



The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 762—Friday 12th January 2024

A message from Mr Sawyer

Happy New Year to you all! Welcome to our first newsletter of the term and the calendar year 2024. It has been a pleasure to see the pupils return to school and engage with full heart and much energy since last Thursday. It was a start of term layered with extra excitement for us all as it finally signalled a move into the completed new facilities which have been part of a seventeen month long capital development project. Through this period we saw the old dining hall get demolished, extensive ground works take place and the new structure grow steadily before our eyes, but just behind the safety fencing. To be able to finally allow the children and staff to make regular use of all of the spaces is just wonderful. The site now has a superb sense of flow and focus which has been achieved through a blend of expert design and high quality craftsmanship. Since the start of term the different areas have certainly sparked reflection, curiosity, social interaction, collegiality and cohesion in equal measure. Already, after a few days, it feels more than just a building, rather a place which enhances our positive culture and inspires our school community. Do join us at one of the forthcoming 'open house' events this term to explore the facilities in person. We look forward to welcoming you.

As well as our build project completion we have enjoyed the dawn of new clubs and activities, exciting curriculum escapades and reflected on the importance of sustainability through our assemblies this week. We are very much up and running, into the routines and looking ahead to the next few weeks and months with zeal. I hope you enjoy this week's Phoenix Flier.

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge: How much dirt is in a hole that measures 2 metres by 3 metres by 4 metres?



Photo of the Week: Clubs and activities got back underway this week, including Phoenix Challenge.

Peer Mentor Training

Our Year 6 Peer Mentors gathered for a training session last week, in preparation for the busy term ahead. We explored listening skills and how to be a good listener, using the acronym 'SARAH' as a starting point to develop good listening skills.

Stop talking

Active listening

Reppeat back what the other person said

Accept the other person's feelings

Help the other to think of some choices that will help

Mr Stone

I really enjoyed this session as we did lots of different activities to improve our mentoring skills! We started off by sharing opinions on how we thought Peer Mentoring was going so far, and

then split into our class groups to look at some scenarios that our predecessors had written. Active listening was an aspect we looked at a lot, so we did some activities to help with that. I found all of these activities very inspiring and am looking forward to putting these new pieces of knowledge to the test!

Rebecca N.

The Peer Mentors gathered to have our 2nd training session in the new library. We talked about solutions to real-life scenarios and even got to act them out! We also learnt a bit more about our peers and used our active listening skills! I loved it!

Erin G.



Reindeer Run

Well done to everyone who took part in our Reindeer Run for *Teesside Hospice*, which took place on the last day of the Autumn Term. We raised an impressive £1176!

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney



UNIFORM UPDATE

We have recently reviewed the Pre-Prep and Prep PE and Games kit, in particular the white shorts and socks. A number of parents have commented that white is not the easiest colour to keep clean.

Moving forward the PE and Games kit will be the current navy games top or rugby top and navy shorts or skirt and games socks. I hope that you will agree that this will be a more serviceable colour when it comes to laundering. As all pupils will already have the navy games kit there is no need to purchase any additional items. The white PE kit can still be used until the end of the school year.

To confirm - the white PE shorts and white PE socks going forward will now no longer be needed.

The white PE polo shirt with house colours however will still be needed for Sports day and summer activities such as tennis and athletic meets.

Please feel free to get in touch with me if you have any further questions or you would like to make an appointment for the Uniform Showroom.

[*Mrs Porter, Uniform Showroom Manager*](#)

Beat the Flood Challenge

Over the last couple of weeks, Year 5 have designed and created models of a flood proof house using recycled materials, as a finale to their 'Rivers' geography topic.

Their models were put through a rigorous testing process. This involved the use of hose pipes and buckets of water (the teachers were not forgiving!).

The children were then asked to evaluate how their model house had fared and what they would change in the design process and building materials used if they built it again.

Mr Grundmann



Autumn Term Awards Assembly

Rugby colours – Joseph Austin, Harrison Covell, Lewis Dargue, Phoenix Emadi, Pradyoth Karanam, Ahmad Ifrahim, William Lawson, Flynn Nunnery, Rex White, Brian Franks, Sri Rajaram, Hugo McCluskey.

Hockey Colours – Lolwa Soliman, Georgie Wood, Thea Spiegth, Trisha Karpe, Ella Leadbitter, Heidi Kingsbury, Amelia Cheesman, Kaira Nalawade, Sylvia Dugdale, Zara Paul.

Chess Colours - Miles Page, Lolwa Soliman, Kaira Nalawade, Eric Pinedo Fuentes, Kavan Sidhu.

Art Colours – Francesca Foster, Erin Goh, Laurel Goodall, Olivia Groves, Harry Hollingsworth, Yasmeen Salim, Zoe Xue, James Armstrong, Sylvia Dugdale, Ronav Gowda.

Music Colours - Alex Prideaux.

Peer Mentors - Pradyoth Karanam, Eric Pinedo Fuentes.

Christmas Art Competition - Year 3 - Jayden Gerrard; **Year 4** - Ralph Ellis & Dara Jafari; **Year 5** - Stan Dugdale; **Year 6** - Emily Woolnough & Zara Paul.

