

The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 759—Friday 1st December 2023

INSIDE THIS WEEK...

A message from Mr Sawyer

elcome to this week's edition of the Phoenix Flier! As we move into the final few weeks of term it is certainly starting to feel festive around school with carols being sung, Christmas trees going up and even a dusting of snow! On Wednesday evening the Pre-Prep nativity kicked off a run of performances across the school community, the girls and boys were in fine voice and filled the PAA with Christmas spirit. It was a truly wonderful event! This week has also seen the launch of our Christmas charity campaign which we are committing to as a whole school community. We are working with the CAUSE Foundation to make hampers for those in need in the Middlesbrough area. The founder of the charity, Pat McBride, joined us for an assembly to explain about their work. We were moved to hear that the charity supports those families who do not have beds to sleep in, are suffering a short term crisis or cannot afford to have a special meal at Christmas. Pat explained what we can do to make a difference for a family this Christmas. Over the next few weeks each form will work together to generate a hamper for a family that Pat has chosen. We hope through your support we will be able to ensure that we send some wonderful hampers out into the community with gifts and festive treats for a family to enjoy over the Christmas period. Thank you in advance for your help.

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge:

What man cannot live inside a house?

Photo of the Week:

Pat McBride from the CAUSE Foundation joined us for assembly on Monday.



Senior School Taster Event

I really enjoyed the event and found the activities really fun and interesting. I am excited to go to the Senior School next year. *Ettie A*.

I really enjoyed outdoor education and chemistry because putting up the tent was really satisfying and the experiments in chemistry were cool to do and watch. *Joey P.*

I really enjoyed ALL the activities with putting the tent up then chugging down a lovely warm hot chocolate the best. I also enjoyed making the jewellery/pencil case boxes and decorating them. And last but not least, the chemistry was AMAZING. I loved how we had the privilege to do experiments too! *Laurel G*.

I enjoyed the outdoor education we put up tents. The chemistry was really fun because we made fire and gases.

I also liked the pencil case making because we got to keep it! *Dylan M.*

I enjoyed the chemistry and drinking hot chocolate in outdoor ed. Burning Jelly Babies is funnier than it looks. *Kavan S.*

I really enjoyed the day especially science (chemistry) when we got to see Mr Stone and Mr Harandon's hands get set on fire! I also thoroughly enjoyed Outdoor Education; the hot chocolate was very tasty. *Rebecca N.*

I really enjoyed D.T as we made a cool pencil case out of wood! I also enjoyed chemistry as experimenting with different gases was really fun! I am really looking forward to participating in all of the immersive activities and getting to know everyone! *Emily W.*





























Year 4 Trip to Durham Oriental Museum

Year 4 visited the Durham Oriental Museum last week. The trip linked to our work on the Egyptians. We got to see and learn about a real life mummy and also the mummification process.















Brunel Charity Day—A Visit From Martin

Friday assembly brought an inspirational visitor to Yarm Prep School. A chance meeting with a group of ladies, who were walking dogs at Raby Castle during holiday school in Summer 2022, raised awareness of a charity of which had not heard of. This group of ladies spent time explaining how dogs can support deaf people and were dog walking on behalf of a charity named 'Hearing Dogs For The Deaf.' Brunel house children then decided that this would be our chosen charity for 2023-2024. Martin brought along his dog, Inca, and explained to the children in the Prep School how he has transformed his life in so many ways. When Inca was first introduced to Martin, he did not pay any attention to his wife but went immediately to sit at Martin's feet and from that day, this very special bond has developed. Martin told us how Inca makes him aware of everyday sounds which we take for granted such as the doorbell ringing, the oven timer beeping and he has even alerted him to a fire alarm in a hotel. Maisie and Rex, the current Brunel House Captains, presented a cheque for £623 to Martin who has promised to come back in the summer to work with us. Thank you to

the Year 6 children who created the stalls and the rest of the school who kindly spent their money on a very wet and windy day. We are sure that you will agree that this charity was well worth supporting and we very much enjoyed talking to Martin and stroking Inca after the assembly. Well done, Brunellians.

