



The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 757—Friday 17th November 2023

INSIDE THIS WEEK... Schools Chess... Year 3 visit Captain Cook Museum... Activities latest ...

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to the weekly round up of life at the Prep School, digested and curated into a range of articles and write ups in the form of the Phoenix Flier. On Wednesday, we relished the occasion of our second informal concert of the term in the Prep Hall, offering a number of performers the platform to showcase their progress and collaborate with fellow musicians. Possessing the confidence to play, speak, perform, or compete in front of an audience is a crucial life skill. Each such experience demands meticulous physical practice and mental preparation. The actual performance, irrespective of the arena, necessitates adaptability, composure, and giving one's utmost effort. Regardless of the outcome, be it anticipated or unforeseen, exposure of this nature aids in cultivating resilience and instils in children the belief that they can make a success of opportunities that come their way. Many thanks to Mr Gooding and our VMT's who helped to prepare the children so well and to all the staff who ensured the event ran smoothly.

Anti-Bullying Week has taken place across the UK this week, providing us with a valuable opportunity for introspection on the nature of bullying and appropriate responses. I extend my gratitude to the staff who have taken the lead in conducting lessons and assemblies addressing this topic. Instances of various forms of bullying are evident in broader society within organisations and many institutions. Consequently, every school must address this issue proactively, equipping each child with the tools to recognise and address bullying. I encourage you to explore the links to Dr. Kathy Weston's resources on Tooled Up and ask your child how to be an upstander in a situation in which someone's behaviour is having a negative impact on others.

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge:

Spring blossom opened, lit up. (5 letters)

Photo of the Week:

A tremendous performance from our Under 9 chess team in the Schools Championships at QEGS this week. You can read Mr Marsh's in-depth report inside this edition.



Schools Chess Championships

Our three chess teams had a good time competing in the Schools Chess Championships (formerly *HMC Championships*), held at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School (on the birthday of King Charles III).

With 14 Under-9 teams and 20 Under-11 teams, it was the largest schools chess event to date.

Our Under-11 A team (Miles Page, Lolwa Soliman, Kaira Nalawade and Henry Stanley) found the day to be tough going and they never really hit top form. They won three, drew one and lost two of their matches, with captain Miles finishing as the team's top scorer with four wins from six games. The Under-11 B team (Eric Pinedo Fuentes, Kavan Sidhu, Manha Abdullah and Fathe Chahal) surprised themselves by finishing in a meritorious fifth place (ahead of the A team), with only three RGS teams and one QEGS team ahead of them.

Manha was on particularly good form, winning four, drawing one and losing just one of her games, to become the top scorer of all our Under-11 players.

The stars of the show on this occasion were our Under-9 team (Dara Jafari, Paari Muthukrishnan, Scarlett Yang and Austin Oman) who won five of their six matches and lost only once - to the eventual winners, RGS A. After losing to the champions, they chased them all way but just couldn't quite make up the gap, although it wasn't for the want of trying; their extraordinary run of three consecutive 4-0 victories in the second half of the tournament showed how powerful our youngest stars have become. Captain Dara led by example, with five wins and one draw - one of the top scores in the whole event.

Mr Marsh



Year 3 Visit Captain Cook Museum

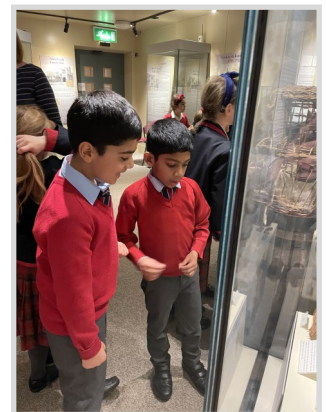
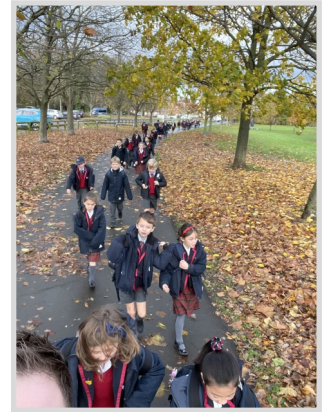
As part of our history topic this half term, Year 3 visited this fascinating museum in Stewart Park, Marton. Having been dropped off by the bus, we walked up to the museum.

