scenes
-  Baubles
-  Angels
-  Elves

-  Hands & Footprints
-  Wreaths
-  Christmas Trees
-  Reindeers

For best printed results we recommend full coverage designs that use bright / bold felt-tip pens.

- ✓ Bold colours
- ✓ Felt-tip pens
- ✓ Poster paint

- Don't Use...**
- ✗ Light colours
  - ✗ Pencils
  - ✗ Crayons
  - ✗ Metallic pens
  - ✗ Glitter
  - ✗ Collage

YPSSC





# 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.

[ypssc@yarmschool.org](mailto:ypssc@yarmschool.org)



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

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November** Christmas Market

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November** Winter Ball- Tickets on Classlist

## Coffee mornings

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

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 9-11am

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 9-11am

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 9-11am

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 9-11am

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 9-11am

## Drinks evening

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

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 7-10pm

**@ 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.

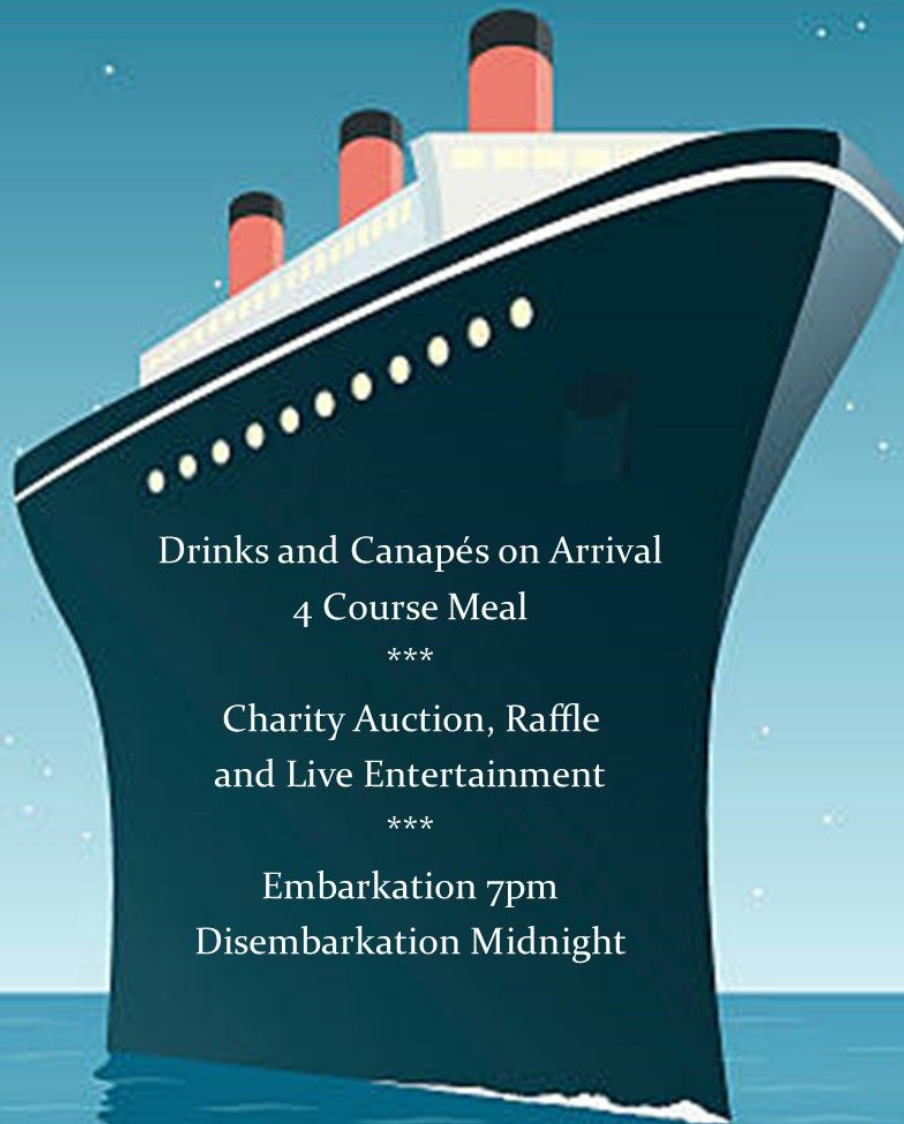
## PreLoved Uniform

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

You are cordially invited to attend the YPSSC Charity Event

# The Captain's Ball

In aid of Neoangels



Drinks and Canapés on Arrival  
4 Course Meal

\*\*\*

Charity Auction, Raffle  
and Live Entertainment

\*\*\*

Embarkation 7pm  
Disembarkation Midnight

Saturday 25th November

Princess  
Alexandra Auditorium

Early Bird Tickets £75

Tickets available via  
Classlist Now

[Click here to buy tickets on Classlist.](#)

[In aid of Neoangels.](#)



## Tooled Up Education

In recognition of 'World Mental Health Day' yesterday and the highly disturbing events that have featured in the news this week, we have created opportunities for you to get your questions answered. Our specialists are experts in children's mental health, adolescence and trauma.

