



The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 766 — Friday 9th February 2024

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to this week's edition of the Phoenix Flier which gives you a flavour of the action at the Prep School in the last week or so. We have been in a jubilant mood following the official opening ceremony of the Hazel Andrews Building last Friday. It was a fitting celebration and an important chapter in the life of the school which allowed those in attendance to enjoy a range of performances and hear from Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson. It was particularly special to be able to welcome one of the school's founding Governors, Mrs Hazel Andrews, to the event as the building has been named in her honour. Seeing former pupils, governors and staff mix with the current school community, partnership friends and the wider network of people involved in the project was most heartwarming.

This week has seen us delve into the realms of Internet Safety with our pupils and those from a range of different local schools. It has been both exciting and concerning to find out about the online lives of primary-aged young people from across Teesside via a recently conducted survey. It is clear that our pupils gain a great deal from the online world, they enjoy the opportunity to use coding skills, collaborate and solve problems via gaming platforms, and connection with each other online is increasingly part of their daily lives. It is therefore something that we cannot eradicate. We must seek to understand and to try and educate each other on safe usage and behaviour. I am grateful to Mr Stone for leading the charge on this important topic area and I encourage us all to utilise the excellent resources he has shared and those on Tooled Up to support conversations at home.

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge: When my father was 31 I was 8.
Now he is twice as old as me. How old am I?



Photo of the Week: It was a pleasure to welcome Mrs Hazel Andrews and Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson to the official opening of the Hazel Andrews Building last Friday.

Andrews Building Opening Ceremony

We came together as a school community last week for the official opening of the Hazel Andrews Building. Hazel Andrews was a founding governor, who in 1978 had the dream of opening a school for boys amidst a change in the educational landscape nationwide. The current Prep School site was unused at the time and Hazel, with the support of a group of committed governors and parents, opened Yarm School the same year. From the humble beginnings of a school of 60 boys aged 11-18, the school now stands as a 3-18 establishment for 1100 boys and girls. For this rapid growth and continued excellence the school is rightly seen as one of the success stories of the independent sector. Without the foresight, courage and determination of Hazel, and many others along the way, the school would not be where it is today. It therefore felt fitting that we should honour Hazel's contribution by naming the new building in her honour.

The afternoon of the opening ceremony started with Hazel and Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, our guest speaker, cutting the ribbon with the School Captains, Dr Williams and Mr Sawyer. By this time the pupils from Years 3-6, staff and assembled guests (including founding Headmaster Neville Tate, Governors, former staff and many people involved in the build project) were assembled in the Hall for the start of the ceremony. We were welcomed by Dr Williams who reflected on Hazel's contributions to Yarm School and the founding principles which are still present across the school today.

Kaiden Guan (Y5) then delighted everyone, bringing a few people to tears, with a truly stunning rendition of one of Chopin's Nocturnes which are generally considered among the finest short solo works for the piano. Following this spectacle, we were inspired by Baroness Grey-Thompson who shared with us some of her life events and the importance of never giving up. She fielded a range of questions from the pupils and was both candid and amusing throughout. Proceedings then took a lively and creative turn as we were treated to a high octane dance from the Year 6 Drama Week and a fabulous performance by our Senior Choir of Chilcott's Red Boots On!

Mr Sawyer closed proceedings looking ahead to how the Hazel Andrews building will feature in the lives of our school and wider community and reflecting on the many messages heard during the ceremony. It became clear that the importance of mindset and not giving up have remained part of the school's culture since its inception, have featured heavily in the lives of Hazel Andrews and Baroness Grey-Thompson and are traits we should all endeavour to adopt in our lives.

After the ceremony guests enjoyed tours of the building and some refreshments, whilst a range of photographs and interviews were captured for the archives and local press. It was a wonderful afternoon and one which allowed us to rightly honour the legacy of Hazel Andrews. We hope by naming the building after Hazel it will always remind our school community of her courage and determination to turn her dream into a reality.

Mr Sawyer



Year 3 visit Centre for Life

Lucy D: I loved observing the stars in the planetarium.