OVERALL House Rugby – **1st Brunel**; 2nd Arkwright; = Tied 3rd Stephenson & Telford. *The first time Brunel have ever won House Rugby!*

OVERALL House Hockey – **1st Brunel**; = 2nd Arkwright & Stephenson; 4th Telford. *Brunel's first hockey win since 2015!*

OVERALL House GK Quiz (GNS) – **1st Arkwright** 168.0 (average points per pupil); 2nd Brunel 160.9; 3rd Stephenson 160.0; 4th Telford 145.6. *Arkwright win the competition for the first time since 2020.*

House Points - **1st Arkwright** (4513 total; 86.8 average); 2nd Brunel (4088 total; 78.6 average); 3rd Telford (3832 total; 75.1 average); 4th Stephenson (4039 total; 74.8 average).

OVERALL HOUSE LEADERBOARD:

4th - Telford - 300 points

3rd - Stephenson - 387

2nd - Arkwright - 912

1st - Brunel - 950

House General Knowledge Quiz

As you will see above, Arkwright won the House General Knowledge this year. The competition sees all of the children in Years 3-6 answer a series of questions across a wide range of topics. Arkwright pupils scored an average of 168.0 points per pupil, giving them a commanding victory over their nearest rivals—Brunel—who scored an average of 160.9 points per pupil. Stephenson, who won the previous two competitions, came home in 3rd (160.0), while Telford finished 4th with an average of 145.6.

Well done to the highest scorers in each year group:

Year 3—Zoyaa Soni, Edward Williams, Hannah Mhando, Harrison Vanek, Aaron Younger.

Year 4—Ziad Salim, Dara Jafari, Sajan Gill, Paari Muthukrishnan.

Year 5—Zara Mansoor, Jack Morgan, Sophia Bundhoo, Olivia Tiew.

Year 6—Alex Prideaux, Francesca Foster, Brian Franks, Ollie Bridle.

These children, along with a number of others from previous quiz teams, will now take part in further quizzes to determine who represents Yarm in the National Schools General Knowledge Competition.

Mr Stone

PREVIOUS WINNERS

2023-24—Arkwright

2022-23—Stephenson

2021-22—Stephenson

2020-21—Arkwright

2019-20—Brunel

2018-19—Brunel

2017-18—Arkwright

2016-17—Brunel

2015-16—Brunel

2014-15—Brunel

New Term, New Clubs!

Our clubs and activities programme kicked off this week, with children taking part in a vast range of pursuits and interests ranging from golf (below) to coding.



In Phoenix Challenge (right) the children had fun planning and constructing towers using pencils!

Mrs Arrol

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

Headlanders Netball Club in Darlington where Mrs Jolly coaches. Contact dheadlanders@outlook.com for further details re. Wednesday night training. 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

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

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/>



Christmas Charity Collections

Well done to George Pike (6H) who held a Christmas raffle at school, raising a superb £149.70 for Age UK in the process. This was all part of his Yarm Prep Baccalaureate projects.

Mr Stone

New Build Open House

'Open house' visits for parents and pupils have been arranged to tour the facilities (between 4pm and 4.15pm) in groups on the following dates:

Tue 30/1 - Year 3

Weds 31/1 - Pre-Prep

Thurs 1/2 - Pre-Prep

Thu 8/2 - Year 4

Wed 28/2 - Year 6

Fri 1/3 - Year 5

Wed 13/3 - Former Prep pupils currently in Senior School and parents

Mr Stone

New Library

It has been lovely to see our pupils have enjoyed immersing themselves in our new library in recent days. They have all had the opportunity to explore the new book banding system and spent time reading for pleasure in this wonderful space which exudes serenity and comfort. It is the perfect environment in which to get lost between the pages.

Mrs Hart



5G Writing

A Christmas I Will Never Forget

It was Christmas morning, I had just opened my eyes and immediately sprung out of bed to go and wake up my parents. I sprinted along the corridor and into my parent's bedroom, I shouted,

"Mum, Dad, it's Christmas!". My mum looked at her phone to check the time (while my dad was still snoring like an

aeroplane at full speed) she responded, "Shall we go downstairs to check if Santa has been?" Immediately, I jumped onto their bed and shouted in my dad's ear, "Dad, it's Christmas! Wake up!" he groaned in response, "Five more minutes." My mum looked at me and then at my dad. She gave him a look, Dad got the look every human dreads, 'The Mum Look' and in the blink of an eye he nervously jumped out of bed and shouted, "Merry Christmas!". Excited, overjoyed and exhilarated, we all rushed downstairs into the living room to see that the cookies, the milk and the carrot that we had left out on Christmas Eve had been eaten!

Although the living room was full of presents, the one thing that caught my eye was the brand new, shiny orange bike. It had a bell that went "Ding!" when you flicked it, a matching, bright orange water bottle that fitted perfectly into the bottle holder and a bike light from my dad's triathlon bike!

