



YARM SCHOOL

Phoenix

Prep School Magazine 2025/2026



**TOGETHER WE DISCOVER,
TOGETHER WE GROW**



YARM SCHOOL

Capturing the heart of Yarm Prep School

Every page of this year's Phoenix Magazine captures a simple, powerful truth: learning at Yarm Prep is an adventure filled with joy, discovery, and personal growth. Flipping through this collection, the vibrancy of our school life leaps off the page. From the quiet breakthroughs in the classroom to the high-energy triumphs on the sports pitches, the stage, and beyond, our pupils have poured their enthusiasm and curiosity into everything they do.

What stands out most isn't just *what* our children achieve, but *how* they achieve it. Look closely at these photographs and reports, and you will see a constant thread of togetherness. Our pupils are learning that the greatest successes are shared.

They lift each other up, work seamlessly as teams, and navigate challenges hand-in-hand.

This culture of camaraderie and strong progress is no happy accident. It is the direct result of a shared mission. It reflects a total commitment to our school values, a deep, active partnership with our families, and an unrelenting drive to keep pushing our school forward.

Thank you to our dedicated team, our supportive parents, and most of all, our wonderful pupils who make Yarm Prep such an extraordinary place to learn and belong. May this magazine serve as a cherished keepsake of a remarkable year and a reminder of the bright future ahead.

Mr Bill Sawyer
Head of the Preparatory School



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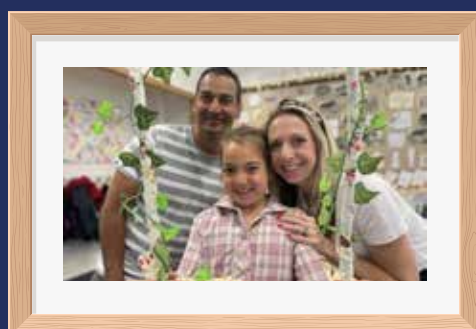
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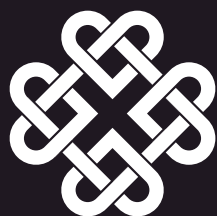


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Thanks to Yarm Preparatory School staff, parents and pupils who have contributed to this year's magazine.
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OPENING THE DOORS TO LITTLE PHOENIX NURSERY!



As Yarm School continues to grow, we are thrilled to look ahead to our next exciting chapter with the opening of Little Phoenix Nursery. The building has been thoughtfully designed to bring an exceptional standard of care and early education to the youngest members of our community, extending our educational journey from six months old through to 18.

Rooted in the prestigious heritage of Yarm School, Little Phoenix is a calm, happy haven where heritage meets modern design. The environment has been meticulously planned to work with nature, incorporating outdoor exploration spaces and natural materials to invite sensory discovery and a lifelong connection to the world around us.

Inspired by Froebelian principles, the nursery's philosophy places play,

emotional warmth, and freedom of movement at its core. Recognising that the first three years are a remarkable window of growth, days at Little Phoenix embrace a gentle, unhurried rhythm to allow babies and young children to flourish at their own pace. From the wonder of words - sharing stories, songs, and imaginative play - to building independence through physical movement, every detail prioritises a child's holistic development.

Backed by a nurturing and knowledgeable team specialising in early childhood education, Little Phoenix represents an exciting expansion of the Yarm family. We cannot wait to open our doors and see this wonderful new space come alive with the laughter, curiosity, and bright futures of our youngest learners.





YARM SCHOOL

PERFECT PRE-SCHOOL



I love dancing to
Danny Go.
Christopher

I like playing with
the babies in the
Cottage.
Pippa



I love playing
outside on the
tyre swing.
Ariya

My favourite thing is
drawing pictures at
Pre-School.
Tabitha

I like playing with
my friends in the
garden.
Rex





I like playing hide
and seek in the
garden.
Simran

I like going in the
sandpit with Harry
and Max.
Ariyan

I liked bringing my
goats into Pre-School
to show my friends.
Chester





Kindness Makes the World Go Round

Spreading kindness wherever we go, every day of the year!

In Reception, kindness is at the heart of everything we do. It is a message we share, model and celebrate every single day, because we believe that kindness really does make the world go round.

From the moment our children arrive each morning, they are encouraged to think about how their words and actions can make others feel happy, valued and included. Whether we are learning indoors or exploring outdoors, we take every opportunity to spread kindness and care for one another.

Throughout the year, we have enjoyed taking part in a variety of activities that help us understand what kindness looks and feels like. Our children loved sharing kind words with their friends, whispering thoughtful compliments and encouraging messages that brought smiles to everyone's faces. These small acts helped us to recognise the power of positive words and how they can brighten someone's day.

Miss H Sanghera







YARM SCHOOL



Growing and Discovering in Year One

It has been such a joy watching our Year 1 cohort blossom into bold, capable learners this year. The leap in their independence is incredible; they are taking much more ownership of their daily routines and tackling new challenges with a can-do attitude.

Their enthusiasm for our topics has been the real

highlight. Whether they were trekking in the footsteps of famous explorers or discovering unique landmarks and features across the UK, their curiosity has truly known no bounds. It has been a fantastic year of growth and discovery for every single one of them!

Mrs K Harandon







YARM SCHOOL

"My favourite memory from this year was taking part in the chess tournament."

.....
Violet B



MAKING MEMORIES IN YEAR TWO

"Nothing beats when we went on the Teesside Princess because we got to draw while looking out the window."

.....
Otis C

"Nothing, and I mean nothing, can beat Chromebook club - because I love Scratch."

.....
Ollie C

Year 2 has been absolutely amazing! We have made so many special memories, like our brilliant trip to Edinburgh and our beach clean at Marske, as well as having fun at the Halloween disco and Summer Fair. We have learned so many new things and had the best time. The highlight of the whole year has been being with our friends and making memories that we will never forget.

.....
Mrs K Jennings



"Out of all the special memories this year, reading to the younger children was the best because it felt so special."

Evelyn D

"I will always remember learning and being with my lovely teachers."

Phoebe H



"The best part of Year 2 has been spending time with my friends because they are kind, caring and lots of fun to be with."

Madeline S



OUR BIG EDINBURGH ADVENTURE

The children in Year 2 went on an unforgettable adventure to Edinburgh.

The trip began with an exciting train ride straight into the heart of Scotland's historic capital city.

As soon as they arrived, the children jumped right into exploring Princes Street Gardens. It was the perfect spot to stretch their legs, run around, and soak in the magnificent scenery. Everyone was captivated by the breathtaking sight of Edinburgh Castle, looming majestic on the cliffs above, which provided a fantastic

backdrop as they discovered the city's deep historical roots.

