



# The Phoenix Flier

## The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 770 — Friday 15th March 2024

### A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to this week's Phoenix which gives you a flavour of Prep School life in recent days. We ended last week surrounded by books, colourful characters and bathed in the warm glow that is the love of reading. It was such a pleasure to see so many families attend our 'Reading Cafe' in the new library and share some special books together. There was a delightful atmosphere and the array of costumes that were still being rocked made it all the more fun. I enjoyed spending the day as farmer Frank Bean from Fantastic Mr Fox, but it was watching the pupils share books from different cultures and our older pupils reading to children in Pre-Prep that really made the day special for me. As an aside, if anyone has seen that fox, please let me know!

It was so good to see our musicians excel themselves at our recent Spring Concert which really showcased their talent and courageousness. For some it was their first live performance and for all of us it was the first concert in the new hall in the Hazel Andrews building. Congratulations to everyone who took part and thank you to the audience for

their warm support.

My thanks also go to Mr Gooding and our visiting music teachers who give our young musicians the belief and confidence to embrace these opportunities and test themselves in this way. Long may this continue!

*Bill Sawyer*



### Head's Challenge:

If eleven plus two equals one, what does nine plus five equal?

**Photo of the Week:** World Book Day saw children sharing books from many different cultures with each other. More pictures inside.



# World Book Day





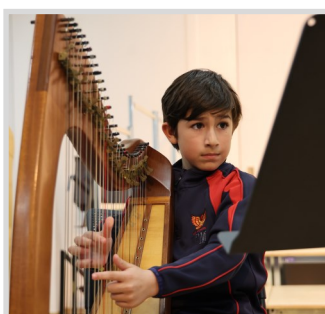
## Spring Concert

It was lovely to welcome a large audience to our Spring Concert last week. This was the first informal concert to take place in the new hall and the children rose to the occasion. Over seventy children performed, from Year 3 -6, showing a real strength in depth of music at the Prep. For some children this was their first performance in front of an audience and they played with the same confidence as the older hands.

As always we had a number of ensembles - ranging from orchestra and choir to brass ensemble to, guitar group - led by our fantastic visiting music teachers. There was a huge variety of styles on show and a real buzz to the event.

The fun doesn't stop there: next week we have ABRSM examinations and on Saturday 23rd March around 40 of our choir members will be singing Handel's Messiah as part of a choir of 200, accompanied by the world famous Black Dyke Band. Whatever a child's musical interests, there is something to join in with at Yarm Prep.

*Mr Gooding*





## Prep Disco



Our thanks to the YPSSC for their support of the Prep Red Nose Disco, as well as DJ Mick for his skills on the decks!

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/in-game-chat)

Social networks made for children: [www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-networks-made-for-kids](http://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](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/is-my-child-ready-for-social-media)

Social media privacy guides: [www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media](http://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media)

What is sexual grooming: [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-sexual-grooming](http://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 devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# SMARTPHONE SAFETY TIPS

## for young people

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You may have been lucky enough to have unwrapped a smartphone at Christmas, or you might be eagerly anticipating getting a new one at some point during this year. Whether it'll be your first ever phone or an upgrade on your old model, it's always useful to have a refresher about how to set it up and adjust the settings to keep yourself – and your valuable personal info – safe and secure. We've collected some expert tips to help you enjoy your smartphone in the healthiest way possible.

### NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSCODE

Alongside face or fingerprint recognition, your passcode is crucial to unlocking your phone and accessing your apps and personal information. You shouldn't give it out, even to close friends – after all, you wouldn't hand them a key to your house and let them go in for a nosey around! If a friend wants to use your phone, ask them why and make sure you can see what they're doing with it.

### RESPECT PARENTAL CONTROLS

If you're allowed to have a smartphone, it's because your parents or carers feel that you're mature and responsible enough to use it safely. They might set controls and boundaries on your device – not to spoil your fun but to help you avoid hazards like too much screen time or costly in-app purchases. Following these rules means you can enjoy using your phone while respecting their wishes.

### TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT

Whether it's to listen to music, play games, create content or chat with friends, using a smartphone should be fun. If you're ever feeling anxious, worried or scared about going on your phone, then something isn't right. It's important not to ignore these feelings; instead, talk to a trusted adult about what's happening and how it's making you feel.