Mrs Jones



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)

Science Latest

Here are Y4 in their science lesson this week, conducting an experiment into melting and cooling, using data loggers

to record temperature.

Mrs Smith









Meanwhile, 5H have been exploring air resistance in their science lessons this week.

Mr Hutchcraft











Mass Participation Sports

Yarm hosted the second participation sports festival for HMC schools last Friday, with 11 schools taking part over two venues. With over 200 children playing during the course of the day it was great to see the camaraderie and friendships grow alongside playing rugby and hockey against one another.

We played seven games and we really enjoyed each and every one. *Benjamin F.*

A great day of hockey and everyone played really well. Alex P.

We had a super time and everyone on my time either scored a try or got an assist. *Eric PF*.

A fun day and everyone tried hard. Francesca F.

We played alongside six other schools at Billingham and had loads of fun. *Pradyoth K.*

'I really liked the games and it was a fun day. Zoe X.

I think the matches were very well played and we had a lot of fun. Everyone tried their best and I think everyone enjoyed it. *Wahaj M*.

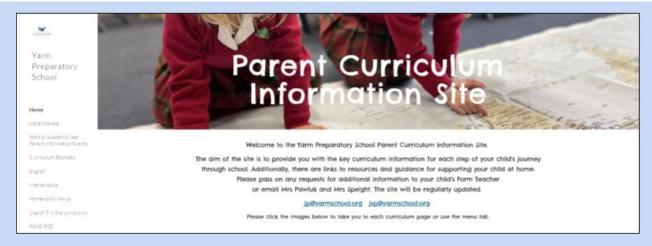
My highlight was how we interacted with other girls and played lots of different schools. *Alex P*.

I thought that the tournament was very fair and all the teams were kind. It was a very good day for me. I thought everyone tried their hardest. *Ollie B*.

I especially liked how we played a lot of matches and the sporting behaviour was excellent. *Clemmie H.*







https://bit.ly/yarmcurriculum

Click here to access the Parent Curriculum Information Site

PE and Games News

Under 11 Hockey v Barnard Castle

On Friday, 17th November we played a hockey fixture against Barnard Castle School. We all played very well and scored a lot of goals! Everyone had a great afternoon of hockey and we got everybody playing as much as possible. There were some amazing skills and passes from both sides of the match and brilliant sportsmanship from everyone.

Our attackers and midfielders played very well with Clemmie scoring two goals! Maisie and Laurel also scored a great goal each and we worked well together as a team. Our defenders also played extremely well and saved a lot of potential goals from Barnard Castle. Hannah in particular made some great saves and was a great player to have on our team.

At the end of the game, we chose a player of the match who had shown brilliant hockey skills and performance this afternoon. They chose one as well and our player of the match was Violet! It was a great afternoon of hockey and we ended up winning 4-1. As well as winning, the best part was we got cookies at the end and everyone loved it.

Alex P.

Under 9 Hockey

I was in the red team, we won three matches and drew one match, we scored eight goals in total. I think the best match we played was the third match because we scored 5 goals in that match. I really enjoyed the matches and I think my teammates did as well. The



people in my team were Scarlet, Aditi, Ali, Georgie and the final person is Elizabeth and me of course. I think this was the best fixture we have played so far. It was fun and we probably had the best team we have ever had; I loved playing.

Hattie P.

WoLLoW

Year 6 had fun this week creating prefix board games as part of our WoLLoW unit wonderful words. They especially enjoyed testing out the games and giving feedback!

Mrs Arrol





Christmas at the Prep School

This is an updated copy of the email that was sent out to parents last week. All changes from that email are in red.

Monday 4th December

Reports will be released to parents at 4pm via the parent portal. Details to follow.

The **Christmas Post Box** will open. It will be placed outside Mr Stone's office. Please may we ask the children to <u>write full</u> <u>names and forms</u> on envelopes to avoid any confusion.

Last Monday carousel activities sessions of the term.

The Spring Term activities booking form will be open for your children to select their activities.

All clubs and activities finish this week.

Tuesday 5th December

<u>All children</u> in Years 3 – 6 will stay behind after school for tea and preparation for our Carol Service.

