



# The Phoenix Flier

## The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 761—Friday 15th December 2023

### A message from Mr Sawyer

**A**s I compose my final newsletter for the current year, the festive atmosphere is palpable with the resonance of bells and the lively scenes of our Astro filled with joyous participants in our annual Rudolph Run, all contributing to the fundraising efforts for Teesside Hospice. This event stands as yet another testament to the compassion, resilience, and dedication that define our school community.

This week marked the delightful performance of the Year 3 Nativity, a spirited portrayal of a bustling Bethlehem in anticipation of the birth of Jesus. The exceptional creativity, confidence, and clarity exhibited by our young performers was commendable. Whether it's a carol concert, nativity play, sports event, residential trip, or any of the myriad opportunities at Yarm, our pupils continue to develop as problem solvers, collaborators, and compassionate individuals who embody resourcefulness and determination in overcoming challenges.

As we bid farewell for the well-deserved holidays, my heartfelt gratitude extends to the entire teaching and support staff for their unwavering dedication this term. I am also deeply appreciative of my wife and family for their constant love and support. In closing, I extend warm wishes to every member of our community for a safe and joyful Christmas and a prosperous, healthy New Year. Thank you all for your steadfast support of the school, and I eagerly anticipate our reunions in 2024.

*Bill Sawyer*

**Head's Challenge:** If it takes five elves, five minutes to make five dolls, then how long will it take 100 elves to make 100 dolls?



**Photo of the Week:** An outstanding performance from all of Year 3 this week in their Nativity!



## Year 3 Nativity

The singing was really fun. I loved the sheep song! *Dulcie B.*

Most people laughed at my line! *Kaycee W.*

I loved it when everyone shouted 'Hooray!' at the end. *Buddy T.*

My favourite part was when the inspectors said 'It will not do, it will not do at all'. *Harrison V.*

It was good fun and I loved singing 'Can This Be True?' *Edward W.*

I thought it was very funny when Annabelle 'controlled' the sheep. *Leah R.*

I enjoyed the sheep song best because it was fun *Lucy D.*

I liked travelling around the desert during the Wise Men's song and giving the myrrh to Jesus. *Faye A.*

I thought it was so funny when Indie snatched my book because she was so busy and I was just reading. *Noah S.*

I thought it was really good when people were acting and taking on their role. *Myla GB.*

It was amazing because everyone gave it their all and most of all, we had fun! *Max H.*

I loved it! Everyone was saying their lines clearly and singing the songs beautifully. *Lucy A.*

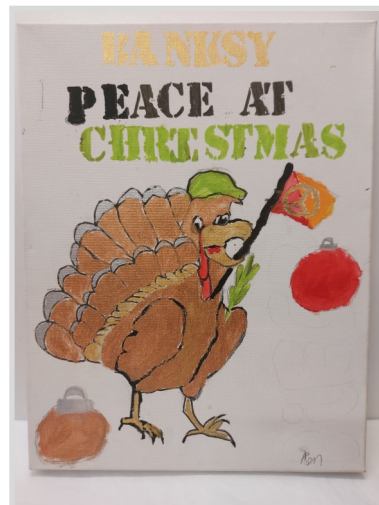




# Christmas Art Competition

Congratulations to all of the children who took part in our Christmas Art Competition! Well done too to the following winners: **Year 3**—Jayden Gerrard; **Year 4**—Ralph Ellis and Dara Jafari; **Year 5**—Stan Dugdale; **Year 6**—Emily Woolnough and Zara Paul.

Mrs Shepherd



## 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—Review of the Term

**T**he Autumn Term, as ever, heralds the start of the rugby season. Our focus throughout the autumn revolved around moving the ball effectively, away from the 'breakdown', and having a strong defence. Both of which were tested to the limits over a long season.