On the way, we looked at the world map which shows Captain Cook's three voyages to distant lands. The day consisted of an activity workshop where the children dressed up in period costumes, wrote with feather quills and created some Aboriginal art.

The rest of the day was spent in the museum looking at the many wonderful artefacts and finding out about the life of James Cook from his humble beginnings in Great Ayton to his famous voyages. It was also a day when the children discovered what life was like on an 18th Century ship including the dreaded ship's biscuits!

Well done to Year 3 for behaving respectfully, listening carefully and learning so many new facts about Captain Cook.

Mrs Jones



Year 3 Science

Year 3 are investigating the best material to make cycling wear from for use in winter.

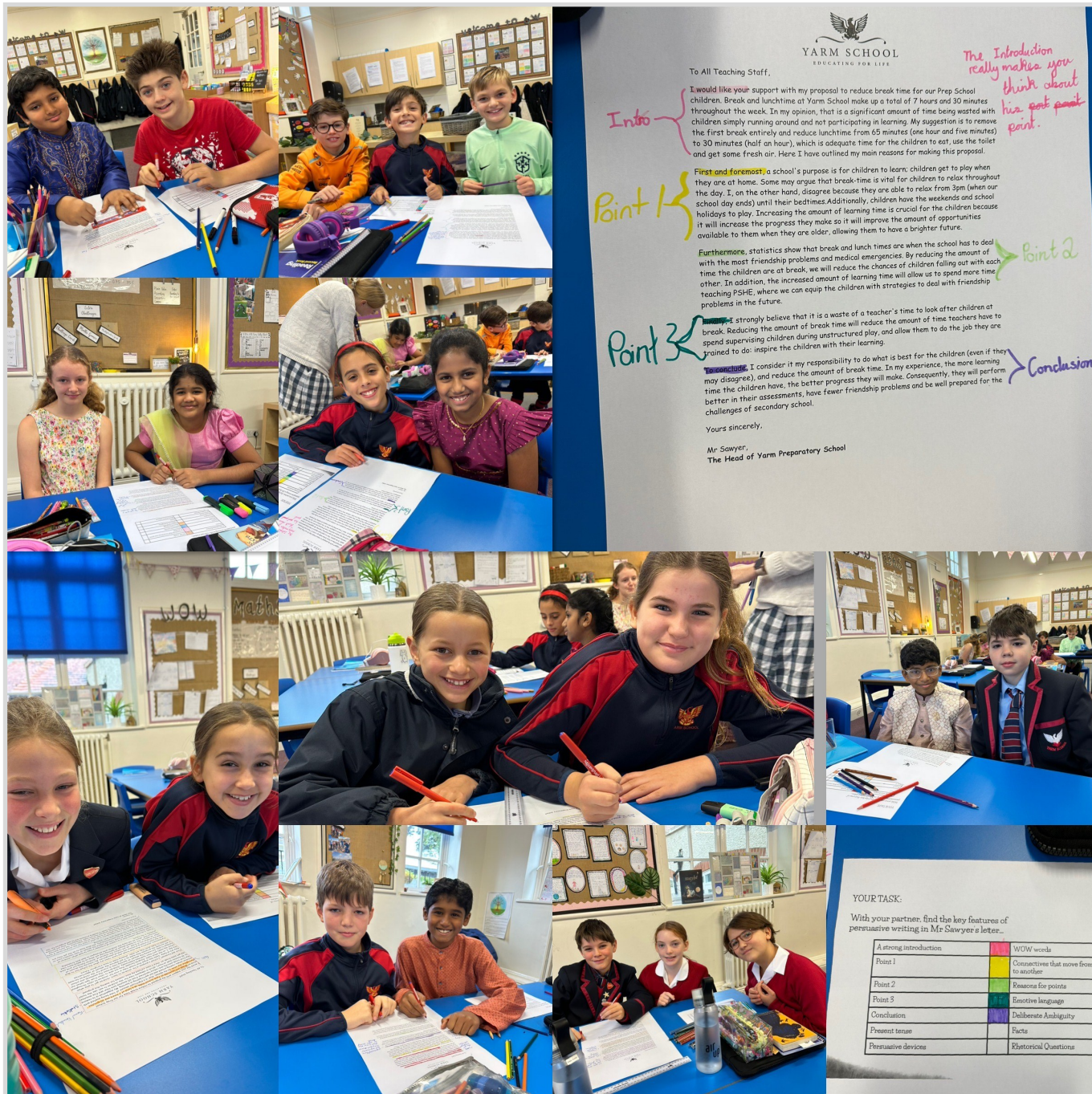
Mr Pengilley



Year 6 Persuasive Writing

Year 6 have been looking at persuasive writing in English this week.