The learning continued with a visit to the National Museum of Scotland. From ancient relics to groundbreaking modern innovations, the interactive galleries completely captured their attention. It was wonderful to watch their natural curiosity come alive as they interacted with the tactile exhibits and dived into Scotland's colourful heritage and culture.

Mr B Davies



"The most magical moment was listening to bagpipes for the first time because it was so good it made me dance."

Margot T-P

"My number one highlight of the school year was visiting Greyfriars Bobby because I like dogs and I thought his story was very special."

Ann N

"To pick just one top memory is so hard but it has to be... Greyfriars Kirkyard because some of the names are from Harry Potter, like you know who! I like Harry Potter, do you?"

Skylark H

"I will never forget the day we went to Edinburgh because my favourite part was visiting the National Museum of Scotland. I thought it was amazing."

Ivy B





YARM SCHOOL



In 2025-26, our Prep partnerships spanned 29 schools across 8 projects, engaging over 3,110 pupils in more than 10,000 hours of shared activities! Pupils and teachers consistently praise the experiences, which foster teamwork, respect, and resourcefulness through collaboration in new environments. From leading peer activities in our Digital Safety Escape Room to guiding STEM workshops, pupils gain valuable leadership skills and pride in their achievements.

We've shared an Author Visit from Bethany Walker, Clay Workshops with Rebecca Norris (from the

Great Pottery Throw Down), Programming with Micro:Bits, Sports Afternoons and more! We held four STEM Days in collaboration with the North East Stem Foundation - hosting industry partners who each delivered one of a carousel of workshops to children from Yarm Prep and visiting schools. We also shared our popular Digital Safety Escape Room experience with local schools, supported by our Year 6 Digital Leaders. This project was funded by Nominet and developed with Cyents Educational Escape Rooms (the educational arm of local Escape Room company Cluedini Ltd).

Funding from Handelsbanken Teesside, together with a donation from TÜV Rheinland for new equipment, enabled us to reach more pupils than ever before with our Micro:Bits workshops. Held in 27 schools and reaching nearly 800 children last year, these workshops promote curiosity and problem solving while also allowing teachers to work alongside an expert and develop approaches they can continue to use to support their computing curriculum.

The highlight of the year was the culmination of our 'You and I' Clay Project. More than 1,000 children from 22 schools across Stockton-on-Tees joined

forces in our huge community art project with Teesside artist Mackenzie Thorpe and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. Over two years children created individual clay self-portraits during workshops at their school under the guidance of Yarm Prep's Art Lead, Mrs R Shepherd, and local artist Jessica Jenyns. We were delighted to be supported by Jacksons on this project. The final wonderful public installation at the new Stockton Waterfront Urban Park was embraced so enthusiastically by Mackenzie Thorpe that the sculptures will be hosted in his gallery this September!



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Our Wild and Wonderful Woodland Year

Looking back through the photographs from the past school year, the shifting seasons highlight how brilliantly the children have embraced every kind of weather while maintaining their enthusiasm for the outdoors. During the winter months, they wrapped up warm to play chasing games and enjoyed toasting

marshmallows. Even the heaviest downpours couldn't dampen their spirits; they delighted in splashing through puddles, creating rainy-day art, and constructing dens. When the ground became muddy, everyone pitched in to cover the forest floor with woodchips. Once summer returned, in the bright sunshine, the art table became a hub of

creativity where they produced stunning nature-inspired pictures, including leaf prints, clay models, and large group murals. The children's genuine love and appreciation for their woodland home is a constant inspiration, and their joy has shone through all year long.

Mr S Pearce







HARMONIES AND HIGHLIGHTS

‘Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without.’ - Confucius

It has been an uplifting and joyous year of music making for all pupils across school. Every child, from Pre-School to Year 6, has had the opportunity to develop their musical skills during curriculum lessons and also share their love of music with audiences in a variety of events.

In lessons, it has been a delight to see the pupils work so creatively as they have collaborated with their peers, composing and evaluating their own music in response to

learning about a diverse range of musical styles. Pupils in Years 3 and 4 have continued to take great pleasure in learning a wide range of different musical instruments as part of their music curriculum. This year we have seen a growing number of children who are keen to explore the challenge of learning a new instrument and also benefit from the sense of wellbeing that this can bring. As a result, our Prep music ensembles have continued to thrive, rehearsing each week

and performing regularly in our termly music concerts. In the recent Summer Term Concert, we saw an impressive 75 pupils perform, including a large guitar ensemble and a 14-strong string group. Prep Choir finished the year with some beautiful performances, featuring songs by Abba, Bruno Mars, and from the musical, Annie. A huge thanks goes to all our visiting vocal and instrumental teachers who contribute to the musical life of our school; their support and dedication inspires our young musicians and is invaluable.

There have been many musical highlights this year and moments that have brought great pride and often, a tear to the eye! The wonderful singing in the Christmas Nativities across the school brought such

pleasure to their audiences as did the vocal performances in the Prep Carol Service. In the Spring Term, Year 5 brilliantly entertained residents from local care homes as part of a community music project. The music concert calendar ended with confident and high-quality solo performances from our Year 6 pupils and we wish them luck as they move on to the Senior School, more than ready for the next stage of their musical journey. Finally, during all of our end of year celebrations, parents were treated to enthusiastic and beautiful musical performances, demonstrating how much enjoyment all our pupils derive from singing on these occasions!

Mrs J Pawluk

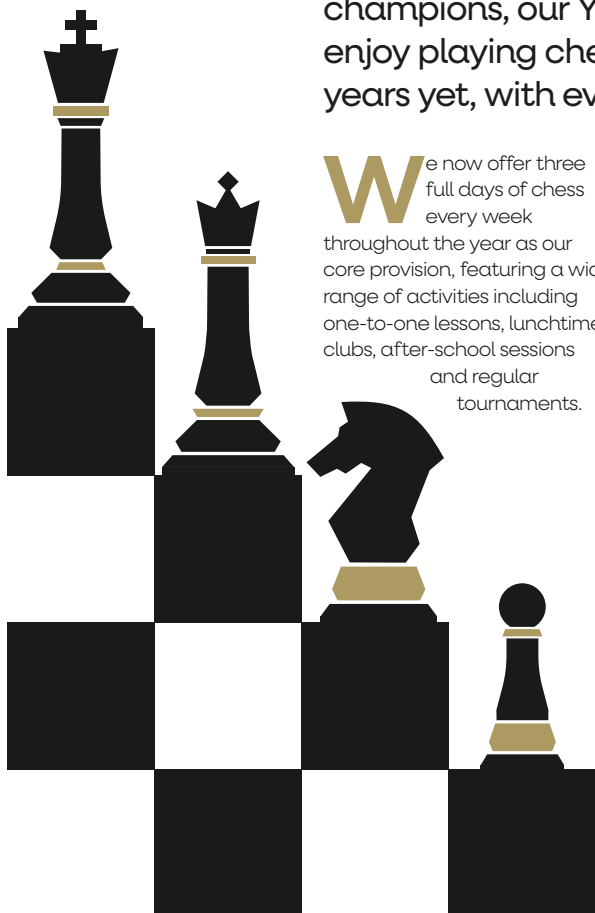






CHECKMATES AND CHAMPIONS

From the very young Year 2 beginners all the way up to regional champions, our Yarm Prep School chess players continue to enjoy playing chess, and this was one of our most successful years yet, with events catering for all ages and abilities.