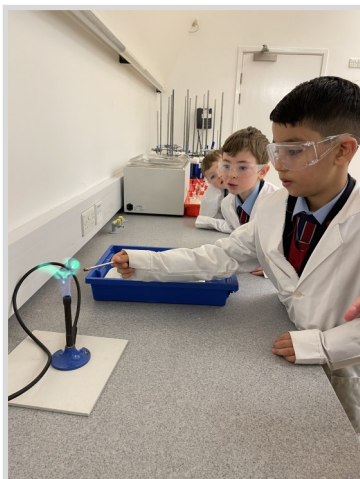
Ned: The giant machine was amazing! We could move lots of different parts to transport little beads.

Ayah: It wowed me when all the colours combined to make white in the theatre show.

Will: The rolling circles in the Creativity Zone was really satisfying to do.

Lily S: Exploring the Creativity Zone was the best part of the day.

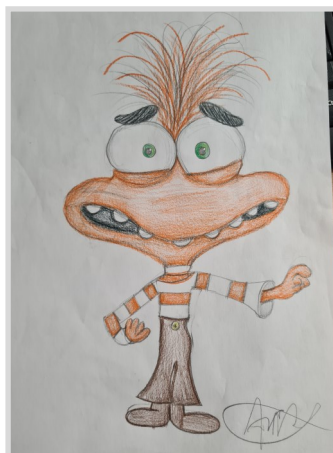
Jayden W: I would highly recommend the Wow Zone because of the variety of activities.



Art Masterclass

There has been some amazing work produced at home by our budding Art Masterclass pupils recently!

Mrs Shepherd



PE and Games

North-East Schools Cross-Country

On Thursday the 1st of February, 29 children from Year 4, 5, 6 travelled to Barlborough Hall School to compete in an exciting cross-country race. We were welcomed by the coaches of Barlborough and showed where we would wait. One after another, different years were asked to walk to the starting line. Everyone was pumped up and ready to start the race. Cheering, as different schools sprinted to the finish line pushing themselves to go as fast as possible. Yarm got placed well in all of the races and we all tried our very best. When it was my turn to race there was a lot of competition, but I knew that I just needed to have fun and to try my best. In the end, I sprinted as fast as I could to get to the finish line. At the end they announced all the places and overall teams where they had come. All the different schools did very well especially considering some of the schools were new. Overall, one of the best school days for me.

Heidi K.



House Chess—Matchday 3

Brunel eventually captured the title of 2024 House Chess Champions, but they had to survive a determined assault from last year's champions, Stephenson, on the final day of fixtures.

Stephenson needed to beat Brunel to have a chance of retaining the title and the match was extremely close all of the way through. Captain Lolwa Soliman, Benjamin Fulford, Sri Rajaram, Rosa Williams and Dara Jafari (the top scorer on the day, with three wins) showed Stephenson's intent, but Brunel were just able to avoid defeat, thanks to points from captain Kaira Nalawade, Phoneix Emadi, Fathe Chahal, Manha Abdullah, Hugo Kelly, Scarlett Yang and Austen Oman. The result of this dramatic match was a 7.5-7.5 draw, which was enough for Brunel to hold onto the top spot - although they admitted they were made to work very hard by Stephenson.

Meanwhile, Telford went into their match with Arkwright knowing they needed to win by a large score and also hope that Brunel lost. Ultimately, neither part of their plan came to pass, as Arkwright, playing for pride after a brace of defeats in the first two rounds, saved their best performance until last. Captain Miles Page, Jayden Wang, William Lawson, William Garratt and Freddie Wilson all scored valuable points for Arkwright and this proved to be too much for Telford, despite good results from captain Eric Pinedo Fuentes, Henry Stanley, Ahmad Ifrahim, Anika Sunkavalli and Rory Fitzgerald. The final score was 7.5-4.5 to Arkwright.

The final standings show Brunel as worthy champions, Stephenson as runners-up and Arkwright and Telford sharing third place. This is Brunel's first title success since 2015. We are losing a lot of the big-hitters this year, as they are coming towards the end of their Year 6 chess lives, and it will be very interesting to see which House will develop the strength in depth required to rise above the other three. We will also need four new captains! Meanwhile congratulations to everyone who played in the event and especially to Brunel, for winning the title that has evaded them for so long.

