



# The Phoenix Flier

## The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 760—Friday 8th December 2023

### A message from Mr Sawyer

**W**elcome to our penultimate Phoenix Flier for the term which comes at the end of the week in which we enjoyed our annual community carol event for Years 3-6! It was a real treat to hear the school in full voice at the Festival of Carols on Tuesday. The pupils sang with absolute conviction and the readings were delivered with great clarity. As always, it was a fitting celebration of the true meaning of Christmas. As has been the case for a good number of years, it was not long ago that I was watching even the oldest of our Prep pupils on stage in their EYFS nativity! One of the many privileges of working in a school such as ours is that you see every pupil grow in stature and confidence as they journey through School, this was certainly demonstrated once again at our Festival of Carols. I am grateful that many of you were able to join us and I hope to hear you sing once more in our annual Carols on the Gate every morning next week. Do come and sing with us!

We were delighted to welcome many parents to the Captain's Ball in the PAA recently for an evening of excellent dining, dancing and entertainment. It is with great pleasure that I can report that as a community we raised over £10,600 for Neoangels which supports families of sick and premature babies on the Neonatal Units at the University Hospitals of North Tees and James Cook. Thank you for your generosity! Thank you also to the YPSSC volunteers and our PAA and Sodexo teams for making the night possible.

*Bill Sawyer*

**Head's Challenge:** What is the shortest complete sentence in the English language?



**Photo of the Week:** Well done to all of the children who took part in Tuesday's Festival of Carols!



# Festival of Carols

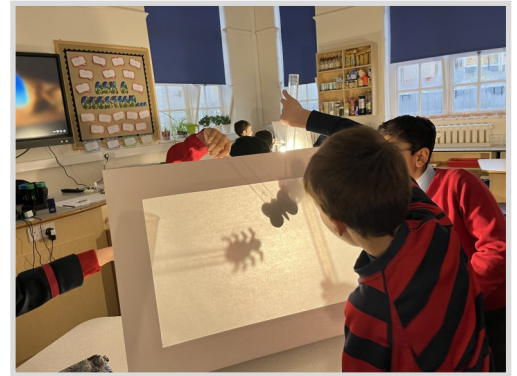
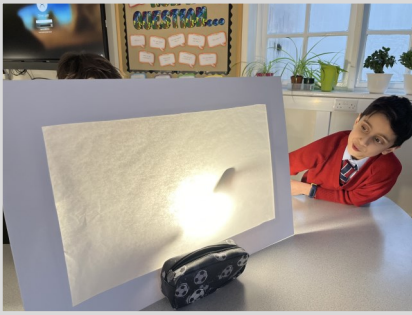




## Year 3 Science

Year 3 have been experimenting with shadow puppets as part of their science topic about light.

*Mrs Smith*



# 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 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

**2.30pm – Year 3 Christmas Show in the Prep Hall.** Tickets are issued Friday 8th 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.** Tickets are issued Friday 8th December. 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!

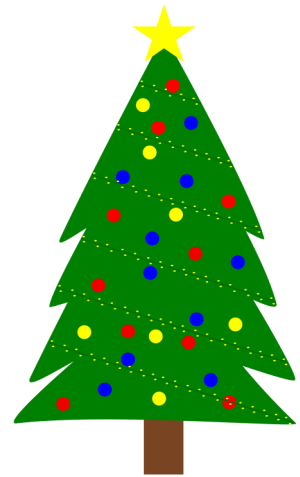
At the end of term, we shall ensure that your child's locker is cleared of Christmas cards and that any coats, hats, gloves and scarves also find their way home to you.

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

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

**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.

Mr Stone





## PE & Games News

Year 4 made good use of the snow in their games lessons last week!



## Year 6 Science

Year 6 have been learning about how we see things this week in their science lessons. They made these pinhole viewers as a model to explain how the eye works.

Mrs Smith



## 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)

## Music Monsters



Pupils of Yarm School are warmly invited to attend a free group keyboard lesson with Music Monsters. We are a learn-through-play programme for children aged 4-7 years, teaching youngsters to play through fun games and challenges!

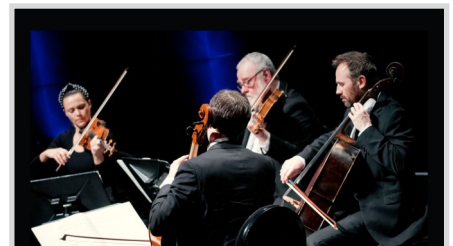
We will be coming to Yarm School for weekend sessions from January 2024, and can't wait to share our exciting learning experience with you.