After opening all of my other presents, Mum and Dad surprised me with the thrilling opportunity to cycle to Preston Park on my new bike. At Preston Park, I cycled rapidly through the woods and down muddy hills. I felt the cool breeze running through my hair like a comb, I could smell the freshness of the mud beneath my wheels. I felt something cold and wet hit my face and just a few seconds after, I saw something white out of the corner of my eye, it was snow! I heard echoing voices of many excited children throughout the whole park who had come to enjoy the exquisite weather too!

After cycling on the crunchy, pristine snow, my Mum, my Dad and I headed back home. Once we arrived at our house we

immediately got changed into our special, matching elf pyjamas. Since we were in pyjamas we decided to get lots of blankets straight out of the tumble dryer (so they would be warm) and while my Dad and I were getting pillows, my Mum made us warm, milky hot chocolate. After we had all got comfortable on the sofa, we all voted on a movie to watch (Christmas themed) and surprisingly we all decided we wanted to watch Elf! It wasn't surprising because we were all dressed like elves!

After the movie had finished, we tidied up the blankets and put our mugs in the sink. We all dressed smartly for our Christmas dinner at the pub. We met the rest of our family there, and we pulled crackers, told jokes, had a great laugh and most importantly had a great Christmas. This, I knew, would be a Christmas I would never forget.

Imogen C.



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



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





Yarm
Preparatory
School

Home

- Little Wander
- 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 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

Tooled Up Education

A very happy new year from everyone at Toolled Up! Once the festive decorations are packed away, parents will be looking ahead to what 2024 holds in store. This could be the year of a major transition, perhaps your child's first steps in Reception or a teenager applying for university. Other families will have their first experience of exams in the summer, or face the nervous wait for a school place. Whatever milestones you reach this year, you can be sure your children will continue to grow, develop and change, bringing new achievements and new challenges. And of course, Toolled Up will be here every step of the way with support, advice and a place to share your experiences.

Our year begins with a packed schedule of live online events on a huge range of education and wellbeing topics.

[January 12, 2024 - 12:00 GMT: Early Learning and Writing Development](#)

Teacher-practitioner Natalie Kneller will highlight the importance of the early learning that underpins later writing development, alongside practical examples and advice. Register [here](#).

[January 18, 2024 - 13:00 GMT: Parental Separation and Divorce Q&A](#)

Couples and family therapist Dr Rennee Singh answers your questions on the impact of parental separation and divorce on children. Register [here](#).

[January 15, 2024 - 19:00 GMT: Q&A with a Family Lawyer](#)

Clare Curran, partner at Curran Bowles Family Law in Northern Ireland, talks us through the work of family lawyers. She'll explain what to expect from a visit to a law firm, and answer any questions you may have. Register [here](#).

[January 16, 2024 - 19:30 GMT: Supporting Children Who Fear Making Mistakes](#)

Join Dr Kathy Weston and metacognition expert, Liz Keable, as they discuss the importance of normalising mistakes in family life to reduce academic anxiety and allow children an optimal chance of doing well academically. Register [here](#).

[January 26, 2024 - 12:00 GMT: Mental Health of Children and Young People](#)

With child and adolescent psychiatrist Dr Meinou Simmons. Register [here](#).

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.

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 for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for... MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

Buy
Milk

GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

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.



DEVICE
BOX

The
National
College



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

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ENCHANTED VERSION



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7.30PM

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ADULTS £15.00 CHILDREN £8.00

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YSA PRESENTS

ST. PATRICK'S DAY



CELEBRATION

FRIDAY 15TH MARCH, 7-11PM

LIVE MUSIC - FOOD - DRINK

THE BASEMENT BAR, THE PAA

Coming Up

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

JANUARY 2024

Mon 15	STEAM Person of the Week—Sam Wyman Y3 Swimming begins (Stephenson/Telford) YPSSC (6pm; New Hall)
Tue 16	Curiosity Emporium (1pm; Library)
Thu 18	U9 Netball and Football v Dame Allan’s (home; 2.15pm start)
Fri 19	Year 6 Senior School assessments U10/11 Netball v Queen Mary’s (home; 2.30pm start)
Sat 20	Open Morning (9am-12noon)
Mon 22	Year 6 Drama Week begins House Chess begins STEAM Person of the Week—Thomas Hanson
Tue 23	U8 Football/Netball with Clifton (away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)
Wed 24	Primary Schools Singing Day (PAA performance at 2.15pm)
Thu 25	U9 Netball v Red House/Durham (home; 2pm start) Year 1 Plane Fuselage visit
Fri 26	Year 6 Drama Week Performance (New Hall; 4.15pm) U10 Netball v Cundall Manor (home; 2pm start)

Term Dates

Spring Term 2023

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	Violet P.	Noah S.
3J	Edie T.	George B.
3P	Louis G.	Jayden G.
4F	Alice J.	Amelie T.
4J	Jana A.	Felix M.
4S	Wilbur M-S.	Georgie D-B.
5G	James B.	Sandy O.
5H	Martha L.	Manha A.
5K	Sophia B.	Cooper W.
6H	Emily W.	Georgie W.
6L	Hannah C.	Flynn N.
6W	Joey P.	Hugo M.

Music Awards:

Platinum award: Manha A.