October 15, 2023 - 16:00 BST

### [Making Sense of Traumatic Events in the World](#)

Parents are invited to hear one of the nation's expert child psychiatrists, Dr Dennis Ougrin, on the theme of how to talk to and support children as they witness traumatic events.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

November 2, 2023 - 20:15 GMT

### [Dr Kathy Weston & Dr Anna Conway Morris, Live Q&A with a Consultant Psychiatrist](#)

Got a burning question for a psychiatrist who specialises in adolescent mental health? Join us for this live chat, where parents can ask anything live or submit questions anonymously on the night.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

**Interested in neurodiversity?** We have fresh webinars in the library and live events coming up. In recognition of dyspraxia awareness week last week, we have added a new [webinar](#) to our platform. If you are interested in learning from the world's experts on ADHD, don't forget to register for our day-long, online [event](#) on the 10th November.

Take solace in [art](#), [poetry](#) and [music](#). With all its troubles and strife, it is still a beautiful world. Enjoy webinars on the pleasure of [art](#), read through our booklist on [poetry](#) or listen to our recent podcast on [music](#) and its impact on children and young people's development.

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?

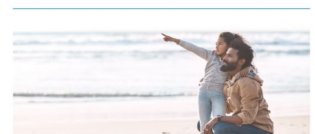
We always value your feedback and want to ensure that we are giving you the resources that you need. Email us at [research@tooledupeducation.com](mailto:research@tooledupeducation.com) to let us know how we are doing!

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.

*Dr Kathy Weston*



Music and Young People's Development



Making Sense of Traumatic Events in the World



Understanding Developmental Coordination Disorder (Dyspraxia)

# 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 games 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.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMONG US

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 60 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as *The Traitors*, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

### VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

### CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

### GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord: a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

### IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grislier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

### CHAT ABOUT CHATTING

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

### DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

### AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

### STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including ION and TechRadar.



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# Coming Up

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

## OCTOBER 2023

Mon 16	Y3 Activities Carousel 2 begins (Arkwright/Brunel still swimming) <b>Parents’ Evening (4-6pm)</b> <b>No clubs run by form teachers after school</b>
Tue 17	<b>Parents’ Evening (4-6pm)</b> <b>No clubs run by form teachers after school</b> U8 Hockey/Rugby Workshop with Dame Allan’s (away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)
Thu 19	Pre-Prep Halloween Discos (2-3.30pm) U9 Rugby v NSB (home; 2pm start)
Fri 20	<b>Half-Term begins</b> (after school) After School Care running as usual
Mon 23	October Half-Term Holiday School (until Friday 27th October)

## NOVEMBER 2023

Mon 6	<b>Pupils return</b>
Tue 7	U8 Hockey/Rugby workshops with Cundall (away; 1.45pm start, 4pm return)
Wed 8	Maths Information Afternoon (Prep Hall; 4pm) School Council (Lab; 1pm)
Thu 9	Schools Cross-Country (Barlborough Hall; 2pm start, 5.30pm return)
Fri 10	Remembrance Assembly

# Term Dates

## Autumn Term 2023

Finish	Friday, 15th December 2023 (after school; no after school care)
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## 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 (after Prize Giving)	Thursday, 3rd July 2025

# Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3H	George B.	Hannah M.
3J	Nael S.	Ahaana C.
3P	Karunya G,	Harris K.
4F	Atticus WT.	Shanvi P.
4J	Scarlett Y.	Harriet A.
4S	Dara J	Aditi K.
5G	Isla R.	Meadow E.
5H	Alice W.	Bella M.
5K	William G.	Kaiden G.
6H	Rex W.	Rebecca N.
6L	Amelia C.	Brian F.
6W	Anwita D.	Alice S.

## Head Teacher Awards:

Violet P. (Y3); Amelia C., Laurel G. (Y6)