



The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 767 — Thursday 15th February 2024

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to this week's recap of life at the Prep School. Our focus in the last few days has been an immersive exploration of all things STEAM! The entire school has been alive with an extra dose of creativity, ingenuity, and collaboration. Visiting experts, engineers, physicists and an array of assemblies and workshops have enriched our days. Additionally, each year group has embraced a series of challenges, demanding collective problem-solving with a distinct space-themed STEAM twist. These projects have seamlessly blended coding methodologies, design thinking and the practical application of creative, scientific and mathematical skills. Collaborating within their respective groups, our pupils have learned to harness the diverse talents of their peers. Witnessing the synergy among the pupils has been truly rewarding, evident in the depth of their learning experiences, as observed through their discussions and the impressive work they've produced. A heartfelt thank you to Mrs Smith for orchestrating another engaging STEAM week.

As you will see from this week's edition, the variety of school life at Yarm makes for fabulous fun and a diet of superb experiences. In the last week or so alone this has included STEAM exploits, pancake race fun, Chinese New Year celebrations, coding competitions, basketball trips and much more. With all this action, a rest is in order. I wish everyone a restful half term break and look forward to more adventures on our return!

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge: I fill a room, but I take up no space. What am I?



Photo of the Week: It has been STEAM Week this week, with the children finding out and exploring space!

STEAM Week

At the time of writing, it has been our STEAM Week which has focused on SPACE this year. A full report will appear in the Flier after half-term, but for now here are some images to give you a flavor of what the children have been up to this week.



Lego League

Mrs Smith and Mr Foggett took a team of Year 5 and 6 pupils to Sunderland last week to take part in our first Lego League STEM competition. Well done to the team, who finished 5th overall and won a trophy as the best newcomers.



VEXIQ Competition

Not content with taking part in the Lego League, Mrs Smith also took a team to the VEXIQ robotics competition in Newcastle last week! We have more fixtures coming up soon!

Mrs Smith



Holiday School Dates

Easter 2024:

2nd to 5th April (4 days)

Summer 2024:

15th July to 2nd August (15 days)

Mr Simpson will be in touch after the half-term with full details.

House Pancake Races

A feast of action on Tuesday morning saw Stephenson get back to winning ways, securing the House Pancake Races title for the third time overall and the first time since 2019. They won in style too, dominating the races in Years 3, 5, and 6. Their Year 4 race was much harder though and saw Telford win.

Overall, Stephenson finished with 7 points (using one point for a win, two for second, etc), pipping the consistent Arkwright, who finished 2nd overall with 9 points. Telford came 3rd (11 points), with the previously rampant Brunel ending up 4th (13).



It means that all of the houses are starting to close up in the race to the 2023/24 House Shield as we reach the halfway point of the year. Brunel are still way out in front due to their success-laden Autumn term. They have 1625 points overall, with Arkwright next up with 1249.5 points. Stephenson, who have won the shield eight out of the last 9 years, are currently 3rd with 962 and Telford are 4th with 662.5 points.

Over half-term we are running the House Coding and encourage all pupils to submit entries as all will earn points for their house. We also have boys' hockey and netball, as well as the term-ending house points totals to look forward to—all before we hit the busy summer! It is all to play for—can Brunel win the House Shield for the first time since 2013?

Mr Stone



Activities

Year 5 and 6 love Step so far this half term! They've learned some moves and started to create their own routines!



Newcastle Eagles Basketball Trip

Friday night's basketball event was wonderful with Years 3-6 coming together to support the Newcastle Eagles. We all felt very happy as we were chanting and the delicious chocolate and drinks helped us boost our energy to shout more. It is sad for the Year 6's that it is our last year on the trip, but it was a very good year to end on an amazing hundred point game. They played brilliantly! Well done to the Newcastle Eagles!

Harry H.

I really enjoyed the basketball trip on Friday because it was a spectacular night of basketball. My personal favourite (number 11) was a really great player. I enjoyed the refreshments and snacks as they gave us more energy so we could watch till late. We stayed up till around 11! I'm really upset that we cannot do it anymore because we'll be in Senior School next year. I also love that every year groups get to go together so we can socialise with different year groups. I am glad we got to end with a win to the Newcastle Eagles with over 100 points!

Zara P.

I thought the basketball trip was excellent because I had never been to a basketball game before! The fact that the opportunity was welcome to all years was also really fun because I found that I was connecting with people from different years. The snacks and drinks were a delicious treat that everyone enjoyed. Another big positive about the trip was that the Newcastle Eagles won the match. The Eagles also scored more than one hundred points! Surprisingly, we were given flags to wave about and after almost every point we were all waving our flags around and chanting. I really enjoyed that night!

Georgie W.



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.

Useful Online Safety 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 which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

...MSG ME...

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency'. Plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. If your child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original – and might not be entirely factual, either.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about WHATSAPP

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently, as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging; WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

AGE RESTRICTION
16+

In UK and Europe;
rest of the world 13+

ONLINE

'VIEW ONCE' CONTENT

The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't re-open them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this 'disappearing' content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing increased privacy.

