



The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 756—Friday 10th November 2023

INSIDE THIS WEEK... October Holiday School... Where's Wollow?... Upcoming events...

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to this week's edition of the Phoenix Flier. The school community has returned full of vim and vigour after the half term break. It certainly seems that the holidays have been well enjoyed. Whether restful or adventure filled, a break from the school routine has clearly served us well. It is delightful to see that our WoLLoW bookmarks travelled widely and those who attended our Holiday School had lots of fun. Without missing a beat we have been straight back into the action of term time in the last few days with School Council meetings, parents information events, Early Years roadshows and the new build edging ever closer to completion. It is great to be back; we are 'buckled up' and looking forward to all that is ahead of us in the next few weeks.

We fell silent at 11am today as part of our annual Remembrance service. The sight of hundreds of children in the playground standing with heads bowed, motionless in thought and prayer is very moving indeed and in stark contrast to the hustle and bustle experienced during a regular school day. Our act of Remembrance was enhanced by an excellent assembly from Major Robson and Cameron Edgar who played the bagpipes to open and close proceedings. Stopping to reflect on the peace we enjoy, which has come at the cost of the ultimate sacrifice of so many, will always be an integral part of our school calendar. Lest we forget.

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge:

I have three eyes in a straight line. One of my eyes makes you freeze. What am I?

Photo of the Week:

Autumn is definitely here as Mrs Smith's picture shows!



October Holiday School

On Wednesday 25th October, the children who were attending Holiday School visited the Baltic Centre. The day began with a workshop during which the task was to create a mythical creature by drawing a variety of body parts using felt tips. Having cut these out, the children then 'traded' their body parts with one another to merge together different styles of drawing to make their final creature. Following this activity, the children used clay to sculpt a newly invented beast.

There were some stunning creations and having packed these away, it was time to explore. The first floor we visited contained video games from the past but nevertheless, the children enjoyed investigating games more familiar to Mr Grundmann than anything they had ever encountered! One of the most interesting floors of this gallery is the 'Waiting Gardens Of The North' which was designed by Michael Rakowitz. This is a sensory experience in many ways with herbs hanging to dry and a community space for sharing meals.



Perhaps the most thought provoking parts

of this amazing gallery are the handwritten messages from refugees who have contributed to the creation of this tranquil, fragrant and beautiful space for all to enjoy. The children as always were respectful and enjoyed a few moments of quiet reflection time before a walk across the Gateshead Millennium Bridge and the return journey to school.

Mrs Jones



How far did Wollow go?

Wollow certainly had a great half term. Here are just a few of the many places he travelled to. Can you work out any of the places he visited?

Mrs Arrol



Holiday School Dates

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)

PE and Games News

Under 11 Hockey v Queen Mary's

Before half-term, we played a fun but competitive game of hockey with Queen Mary's School. The sun was shining as though wishing us luck. I got my first opportunity to be captain of our hockey team.

Our attackers and midfielders did an amazing and scored stunning goals. Kaira and Heidi scored two each while Ella scored one which led us with a total of five. Our defenders (Georgie, Thea and I) and goalkeeper (Zara) did an equally good job in not letting any goals in. Emily, Amelia, Sylvia and Yasmeen were also a great asset to the team assisting in defence and scoring goals.

We ended the incredible afternoon with some delicious cookies the kind dinner ladies prepared for us. Our opponents gave an equally tough fight proving they were a worthy opposition.

Overall, it was a delightful experience playing Queen Marys and I hope we get to play them again soon.

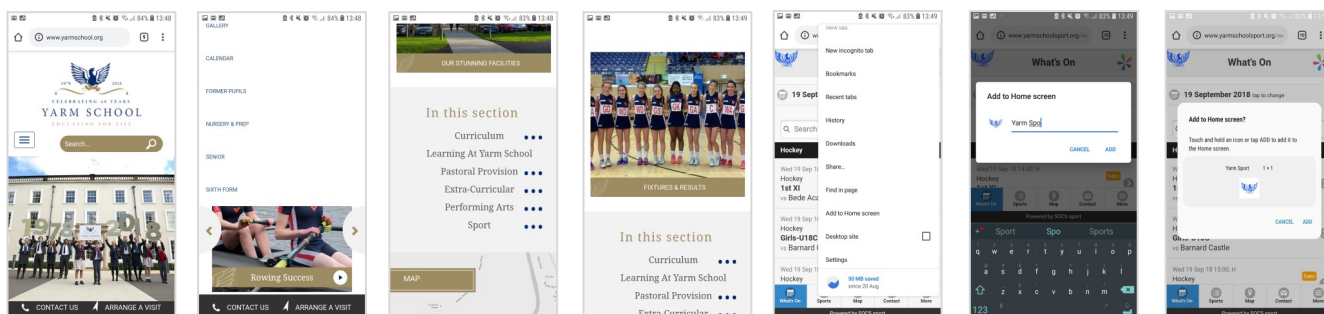
Trisha K.