To book your free trial lesson, please visit: <https://www.musicmonsters.co.uk/yarm/>

## Coming Up at the PAA

### Royal Northern Sinfonia

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.

### The South

**Saturday 10th  
February,  
7.30pm**

To celebrate their  
10th year

anniversary and 30 years since The Beautiful South released 'Song For Whoever', The South are back this February – playing shows up and down the whole of the UK. After a successful year of touring the theatres and Festivals of the UK up and down the country, The South are keeping alive all those timeless songs – A Little Time (the number one single), Perfect 10, Rotterdam, Old Red Eyes Is Back, Good as Gold, Don't Marry Her plus many more singles and album tracks as well as a few choice South originals.

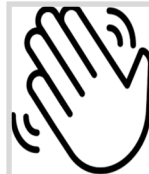


### Lindisfarne

**Saturday 17th  
February, 7.30pm**

Legendary 70's Tyneside folk-rock pioneers Lindisfarne present a classic five-piece line-up of long-time members fronted by founder-member Rod Clements on vocals, mandolin, fiddle and slide guitar.

For their 2023 tour, Lindisfarne recall a memorable period of live shows focussed on the 1977 release of live LP 'Magic in The Air'.



## 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



## GINGERBREAD DECORATING COMPETITION

**Gingerbread people can be delivered to the kitchen  
any time from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December until 14<sup>th</sup>  
December**

**Please include your name and class**

**Prizes to be won**

**(Entries must be nut and peanut free including no may contains)**





**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@yarmschool.org](mailto:jp@yarmschool.org) [jp@yarmschool.org](http://jp@yarmschool.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**





YARM SCHOOL PROUDLY PRESENTS AN AMATEUR  
PRODUCTION OF

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S

# *Cinderella*

ENCHANTED VERSION



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](http://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](http://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk)

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## Tooled Up Education

This week our focus is on 'Grief Awareness' and driving compassion towards those who are affected by loss and bereavement. In the UK, charity The Good Grief Trust has given the week a theme of "Better Together". Bereavement can make us feel desperately alone and isolated, but knowing that many others carry the pain of grief, and having an opportunity to talk about our experiences, can be a crucial source of support.

At Tooled Up we have a range of resources that can help you as the parent or carer of a bereaved child.

Julia Samuel MBE is the author of the bestselling book [Grief Works](#), a psychotherapist and the co-founder of the charity 'Child Bereavement UK'. In this [podcast](#) she talks to Dr Kathy Weston about child bereavement, grief and how parents and school staff can support children and young people when someone they love passes away.

In our [webinar](#) on supporting young people through sibling bereavement, we heard from Dr Laura Towers of the University of Sheffield, on the impact of sibling loss and different ways to support those affected.

Author Justin Bowen spoke to Tooled Up about his own family's experience of loss and what prompted him to write support books for parents, schools and children experiencing bereavement. His [podcast](#) with Dr Kathy Weston has practical ideas and a message of hope and optimism for all adults. You will find his work in our [book list](#) of stories to help children navigate and make sense of loss and bereavement.

Dr Weston shares her own thoughts on grief and bereavement in this shorter [podcast](#), and you can access our collected [tips](#) for supporting children and young people through grief.

As always, we are already planning webinars and events for 2024. You can find our list of upcoming events [here](#). If there's a question you'd like to be asked during a webinar, please send these in advance to [kathy@tooledupeducation.com](mailto:kathy@tooledupeducation.com). You can ask for the question to remain anonymous, and no names or identifying information will be shared.

We would like to draw your attention to our newly-announced Live Q&A with Dr Reenee Singh on Parental Separation and Divorce. Register [here](#) for January 18th 2024, 13:00 GMT.

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*

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**BECAUSE EVIDENCE MATTERS**



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

# What Schools Need to Know about THE ONLINE SAFETY ACT

The Online Safety Act was passed into UK law in October 2023, with the aim of establishing major new layers of protection for children when they're online. The government has pledged "a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm" – and the act certainly includes more powerful legislation which should help to safeguard young people in the digital world. Our guide summarises the key points for schools ...

## WHAT THE ACT WILL DO

### HARMFUL CONTENT

Social media sites must rapidly remove illegal and/or harmful content such as bullying or harassing comments; pornography; and content that supports extremist activity or encourages or depicts violence, suicide, self harm or eating disorders. If they fail to do so, they can be fined up to 10% of their global revenue while their executives may even face jail time.

### ANIMAL CRUELTY

Content featuring cruelty to animals is now prohibited, even if it originates from abroad (where the law may be different). Again, it is the platform's responsibility to remove this.