5.30pm – Prep School Carol Service in the Princess Alexandra Auditorium. Please refer to the email sent out regarding ticketing of this event. We look forward to inviting you all to the Carol Service, which promises to be a wonderful occasion to get into the festive spirit! Following the performance, children are to be collected from the Senior School Sports Hall and you are all invited to join us for festive refreshments.

Wednesday 6th December

Last lesson 6 activities sessions of the term.

Last riding and golf sessions of the term today.

Thursday 7th December

Nicola Carrick from Teesside Hospice will be coming in to launch our **Reindeer Run**, supported by the YPSSC, which takes place on Friday 15th December (details below).

Friday 8th December

We will be beginning our annual 'Carols on the Gate' during morning drop-offs from today. Please come along and join in! We will be collecting for *The Mustard Seed Project*.

Mrs Dunkley's dance groups will be performing in assembly. Parents of those performing are welcome to attend between 9.45 -10.10am in the Prep Hall.

The Spring Term activities booking form will close at 9am.

All clubs and activities will be finished by today. There are no clubs and activities running on any day the following week.

Under 11 Hockey and Under 11 Rugby v Dame Allan's, taking place at school and Green Lane respectively from 2pm.

Monday 11th December

Prep School Library Books - Please can **all** Prep library books be returned today. This will allow us to organise all of our library stock in preparation for the exciting transition to our new library space. Please can children bring a reading book in from home this week to read in school.

2pm – Some choristers will be singing carols to the residents of Park House Care Home in Stockton. Children will be back at school for 3.45pm collection.

Last donations for our Christmas Mission today.

PLEASE NOTE: Nursery and Reception finish at 3pm; Y1-2 at 3.15pm; Prep as usual at 3.45pm. After school care is available.

Tuesday 12th December

Year 3 children will all stay behind after school for tea and preparation for their Christmas Show.

5.30pm – Year 3 Christmas Show in the Prep Hall. All Year 3 families are invited to attend. The performance should finish by 6.15pm. Once finished, refreshments will be available.

PLEASE NOTE: Nursery and Reception finish at 3pm; Y1-2 at 3.15pm; Prep as usual at 3.45pm. After school care is available.

Wednesday 13th December

House General Knowledge Quiz will take place during the morning.

2pm – Some choristers will be singing carols to the residents of Middleton Retirement Village. Children will be back at school

for 3.45pm collection.

Please send **any lost property** into school that does not belong to your child today.

PLEASE NOTE: Nursery and Reception finish at 3pm; Y1-2 at 3.15pm; Prep as usual at 3.45pm. After school care is available.

Thursday 14th December

Lost Property assembly will take place today, so please have one last look in rooms, bags, wash baskets, etc for any items that do not belong to your child! We endeavour to return as much as possible to the rightful owners.

Last day for entries into Sodexo's **Christmas Gingerbread Competition** to be handed in as judging takes place today!

PLEASE NOTE: Nursery and Reception finish at 3pm; Y1-2 at 3.15pm; Prep as usual at 3.45pm. After school care is available.

Friday 15th December

All school bags and kit bags to go home today please.

Christmas Jumper Day, in aid of Save the Children. Children to bring in £1 to wear a Christmas jumper of their choice.

During the school day, the children will enjoy their own carol service at Yarm Church.

Reindeer Run for Teesside Hospice. Antlers are included. We welcome donations via a Just Giving page which can be found here.

School Christmas lunch!

At the end of term, we shall ensure that your child's locker is cleared of Christmas cards and that any coats, hats, gloves and scarves also find their way home to you.

PLEASE NOTE: Nursery and Reception finish at 3pm; Y1-2 at 3.15pm; Prep as usual at 3.45pm. <u>After school care is NOT available on this day.</u>

<u>Please ensure you have arranged for your child to be collected</u> <u>from school at 3.45pm.</u>

Mr Stone

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SCHOOL. If you would like your child to attend, please complete the form which will be emailed to you by Mr Simpson. This is always a much enjoyed and busy Holiday School and staffing and outings need to be arranged well in advance.