### STAY ALERT

Two words: look up. It might sound obvious, but it's so easy to get immersed in what we're looking at or listening to on our phones that we can become unaware of our surroundings – or who might be around us. People often walk with their head down, focusing on their phone, and forget to check for obstacles in their path, cars or other pedestrians coming towards them, which is clearly dangerous.

### DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS

Phones offer a vast amount of content and the chance to chat with friends whenever we feel like it, which can make it difficult to take time away from the screen. If that's something you struggle with, you could try setting time limits on certain apps. Putting our phones down for a while gives us more time to interact with others or do something physical that helps keep us fit and healthy.

### IGNORE UNKNOWN NUMBERS

There are some scammers who might call or text asking you to share personal data or to click on a link and provide your details. Some may claim to be from a genuine company, but trustworthy businesses don't spontaneously call or message to ask for your information. It's safest to ignore calls or texts from unknown numbers, and never give your personal details out over the phone.

### ONLY USE AGE-APPROPRIATE APPS

Before downloading a new app or game, check what age rating it has. Don't feel pressured into getting a particular game or app just because your friends are using it. If it's intended for older people, there's a definite risk that it could include content (which is violent or frightening, for instance) or language which isn't suitable and may leave you feeling upset or disturbed.

### REMOVE TEMPTATION

A good night's sleep is so important for concentration, mood and overall health. Unwinding properly before going to bed – which means not staring at a screen late at night – can often improve sleep quality. Put your phone on charge overnight, but not in your room. This means you'll have a lot less temptation to check any notifications, reply to messages or get caught up scrolling on social media.

### THINK ABOUT OTHERS

Watching videos, listening to music or calling someone can all help to pass the time while we're on the bus, waiting in a queue or walking down the street. It's important to remain mindful of other people, though: they might not want to hear your tunes or your conversation. Likewise, if you're calling from a public place then don't forget that anyone could overhear something personal about you.

### SWITCH OFF GEOLOCATION

In your phone's settings, you'll be able to disable geolocation for individual apps and photos; this means that people online (including strangers) can't see information about where you are when you share or post a pic. On the subject of images, it's also important to ask permission before taking or sharing a photo of someone – and don't share embarrassing images of your friends with others.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Fetherland 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.



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## Quiz Team make the final

Our four teams took part in the semi-final of the National Schools General Knowledge Quiz last Friday, in a competition organised by Quiz Club. In a fraught, exciting contest, Team 3 reached the final with an impressive display.

The team, consisting of Zoyaa Soni, Freddie Wilson, Olivia Tiew and Alex Prideaux, came up against some incredibly challenging questions, such as identifying the year Yuri Gagarin went to space (1961), as well as some highly competitive teams, including three other Yarm teams. For most of the competition though they were in a battle with Argyle House and Wycliffe Prep for the top spot, finishing 3rd in the end with 1650 points. Argyle House won with 1685, highlighting just how close it was.

Incredibly Yarm had two further teams in the top 9, with Team 1 finishing 7th (Hannah Mhando, Dara Jafari, Manha Abdullah and Benjamin Fulford), and Team 4 finishing 9th (Edward Williams, Aditi Kumar, Jack Morgan and Brian Franks). Both may yet reach the final, depending on the results in the two other semi-finals.

A special mention must also go to Team 2, consisting of Genevieve Prideaux, Ziad Salim, Thomas Maxey and Thea Speight, who gave a good account of themselves by finishing 40th and break the 1000 points barrier.

We await details of the final—and how many teams we will be taking—with the contest taking place at Oxford University next term.

Mr Stone

## PE & Games News

### U11 Boys' Hockey v Dame Allan's

We all were ecstatic when we found out that we were all doing a fixture against Dame Allan's school. Exhilarated, we started warming up on the senior school astro. After a few minutes, Dame Alan's had arrived. We were very quickly sorted into groups and found out when and where we were playing. "Team 1, Team 3, Team 4 are playing first," Mr Underwood shouted, "Team 2 are staying off for a bit." We waited for minutes which seemed like hours and finally we were on.



