



# Little Phoenix

  
**YARM SCHOOL**  
EDUCATING FOR LIFE

## The Newsletter of Yarm Pre-Prep

Mrs Speight's message ...

**Number 448**  
**14th February 2025**



Our Nursery children have been busy spreading love and creativity by making their own Valentine's cards. With plenty of imagination and hearts, they created beautiful cards to share with their families. We definitely have budding young artists in our Nursery. There has been great excitement in Pre-Prep about our outing to Shildon Railway Museum. The pupils loved visiting the museum: seeing the trains in action, learning about history and also how railways have changed over time. The children especially loved seeing the giant steam engines up close and thoroughly enjoyed the interactive activities and workshops. A big thank you to the museum staff for making us feel so welcome. Our STEAM week launched early with the arrival of our model railway on Thursday and my grateful thanks to Patrick's Daddy who very kindly brought this in for us to share. There are many Year 2 pupils eagerly awaiting the Chess competition on Saturday morning and I know that they will demonstrate strategy, patience and problem solving skills throughout their matches. I feel sure that we have future chess champions in the making! Have a wonderful weekend. Warmest wishes,



*Joanne Speight*



**Tes Schools Awards 2024**  
**Winner**  
Independent Prep School of the Year





## Toast Café

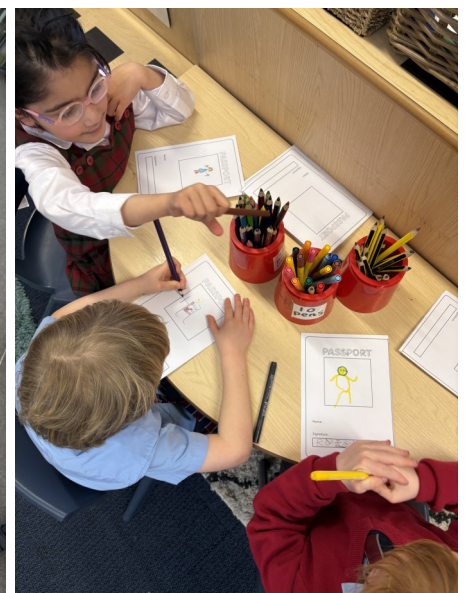
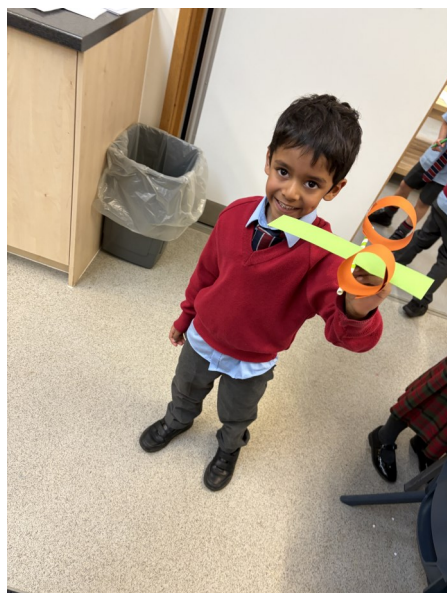
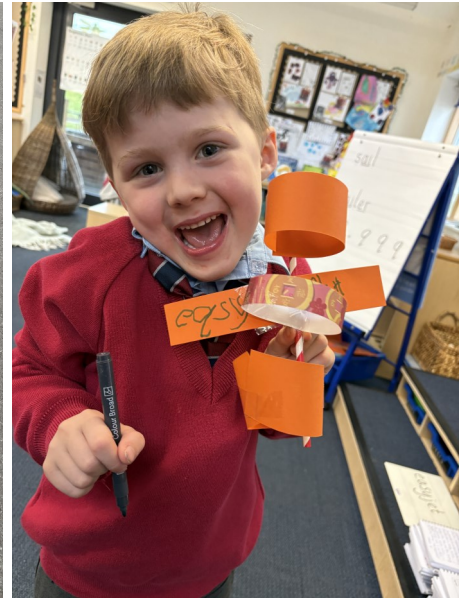
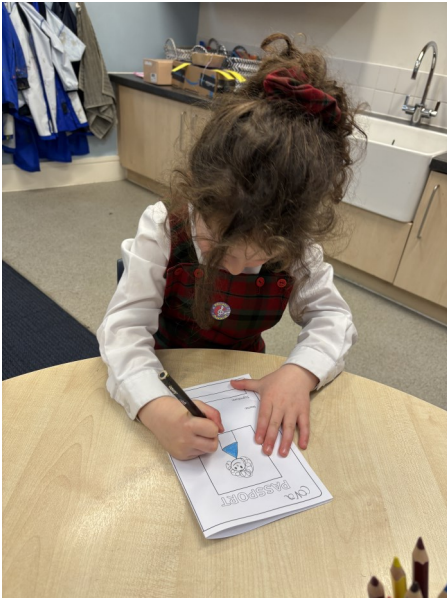
The Toast Café made a return to Nursery. All of the children were able to make their own toast and choose either butter or jam as a delicious topping. We have also celebrated Valentine's Day making cards for our loved ones and decorating hearts with our friends.