We now offer three full days of chess every week throughout the year as our core provision, featuring a wide range of activities including one-to-one lessons, lunchtime clubs, after-school sessions and regular tournaments.

Attendances at all our events - both internal and external - also increased again this year, and we are grateful for the additional space provided by our magnificent facilities.

One of the many highlights of the school year was the 30th Teesside Team Championship. Our annual expedition to the HMC Chess Championships at QEGS in Wakefield once again gave our players the chance to test themselves against some of the strongest teams in the North of England. Our Under 11 team has won this tough event for two consecutive years.

The Yarm Prep School House Chess Championship always brings out the competitive spirit in our pupils and usually produces the toughest of

battles, with lots of pride at stake. Chess is now a very regular and highly popular feature at our school Open Mornings, giving prospective pupils the opportunity to observe lessons in action - and, of course, to test themselves against some of our strongest players.

Another new venture this year was the introduction of chess sessions across all of our Holiday Club sessions, which gave our children yet another opportunity to have fun and practise their skills. The new school year promises to be even more action-packed, and we are looking forward to another outstanding twelve months of chess!

Mr S Marsh





YARM SCHOOL

MAZES, MONSTERS, AND MASTERPIECES

It's been a busy and exciting year in the D&T room, with an abundance of creativity and hard work on display. Year 3 have been making amazing mazes and pneumatic monsters. Year 4 have been developing their sewing skills in their pencil case project and they have been using crumble components to programme a display for their 3D light boxes, which they also designed and made. Year 5 have been making frame structures from pallet wood in their bug hotel project and they have used their culinary skills to create innovative salads.

Year 6 have been making pairs of slippers and using CAD to create a range of designs from greetings cards to door hangers.

All in all, it's been a hubbub of activity and there has been lots of learning and problem-solving along the way. We have produced a range of terrific designs and products and everyone should be proud of their efforts this year. Well done to all our children who have tried something new, been inventive and developed their D&T skills.

Mrs E Smith





"I like being allowed to let our minds run free when making things and to be given a theme and make something based on that theme."

.....
Harriet P, Year 6

"I like digital work on our Chromebooks because I think it keeps me really focused on what I'm doing."

.....
Shatchar B, Year 6

"I love how we get to take our practical inventions home and use them around the house at the end of the year."

.....
Emily W, Year 6

"I like that you get to use your imagination a lot and release your creativity."

.....
Mia N, Year 6

"The thing I like most about D&T is that in Year 5 we get to use a hammer and nail when making bug hotels."

.....
Austen F, Year 5

"The best part of D&T was when we made salads and we went in groups to evaluate each other's ideas."

.....
Connie B, Year 5



YARM SCHOOL



From Shadows to Space: A Busy Year of Science

The science lab has been awash with curiosity and exploration this year.

Children have been using their science skills to investigate a range of enquiry questions and they have enjoyed taking part in the many practical activities. Children in Year 3 have made rocks, grown plants, tested soils, made shadows and found out about friction to name but a few areas of study. Our Year 4 pupils have learnt about food chains, built circuits, dissected owl pellets, used data loggers to measure sound and temperature and explored states of matter. Year 5 have focused on plant reproduction, dissecting flowers, researched space and experimented with soluble materials and mixtures.

Finally, Year 6 pupils have been looking at blood, the circulatory system, classification, light and much more besides.

Our children have enjoyed learning outdoors, using scientific equipment and processes, looking at their data and presenting their findings like real scientists. Many thanks to Mr Kamali for his excellent workshop on the digestive system and Mrs Howlett for her wonderful presentation about teeth. Our after school science club has been space-themed this year and we have explored the scale of the universe, exoplanets, meteorites and moons. It has

also been brilliant to see children taking part in our science at home experiments and sending in pictures of what they have done - we have some fabulous young scientists!

Mrs E Smith



1





YARM SCHOOL

AMAZING ART!

Mrs R Shepherd

Year 1 looked for simple shapes in objects inspired by Paul Klee before drawing toy portraits and castles. They sculptured spirals and painted resist artwork inspired by Māori Koru art, and created a mixed-media piece of textile art based on koi carp in which they learnt how to paper weave, yarn wrap and plait.



Year 2 made model flying machines before being inspired by Leonardo da Vinci to create detailed drawings of their designs. They printed hot air balloons and developed chalk pastel skills in their depictions of the Northern Lights and desert sunsets. They explored the work of Cornish contemporary artists and collage to create an artwork based on the Cornish coastline.



Year 3 had a wonderful year exploring prehistoric art by making natural paints (using herbs and spices), handprints and sgraffito decorated ceramic cave walls, alongside charcoal and pastel drawings. Inspired by L. S. Lowry, pupils learned about one-point perspective, foreground, midground and background and colour mixing through tints, tones and shades. (Did you know that Lowry used only five colours?!) They produced superb pieces of our school in the style of Lowry. Finally, botanical art linked with science as children studied Marianne North and William Morris. They dissected flowers for detailed observational drawings and designed their own custom wallpaper.



Year 4 had an exciting video call with artist Frances Hatch, who shared incredible stories from her journey to Antarctica, gave a tour of her studio, showed us artwork and explained techniques - including using frozen snowflakes in her watercolors! Taking inspiration from her advice to create with freedom, pupils went on to produce fantastic Antarctic-inspired art. The pupils also explored rainforests and crafted detailed shadow boxes in the style of Joseph Cornell. They studied Ancient Egypt, which led to making their own papyrus paper, sculpting sarcophagus lids, and learning about contemporary artist Alaa Awad.



Year 5 had a great time focusing on enquiry questions such as 'What is a portrait, and what does it tell us about the Tudor monarchs?', 'How can we use art to help save our oceans and rivers?', and 'How does a picture tell us a story?'. They also created their own street art which conveys messages, painted themselves as Tudor Monarchs, sculpted and glazed ceramic fish and much much more!