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:



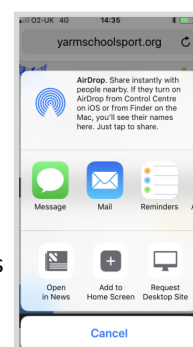
- | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Access the Yarm School website via the browser on your device. | 2. Click on 'Senior School' at the top of the page. | 3. Click on 'Sport' which appears down the 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.



Music Lessons

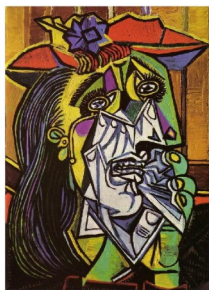
If your child is in Years 3-6 and is interested in taking part in individual peripatetic music lessons, [please fill in this form and Mr Gooding will get back to you.](#)

Christmas Art Competition

Christmas Art Competition

Design and create a TURKEY using the style of your favourite famous artist!

Here is an example...



Your entry can be created using any medium - the more original the better. It can be sculpture, collage, painting... anything goes!

Deadline: Monday 4th December 2023

Please bring entries to Mrs Shepherd

Diwali Celebrations

Monday 13th November

We will be celebrating Diwali this coming Monday across the school, with special assemblies in the Prep and Pre-Prep and a special lunch. We will also be sharing tea lights and traditional Indian sweets with the children, thanks to support from the YPSSC.

Pupils who usually celebrate the festival are welcome to come to school in traditional dress on this day.

All other pupils are welcome to wear a colourful item of clothing along with their usual school uniform.

We will make arrangements for those children who are coming to school in traditional dress, who have PE/Games on the same day, to get changed during the day.

Mr Stone

Stephenson Charity Day

Thursday 16th November The Charity Stephenson are supporting this year is Hartlepool Baby Bank (<https://hartlepoolbabybank.co.uk/>). It is an excellent cause who are carrying out sterling work to support families with young children in the Hartlepool area.

On the day we are asking children to wear one item of clothing only in the colour of their house (not football shirts). This can be interpreted as you wish (e.g. wearing socks to match house colour). We ask that children bring in a £1 donation for this.

In addition to the above the Year 6 Stephensonians will be running various stalls during morning break including a penalty shoot-out and guessing the name of the teddy. These events will cost 50p a go, so we ask that children bring in a maximum of £3 to participate in these events.

Mr Simpson

Coming Up at the PAA

[Andre Rieu's White Christmas](#)

Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd December, 3pm

For many, Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year.

This year it will come early with André Rieu's cinema special White Christmas—a celebration you will never forget.



From the first jingled bell, you will be immersed in the incomparable Christmas atmosphere of André's winter wonderland.

[ROH Live - The Nutcracker](#)

Tuesday 12th December, 7.15pm and Sunday 17th December, 2pm

Join Clara at a delightful



Christmas Eve party that becomes a magical adventure once everyone else is tucked up in bed.

Marvel at the brilliance of Tchaikovsky's score, as Clara and her enchanted Nutcracker fight the Mouse King and visit the Sugar Plum Fairy in the glittering Kingdom of Sweets.

Cinderella Panto

From Thursday 14th
December - Sunday
24th December -
Various times.

*** Limited tickets
for some shows. ***



Don't miss the most magical pantomime of them all CINDERELLA. Starring Benidorm singing sensation Asa Elliott as Prince Charming, Yarm regular Tom Rolfe as Buttons and a full supporting cast for the PAA's biggest festive family panto ever, cram packed with all the usual fun and chaos with one or two surprises thrown in for good measure!