We were put into our positions. The people on my team were: Vedh, Eric, Hugo, Harry, Pradyoth, Ben and Ahmad. Our brains and minds were put into a fixture mode. Running from end to end was tiring. From attacking to defending, to hitting the ball up to the striker. It was all happening in a blur, plus very tiring.

Only after Dame Allan's got the ball and got into the D they could score. They did exactly that. They put one pass into the D and they scored on the first shot. Very quickly after, it was half time. Our coach-Mr Underwood- swapped some of the

**Parent Curriculum Information Site**

Welcome to the Yarm Preparatory School Parent Curriculum Information Site.

The aim of the site is to provide you with the key curriculum information for each step of your child's journey through school. Additionally, there are links to resources and guidance for supporting your child at home.

Please pass on any requests for additional information to your child's Form Teacher or email Mrs Pawluk and Mrs Speight. The site will be regularly updated.

[jp@yarmschool.org](mailto:jp@yarmschool.org) [jp@yarmschool.org](mailto: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

positions around and encouraged us to keep on going. We all ran to the other end and started playing again.

After a few good attacks to the top of the pitch and a few close calls we had scored our first goal. As Pradyoth was our striker, he put a rocket into the back of the ball and sent it to the back of the net. We carried on with our attacking style of play throughout the whole game trying to sneak a goal to win the match. Unfortunately, we did not get a goal because we did miss a few chances beforehand.

At nearly the last moments of play, Dame Allan's were on the attack. Benjamin was watching carefully and made a good stop and dived to get the ball. The ball fell into the stick of Dame Allan's. Our hearts stopped, just one hit could win them the game. The ball went into Ben's hip and he saved the goal after a superb clearance by Harry. We had drawn against Dame Allan's, played well and then we all got to enjoy a cookie after

the game. Well done everyone!

Vedh A.

## Year 5 in London

A full report from Year 5 on their London adventure will appear next week.



## Holiday School Dates

### Easter 2024:

2nd to 5th April (4 days)

### Summer 2024:

15th July to 2nd August (15 days)

*Mr Simpson will be emailing parents shortly about the Easter Holiday School.*



## YPSSC PreLoved Uniform



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

Boys & Girls Blazers  
Coats & Cagoules  
Hats  
Summer uniform  
Winter Uniform  
Games Kit Items  
PE kit Items

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](http://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 at Prep reception.



Thank you!

Come and meet Barbie!



March  
25th  
10-2PM

NETBALL  
SKILLS  
FOR ALL  
PRIMARY  
AGES



This Barbie<sup>®</sup>  
is coming to  
Middlesbrough

FREE ENTRY

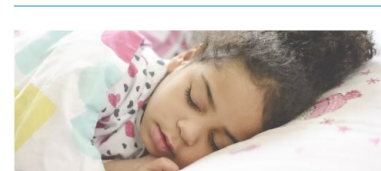
Middlesbrough Sports Village  
Email:

[GrangetownNC@hotmail.com](mailto:GrangetownNC@hotmail.com)



## Tooled Up Education

Tooled Up is here to support children in coping with a wide range of challenges and situations. When pressures and pinch points in the year seem to pile up, what are the strategies that help us to keep perspective, stay resilient and get through?



Wednesday Wisdom: Sleep

In this week's [Wednesday Wisdom](#), Dr Kathy Weston considers the vital role that sleep plays in our physical and emotional wellbeing and our ability to cope. For more information, this expert [webinar](#) offers Q&As on the practicalities of children's sleep, and we have a range of [tips](#) for helping teens get into good sleeping habits.

Different children might find that different coping strategies work for them. Our popular [Coping Menu](#) offers children a range of ideas for managing strong emotions. We have an [activity](#) for grown-ups on managing our own "wobbles", and our [Quick Guide to Anxiety](#) contains practical advice on how to recognise anxiety in yourself or your children, and links to Tooled Up's wealth of anxiety-related resources.

If you have school-age children you'll know that exam season is just a couple of months away! Not surprisingly, exams can be a source of anxiety and put real demands on our coping strategies. For UK students, GCSE and A-Level exams begin in May. The [Smart Reviser](#) resource contains plenty of tips and techniques for making information stick. Parents of younger children can watch this short [video](#) on supporting exam performance, or our [30 Tips](#) for parents on supporting exam preparation. For students preparing for school entrance exams, our [Quick Guide](#) contains a wealth of advice, information and links.