Year 6 explored microbiology through the art of Anna Dumitriu and Klari Reis, whose creations combine science and art in innovative ways. They studied Picasso's Guernica, using its powerful imagery and abstract style as inspiration for their own creative work. They asked, 'What can we learn about the Ancient Greeks from looking at their art?'. Through studying Greek pottery, comedy and tragedy masks, and marble-inspired soap sculptures, they gained insight into the beliefs, stories, and daily lives of the Ancient Greeks while developing their own artistic skills and techniques.



Activities

Activities sessions have been very busy this year! We have been marbling with shaving foam, practising watercolour techniques, creating ceramic models, making flowers using pipe cleaners, exploring the work of artists, using cyanotype paper to create images and much, much more!



Ceramic Day

We had an enchanting day creating trees inspired by the film The Magic Faraway Tree. Visiting schools took part and the children used their own original ideas to collaboratively create a forest of unique trees reflecting their individual personalities.



Holiday Club

Holiday Club has been so much fun this year! We have created needle felted images and sculptures, ceramic models, painted caterpillars and much more!



STEAM week

The Lifecycle of a Salmon was our focus in the A (Art) part of STEAM. Children from Reception to Year 6 were involved in creating a collaborative installation showing the development of salmon from egg to adult. We had so much fun!



Arts Award

It has been a pleasure to watch the children flourish as they have progressed through the Arts Award. They have matured as budding artists, creating beautiful final pieces such as detailed canvas paintings, impressive ceramic sculptures and impactful street art. It has been wonderful to see the children discover their own styles and interests, pursuing them with enthusiasm and creativity.



Competitions

Creativity flourished across our art competitions this year, beginning with a festive challenge where children designed their own Christmas wrapping paper. Later, pupils embraced the House Art competition with enthusiasm - it was a fun and creative opportunity for everyone to celebrate their favourite pet or animal by creating a portrait. The entries were superb!



'You and I' Clay Project

What an incredible experience for our Year 4 children to take part in the 'You and I' project which has been supported by Mackenzie Thorpe. Approximately 1000 children have taken part and their work has been displayed in Stockton Waterfront park for all to see. Well done, everyone!





YARM SCHOOL

Diving Into Marine STEAM Week

This year we held a marine-themed STEAM week. Each class took part in an ocean-based STEAM challenge including researching, designing and making boats, piers, periscopes and artificial habitats. Creativity abounded with projects about angler fish, coral reefs and the life cycle of a salmon. The children heard from a range of speakers including the RNLI, the Groundwork charity and British Divers Marine Life Rescue, and we gathered in the PAA with other schools to

hear about the adventures of Janette Benaddi who rowed across the Atlantic ocean. Year 6 took part in a workshop with Spark Tees Valley looking at how cargo is moved around Teesport and Year 5 made ocean sensors using micro:bits. It all culminated with our celebration afternoon where we presented and viewed each other's work. We had a wonderful watery time!

Mrs E Smith



"The best bit about STEAM week was when everybody went to the PAA to hear about rowing across the Atlantic ocean."

Aditi K, Year 6

"I liked working in a team to create a pier because you had to make the structure so that it actually was able to stand and you could add little bits of furniture to it."

Kathryn F, Year 5

"I loved going around the school and seeing all the different projects to see how they were similar and different - also, I got to see my brothers' work!"

Aynoor R, Year 5

"I loved the feeling of being part of something big."

Jayden W, Year 5

"I liked that there were really creative options and the activities were a lot of fun."

Harrison V, Year 5

"My favourite part about STEAM week was making the marine habitat and seeing everyone's creations."

Gabby L, Year 4





YARM SCHOOL

Shining in the Spotlight: OUR YEAR IN DANCE

The Dance Department at Yarm School has enjoyed another remarkable year, continuing to grow in participation, talent, and enthusiasm. Prep School dancers engaged in holiday workshops, weekly private lessons, various activities, and dedicated assemblies. Children learned choreography in a range of styles including commercial, musical theatre, and contemporary, while steadily refining and enhancing their technique during their weekly sessions.

The Christmas and Easter dance assemblies showcased a broad range of talent, building pupils' confidence and stage presence. Dancers also took to the stage for this year's Senior School

Fashion Show, opening the event with incredible energy. Performing an exciting space-themed routine, they dressed as astronauts and funky aliens to dance to "Dance Monkey", "Soda Pop", and "Starships". Well done to everyone involved!

An impressive 196 pupils from Year 3 to Upper Sixth performed in the Night at the Museum Dance Showcase 2026. It was a spectacularly entertaining evening, with dancers moving through different sections of a museum, from "Egyptians" and "Fashion" to "Musical Icons". They performed with flair - celebrating a year's worth

of hard work in an evening full of magic, adventure, and feel-good fun. Their smiles were on display and their joy was plain to see as they danced with captivating spirit.

The dance pupils at Yarm continue to challenge themselves in every lesson. The genuine love of dance at Yarm School is evident not only in the big showcases but throughout everyday school life. Well done for another fantastic year!

.....
Mrs J Dunkley

"It was a brilliant night!"

"Hugely impressive all round!"

"Last night's performance
was absolutely amazing,
and we thoroughly enjoyed
every moment of it."

"A spectacular show!"

"Such a fabulous creative show!"

"The joy and unity on stage is
such a special thing to see."

"The best one yet - it
was magical!"





YARM SCHOOL

CLASSICS, CHARACTERS AND COLLABORATION



This year's Drama Weeks brought an explosion of enjoyment, creativity, and teamwork offering pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 a platform through which to explore our skills in imagination, communication and self-confidence.

Year 6 started the Drama Weeks by diving headfirst into an adventure in storytelling. They brought a spectacular array of classics to life, including Roald Dahl's *James*

and the *Giant Peach*, *Matilda*, *The BFG*, and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, alongside *The Wizard of Oz*, *Jungle Book*, and *Mary Poppins*. Every single pupil actively participated and committed it all swiftly to memory, showcasing their dedication in a moving performance for their families.

Following in their footsteps, Year 4 spent an immersive week exploring essential performance techniques across dance, drama, and

singing. The pupils stepped out of their comfort zones, learning how to build unique characters and master the art of physical and vocal expression through each discipline.

Year 5 waited patiently for their turn to shine, and they certainly did not disappoint. Each class expertly transported the audience into the worlds of *Matilda*, *Moana*, and *The Lion King*. Using expressive movement and drama, they beautifully portrayed complex characters, evolving relationships, and the journey of growing up.

A huge well done to all of our talented pupils, and grateful thanks to Mr Oakley, Mrs Dunford, Miss Topcheva, and Mr Brookes, who all contributed to bringing this year's Drama Weeks to life!