Coming Up at the PAA

Royal Northern

Sinfonia – Prokofiev

and Mozart Quintets



Friday 12th January - 7.30pm

Meet the musicians of the North East's professional orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia, in four pieces of music that show off just what you can do with small groups of wind and string instruments. They're playing two household names, Sergei Prokofiev and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and two composers you probably don't know – Reinhold Glière and Grażyna Bacewicz.

<u>Ukrainian National</u> <u>Opera – Carmen</u>

Wednesday 21st February - 7.30pm

Ukrainian National

Opera® Presents Carmen – the most powerful, enjoyable, and tuneful opera.

This opera and ballet theatre has a long-standing heritage of top-quality opera productions, and they are excited to bring it back to the UK in their 2024 Opera Season. Featuring an impressive cast and accompanied by a live Orchestra numbering over 30 musicians.

<u>George Ko – The</u> <u>Moon Goddess Tour</u>

Wednesday 17th April

Come enjoy an intimate evening of film classics and originals as Young Steinway Artist George



Ko plays a completely improvised setlist. George came to our stage in 2023 and was impressed he asked to perform again. George will be playing his never-before-heard originals and a series of improvisations based on classical favorites by Chopin, Debussy and Rachmaninoff, AND music from Star Wars and Studio Ghibli. You will also have the unique opportunity to request any song this evening.



Music Lessons

If your child is in Years 3-6 and is interested in taking part in individual peripatetic music lessons, <u>please fill in this form and Mr Gooding will get back to you</u>.

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! <u>Deadline: Monday 4th December 2023</u> <u>Please bring entries to Mrs Shepherd</u>

Brunel Community Spirit

This week, children in Brunel have been busy creating beautiful Christmas cards for people in their community.

Mrs Hart





Gingerbread Competition



Flu vaccinations

The flu vaccinations will take place at the Prep School for Years 3-6 on 7 December 2023. Please use the link below to complete either a consent form or a refusal for the vaccinations. The link contains the consent form and additional information such as FAQs regarding the vaccination. The link will close on 4 December 2023.

https://nhsImms.azurewebsites.net/session/f778b7a4

Mrs Wheatley



YARM SCHOOL PROUDLY PRESENTS AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION OF

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S



MUSIC BY RICHARD RODGERS
BOOK & LYRICS BY OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II



Wednesday 31st January - Saturday 3rd February 2024 7.30pm

The Princess Alexandra Auditorium, Yarm School Adults £15.00 Children £8.00

TO BOOK TICKETS CALL 01642 792587 OR VISIT WWW.THEPAAONLINE.ORG

This amateur production of CINDERELLA is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

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Tooled Up Education

laying with our children – and watching them play with their siblings or peers – can provide some of the most rewarding moments as a parent, from the first tower of stacking blocks that we make for a baby to knock over, all the way to cricket in the park or a video gaming session in the living room.



The Benefits of Rough and Tumble Play

But play time has to compete with all the other demands on family life: jobs, homework, school pressure and the online world of social media. As a result, many parents wonder how to use play time well. What sorts of play are most beneficial to our children, what

limits should we set and where, and do we need to worry about the impact of digital play when it takes over from "real world" activities?

In our fascinating new <u>podcast</u>, health lecturer Dr Jennifer St George and Emeritus Professor of Psychology Peter Smith discuss their work on rough and tumble play. If you worry when you see your children rolling around on the floor together or chasing each other, their work can challenge your thinking and open a new window into children's minds. Dr Kathy Weston continues the theme of rough play in this week's Wednesday Wisdom.

Learn more about the importance of play in this <u>video</u> from Dr Kathy Weston, especially in relation to children's development and mental health. There's an accompanying <u>tip sheet</u> too on facilitating high-quality play.

Researcher Dr Rachel Nesbit has investigated the link between adventurous play – play which challenges children and pushes them to the edge of their comfort zone – and children's development. Listen to our podcast interview with her here.

If you have an older child at home, "play" is often synonymous with gaming. But is too much time playing video games detrimental to teenagers' wellbeing? Dr Simona Skripkauskaite from the University of Oxford answered questions about the impact of gaming in a fascinating <u>podcast</u>.