Miss Whitehouse



The collage features several photos of Year 6 students in their classroom, engaged in persuasive writing. Some students are shown writing at their desks, while others are smiling for the camera. A large image of a persuasive letter is also included, with handwritten annotations in pink and green ink. The letter is addressed to 'All Teaching Staff' and is signed 'Mr Sawyer, The Head of Yarm Preparatory School'.

Intro

To All Teaching Staff,

I would like your support with my proposal to reduce break time for our Prep School children. Break and lunchtime at Yarm School make up a total of 7 hours and 30 minutes throughout the week. In my opinion, that is a significant amount of time being wasted with children simply running around and not participating in learning. My suggestion is to remove the first break entirely and reduce lunchtime from 65 minutes (one hour and five minutes) to 30 minutes (half an hour), which is adequate time for the children to eat, use the toilet and get some fresh air. Here I have outlined my main reasons for making this proposal.

Point 1

First and foremost, a school's purpose is for children to learn; children get to play when they are at home. Some may argue that break-time is vital for children to relax throughout the day. I, on the other hand, disagree because they are able to relax from 3pm (when our school day ends) until their bedtimes. Additionally, children have the weekends and school holidays to play. Increasing the amount of learning time is crucial for the children because it will increase the progress they make so it will improve the amount of opportunities available to them when they are older, allowing them to have a brighter future.

Point 2

Furthermore, statistics show that break and lunch times are when the school has to deal with the most friendship problems and medical emergencies. By reducing the amount of time the children are at break, we will reduce the chances of children falling out with each other. In addition, the increased amount of learning time will allow us to spend more time teaching PSHE, where we can equip the children with strategies to deal with friendship problems in the future.

Point 3

I strongly believe that it is a waste of a teacher's time to look after children at break. Reducing the amount of break time will reduce the amount of time teachers have to spend supervising children during unstructured play, and allow them to do the job they are trained to do: inspire the children with their learning.

Conclusion

To conclude, I consider it my responsibility to do what is best for the children (even if they may disagree), and reduce the amount of break time. In my experience, the more learning time the children have, the better progress they will make. Consequently, they will perform better in their assessments, have fewer friendship problems and be well prepared for the challenges of secondary school.

Yours sincerely,
Mr Sawyer,
The Head of Yarm Preparatory School

YOUR TASK:

With your partner, find the key features of persuasive writing in Mr Sawyer's letter...

A strong introduction	WOW words
Point 1	Connectives that move from one to another
Point 2	Reasons for points
Point 3	Emotive language
Conclusion	Deliberate Ambiguity
Present tense	Facts
Persuasive devices	Rhetorical Questions

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)

PREP AND PRE-PREP DRAMA CLUBS—IMPORTANT

Please note that there will be **no after school drama or yoga/meditation clubs** for Prep and Pre-Prep children on Thursday 23rd or Friday 24th November. If you would like your child to go into after school instead on either of these dates, please contact Mrs Banham or Mrs White.

PE and Games News

Under 9 Rugby v Newcastle School for Boys

After inspecting the waterlogged fields at Green Lane I was relieved when NSB offered to host us at Northern Rugby Club and allow the boys to play. Although the pitch was a little heavy in places, the boys played exceptionally well.



Over the course of the term we have worked on our passing and tackling and both aspects are progressing significantly, which is a credit to them all. Well done to all involved.

Mr Underwood

Under 11 Hockey v Pocklington

Last Friday, 45 U11 girls played Pocklington at hockey. Everyone had a great time and played some superb games. It was hugely enjoyable with lots of skills shown and excellent passing from both teams. But the cherry on the cake was the Disney singing and dancing on the party minibus back to school, with the sunset as disco lights!



Rebecca N.

Under 10/11 Hockey v Pocklington

It was great to take 45 girls to Pocklington last Friday from Years 5 and 6. Pocklington put together a lovely festival type afternoon where the three teams of U10s played three matches in total and the three U11 teams played four games.