Mrs H Charlton







YARM SCHOOL



EMPOWERING WITH CONFIDENCE IN SPEECH AND DRAMA



At Yarm, Speech and Drama lessons provide a welcoming space for children to develop their oracy skills. The experience of preparing for, taking, and achieving results with LAMDA, helps strengthen emotional resilience for our learners, helping them to not only recognise and channel their feelings into expressive, dramatic performance - but also to have confidence in giving a polished delivery of the spoken word in group

and interpersonal settings. In this way, our lessons enhance a learner's personal growth and contribute to their holistic development both in school and beyond the classroom.

At each grade level, the children have steadily built an impressive suite of skills. From entry level through to Grade 1, the focus has been on performing from memory with fluency, building concentration, and speaking with clarity of diction, while introducing vital listening skills and empathy. Moving into Grade 2 and

Grade 3, pupils have layered these foundations with advanced techniques. They have learned how to use pace, pause, and contrast to engage an audience, alongside developing critical thinking, physical expression, and the capability to speak with spontaneous clarity.

The children worked hard to prepare for this year's LAMDA Examinations, which took place at the start of the Summer Term. Having spent months refining their pieces, each pupil approached the challenge with a high level of focus, successfully channelling their

preparation into expressive, polished performances. We are very proud of the children's efforts and of another excellent set of examination results.

Mrs K Ham-Ying



Inspiring Imagination and a Love of Books

At Yarm Prep School, English is not merely a subject on the timetable. From the stories shared in Pre-School, to the sophisticated analytical debates in Year 6, we foster a lifelong love for language, literature and self-expression. This year has been a spectacular celebration of the written and spoken word, filled with creativity, imagination and community.

Lifelong love of literature

Our bustling reading café bridged the gap between home and school, creating a hub for collaboration and a shared love for reading. Sharing a story or two with a drink allowed our children to foster and flourish their love for literature with their favourite grown-ups.

Alongside this, our school-wide Reading for Pleasure initiative has seen pupils diving into diverse worlds, discovering new perspectives, and developing

empathy with every turn of a page. From book swaps, to sharing best reads - all children are loving books.

Where imagination takes centre stage

World Book Day once again brought our favourite literary characters to life in a kaleidoscope of creativity. From classic heroes to contemporary protagonists, the school was alive with the buzz of storytelling. Traditions are valued, as our oldest pupils shared their favourite stories with the youngest minds to enter worlds of wonder and imagination.

But our pupils don't just read stories, they write them. This year's Poetry and Duologues competitions showcased the extraordinary depth of our children's imagination. Children from across all year groups experimented with rhythm, rhyme and imagery, capturing everything from the wonders of nature to outer space.

.....
Mr A Pengilley





CHARITABLE CAUSES

Cultivating a spirit of empathy and active citizenship is central to our school ethos. We encourage our pupils to look beyond their immediate school environment and consider how they can support communities both locally and globally. Thanks to the enthusiasm of our children and the continued generosity of our parents, our charitable efforts have made a meaningful difference to a wide variety of causes this year.

Our House fundraising events are always a highlight of the academic calendar, filling the school with energy, creative stalls, and colorful dress-up days. A particular achievement this year was seeing our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils step up to take lead roles in running proceedings. To deepen the impact of their hard work,

we were also delighted to welcome representatives from several charities into school, giving the children a valuable chance to learn first-hand about their work before presenting them with the final totals.

Our whole-school fundraising calendar brought us together as a community through a series of memorable moments across all three terms. During the winter, a massive community effort saw us gather items for Christmas hampers for local charity Sprouts, before rounding off the term with an energetic Reindeer Run in aid of Teesside Hospice. In February, we came together for Rare Disease Day to show our vibrant support for Kabuki UK, and we capped off the year in July with our summer Water Run,

raising vital funds for our international partner, The Mustard Seed Project.

Thank you to our entire school community for your incredible generosity, compassion, and ongoing support throughout the year. Your goodwill has shone through in everything we have achieved together.

Mr B Sawyer





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YARM SCHOOL

Smart Choices in a Digital World

It has been an incredibly busy and innovative year in the Computing Department, with pupils across all year groups embracing new technologies and thinking deeply about their digital footprints. We have enjoyed some truly exciting developments in the subject this year!

In Years 5 and 6, the children were given the opportunity to explore the issues surrounding artificial intelligence (AI). While not directly using it to generate work, it was a great opportunity for the children to understand

the power of AI, alongside the ethical concerns and issues surrounding its rapidly growing use. This led to some vibrant, high-level debates in Year 6, as well as some intriguing practical applications in Year 5, where the pupils used Google's 'Teachable Machine' to train AI models to identify a range of everyday classroom objects.

In Year 4, we welcomed the input of the brilliant Dr Kathy Weston from *Tooled Up Education*. Dr Weston kindly judged an online safety presentation competition involving all of the children, who were put into teams

and tasked with detailing a digital safety topic of their choice. A number of the children then stayed behind after school to proudly share their presentations with parents, who came along to Dr Weston's parent workshop on the very same evening.

All of the children from Years 3-6 always begin their computing lessons by discussing an interesting ethical topic to do with technology, computing, or online safety. Questions this year have ranged from, "Is it better to have 100 friends online who you've never met, or 3 friends in real life?" to

"Once you post a photo online, is it ever truly gone even if you delete it?" Even with all of the coding, Google apps-based work, and other technical units of work, it was these class discussions that regularly provided the highlight for staff and pupils alike. Our children have been consistently open, honest, responsive, and keen to listen to the thoughts of others.

It has been a pleasure to witness the children's growth as responsible, curious, and skilled digital citizens this year, and we cannot wait to see what they achieve next year!

Mr G Stone



A Vibrant Celebration of World Music

International Week was a vibrant celebration of global culture across the Pre-Prep and Prep, headlined by the "CapeAble of Greatness" project in Years 5 and 6. These budding musicians wrote and recorded original songs in various languages, researched international tour destinations, and finally performed for their most loyal fans - the rest of the school - in a high-energy assembly. This spirit of global discovery extended to Years 3 and 4, who proudly wore handmade fan capes inspired by different countries, and to the Pre-Prep children, who crafted and played musical instruments from around the world.

The festivities were further enriched by Lower Sixth students Isaac, Lydia, Elizabeth, and Amelia, who returned to Prep School to share their passion for travel and languages. Speaking with impressive poise and confidence, they led a spirited French and German sing-along that brought the whole community together in a joyful chorus.