Mr Marsh

Internet Safety Workshop

Yarm's Digital Leaders, along with Digital Leaders from six local primary schools, joined forces on Monday to help spread the message of online safety. A wide range of activities took place, with guest speakers from Google, Visualsoft and C-Learning contributing to an exciting day of activities and learning for all involved. As part of the day, the children explored some of the findings from our Teesside Schools Internet Safety Survey, which took place in January and involved nearly 400 Prep-aged children from 10 local primary schools. We will be sharing some of the results of this with you over the coming weeks (and below), to help give you an awareness of what your children and their peers are up to online.

Mr Stone

Starting today, we will be posting some of the findings from our Teesside Schools Online Safety Survey,

which saw 397 Prep-aged children from 10 local primary schools (including Yarm) take part in. Although the data shared with you covers all of the children who took part in the survey, we have compared the data with that from Yarm pupils only and there is little to no difference in the findings.

Please spend some time looking at these, discussing them with your children and sharing any issues that come up as a result. We are here to support and work together with you and your children when it comes to online safety.

Time limits

Half of the children surveyed said that their parents place no time limits on their screen access at home, with a similar amount claiming they spend more than two hours a day on screens (which does not include time spent on school work and homework). Interestingly, 54% of children said they spend too much time on their screens, giving scope for discussions around what is an acceptable amount of time online and media/life balance.

YouTube

We have seen an increasing number of pupils using YouTube to create and run their own YouTube channels, inspired no doubt by the many children, teens and others who create such accounts. Looking at the data recorded, an incredible 50% of those with accounts have set them to 'Public', leaving



Time Limits

Do your parents/guardians place time limits on your screen time?

50%

of children have no time limits placed on their screen time



53%

of children spend more than 2 hours a day on screens

YouTube Creator

What you are up to on the video making app

25%

have Creator accounts

50%

of those with Creator accounts set them to 'Public'



41%

have over 100 followers on their Creator accounts

50%

of those with public Creator accounts don't know who is following them

them open to comments and subscriptions from anyone. We spent some time in assembly this week going through some of the risks of this and some of the risky behavior demonstrated by our children on YouTube, including: **replying to questionable messages from people they do not know, putting personal and private information in their usernames** (e.g. name, surname, year of birth, key interest, etc) and **recording videos with their face, voice and school uniform in a prominent position**. If your child has a YouTube channel, guidance states that they must be run by an adult rather than the channel. Parents need to take a full and active interest in what is being posted and consider setting the account to 'Private'.

Our advice is for children under 13 to not have creator accounts where they can run their own channel unless it is done so under tight adult supervision, using the myriad features and suggestions YouTube themselves advocate here on their *YouTube For Families Help* pages: <https://support.google.com/youtubekids/#topic=12970520>.

Further advice can be found on [ParentZone](#) (see below for details on how to join for free) and [the NSPCC website here](#).

Our Online Safety Teaching

Over the past 5-6 weeks, every year group from 1-6 have been participating in online safety and digital literacy activities during their computing lessons. Our Online Safety modules are adapted every year to take into account trends at school and nationally, as well as taking into account any updates to national policy. These are also supplemented by activities in PSHE lessons, form times and assemblies.

Please do talk to them about the things we have covered so far! It helps to scaffold their learning and understanding of how to be safe online. We are still working on some of these areas!

Year 1

...started by looking at what private and personal information is and how websites ask for it. We then discussed that they can go to exciting places online, but they must follow certain rules to remain safe. To help us remain safe, we have rules to keep us safe online at home and school, with asking for permission key to these. We also looked at what being considerate online looks like and what to do if we accidentally upset someone online.

Year 2

...started by looking at what connected devices are and how these have benefits and drawbacks. We looked at how to navigate the web using the correct terminology, before exploring how to search for things online using Google Safe Search and other child-friendly search engines. After looking at what cyberbullying means and what to do if they see it, they are starting to explore what to do with images and work that does not have a name (copyright).

Year 3

...began by looking at why we need device-free moments and came up with family screen time plans. They then explored how

Parent Zone

Our Digital Schools membership gives you FREE access to Parent Zone's Parent Lounge with:

- Online training;
- Expert advice and information on all things digital;
- Access to a free help service for all of your tech questions.