Despite the long journey the girls were in good spirits and really enjoyed the afternoon of hockey. This week all of the girls in years 5 and 6 play Barnard Castle. Again, it is super to be able to include all despite the opposition not being able to match us in numbers of the girls.

Under 8 Hockey with Ashville

On Tuesday this week the U8 girls travelled away to Ashville, Harrogate. A beautiful rainbow greeted us in our arrival and Ashville out on a super warm up before the games started. Our U8's are progressing well and I have been impressed with their efforts thus far.

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney





YARM SCHOOL

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

Rudolph Rodeo
Children's Games,
Santas's Grotto!



Craft Stalls,
Gift Ideas,
Food & Drink

Yarm School Association

CHRISTMAS INDOOR MARKET

Saturday 18th November 2023

10am - 4pm, Yarm School

Adults £4, Children Free - Pay on the Door

Music Lessons

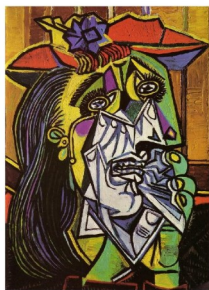
If your child is in Years 3-6 and is interested in taking part in individual peripatetic music lessons, [please fill in this form and Mr Gooding will get back to you.](#)

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

Year 6 Brunel Enterprise

Year 6 Brunel finished their Enterprise carousel activity this week, culminating in producing and marketing their own sweet treats!

Mr Grundmann



Year 5 Telford Publishers

Year 5 Publishers have been working hard to write and publish their own story books for Pre Prep this term. They had a lovely time sharing their stories with Reception this week and receiving great reviews from their audience. Lots of thumbs up and smiles all round!

Mrs Kirk



Coming Up at the PAA

Snooker Greats – Clash of the Titans

Monday 18th February, 7.30pm—Meet and greet tickets are available



Join Jimmy White, Steve Davis and Dennis Taylor, as they recreate the matches that saw them rise to the top of their profession. Snooker legend Dennis Taylor, winner of the famous 1985 World Championship Black Ball Final, is your host and referee for the evening. A night not to be missed! There will also be a Q&A, providing you with the opportunity to pose the questions you always wanted to ask.

Off the Field and into the Jungle with Mike Tindall MBE

Tuesday 20th February, 7.45pm—Meet and Greet tickets are available



Join us for what promises to be a fantastic evening with the ex-England Rugby Union and World Cup winning legend, Mike Tindall MBE.

There is no topic off limits with Mike and we look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be an outstanding evening.

Ukrainian National Opera - Carmen

Wednesday 21st
February, 7:30pm

After last season's premiere in the UK, we are delighted to bring back Dnipro Opera theatre from the Ukraine. This opera and ballet theatre has a long-standing heritage of top-quality opera productions, and we are excited to bring it back to the UK in our 2024 Opera Season.

Carmen tells the story of the downfall of Don José, a naïve soldier who falls head over heels in love with Carmen, a seductive, free-spirited femme fatale. The infatuated Don José abandons his childhood sweetheart and neglects his military duties, only to lose the fickle Carmen to the glamorous toreador Escamillo.

The PAA also offers gift vouchers, which is a great way of letting them choose what they want to see.

Tempest Special Offer

*****Special Christmas offer: £5.00 off a Print in a tube (available until the 1st December)*****

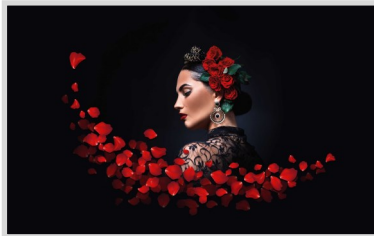
This is a reminder that your whole school group photograph taken earlier in the year is still available to view and order via the Tempest Ordering website. A weblink is supplied below which will take you directly to your photograph and allow you to browse the products available and place an order should you wish.

<https://http.st/160361-370WSG>

If your order is intended as a Christmas gift, we recommend placing your order before 1st December to give the best chance of receiving your photograph/s back in time.