Finally: our recent webinar on Understanding Girls with Dr Tara Porter was one of the most popular online events we've ever held at Tooled Up. Many of you have been asking when the recording and notes will be available. The wait is over! You can delve into this session <u>here</u>.

he 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: YPS1103 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



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to held an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is peeded. This guide focuses on one of many devices which we believe trusted adults should be gware of Plagae with pational callege, come for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHAT ARE THE RISKS? Smart TVs connect to the internet without the need for a set-top box or streaming device, letting users access a range of features through the TV set itself: from on-demand content apps like BBC iPlayer to streaming services such as Netflix, as well connecting to smartphones and other wireless devices. Most new televisions are internet enabled – so whether you're thinking of upgrading your home viewing system or buying an additional TV for your child's room, it's now even more important to consider the online safety aspects.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

INCREASED SCREEN TIME

REMOTE-CONTROL

Unconvincing SECURITY



Advice for Parents & Carers

MAKE IT A FAMILY THING

MATERIAL SECTION

Family TV time is a great way to model the responsible enjoyment of technology – showing your child how to use the smart TV safely for when they're old enough to watch it independently. You could also take this opportunity to establish some healthy TV boundaries, such as time limits on their daily viewing or how to make sure they're only watching content that's appropriate for their age.

CREATE CHILD PROFILES

Much like with smartphones and tablets, apps can be downloaded onto smart TVs: from free content platforms such as BBC iPlayer to paid-for services like Prime Video. Most of these apps allow you to create a separate account for your child which has different setting to your own – suggesting more child-friendly material and reducing the possibility of them viewing explicit content. CONSIDER THE LOCATION

SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

It's likely that your smart TV has built-in parental controls, which not only let you filter out age-inappropriate shows, movies and games but can also restrict in-app purchasing, so your child can't accidentally spend money through the device. When you've enabled these safeguards, have an open conversation with your child about the reasons, helping them to understand the potential risks.

Meet Our Expert



If you're concerned about the online safety hazards that a smart TV might pose to your child, you could consider where in your home you put the device. The safest option would be to place the smart TV in a shared family space – so that an adult is usually nearby and able to supervise while your child's watching it – rather than in the relative privacy of a bedroom.











Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 15.11.2023

Coming Up

You can find the Yarm School calendar by clicking here

DECEMBER 2023

Mon 4 Christmas Postbox opens today!

Clubs and activities finish this week

Reports released to parents (4pm)

EYFS Nativity Performance

(Studio Hall; 2pm)

Tue 5 Prep Carol Service (PAA; 5.30pm)

EYFS Nativity Performance

(Studio Hall; 2pm)

Thu 7 Teesside Hospice launching Reindeer Run

Y3-6 flu vaccinations

Fri 8 Dance assembly to parents

(9.50am; Prep Hall)

U11 Rugby v Dame Allan's (home; 2pm start)

U11 Hockey v Dame Allan's (home; 2pm start)

All clubs and activities finish for the term

Mon 11 Carols in the Care Home

Nursery/Reception finishes at 3pm

Years 1/2 finish at 3.15pm

Tue 12 Year 3 Nativity to parents

(5.30pm; Prep Hall)

Pre-Prep flu vaccinations

Nursery/Reception finishes at 3pm

Years 1/2 finish at 3.15pm

Term Dates

Autumn Term 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)

Thursday 28th March 2024

INSET Friday 16th February 2024
Pupils Return Monday 26th February 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	Hannah M.	Baher S.
3J	Oscar W.	Zoyaa S.
3P	Arian L.	Hinako Y.
4F	Mana H.	Ralph E.
4 J	Bertie H.	Scarlett Y.
48	Ziad S.	Dara J.
5G	Meadow E.	Thomas M.
5H	Annalise D.	Alice W.
5K	Amaya S.	Cooper W.
6Н	Joseph A.	Zoe X.
6L	James A.	Phoenix E.
6W	Annika S.	Dylan M.

Music Awards:

Bronze: Roland M.

Finish