To get started, go to: <https://parentzone.org.uk/parents/discover-parent-lounge>

- Click on ENTER PARENT LOUNGE
- Click on the pink ADD TO CART button
- On the next page click CHECKOUT. You'll be asked to enter your email address.

On the next page you will need to enter the coupon code YarmSchool to ensure you have free access. Please click ADD COUPON once the code has been entered. The code gives you a 100% discount.

I cannot recommend the Parent Zone service highly enough. In this day and age, when we are teaching the children how to be good online citizens and how to stay safe online, it is imperative that parents are in the loop too. Parent Zone offers this support.

the power of using kind words online can make the internet a better place, before discussing how to spot a fake image or video, and why people will edit their media. We have also looked by cyberbullying and the reasons why games and apps have PEGI ratings.

Year 4

...explored rings of responsibilities, discussing how their actions online can impact themselves, their friends and family and the communities around them. We followed this by exploring the differences between private and personal information, and what we should and should not share. The power of words and how things we say can be interpreted online led to some interesting discussions, before we looked at how keywords can help to streamline our searching and make it safer. We then looked at how to write a good email, before discussing what content is acceptable and unacceptable to share online.

Year 5

...discussed how to be a good digital citizen. We explored online images and how they may not always tell the story we think they might be telling us. After looking at spam emails and the key ways of identifying these, we began to gain an understanding of how some online sources are more reliable than others, with a particular focus on Wikipedia. We looked at the need to have a strong, regularly-changed password and what constitutes one of these. Finally, we will be discussing what is meant by the term Fake News and how we can become more discerning consumers of online information.

Year 6

...spoke about striking a media balance and the pitfalls of spending too long online. We discussed the benefits and drawbacks of how we present ourselves online, as well as what 'Finstas' are, before moving on to exploring the pros and cons with chatting online, particularly with people we may not know. We will also be looking at issues around copyright and plagiarism, finishing with looking at how to make safe, sensible decisions online before it is too late.

Mr Stone

Useful Information for Parents

These links were shared with parents who attended our internet safety talk this week. They are free to access. Please also delve into the magnificent range of resources available on Tooled Up Education, which you can find full details of later in this edition.

Social networks made for children: www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-networks-made-for-kids

Age appropriate apps for children and young people: www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/child-friendly-apps-your-children-will-enjoy

Gaming: what's appropriate for your child? (PEGI ratings): www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming-whats-appropriate-for-your-child

Personal information: a guide for parents and carers: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/parents-guide-to-personal-information2

Social media top tips <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-top-tips-cards>

A practical guide for parents and carers whose children are using social media <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/ukcis-social-media-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

Online contact and staying safe: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/online-contact-and-staying-safe

In-game chat: what parents and carers need to know: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/in-game-chat

Social networks made for children: www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-networks-made-for-kids

Is your child ready for social media: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/is-my-child-ready-for-social-media

Social media privacy guides: www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media

What is sexual grooming: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-sexual-grooming

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 apps that we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Carers

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.



TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.



CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.



CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.



MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.



LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!



Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Spring Key Events

New Build Open House visits

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

Wed 28/2 - Year 6; Fri 1/3 - Year 5; Wed 13/3 - Former Prep pupils currently in Senior School and parents. There is no need to book a place, just come along.

Friday 16th February - Staff INSET

A reminder, just in case, that school is closed to pupils on this date. This marks the beginning of half-term, with pupils returning to school on Monday 26th February.

Thursday 29th February - Rare Diseases Day

We will be supporting Rare Diseases Day again this year, raising money for the David Ashwell Foundation. Your child can wear their jeans on this date (or an item of blue) with their usual school uniform if they [bring in £1 or donate via this link](#).

Friday 1st March - YPSSC Cooking Decorating Day for Pre-Prep

Our lucky Pre-Prep children will have the chance to decorate a cookie with Pippa and the team, thanks to the support of the YPSSC! This will be in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support and we ask children to bring in £1 for their cookie, or parents to [make a donation to our JustGiving page - set up for Macmillan - by clicking here](#).

Tuesday 5th March - Telford Charity Day

Details on this event for Years 3-6 will follow in due course.