The U9s enjoy the majority of their rugby during triangulars and festivals. This type of playing format allows the players to enjoy playing against a number of different opposition over the course of an afternoon. This enables all players to progress throughout each game, reflecting on particular aspects of the previous game to improve upon the next. They attended a number of fixtures and hosted our annual U9 Rugby Festival at Green Lane. They are a strong year group and are able to use the space available to them exceptionally well and when tackled, they distribute the ball effectively to those in support.



The U10s have worked tirelessly to improve their ball handling and spatial awareness. They have some great potential and should look forward to next year where they can develop further. While some of the results did not go their way they have always reacted positively, learning from mistakes, keen to develop their education further. This has culminated in a great team ethic and something that will keep them in good stead as they progress further throughout the school.



Improvement has been the key word for the U11s this year. They have faced many tough opponents, but their resilience throughout all the fixtures has been admirable. Their teamwork and support of each other has been exceptional as all teams looked to resolve the problems that they faced. Progress was slow, at first, but their defining moment came at



the Rugby Festival at GSAL and the U11 Tag festival held at Billingham RFC. They demonstrated commitment, understanding and determination throughout each match. This resulted in the team being awarded a trophy for their values and approach to the game. As the boys move forward they can use their new found understanding of the game against their next opponents.

### *Mr Underwood*

**I**t has been a super term of hockey with all girls stepping up and throwing themselves into a busy 14 weeks. The U8's began their sporting journey and travelled to Queen Mary's, Dame Allan's and Ashville College in Harrogate and they certainly clocked up the miles learning and making friends along the way.

For the U9's they have been playing 5-a-side fixtures against a variety of schools. The highlight of their season was our very own invitation tournament. We welcomed Queen Mary's, Durham, Dame Allan's, Red House, Barnard Castle and RGS Newcastle and it was great to have so many supporters on the sidelines for this event.

Our U10's played 5 Schools on Fridays afternoons this term and the weather cost them a 6th fixture v Peters due to the snow. All girls played all 5 fixtures and they travelled to Barnard Castle, Pocklington and Cundall and hosted Queen Mary's and Ashville. They have stepped up this year to play the recognised 7 a side form of the game including goalkeepers and coped well with the transition.

Our U11's have played a couple more fixtures (v Dame Allan's



and Durham) than the U10's. Being at the top of the school they have also taken part in schools tournament in Leeds along with our very own participation festival which allows

more girls the opportunity to play a day of sport alongside friends.

All girls have played in at least 4 school fixtures as I continue to use a rotation system to allow all to have as many opportunities as possible. We have a large year group so this is challenging but worth the effort to give all as many games as I can. I feel the hockey in school is at a very good level and although we tend not to keep score there have been some excellent performances from all teams and real progress made. Next term the girls will concentrate on their netball and it will follow the same process as above.

May I take this opportunity to thank parents for their support and it is always great to have spectators join us for fixtures.

*Mrs Redhead-Sweeney*

## School and Club Sports links

It is great to see so many of our pupils attending local clubs and we highly recommend joining one to aid learning further.

### Hockey

**Stockton Hockey Club** - Junior training takes place Monday nights on the Yarm Sc senior astro 5.30pm-6.30pm <https://www.stocktonhockeyclub.co.uk/teams/team/11741808>

**Stokesley Girls Hockey** — This takes place on Wednesdays 5.30pm-6.30pm on the Yarm Sc senior astro 5.30pm-6.30pm <https://www.stokesleyhockeyclub.com/>

**Norton Hockey Club**— Junior training starts again on Sunday 24th Sept at Norton astro. 10.30am-12pm. <https://www.nortonhockeyclub.co.uk/>

### Netball

[The link here](#) gives you clubs in the North East, contacts, training venues and exact timings for each age group.