## Planes

The Reception children have recently shown great interest in aeroplanes and we invited Harnek to talk to them about being a pilot. We also read 'The Great Paper Caper' which inspired us to have a paper aeroplane competition. We even discovered a new way to make a plane.





### What is it Like Here?

The Year 1 children have started their new humanities topic this week and are now developing geography skills. The title of the topic is, 'What is it like here?' As a stimulus we have used aerial photographs of Yarm and the surrounding area to help to answer our first enquiry question, 'Where in the world are we?'





## Multiply and Divide

The children in Year 2 have been using practical resources to solve inverse number problems involving multiplication and division. They used Base Ten to develop their understanding of how these operations are related.







[You can find the Yarm School](#)

[Calendar by clicking here](#)

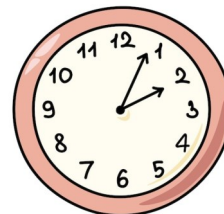


### Dates For Your Diary

- 20/02/25—Half term begins
- 21/02/25—INSET Day (school closed)
- 03/03/25—Pupils return to school
- 03/03/25—Rare Diseases Day (Jeans for Genes)
- 06/03/25—World Book Day
- 07/03/25—Bring Mums/Grandmas to School
- 14/03/25—Red Nose Day and Holi celebrations
- w/c 17/03/25—Parents Evenings
- 31/03/25—Eid celebrations
- 04/04/25—End of term, no after school care

### Lateness

Please be reminded that the school day starts **promptly at 8.35am** each morning. If your child arrives after 8.35am then they will receive a late mark. Your cooperation with this is much appreciated.



### Notice from First Aid Lead Lyndsey

Please be reminded that as a school we follow the Department of Health Guidance on Infection Control in schools. This guidance states that the recommended period of time to be kept away from school for diarrhoea and/or vomiting is 48 hours from the last episode.

Your support in this area will help to reduce the spread of Infection in school.



### Holiday School Dates 2025

Easter—7th to 11th April (5 days)

Summer—14th July to 1st August (15 days)





## **Keep Your Child Safe Online – Safer Internet Day 2025 at Yarm School**

This week, we joined schools across the UK in celebrating Safer Internet Day. This global event aims to promote the safe and responsible use of technology, encouraging children, young people, parents, carers, teachers, and wider communities to work together to create a better and safer internet for everyone.

*This Year's Theme was 'Too Good to Be True? Protecting Yourself and Others from Scams Online'. House assemblies in Years 3-6 explored this theme, while further assemblies saw the children find out more about how to protect themselves when playing games and sharing images online. Across Prep and Pre-Prep, all of the children have been finding out about a wide range of online safety matters this half-term in their computing lessons, ranging from private and personal information in Year 1, to how to identify accurate sources of online information in Year 6. Jack Morgan, one of our Digital Leaders, has designed a poster to highlight what we cover in our online safety modules (see below).*

A number of parents came along to our 'Internet Safety Event for Parents' on Wednesday afternoon, which was led by our amazing Digital Leaders and Prep Debating Club (with support from the Senior School Debating team). There was plenty of support and advice available from the children to the parents, who shared and spoke with passion and clarity.

Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote in school, and celebrating Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity for us to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver regularly and throughout the year.

### **Continuing the Conversation at Home**

As always, we would be delighted if you could join us in celebrating the day by continuing the conversation at home. To help you with this, we have partnered with a leading digital safeguarding solutions provider called Smoothwall to create a free Online Safety Hub for parents and carers to help keep their children safe online.

The Online Safety Hub offers an abundance of expert advice and guidance to help parents and carers manage their child's safety online. It also includes information on several topics when it comes to keeping children safe, such as how to manage your child's screen time, understand the latest gaming platforms and what they mean for your child's safety.

The home page for the Yarm School Online Safety Hub can be found here: <https://yarmschool.onlinesafetyhub.uk/>

### **Free Parental Control Support for Yarm School Families**

As part of our partnership with Smoothwall, we are pleased to announce that we can offer Yarm School parents and carers a free Qustodio account which allows you to facilitate parental controls on any one device, and free premium access for 30 days from registration. Qustodio is an app that can also be downloaded onto computers and laptops, and allows you to gain more visibility on what is going on in your child's online world. You will be able to block dangerous content, introduce screen-free schedules, receive alerts for inappropriate content, keep tabs on their location and more. [For more information and to create your free account please click here.](#)

If you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe online, please do get in touch either one of us.

Kind regards,

[Gavin Stone](#) and [Joanne Speight](#)



# What Do We Learn About At School?

## Year 2

- ★ Connected Devices And Their Benefits And Drawbacks
- ★ Navigating Safely Around A Webpage
- ★ Using Google And Keyboard To Search Effectively
- ★ Identifying Things That Are Safe To Click Online
- ★ What Bullying Behaviour Online Looks Like
- ★ Showing How Work Online Belongs To You

## Year 1

- ★ Private And Personal Information
- ★ What To Do If They Feel Sad, Embarrassed Or Upset Online
- ★ Rules To Keep Us Safe Online
- ★ Ask Permission To Do Something Online
- ★ Being Kind And Considerate Online
- ★ How My Behaviour Online Can Upset Others

## Year 4

- ★ How Companies Persuade Us To Buy Things Online
- ★ The Differences Between Personal And Private Information
- ★ Searching Online Safely With Keywords
- ★ How To Write Sensible, Effective Emails
- ★ Why Lots Of People Sharing The Same Opinions Or Beliefs Online Don't Make Those Opinions Or Beliefs True
- ★ Exploring The Concept Of Sharing Acceptable And Unacceptable Content

## Year 3

- ★ Device-Free Moments
- ★ Using Kind Word Online
- ★ Identifying Fake Photos And Videos Online
- ★ How Website Encourage To Buy Product From Them
- ★ Exploring What Online Bullying Is
- ★ Age Restrictions Online and PEGI (Pan-European Game Information) Ratings

## Year 6

- ★ The Benefits And Drawbacks Of Presenting Yourself Online
- ★ Benefits And Risks Of Chatting Online
- ★ Capturing Bullying Evidence Online
- ★ Plagiarism And How To Stop It
- ★ Exploring How Online Media Shapes Our Ideas About Gender
- ★ How Content Shared Online Does Not Disappear







## Year 5

- ★ Explore How Apps Can Access Personal Information
- ★ How And Why Online Images Are Edited For Effect
- ★ Ways Of Communicating Online
- ★ Identifying Accurate Source Of Online Information
- ★ How Technology Can Affect Health And Wellbeing Exploring Misinformation And Disinformation Online