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day

We invite every member of the school community to dress up as their favourite fictional book character for the day! Our theme this year is 'Children are made readers on the laps of parents!' During Thursday and Friday we will be inviting you to visit our wonderful new library to share a book with your child and enjoy a drink in the reading cafe. More details to follow.

Additionally, we will be organising a family *Book Reading Competition from 8th to the 22nd March, as well as hosting a Book Fair from 18th-22nd March in the Studio Hall and the Prep Foyer*.

Friday 8th March - Bring your Mother/Grandmother to School Day (For Pre-Prep children only)

Details will follow in due course.

Friday 8th March - Prep Red Nose Disco (for Years 3-6)

The disco will take place in the Prep School hall on Friday 8th March, from 6pm until 7.30pm. All pupils are invited and will be able to enjoy the usual party games and activities organised by teachers and dance to a range of 'bangers' played by some teaching DJs!

Tickets for the disco will be £2 each (money to be brought along on the night), with all proceeds going to Comic Relief as part of Red Nose Day. We do need confirmation of pupil attendance for catering and safety purposes, as every child will be given something to eat during the event. [As such, please could you fill in this online consent form by Monday 4th March](#).

On the day of the disco, children attending the party will go home as usual and can then return for the 6pm start. Please be advised that children will have to be dropped off at the Prep School car park and met by our teachers to walk to the hall. Staff will be in attendance from here to supervise the children to the disco.

If you plan on booking After School Care, we can supervise them in a special after school care. It is recommended that they

bring in a packed tea though to keep them going. Please let me know via email if you want to make use of this.

Please ensure that your child brings their water bottle to school on the day of the disco as they will be drinking water from these during the event to cut back on single use plastic cups.

Parents can collect their children at 7.30pm from the Prep School. If the Prep car park becomes full, please use the Senior School car park as an alternative and walk up to the Prep site. Please complete the online consent form above by Monday 4th March to secure a place for your child at the disco. Please note: the disco is only open to Prep School children.

Friday 15th March - Red Nose Day

For Comic Relief, all children can come into school in the morning wearing an item of red clothing, along with their usual school uniform and should bring in £1 to donate to the charity [or you can donate via this link](#).

Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th - Parent Consultations

Details to follow of how you can book an appointment with your child's form tutor to discuss their progress this term.

Thank you as always for your support.

Mr Stone

STEAM Week Appeal

The week beginning Monday 12th February is our STEAM week. The theme this year is space, as voted for by the children in last year's STEAM pupil voice survey.

The week will see children taking part in a range of space-related STEAM challenges and we will be welcoming to school speakers from the aviation, rocket fuel and satellite communications industries. The sports hall will also play host to a planetarium and children can dress up as an astronaut and experience space through VR. Children will also have an opportunity to hold a piece of the moon in their hand, as we have loaned some lunar rocks and meteorites.

To support our STEAM week, we would be very grateful for donations of the following:

- shoeboxes
- large plastic pop/water/milk bottles
- tops and lids of all descriptions but especially those from plastic milk bottles
- cardboard boxes of all shapes and sizes
- large flat pieces of cardboard

- domed packaging or anything which shouts 'Mars colony'
- tubes e.g. empty kitchen roll tubes
- polystyrene
- bubblewrap
- plastic bags or sheeting (or material which might make a good parachute)

Please send any donations to school with your child or pass to your child's form teacher over the next few weeks. Your help is much appreciated.

Mrs Smith

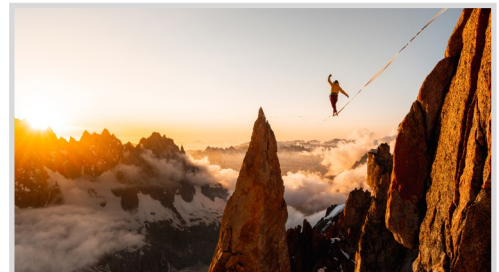
Coming up at the PAA

Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour

**Saturday 24th
February,
7.30pm**

The Banff
Mountain Film
Festival
features a

brand-new collection of short films filled with extreme journeys, untamed characters and captivating cinematography!