CHAT LOCK

Another new option allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safely on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Carers ...TYPING...

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider, for example, whether the message sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups') to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval; you can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except ...'. Additionally, if your child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

THINKING BEFORE SHARING

Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

CHAT ABOUT PRNACY

Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could discuss their reasons for using this feature.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



...HEY OSCAR...

NOS
National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://blog.whatsapp.com/an-open-letter> | <https://iaq.whatsapp.com/10770/863958232> | https://iaq.whatsapp.com/36/005698189245/?helpref=hc_fnav
<https://www.whatsapp.com/security> | <https://blog.whatsapp.com/chat-lock-making-your-most-intimate-conversations-even-more-private>
<https://www.aura.com/learn/whatsapp-scams>

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 20.09.2023

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.

***** FIRST WEEK BACK AFTER HALF-TERM*****

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

Chinese New Year

It was lovely to celebrate Chinese New Year last Friday, with Jade coming in to tell us about how and why she celebrates the occasion. The children learned all about the



different Chinese New Year animals, as well as the customs, traditions and food eaten at this celebration. We would like to thank Jade for coming in to share with us, and the YPSSC for organising the assembly.

Mr Stone



Table Tennis Success

Well done to Sri R. (6W) who represented Cleveland in the recent U11 county qualifiers. Sri enjoyed a successful afternoon and now goes on to represent Cleveland in the national championships, taking place in Wolverhampton in April! Well done Sri!



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

It's Valentine's Day, and the topic of relationships is in the air!

Even from an early age we can set our children on the path to healthy and happy relationships throughout their lives. We can help them consider how they relate to others, beginning with brothers, sisters and friends. Perhaps they want to [celebrate their sibling](#) or use our friendship [quiz](#) to think about what makes a good friend? In our [podcast](#) with Professor Robin Banerjee, he discusses the fascinating connections between peer relationships, kindness and wellbeing.

Being a good friend means respecting boundaries, which is why we produced this [resource](#) for young pupils to learn about body boundaries. At the other extreme, we explore 'rough and tumble' play in this [podcast](#) with Professor Peter Smith and Dr Jennifer St George, and the surprising role it plays in developing resilience and emotional intelligence.

In terms of future-proofing children, we want them to develop strong relational skills as they grow and develop. For starters, we can model and encourage them to be emotion scientists rather than emotion judges. Learn about this approach in our [podcast](#) with Professor Marc Brackett, and use this [resource](#) to draw younger children's attention to these concepts. A version for older children can be found [here](#).

From the primary school years, we can host strong foundational chats about our bodies, ensuring that our children understand how their bodies work and have good information around appropriate touch. If you are unsure where to begin, try these [Ten Tips for Parents](#) or tune into this [webinar](#) on the importance of such conversations.

For the parents of teens, friendship challenges, dating dilemmas and distinguishing between [healthy and unhealthy relationships](#) are normally top priorities. As teenagers grow into themselves and find their place in the world, friendship difficulties are common throughout adolescence. Our brand new [resource](#) offers a template for supporting your child through friendship problems that can build a teen's confidence.

Valentine's Day offers us a chance to talk about love in general and to talk about what it isn't. We have a host of material within Toolled Up by cybercrime expert, Dr Lisa Suguira on topics such as online gender based [violence](#), revenge [pornography](#), and the growth of online [misogyny](#).

As parents, we are important role models for the interpersonal relationships that children form. Sustaining connection is the topic of choice in this [webinar](#) with relationship therapist Sue Wintgens. For those considering separation, Dr Reenee Singh provides some useful tips [here](#) to minimise any impact on children.

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.

Dr Kathy Weston

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BECAUSE EVIDENCE MATTERS



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

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
	U10/11 Netball v Durham School
	(away; 2pm start, 4.15pm return)
	U11 Football v NSB
	(away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)
	U10 Hockey v Scarborough (home; 2pm start)
Sat 2	UK Chess Challenge (internal round)
	(Prep Hall; 9.45am start, 2pm finish)
Mon 4	STEAM Person of the Week Assembly
Tue 5	Telford Charity Day
	U8 Netball and Hockey with Ashville
	(away; 2.15pm start, 4.30pm return)
	Y6 Sports Tour—Zoom meeting for parents
	(4pm; contact Mr Simpson for details)

Term Dates

Spring Term 2023

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	Lucia RM.	Kaycee W.
3J	Lily S.	Noah S.
3P	Harris K.	Karunya G.
4F	Shanvi P.	Mana H.
4J	Isla L.	Gonzalo V.
4S	Amani R.	Sia S.
5G	Isla R.	Roland M.
5H	Annabelle M.	Elliott E.
5K	Livvie C.	Cooper W.
6H	Jacob B.	Ellie A.
6L	Hannah C.	Kaira N.
6W	Dylan M.	Pradyoth K.

Head Teacher Awards:

- Year 4:** Freddie B.
- Year 5:** Henry Sk., Emily B., Manha A.
- Year 6:** Vadim S., George P.

Music Awards:

Silver award: Emily B.