If you don't already have one, make a calendar of all exam dates and stick it up in a visible place at home. Our [2024 Exam Planner](#) is a perfect template. If you feel anxious, try Dr Kathy Weston's short [video](#) on managing parental anxiety around exams.

And remember, you can always hit the [support button](#) on our website when you need help with coping.

The Tooled Up library is already packed with almost 350 evidence-based resources, including interviews with over 80 leading experts from around the world. But, it's your library and we want to know how else we can help you? What new resources would you like to see? Which ones do you love? What could we do better?

We always value your feedback and want to ensure that we are giving you the resources that you need. Email us at [research@tooledupeducation.com](mailto:research@tooledupeducation.com) to let us know how we are doing!

As a parent at a Tooled Up school, you have full unlimited access to the Tooled Up library. If you have not created your account yet, click [here to register for an account](#). It takes less than 2 minutes to enter your details and unique school PIN: YPS1103 and if you need assistance, we are always happy to help at [support@tooledupeducation.com](mailto:support@tooledupeducation.com). If you already have an account and you have forgotten your password, click on any of the resource links above, click "Lost your password" and follow the instructions.

*Dr Kathy Weston*

# TOOLED UP®

BECAUSE EVIDENCE MATTERS



# Coming Up

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

## MARCH 2024

Mon 18	Parents’ Evening (4-6pm) Clubs and Activities finish this week ABRSM examinations this week Messiah rehearsal for those taking part (4-5pm)
Tue 19	Parents’ Evening (4-6pm)
Wed 20	Prep Duologues Performance (Andrews Hall; 4-4.45pm Y3/4; 4.45-6pm Y5/6) 2J Beach Clean House assemblies
Thu 21	U11 Sports Tour to Sedbergh departs (9am) Year 4 Work Celebration assembly
Fri 22	All clubs and activities finish today U11 Sports Tour returns (7pm)
Mon 25	International Week (details to follow) LCM examinations Week Nursery finishes at 3pm; R-Y2 at 3.15pm
Tue 26	Nursery finishes at 3pm; R-Y2 at 3.15pm
Wed 27	Choristers Easter visit to Park Rest Home Physics Roadshow with Dr Craig Nursery finishes at 3pm; R-Y2 at 3.15pm
Thu 28	<b>End of term; no after school care</b> Nursery finishes at 3pm; R-Y2 at 3.15pm Dance Assembly (9.50am; Prep Hall)

## APRIL 2024

Tue 2	Easter Holiday School (until Friday 5th April)
Thu 18	<b>Summer term begins; pupils return</b> Nursery finishes at 3pm; R-Y2 at 3.15pm School Eid celebrations
Fri 19	Nursery finishes at 3pm; R-Y2 at 3.15pm
Mon 22	<b>Clubs and activities begin</b>
Tue 23	<b>Senior School Fashion Show</b> (involves some Prep dancers; 6-7pm)
Wed 24	School Council Show Racism the Red Card—Y5 workshops Y4 Vindolanda—Zoom for parents (4pm)
Thu 25	Y6 Junior Maths Challenge (selected pupils)
Fri 26	LAMDA speech and drama examinations U10/11 Boys’ Cricket v Pocklington (away; 2.15pm start, 5pm return)

# Term Dates

## 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)
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## Autumn Term 2024

Preparation Day	Tuesday, 27th August 2024 Wednesday, 28th August 2024 Thursday, 29th August 2024
All pupils return	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

# Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3H	Hannah M.	India B.
3J	Eliza S.	Annabelle L.
3P	Louis G.	Zara G.
4F	Austin O.	Shanvi P.
4J	Scarlett Y.	Sajan G.
4S	Francesca S.	Amani R.
5G	Jack A.	Fathe C.
5H	Henry Sk.	Martha L.
5K	Evelyn C.	Rory B.
6H	Kavan S.	Erin G.
6L	Maisie S.	William L.
6W	Eric P-F.	Harrison C.

## Head Teacher Awards:

Year 5: Emily Q.

Year 6: Will B., Rebecca N.