Join the world's top adventure filmmakers and thrill-seekers as they climb, ski, paddle and ride into the wildest corners of the planet! Experience an unforgettable evening of thrilling adventure – up on the big screen!

NT Live: The Motive and the Cue

**Thursday 21st
March, 7pm
(Live stream
performance)**

Sam Mendes
(The Lehman
Trilogy) directs

Mark Gatiss as John Gielgud and Johnny Flynn as Richard Burton in this fierce and funny new play.

1964: Richard Burton, newly married to Elizabeth Taylor, is to play the title role in an experimental new Broadway production of Hamlet under John Gielgud's exacting direction. But as rehearsals progress, two ages of theatre collide and the collaboration between actor and director soon threatens to unravel.



Mersey Beatles

**Friday 12th April,
7.30pm**

The world's favourite
Liverpool-born tribute
to The Beatles
celebrate the 60th



anniversary of A Hard Day's Night. The iconic 1964 album and movie perfectly captured the Fab Four at their pop peak.

And to mark the diamond anniversary, The Mersey Beatles will play the entire A Hard Day's Night album in full – followed by a hit-packed collection of Beatlemania classics.

Schools General Knowledge Quiz

Congratulations to all four of our school quiz teams, who all made it through to the semi-finals of the National Schools General Knowledge Quiz, organized by Quiz Club.

In the first of two online mega heats, each featuring over 70 schools, the four Yarm teams performed consistently well through the six rounds, staying on the 'front page' of the results during each round, meaning they remained in the top 20 throughout. With 20 qualifying for the semi-finals, our qualification was never really in doubt!

Team 1, consisting of Hannah Mhando, Dara Jafari, Manha Abdullah and Benjamin Fulford, finished 8th in the heat, with an impressive 1740 points. One place behind them were Team 4 with 1715 points out of a possible 2000, the team comprised of Edward Williams, Aditi Kumar, Jack Morgan and super-sub

Francesca Foster.

Team 2 finished strongly in 10th with 1695 points. Their team was led by another super-sub, and Quiz Club veteran, Hannah Clarke, who was joined by Genevieve Prideaux, Ziad Salim and Thomas Maxey.

Team 3 came home in 16th with 1590 points. The team consisted of Zoyaa Soni, Freddie Wilson, Olivia Tiew and Alex Prideaux.

Well done to all of the children who took part, in particular our two super-subs and all of those who took part in the 'training' sessions leading up to the quiz. We await the draw and the date of the national semi-final.

Mr Stone

Eco Club

Our intrepid Eco Club have been litter picking around the school site this week! Well done to all who took part, as well as the litter pickers from each form.



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



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

What can we do within family life to promote, boost and protect children's mental health?

An important first step is to ensure that our children are able to voice concerns: talk about anything that upsets or distresses them, and access trusted and supportive adults. A great way to prepare the ground for these open conversations is to talk with children about who they would go to for help when they need it. Younger children might enjoy our [Five Fingers of Support](#) resource, while older children might be encouraged to map out support with our [Who Is There For Me?](#) planner.

The quality of relationships that our children enjoy in their lives is fundamentally important for mental health and wellbeing. Many parents, though, recognise the challenge of juggling career needs and family time. We spoke to Dr Gauri Seth for this [webinar on connecting with our children](#) whilst leading a high-stress lifestyle. If you have a child who lives apart from you, you can get some ideas for sustaining connection in this [webinar](#).

For younger children, play is vital for learning to build relationships and is proven to benefit mental health, reducing anxiety and increasing social and emotional competence. This [video](#) contains tips for facilitating high-quality play with your children, which is also a great way to connect with them. For older children you can be a little braver and involve them in a conversation about family life. These [conversation starters](#) about family values are a great way to consciously consider and strengthen family connections.

Never be afraid to 'lean in' as a parent and to ask what is going well for your child or what has been tricky for them recently. [Debriefs at dinnertime](#) serve as important occasions to talk about daily challenges, model coping strategies or promote gratitude. Tune into this [podcast](#) with Cambridge University's Mishika Mehrota all about how dinnertime chats can improve children's mental health.

We know that many families in our community are struggling with a range of struggles and challenges; parental mental health, anxiety struggles, bereavement, loss, trauma, and difficult diagnoses.