Year 5 Community Spirit

Stephenson have been busy this week in their Community Spirit activity creating chalk Rangoli patterns to celebrate Diwali.

Mrs Hart



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



Yarm
Preparatory
School

Home

Little Wandle

Start of Academic Year
Parent Information Events

Curriculum Booklets

English

Mathematics

Homework Menus

Use of IT in the curriculum

PSHE/RSE



Parent Curriculum Information Site

Welcome to the Yarm Preparatory School Parent Curriculum Information Site.

The aim of the site is to provide you with the key curriculum information for each step of your child's journey through school. Additionally, there are links to resources and guidance for supporting your child at home.

Please pass on any requests for additional information to your child's Form Teacher or email Mrs Pawluk and Mrs Speight. The site will be regularly updated.

jp@yarm-school.org js@yarm-school.org

Please click the images below to take you to each curriculum page or use the menu tab.

<https://bit.ly/yarmcurriculum>

Click here to access the Parent Curriculum
Information Site

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Tooled Up Education

Learning to notice, name and manage our emotions is an important part of growing up. Over the years in Tooled Up, by examining available research and talking to experts, we have learned that how we talk about emotions in family life matters. By modelling our language and behaviour to children, we equip them for life. We need coping strategies, as do our children, for navigating the ups and downs of everyday experiences.

We have so much content on emotional literacy within Tooled Up that we have summarised our resources in one [easy guide](#). Our [mood thermometer](#) can be used directly with children to ignite conversations around different moods, and our [coping menu](#) is a brilliant toolkit of strategies that the whole family can lean into.

Tooled Up hosts a wealth of material to support you in dealing with more extreme emotions. If you want to hear more about supporting children's anger, tune in to our [webinar](#) with clinician Dr Anna Colton. If you have younger children, relish advice on [meltdowns](#) from expert Kerry Murphy. If you feel that your teen is suffering from low moods and you are concerned, listen to what [Professor Shirley Reynolds](#) has to say on what differentiates low mood from teenage depression.

Did you know that sleep is a window into mental health? Increasingly, research indicates that poor quality sleep can impact children's mood, learning, concentration in school and ability to regulate emotions. [Explore](#) our wide range of sleep resources, and perhaps this weekend try out our [sleep audit](#) with your children and see which changes can be made for the better!

When your family wakes up, read through our [breakfast resource](#) to learn more about just how much this early morning meal matters for the day ahead and can also influence how our children cope with daily pressures and emotional challenges.

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



[Advice on Meltdowns](#)



[Guide to Emotional Literacy](#)

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert: potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/jun/14/online-safety-consultant-claire-sutherland> | <http://www.nos.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/>



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Coming Up

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

NOVEMBER 2023

Mon 13	Diwali Celebrations <i>Children to come in traditional dress</i> Anti-Bullying Week
Tue 14	Schools Chess (QEGS Wakefield; 10am start, 5.30pm return) World Diabetes Day assembly U8 Hockey and Rugby with Ashville (away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)
Wed 15	Autumn Informal Concert (4pm; Prep Hall) Y3 trip to Captain Cook Museum
Thu 16	Stephenson Charity Day U9 Rugby v DCSF (home; 2pm start)
Fri 17	U10 Hockey v Barnard Castle (away; 2.15pm start, 4.30pm return) U10 Rugby v Barnard Castle (home; 2pm start) U11 Hockey and Rugby v Barnard Castle (home; 2.15pm start)
Sat 18	Senior School Christmas Fair (PAA; 10am-4pm)
Mon 20	Activities Carousel 2 begins for Y4-6
Tue 21	Year 4 Oriental Museum Workshop Curiosity Emporium (Library; 1pm) U8 Rugby v Cundall Manor (home; 2pm start)

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

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)

Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3H	Felicity T.	Lucia RM.
3J	Joshua A.	Edward W.
3P	Lucy D.	Daniel S.
4F	Edith G.	Robert W.
4J	Ailee W.	Freddie W.
4S	Azlan U.	Hugo P.
5G	Roland M.	Rory F.
5H	Manha A.	Charlie M.
5K	Dax C.	Ayaana K.
6H	Georgie W.	Ahmad I.
6L	Yasmeen S.	Kaira N.
6W	Laurel G.	Florence P.