Mrs A Arrol



Hushaby Nativity

Our youngest stars in Pre-School and Reception absolutely delighted audiences this Christmas with their heartwarming performance of *Hushaby Nativity*. This sweet, gentle retelling of the traditional Christmas story focuses on the bustling, noisy

Bethlehem stable, where the animals are trying their very best to stay quiet and lull the newborn Baby Jesus to sleep. From cosy little sheep to shining stars and majestic kings, the children filled the hall with immense joy, beautiful singing, and fantastic actions.



Camel-Ama-Ding-Dong

The Year 2 production of *Camel A Ma Ding Dong* was a desert triumph, brought to life by a cast of truly memorable characters. Our regal kings maintained their dignity despite the long journey, even as they were trailed by a hilarious contrast of tired Magi camels and their sassy Bethlehem counterparts. Between the outbursts from the grumpy innkeepers and the guiding light of the shining Bethlehem star, the stage was alive with sensational singing and dancing that kept the audience's toes tapping throughout. It was a high-energy, heartwarming performance that proved our Year 2 stars can handle the heat of the spotlight just as well as the heat of the desert sands!



The Angel Who Nearly Missed It All

At the end of the Autumn Term, the Year 3 pupils presented their Christmas performance, *The Angel Who Nearly Missed It All*, to families and members of the school community. This charming play followed the journey of an angel who, despite several delays and distractions, remained eager to witness the miraculous birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. With perseverance and a little encouragement along the way, the angel arrived just in time to take part in this significant moment.

The children demonstrated commendable commitment throughout their rehearsals and final performance. Their delivery of lines was confident and clear, and the singing was both joyful and well-rehearsed. The costumes and staging reflected great care and attention, contributing to a traditional and meaningful

retelling of the Nativity.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Estates Team for the setting up of the stage, Mrs Hart, Mrs Donoghue and Ms Edwards for their wonderful costume and props support and the Catering Team for making a delicious tea. A production such as this takes much work in school and grateful thanks are also sent to parents and carers for their encouragement.

The Year 3 children were rightly very proud of their accomplishment, as they reminded everyone of the enduring values of Christmas: hope, wonder, and togetherness. We were proud of every child for their dedication and teamwork. The performance reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas and the joy of celebrating together.

Mrs N Jones





MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR OUR PLANET

Pre-Prep Leads the Charge for Our Oceans

Environmental action starts early at Yarm! Leading the charge from Pre-Prep, the children in Year 2 completed their annual beach clean, successfully reducing the amount of waste that would otherwise enter the sea and harm marine life. This hands-on experience has deeply enthused the children to continue the process long after the official project ended. They are now our resident ocean protectors, proving that you are never too young to make a big difference.

Winning the War on Litter

If you've noticed our school grounds looking a lot cleaner lately, you can thank our new, pupil-led litter initiative. The Eco-Committee took a close look at waste levels. They didn't just complain - they went straight to the top! Pupils researched the best spots for disposal, gathered signatures, and petitioned for better facilities.

Success! Mr Sawyer was so impressed by the initiative that new bins have now been installed across the car park. Let's make sure we use them and keep our school beautiful.

Powering Down: Monitoring Our Electricity

Our next big target is our carbon footprint. The committee has been hard at work monitoring our daily electricity usage to stop energy waste in its tracks.

Through careful tracking, we discovered just how much energy is wasted when lights, screens, and projectors are left on in empty rooms. Moving forward, the Eco-Committee will be working with teachers and pupils to ensure we are powering down every single day.

As we look ahead, the Eco-Committee is already planning to carry this incredible momentum into next year, ensuring our school stays green for generations to come.

.....
Mr A Pengilly



Eco club successfully persuaded Mr Sawyer to purchase new bins for the car park. This was part of our work towards reducing the amount of litter found on the site, following weeks of monitoring the amount of waste. Hopefully the new bins will be put to good use, with everyone playing their part in improving our local area.

Eco started the new term with a litter pick in a new area and started clearing the wooded area near the main road.

Lots of rubbish was removed and the children are keen for everyone to play their part in keeping our area clean and tidy.



COMMUNITY AND CONNECTION

A YEAR WITH THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Yarm Prep School Social Committee (YPSSC) is led and run by a dedicated team of parent volunteers. Our aim is to foster a strong sense of community across the school, while also raising valuable funds to benefit the children and support local charities.

Every parent, guardian, and member of staff is automatically part of the committee and warmly encouraged to attend meetings and get involved in our initiatives. Each year, we strive to deliver a varied calendar of activities that bring families together, culminating

in the annual Summer Fair.

The Spring Term got off to a fantastic start in March, when the Committee hosted a lively, music-filled Motown Party night in the PAA bar. This was quickly followed in April by our popular Family Quiz Night, which saw parents and children teaming up for a brilliant evening of friendly competition.

The highlight of the Summer Term was the YPSSC Summer Fair, which this year adopted a vibrant "On the Beach" theme. Held under glorious afternoon A Level Business Studies, the event brought together families from across the school community. Our enterprising Year 6 pupils took centre stage, running a wide variety of stalls with the shared goal of raising funds for charity.

Supported by the Year 6 staff, Mr Stone, and Miss Rhodes alongside her enthusiastic A Level Business Studies students, the children embraced the entrepreneurial challenge with great energy.

Alongside the pupil-led stalls, the YPSSC organised a spectacular array of attractions for families to enjoy, including funfair rides, a petting zoo, a puppet show, and a tempting selection of food and drink stalls. The afternoon was a true celebration of teamwork, creativity, and community engagement.

Thank you to everyone who supported our events this year, and we look forward to another wonderful year of working together.

ypssc@hotmail.com



A look inside our Houses...

Arkwright



House Chess: Arkwright executed a masterclass in the House Chess Championship, delivering a stunning checkmate to the competition! Expertly captained by Paari M, they blitzed through the ranks, toppling Brunel and Stephenson in the process. Entering the final round against Telford, the stakes were high. Needing only a draw to avoid defeat, Arkwright launched a clinical endgame strategy to secure the title for the first time since 2022. The grandmasterly performance ensured Arkwright reclaimed the throne in spectacular style!

"I enjoyed the House Charity Day because I got to run a stall and raise money for Cleveland Mountain Rescue."

Oakley S, Year 6

House Sport Matches: It has been another hotly contested year of sport for children in Arkwright. Despite sterling efforts in sport we had a few second place finishes this year when points were added together. Arkwright were crowned champions in both chess and quizzing! The children always impress with their friendly rivalry across the many events including netball, hockey, cross country, tennis and cricket.

Sports Day: Arkwright sprinted to a triumphant fourth place finish! Every athlete pushed themselves to their limits, displaying the grit and teamwork that define our school and House spirit. From the track to the stands, the Arkwrightian roar fueled every stride. Huge thanks to Mr Underwood and Mrs Redhead-Sweeney for making the day such a success by ensuring every pupil had the opportunity to shine. Our Year 6 led the pack brilliantly, passing the baton to Year 5. Are you ready for the next heat?