Please remember that within the Tooled Up platform, you will find interviews with many eminent psychiatrists and clinical psychologists who offer informative responses to a variety of common questions. For starters, try our [Q&A](#) with Consultant Psychiatrist Dr Anna Conway Morris, Professor Tamsin Ford's [talk](#) on improving young people's mental health, Dr Dennis Ougrin's [webinar](#) on supporting young people who self-harm, and Dr Meinou Simmons' [Q&A](#) on mental health in children.

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 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. 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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YPSSC PreLoved Uniform



We have a huge and varied stock of preloved uniform available.

Boys & Girls Blazers
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From Nursery through to Year 6.

Prices start from £1!

If you are looking to add to your uniform wardrobe or simply want a few spares, visit our website www.ypssc.co.uk or scan the QR code below to complete a stock check/order form.

All clean and reusable donations of outgrown uniform are welcome too- just bag them up and either pass them on to a committee member or drop them off at a Prep reception.



Thank you!

LIVE MUSIC FROM THE COUNTERFEIT CELTS

YSA PRESENTS

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

CELEBRATION

FRIDAY 15TH MARCH, 7-11PM

LIVE MUSIC - FOOD - DRINK

THE BASEMENT BAR, THE PAA

Yarm School Choral Society, Festival Chorus and Yarm Senior and Prep School Choirs
accompanied by the world famous Black Dyke Band present:

**SATURDAY
23rd MARCH
2024
at 7pm**

*The best brass band
in the world*
SIR ELTON JOHN

*Each new generation of
fleet-fingered cornet and
euphonium virtuosos add
another layer of
jaw-dropping achievement*
THE TIMES



George Frideric Handel's MESSIAH

**SATURDAY
23rd MARCH
2024
at 7pm**

*The best brass band
in the land*
SIR PAUL McCARTNEY

*...Virtuosity of this order
takes the breath away*
THE TORONTO STAR

*The set of the Festival
(Glastonbury 2017)*
THE GUARDIAN



Tickets are £15/£10 and are available from www.thepaaonline.org
or by calling the box office on (01642) 792587



Coming Up

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

FEBRUARY 2024

Mon 12	STEAM Week No Y3 swimming today Y3 Activities Carousel 4 begins
Tue 13	House Pancake Races Y3 Silver Stories visiting Middleton Lodge (5pm return)
Wed 14	U11 In2 Boys’ Hockey Tournament (Prep Astro; 3pm)
Thu 15	STEAM Week celebration Half-term begins (after school) After School Care as usual
Fri 16	School closed (Staff INSET)
Mon 26	Pupils return Professor Ashwell Lake assembly Y2 trip to Centre for Life Y3 Activities Carousel 4 begins (Stephenson/Telford still swimming)
Tue 27	School Council (1pm; Lab) U8 Football & Netball v Clifton (away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return) Y5 London trip—Zoom for parents (4pm)
Wed 28	New Build Open House for Y6 parents (4pm) NE Schools Netball and Football (Hymers; 11am start, 5pm return) Telford assembly
Thu 29	Rare Diseases Day (Bring in £1 to wear jeans/item of blue) Y6 Good Work assembly U9 Football v NSB (home; 2pm start)

MARCH 2024

Fri 1	New Build Open House for Y5 parents (4pm) YPSSC Pre-Prep Cookie Decorating Day U10 Hockey v Scarborough (home; 2pm start)
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Term Dates

Spring Term 2023

Finish	Thursday 28th March 2024 (after school; no after school care)
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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 (after Prize Giving)	Thursday, 3rd July 2025

Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3H	Baher S.	Rosie L.
3J	Lucy D.	Agam V.
3P	Jayden W.	Edie P.
4F	Hugo K.	Emma W.
4J	Sajan G.	Ailee H.
4S	Aditi K.	Ziad S.
5G	Alia M.	Emily B.
5H	Emily Q.	Felicity W.
5K	Olivia T.	Cooper W.
6H	Zoe X.	Vadim S.
6L	Yasmeen S.	Flynn N.
6W	Francesca F.	Laurel G.

Head Teacher Awards:

Year 6: Ronav G., Maisie S.

Music Awards:

Bronze award: Edward W.