Remembrance

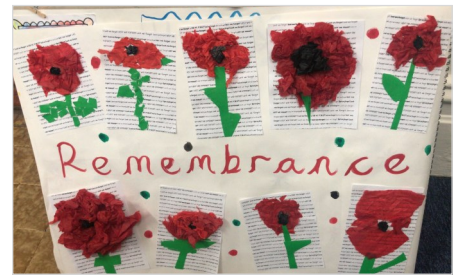
Last Friday we came together on the playground as part of our act of Remembrance for this year. The still and silent minutes spent in the cold breeze gave us all the opportunity to give thanks for the brave souls who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. It was an important mark of respect for us as a School and one that is always observed appropriately by the pupils and staff. Our grateful thanks go to Major Robson who joined us to



deliver assembly on the day and to Cameron who played the bagpipes at the service.

Mr Sawyer

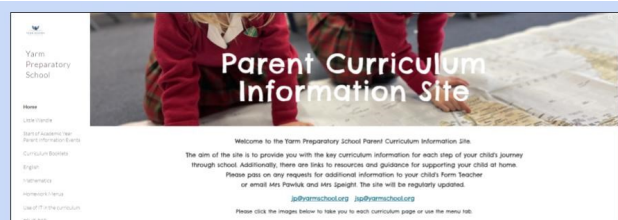
The Year 3 children enjoyed a creative task as part of their work on



Remembrance 2023. Using tissue paper, they each designed and made a poppy. The children learned about the contributions made by people from around the world both from the past and the present. Major Robson led the Friday Assembly and afterwards all members of the School Community shared two minutes of silence on a crisp, autumnal morning.

Mrs Jones

Gingerbread Competition



<https://bit.ly/yarmcurriculum>

Click here to access the Parent Curriculum Information Site

Tooled Up Education

With many schools marking Anti-Bullying Week and World Kindness Day, your children will be talking through themes at school and are likely to come home full of ideas and questions. How can Toolled Up help support the great conversations that have been going on in schools? What does research tell us about how to cultivate altruism in children, and what impact this can have on the people around them and their own sense of self?

Professor Robin Banarjee from the University of Sussex is an expert on research into kindness. In our [podcast](#) he talks with Dr Weston about the impact that observing and performing acts of kindness can have on children. Kindness gives children a sense of agency, the belief that they can impact the world around them, and a belief that the world is a hopeful and benevolent place.

Our [kindness passport](#) is a great resource to use with younger children. It encourages children to notice all the kind things that they do for others. When they do something kind, they take this book to their teacher (or a family member) to get it stamped. We've included plenty of ideas for them to try, but there's also lots of space for them to write down their own kind acts that we haven't thought of.

If you are raising older teens, consider using our [conversation starters](#) to kick off a good family discussion around values. As a family, how do we treat others? What is our motto? What do we consider to be 'unacceptable' behaviour? What is bullying behaviour? And how can we ensure we don't feel tempted to participate in it at school, at work or in personal relationships?

There are two versions of our downloadable activity on treating others kindly, one for [younger children](#) and one for [teenagers](#).

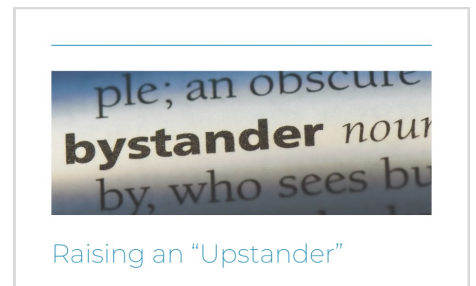
It is important our children are encouraged to stand up for others and to gently challenge poor treatment when they see it. How can we raise upstanders? Here are a few [tips](#) for you to consider.

The Toolled 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 Toolled Up school, you have full unlimited access to the Toolled 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



12 Social Media Online Safety Tips FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

With Christmas only a few weeks away, many of you will be using social media to share your excitement with friends and family. Being active on social media is a great way to show others how much fun you're having, but it's important that you know how to use these apps safely and securely so that bad things don't happen. By following our safety tips below, you can make sure that your personal information stays private, your postings are positive and that your social media use overall is responsible, healthy and most of all enjoyable.

1 DON'T ACCEPT FRIEND REQUESTS FROM STRANGERS

Make sure that you set your profile to private so that people you don't know can't find you online. Always tell a trusted adult if a stranger or somebody you don't know sends you a message or a friend request.