# YOUR TIPS FOR A HEALTHIER SCREEN TIME

*'How much is too much screen time for children?'*

	Birth to 5 years	6 to 10 years	11 to 17 years																												
																															
<b>Waking up</b>	 <p>No screen time between birth - 24 months</p>	 <p>Waking up without screens. It is recommended that social media/screens are not used for the first hour of the day</p>																													
 <p>Phones, tablets and computers should not be in any child's bedroom overnight.</p>																															
<b>Hours per day</b>	 <p>2 - 5 year olds no more than 30 mins/day</p> <p>No screen time between birth - 24 months</p>	<table><tr><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th><th>S</th></tr><tr><td colspan="3">Not more than 1-2 hrs/day</td><td colspan="4">Up to 2 hrs/day</td></tr></table> <p>'Walk, run, ride a bike, anything that gets kids up, outside and off their screens'</p>	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	Not more than 1-2 hrs/day			Up to 2 hrs/day				<table><tr><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th><th>S</th></tr><tr><td colspan="3">Up to 2 hrs/day</td><td colspan="4">Up to 2-3 hrs/day</td></tr></table>	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	Up to 2 hrs/day			Up to 2-3 hrs/day			
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 <p>Watching lots of short videos is being linked to concentration difficulties in children.</p>																															
<b>Leisure</b>	 <p>Avoid using a device to settle your child down. Instead try a book, a game outdoors, or just a cuddle</p>	 <p>Keep active</p> <p>'Try and ensure screen-free time together'</p> <p>'Encourage physical activity, ideally outside, for 1-2 hours'</p>	 <p>Stay active. More green time, less screen time</p> 																												
 <p>Reports suggest adults touch their phones over 2000 times a day.</p>																															
<b>Sleep Hygiene</b>	 <p>'Bedtime stories are the best and healthiest way to settle your child'</p> <p>Under 5s should not use a screen at least 2 hours before bedtime</p>	 <p>'Buy an alarm clock so that screens are not in the bedroom'</p> <p>No screens at least 1 hour before bedtime</p>																													

Accepted by NHS England Mental Health Leads

'Studies have shown a clear link between **excessive screen time** and issues such as **delayed speech** and **language development**, **short-sightedness**, **communication difficulties**, **reduced concentration spans**, **poor sleep** and **mental health problems**.'



HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FOR SAFER SCREENS



SCAN ME





YPSSC presents:

# WORLD BOOK DAY FANCY DRESS STALL



DONATE your pre-loved  
fancy dress!



Donate from  
12th-20th February 2025

Donations can be sent to reception at  
Prep & Pre-Prep school or Pre-Loved  
Uniform Shed Donation Box



**Stall Open:  
20th February-  
5th March 2025**

Stall will be located at  
Pre-Prep Pre-Loved Uniform Shed



**\*Proceeds will go to YPSSC**

*More Information: [yarmpreloved@gmail.com](mailto:yarmpreloved@gmail.com)*





## **Magic of Science**

**Tuesday 27th May, 11am and 3pm**

Hang on to your seats and experience a non-stop action packed interactive magical science show with experiments and magic that will capture the imagination. New for 2025!

Join Top Secret as they go on a High Voltage Adventure!!!

<https://www.thepaaonline.org/whats-on/magic-science/>



## **Legend—The music of Bob Marley**

**Thursday 29th May, 7.30pm**

Legend – the music of Bob Marley is an unforgettable evening celebrating this musical icon in one fantastic stage show.

Combining his superb, distinctive vocals with flawless musicianship, a supremely talented cast recreate the timeless hits Could You Be Loved, Is This Love, One Love, No Woman No Cry, Three Little Birds, Jammin', Buffalo Soldier, Stir It Up, Get Up Stand Up, Exodus, Waiting in Vain, Satisfy My Soul, Iron Lion Zion, I Shot the Sheriff and many more reggae classics.

<https://www.thepaaonline.org/whats-on/legend-2025/>



## **Dinosaur Adventure Live**

**Thursday 31st July, 2pm and 4.30pm**

The adventure of a lifetime awaits... bring the family on a T-REX-IFFIC journey with our BRAND NEW dinosaurs, meet their ROAR-SOME babies and help the rangers save the Island.

Are you brave enough to face the Jurassic Storm!

Show is 1 hour in duration.

<https://www.thepaaonline.org/whats-on/dinosaur-ad/>