**Grangetown** coach Michelle runs a U8/9 training session for Yarm pupils on Thursdays 3.55pm-4.55pm at school, as well as a host of age group teams. For further info email: [grangetownnc@hotmail.com](mailto:grangetownnc@hotmail.com)

**Headlanders Netball Club** in Darlington where Mrs Jolly coaches. Contact [dheadlanders@outlook.com](mailto:dheadlanders@outlook.com) for further details re. Wednesday night training. [https://www.facebook.com/DarlingtonHeadlanders/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/DarlingtonHeadlanders/?locale=en_GB)

### Rugby

**Stockton Rugby Club** who train at Stockton CC - <https://stocktonrugby.co.uk/minis/under-11/>

**Yarm Rugby Club** - <https://yarm.rfu.club/teams>

**Darlington Mowden RFC** - <https://www.mowdenpark.com/>

**Darlington RFC** - <https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/darlingtonrfc/>

### Tennis and Squash

**Yarm Squash Club and Yarm Tennis Club**—<https://yarmsquashclub.co.uk/>, <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/yarmtennisclub>

### Cricket

**Yarm Cricket Club**—<https://yarmcc.play-cricket.com/home>

**Stockton Cricket Club**—[www.stocktoncricketclub.co.uk](http://www.stocktoncricketclub.co.uk)

**Norton Cricket Club**—<https://norton.play-cricket.com/Teams>



## 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.**

**Friday 15th December**

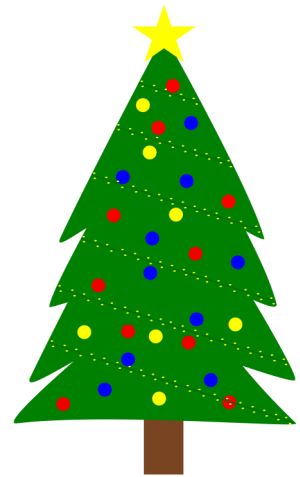
**Reindeer Run for Teesside Hospice.** Antlers are included. **We welcome donations via a Just Giving page which can be found [here](#).**

**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



## Christmas Collection for The Cause Foundation

A huge thank you for all of your support and generosity with our CAUSE Christmas hamper campaign this year! We've had an overwhelming response and all donations have been greatly received by local schools. Your kindness has really helped to make a difference this Christmas, thank you so much.

Mrs Kirk





## 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

### Santa Rocks

**Saturday 16th  
December at  
9.30am or Sunday  
17th December at  
10am**

Come and rock with us and Santa! Santa may be busy getting ready to head out on his deliveries, but he



is dropping into Yarm on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th for his Snow Ball! But we need you to come and stop Jack Frost as he is looming to zap the Auditorium of all its festive cheer! Come and join us and rock in the aisles and get the party started! (Approx. duration 45 mins)

### Cinderella

#### Panto

**Various dates still available**

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! (approx duration 2 hours)



### NT Live - Dear England

**Friday 26th  
January, 7pm (Live  
Streamed in  
Friarage Theatre)**



With the worst track record for penalties in the world, Gareth Southgate knows he needs to open his mind and face up to the years of hurt, to take team and country back to the promised land. Joseph Fiennes (The Handmaid's Tale) plays Gareth Southgate in James Graham's (Sherwood) spectacular hit play that explores nation and game.

## Under 11 Rugby

The U11 Boys ended their rugby term at Billingham RUFC, where they took on Dame Allan's School. All of the boys that played showed a huge

improvement in their performances since the start of term. The link up play and offloading brought their teammates into the game and they were able to score many tries. In defence, it was great to see everyone play their part in trying to stop the opposition from scoring. Well done everyone involved.

Mr Simpson





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

Christmas is less than two weeks away and schools are breaking up for the holidays. During term time, the routine of school and work sweeps many families through one week to the next. But at Christmas, we are thrust into much closer quarters with one another and have to adjust to a slower pace, an intense amount of “family time”, and a much emptier calendar.

Loneliness can be an issue for many people at Christmas. When everyone around is moving between family gatherings and social occasions, a lack of companionship and close connections is felt a lot more keenly. Children can feel lonely too, away from their friendship groups.