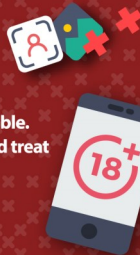


2 NEVER SHARE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION WITH PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW

Keep your personal information personal. Sometime people online aren't always who they say they are and might ask you to share things that you don't feel comfortable sharing.

3 DON'T SHARE EMBARRASSING PHOTOS OR VIDEOS OF OTHERS ONLINE

This could really upset them and could get you into a lot of trouble. Always think twice before posting anything on social media and treat people online as you would in real-life.



4 NEVER SEND NAKED PICTURES OF YOURSELF TO OTHERS

This is illegal if you are under 18 and you could get into trouble with the Police. If you are being pressured by someone, always say no and tell a trusted adult. Even if you think it is innocent fun, the photo could be shared with other people and you won't be able to control who else sees it.

5 CREATE A POSITIVE ONLINE REPUTATION

Always be kind and polite when posting comments on social media and only upload pictures and videos of things you are proud of. This forms part of your digital footprint. Everything you do online can be tracked and monitored and could affect what people think of you in real-life if it is negative.



6 LIMIT YOUR SCREEN TIME

Social media can be addictive, and it is easy to keep checking newsfeeds or your notifications every 5 minutes which can affect your behaviour and stop you from doing other things. Remember to only use your phone at certain times of the day, turn notifications off at bedtime and go out and have as fun as much as possible. This will keep you fit and healthy and make you appreciate there's more to life than just what's on social media.



7 BLOCK ONLINE BULLIES

Sometimes people might say nasty things to you online or post offensive comments on your pictures or videos. If this happens, always tell a trusted adult who will help you block them from your profile and support you in taking further action.



8 REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

If you see something on social media that you don't like, offends you or upsets you, you should always report it to a trusted adult. You should also report it to the social media app who will be able to remove the content if it is against their user policy and can block the person who posted it.



9 ONLY USE APPS WHICH YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO USE

Before downloading any new social media app, always check the age-rating. If you need help, ask your parent or carer to make sure that the app is safe for you to use and never download anything which you are too young for as it may contain content that isn't safe for you to see.



10 ALWAYS SECURE ALL YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILES WITH A PASSWORD

This will help to keep your private information safe and won't allow others to access your profiles without your permission. Make sure your passwords are memorable and personal to you but something which other people can't guess, and always share them with your parents just in case you forget them.



11 ASK PARENTS TO SET-UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS' FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

When you download a social media app, you should always ask a trusted adult to help you set it up for the first time. This will help you control who sees what you post, who can contact you and make sure you are able to enjoy using the app safely and securely.



12 ALWAYS TALK TO YOUR TRUSTED ADULT IF SOCIAL MEDIA IS MAKING YOU UNHAPPY

Sometimes, social media can make us feel bad about ourselves or sad that we aren't the same as someone else or doing the same things as someone else. Remember, if you ever feel this way, it's really important to talk to your trusted adult(s) like your parents, carers, other adult family members or a teacher, all of whom will be able to support you and discuss your feelings with you to help make you feel better.



Coming Up

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

NOVEMBER 2023

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) POSTPONED
Wed 22	Year 6 Senior School Taster Afternoon (3-6.30pm)
Thu 23	No drama or yoga clubs after school U9 Hockey v Durham (away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)
Fri 24	No drama or yoga clubs after school Hearing Dogs assembly Mass Participation Sports (Senior School; 11am-3pm)
Sat 25	Prep Christmas Ball (PAA; 7pm-Midnight)
Mon 26	ABRSM examinations week
Tue 27	U8 Rugby and Hockey with St Peter's (home; 2pm start)
Wed 28	Pre-Prep Nativity (PAA; 5.30pm 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 (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	Aaron Y.	Baher S.
3J	Zaviyar R.	Faye A.
3P	Theodore C.	Navaeh MT.
4F	Ralph E.	Harrison G.
4J	Gonzalo V.	Isla L.
4S	Georgie D-B.	Azlan U.
5G	Sandy O.	James B.
5H	Emily Q.	Jack M.
5K	Sophia B.	Kaiden G.
6H	Ellie A.	Florence A.
6L	William L.	Maisie S.
6W	Eric PF.	Ettie A.

Head Teacher Awards:

Year 3: Ahaana C.
Year 4: Amelie T., Freddie W., Harriet P., Emily W., Emma W.
Year 6: Tallulah M., Yasmeen S.