### MORE TRANSPARENCY

Sites must be transparent about the hazards that any children using them could encounter – by publishing risk assessments for their platforms, for instance.

### HOSTING MISLEADING ADVERTS

Scams and fraudulent adverts must be blocked or removed, or the hosting companies are liable to be fined.

### NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING

It's now easier to convict online abusers or people who share intimate images without consent, while legislation on the criminality of deepfakes has been clarified. The new laws also relate to any individuals who even *threaten* to share such images. This should help to protect women and girls in particular online.

### REPORTING AND FILTERING

Sites should have easy reporting mechanisms for children (or their parents and carers) to flag up problems quickly. They must also provide options to filter out unwanted content.

### AGE-RESTRICTED MATERIAL

Sites must prevent children from accessing age-inappropriate material. This includes enforcing age limits and implementing robust age verification.

## What this means for you

The act has some specific implications for schools: it's essential that leaders understand the new legislation's scope and limitations. The act is certainly a positive step, but as artificial intelligence and other advances in tech continue to produce new challenges, schools will still need to remain extremely vigilant.

### KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Look out for the Code of Conduct that Ofcom is creating in response to the Online Safety Act. Note that the new legislation doesn't mean an instant change: many of its elements will only come into force at the end of 2023. An Ofcom consultation on 'protecting people from illegal harms online' will be running until February 2024.

### REMEMBER THE ESSENTIALS

Remain mindful of your organisation's own online activities: the legal duty for schools to maintain appropriate software monitoring and filtering, for example, will not change.

### WATCH FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There are some issues on which the legislation remains less clear for now: whether it's possible for Ofcom to scan encrypted private messages (such as on WhatsApp) has yet to be resolved, for instance – making this an area where, for the moment, young people have less legal protection.

### UNDERSTAND AND EXPLAIN

Staff should learn how to raise concerns with tech companies whose platforms contain anything upsetting or unpleasant. Students also need to be made aware of the newly strengthened laws relating to cyber-bullying, sexting or posting inappropriate content. Young people do make mistakes online – so the clearer their understanding of the possible consequences, the better.

### ENGAGE WITH PARENTS

Schools should also explain to parents and carers the new possibilities that the Online Safety Act affords them in terms of protecting their children. Many parents may have previously felt that there was little they could do about changing online platforms' content; they now have a far greater level of support when complaining about a company or the behaviour of an individual.

## Meet Our Expert

Luke Ramsden is Senior Deputy Headmaster and Director of Safeguarding for the St Benedict's family of schools. He is a regular speaker at conferences and writes in the TES (among other journals) on school leadership, pastoral care and safeguarding. In 2022, he was named Pastoral Leader of the Year at the National Awards for Pastoral Care in Education.



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#WakeUpWednesday

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# Coming Up

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

## DECEMBER 2023

Mon 11	Carols in the Care Home Nursery/Reception finishes at 3pm Years 1/2 finish at 3.15pm
Tue 12	<b>Year 3 Nativity to parents (2.30pm and 5.30pm; Prep Hall)</b> Pre-Prep flu vaccinations Nursery/Reception finishes at 3pm Years 1/2 finish at 3.15pm
Wed 13	Shawcross Big Band joining us for assembly Carols in the Care Home House General Knowledge Quiz Nursery/Reception finishes at 3pm Years 1/2 finish at 3.15pm
Thu 14	Lost property assembly (10.20am) Nursery/Reception finishes at 3pm Years 1/2 finish at 3.15pm
Fri 15	Christmas Jumper Day (bring £1 for Save the Children) Reindeer Run for Teesside Hospice Carols in Yarm Church (Y3-6 pupils only) End of term assembly Nursery/Reception finishes at 3pm Years 1/2 finish at 3.15pm <b>End of term</b> <b>No after school care</b>

## Term Dates

### 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	Edward G.	William D.
3J	Annabelle L.	Darcie M.
3P	Louis G.	Lucy A.
4F	Austin O.	Emma W.
4J	Deia TM.	Henry F.
4S	Wilbur M-S.	Elizabeth H.
5G	Emily B.	Alia M.
5H	Charlie M.	Rosa W.
5K	William G.	Logan M.
6H	George P.	Benjamin F.
6L	Haashir I.	Amelia C.
6W	Aphelia S.	Vedh A.

## Music Awards:

**Silver:** Amelia C., Lolwa S.

## Head Teacher Awards:

**Year 6:** Ollie B. (2), Kaira N. (2), Laurel G., James A., Haashir I., Brian F.