"I enjoyed House Charity Day and everyone who came to our stall looked like they were really happy."

Beatrice T, Year 6

House Assemblies and our new House Champions:

Arkwright House Assemblies began joyously this year as children practised for the House Singing Competition with an enthusiastic rendition of *Oliver's 'Oom-Pah-Pah'*. Walk and Talks gave children a chance to reflect whilst stretching their legs along local paths. Voting for House Champions began with much discussion. Children and staff chose Champions who would act as role models and focus points for Arkwright: Brian Hughes, Sir David Attenborough and Sky Brown. A gecko was chosen as a House Mascot. In May, the children were delighted to receive a visit from Brian Hughes, who delivered an inspiring talk about the experiences and values that have shaped him into one of the most successful jump jockeys in British racing.

Arkwright Charity Day: This year, Arkwright House scaled new heights for Cleveland Mountain Rescue, the legendary volunteers who have kept our local North York Moors and coastal areas safe since 1965. To help cover their annual running costs, Year 5 and 6 turned a drizzly Wednesday in February into a fundraising festival! From a high-stakes 'penalty shoot out' to the brilliant 'one-minute sock challenge', pupils showed incredible initiative. Despite the grey skies, the queues were long and the energy was electric. We raised a massive **£736.08** - enough to fund the rescue team for nearly a whole week. Proving that come rain or shine, Arkwright always delivers!



Brunel

It has been a wonderful year for Brunel House. Named after the British engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel, the children have truly embodied his famous spirit of innovation, resilience and determination. From hockey to chess to Rollama to name but a few House events, every single member of our House has contributed to a phenomenal year of collective success. We have also chosen our House Champions who are: Ellie Simmonds, Dame Evelyn Glennie and Ade Adepitan. We decided that our mascot would be the mighty blue whale which certainly matches our ambition in stature!

"I really enjoyed how close our House became over the year and how we developed together."

Scarlett Y, Year 6

The new events this year were opportunities for each and every Brunellian to contribute to the overall points score.

The first ever House Singing Competition was particularly memorable with the theme being songs from *Oliver!* There were many practices and difficult words to learn but the children completed this with smiles on their faces and although not the winners, enjoyed the communal experience. Another new event was the House Dance Competition which resulted in a win for Brunel with our talented dancers taking first place and contributing valuable points to the overall total. The most exciting event of the year was Sports Day when every single performance resulted in points towards the coveted silver trophy. At the end of the morning, Brunel was crowned the 2026 winner. There was a great deal of grit and determination evident throughout on a very hot morning and the hard work paid off as Annabelle A raised the trophy and everybody cheered.

The children of Brunel have also considered the wider community. Our Year 5 and 6 children stepped up as fantastic role models, leading a highly successful



charity day. There were so many super activities for all of the school community to enjoy including: an obstacle course, netball shootout, bracelet sales, goal scoring, Orbeez and so many more. Although the day itself was dull and a little rainy, it did not dampen the spirits of the Brunellians or the rest of the school community. This year, our House chose to dedicate our fundraising efforts to Support Dogs, an incredible charity that trains assistance dogs for children and adults with autism, epilepsy and physical disabilities. We were very fortunate to meet Emma, Molly, 'Chess' and Katie from the charity who came to school to collect a cheque for **£866.33** - which Mr Stone said is the best total ever raised.

This teamwork cemented Brunel's reputation as a supportive, inclusive and caring group of children.

"No matter what age difference there is, in Brunel we all work together."

Isabelle F, Year 4

As we look back on the fantastic achievements of the past twelve months, every member of the house should feel incredibly proud. Well done, Brunel.



A look inside our Houses...

Stephenson



It has been another fantastic year for Stephenson House! The Autumn Term saw us host the annual Stephenson House Charity Day, where we did everything bike related as we raised funds for Stockton Wheelers. We managed to raise enough money for the charity to purchase a new tricycle for disabled cyclists to use. The Year 5 and 6 pupils planned, resourced and managed a range of stalls including lucky dips, guessing competitions, obstacle courses and shoot-outs showcasing their dedication to this fundraiser. We also had Stockton Wheelers in attendance checking that everyone's bikes were road worthy. Everyone had fun whilst raising money for such a worthwhile cause - and everyone's generosity meant we raised over **£600**.

This year Stephenson House voted for their own House Champions, these were: Chloe Kelly, Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock and Dwaine Fields. In addition to this children selected a red lion to be the House Mascot.

Stephenson House competed on all fronts in the House competitions, coming away with significant wins in House Points, House Century, House Writing, House Handwriting, House Football, House Hockey, House Art and one of the highlights of the year, the House Pancake Races. Over the course of the year everyone played their part in these events, ensuring a fantastic year for Stephenson.

Sports Day was a great day, seeing everyone gain points for their House. During Sports Day everyone gave their all and contributed to a fantastic event to finish the year off!

Favourite part/moment about being in Stephenson:

"I love representing Stephenson on Sports Day."

Jude C, Year 6

"Teamwork in athletics."

Shatchar B, Year 6

"Sports Day because you get to represent your House and compete against others."

Mia N, Year 6

"I enjoyed running my stall on Charity Day with my friends to raise lots of money."

Aditi K, Year 6

"House Charity Day as the stalls were fun and helped raise lots of money."

Amani R, Year 6

"House Charity Day where I ran a stall with my friends."

Zac S, Year 6

"Sports Day as we work today to try and get as many points for our house."

Ziad S, Year 6

"House Charity as you get to work with your friends and to run a stall."

Ralph E, Year 6

"House Pancake Races as we won and everyone contributed."

Dara J, Year 6





Telford

It has been a pleasing year on several fronts for Telford. For the first time since 2019, Telford were victorious in the overall House Competition. This really went to the wire; had it not been for a young lady in Year 3 with a late entry in the paper aeroplane competition then the trophy could have gone to a rival House. Her effort ensured final victory. It goes without saying that every child's effort, in every competition, counts to the final total!

In the Spring Term, Telford were victorious in House Coding, House Table Tennis and House Netball. Prior to this, in the Autumn Term, we won four House competitions! Telford's pupils were victorious in the House Point Cup, House Signing, Cross Country and Boys' Rugby.

The most gratifying moments were seeing us win House Rugby where we were very much the underdog. The boys played as a strong unit and teamwork trumped individual skill. It was also pleasing to see us win the inaugural House Music Competition which involved every child in the House - well done to our Telfordians.