Dr Kathy Weston’s podcast on [Emotional Literacy At Christmas](#) is a great starting point for preparing to navigate the highs and lows of the festive period.

Our [Coping Menu](#) provides suggested activities for children experiencing difficult emotions: it could be a valuable go-to if loneliness hits or tempers fray over the Christmas break. You might feel the holidays are already packed with activities and obligations, but it can still provide structure and calmness to think about what you’d like to achieve. Our [School Holiday Planner](#) can help, and is a great way to ensure there’s time for recharging batteries and maintaining connections and friendships.

If family life becomes stressful or difficult over the holiday, our [Family Audit Template](#) can help you to take a step back and consider what might be going wrong. Completing these reflection tasks only takes a short time but they’re a great way to take stock.

For younger children experiencing isolation or loneliness, our [Loneliness Book List](#) can help them talk through feelings and be more confident. If older children are struggling emotionally, our webinars on [Raising A Resilient Teen Boy](#) and [Understanding Girls](#) provide a wealth of insight and helpful advice.

And finally: thank you! We are so grateful to our parents and families for their questions, suggestions and feedback throughout the year, and for making Tooled Up such a rewarding experience.

Have a wonderful holiday however you celebrate, and we’ll be back in 2024!

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: YPSII03 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*

**TOOLED UP®**  
**BECAUSE EVIDENCE MATTERS**



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many 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.

# 12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

## CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

## NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

## CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

## WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

## TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

## WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

## WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

## BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

## ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

## SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

## GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

## GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

## Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The National College



National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national\_online\_safety

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# Coming Up

**You can find the Yarm School calendar for the Spring Term by clicking here**

## JANUARY 2024

<b>Thu 4</b>	<b>Pupils return; Spring Term begins</b> After School Care as normal EYFS finish at 3pm; Y1/2 finish at 3.15pm
<b>Fri 5</b>	Peer Mentor training (3.45-5pm) EYFS finish at 3pm; Y1/2 finish at 3.15pm
<b>Mon 8</b>	<b>Clubs and activities commence</b> No Year 3 swimming today House Typing begins
<b>Tue 9</b>	School Council
<b>Wed 10</b>	House assemblies
<b>Thu 11</b>	Steam Person of the Week—Andrew Gore
<b>Fri 12</b>	U10 Hockey & U11 Netball v Barnard Castle (away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return) U10 Netball & U11 Hockey v Barnard Castle (home; 2.15pm start)

## 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)

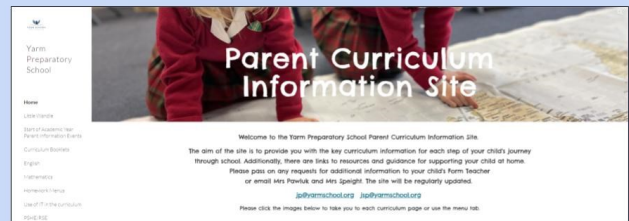
### Summer Term, 2025

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)

<https://bit.ly/yarmcurriculum>

Click here to access the Parent Curriculum Information Site

## Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
<b>3H</b>	Elijah D.	India B.
<b>3J</b>	Ahaana C.	Joshua A.
<b>3P</b>	Max H.	Zara G.
<b>4F</b>	Robert W.	Annabelle A.
<b>4J</b>	Jude C.	Monty B.
<b>4S</b>	Freddie B.	Ted H.
<b>5G</b>	Rory F.	Daisy C.
<b>5H</b>	Martha L.	Angus F.
<b>5K</b>	Olivia T.	Jack S.
<b>6H</b>	Rebecca N.	Ella L.
<b>6L</b>	Noah WT.	Wahaj M.
<b>6W</b>	Alice S.	Harry H.

### Head Teacher Awards:

**Year 5:** Sophia B.

**Year 6:** Amelia C., Brian F., Hugo M.