In the Autumn Term, despite awful weather conditions, we raised **£468.50** for the Amal Project. Amal Project Teesside is a grassroots, non-profit community organisation. Their work is inspired by the Islamic principle of Sadaqah (voluntary charity and acts of kindness). This worthwhile charity is committed to advancing Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) across Teesside, with a particular focus on improving



access to essential services for people from ethnically diverse backgrounds, including those seeking sanctuary (refugees and asylum seekers). This extends to health and wellbeing support, as well as engagement with wider public and private organisations. Amal is the Arabic word for hope.

This academic year saw the introduction of House Mascots and House Champions. The children of Telford nominated an axolotl to be the mascot. Our champions are Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson, Mackenzie Thorpe and Riz Ahmed.

Mr K Harandon





From Sutton Bank to the Roman Ranks

A Memorable First Residential for Year 3

There was great excitement as 41 children and five teachers arrived at school on an overcast but warm Monday morning. After checking medicines, bags, and essential kit - from packed lunches to suncream - the children climbed aboard the coach, and were off on their first residential trip.

Our first stop was the Visitor Centre at the top of Sutton Bank. Following a quick snack, we walked along the edge of the hill to see the famous White Horse of Kilburn. The walk proved spectacular; we even watched a glider take off just a few metres away from our excellent vantage point, preparing for flight and then soaring gracefully into the air. Reaching the steps, we made a steep descent to the car park to look up at the White Horse in all its splendour. The climb back up was a true challenge, and there were several stops for breath, but we enjoyed spotting purple wild orchids and a friendly robin along the way. After a quiet, content picnic lunch on a grassy patch, we boarded the coach bound for York Minster.

Arriving in York, we paused for a quick photo on the steps of the beautiful Minster before heading inside.

This was the 'awe and wonder' element of the residential. As the children entered, all eyes were immediately drawn upward to the magnificent roof. The Minster was bustling with activity and starting at St Peter's statue, the children began their tour. They discovered dragons, a multitude of gargoyles, and other key historical features. In the octagonal Chapter House, we spent time sketching animal carvings and floor tiles, which provided a moment of peaceful reflection. Next, we explored the East window and the eagerly anticipated Undercroft.

Having studied the Romans in humanities, the children were thrilled to go underground to see layers of ancient archaeology and the beautiful font. The visit concluded with a trip to the gift shop, where the children carefully made their purchases and accounted for their change.

After some free time on the lawn, we walked to Ask Italian

for a delicious dinner of pizza, pasta, and garlic bread. Our accommodating host, Lumi, served us with speed, and soon we were heading to the York Racecourse Centre. Upon arrival, there were many cheers as room arrangements were announced.





After unpacking, the children enjoyed playing on the grass in the warm evening sunshine. By bedtime, many exhausted heads hit the pillows and sleep followed quickly.

The next morning started early for some, while others required a gentle wake-up call from the teachers. It was lovely to see so many happy smiles before 7am. In the dining room, the children thoroughly enjoyed a hearty breakfast, with Coco Pops proving popular, as well as a full English with toast. Rooms were then tidied, bags packed, and lunches distributed before we set off for our Roman Day at Murton Park.

By 10am, the temperature was already high outside the air-conditioned coach. We met Marcus, who was recruiting for the Roman Army, and quickly formed groups to march toward the fort. Chanting 'sin, dex, sin, dex' as we marched, we arrived ready for action. The Centurion gave an introduction to the safe use of shields and spears, and the children eagerly practised their new found Roman combat skills. Due to the afternoon heat, we moved inside the fort to try our hand at writing Latin and crafting clay oil lamps.

With frequent water breaks keeping everyone hydrated, a busy and successful afternoon

came to a close, and we set off back to school. It was a memorable trip in so many ways, serving as a brilliant start to the Yarm Prep School residential programme. A huge well done to the Year 3 children, who demonstrated all of our School Values, impressed their teachers, and were commended for their excellent behaviour throughout. It was an inspiring experience completed with fun, adventure, and friendship.

Mrs N Jones





YARM SCHOOL



ROMAN LIFE AND WILD ADVENTURES

Our Year 4 explorers recently returned from an incredible residential trip to Vindolanda and Hadrian's Wall, bridging the gap between ancient history and the great outdoors.

The journey began at the Roman Army Museum, followed by a visit to the Vindolanda excavations. The children were starstruck meeting a professional archaeologist and seeing the world's only surviving Roman boxing gloves! That evening, we hiked to Sycamore Gap, where it was heartening to see new shoots emerging from the iconic site, a true symbol of nature's resilience.

Day two was spent at Walltown Country Park for a masterclass in Bushcraft with Kevin and his helpers. From building sturdy dens and foraging wild foods to baking bannock bread and churning

our own butter, the children showed fantastic teamwork. A highlight was learning how to use the natural materials around us when needing to light a fire to survive in the wilderness. We ended the day with a sunset hike to the highest point and the official midpoint of the Wall.

Our final day at Gosforth Nature Reserve focused on local wildlife through pond dipping and bird spotting. The children used classification grids to determine their catch, with the highlight being an enormous water beetle. It was a joy to see the pupils so engaged with the natural world.

This was a truly memorable experience that brought history to life and built lasting friendships. Well done, Year 4!

Mr A Pengilly



Year 4 Vindolanda Trip



Conquering Challenges and Making Memories



There was immense anticipation as Year 5 arrived at Peat Rigg Outdoor Centre, set in a secluded dale near Cropton Forest. Deep in the North York Moors, this great setting provides the perfect backdrop for a residential focused on building resilience, teamwork, and independence. Guided by a professional and supportive staff team, the children plunged headfirst into a packed itinerary of outdoor activities designed to push boundaries and bring them together.

The high ropes and zipline proved to be an immediate

test of nerves, with pupils scaling trees and soaring through the air - some even bravely trying it backwards or hands-free! Over at the crate stacking, the focus shifted to collaboration. Pupils worked in teams to build unstable towers, encouraging one another out of their comfort zones and learning that the challenge was ultimately about trust and friendship rather than who could climb the highest.

Down on the forest floor, the children put their problem-solving to the test with hands-on bushcraft.

Tasked with gathering their

own kindling, they showed fantastic perseverance while mastering the tricky technique of using flint and steel rods. The reward for their hard work was well worth the effort, as they successfully lit fires and roasted marshmallows together. As day turned to night, the adventure continued into the woods with a unique orienteering challenge. Equipped with maps and scorecards, groups navigated the dark forest.

The world of caving provided another highlight, demanding agility, teamwork, and a sharp eye. Armed with head torches and maps, groups navigated

tight, realistic tunnels to hunt for hidden gemstones and fossils, wiggling to squeeze through narrow obstacles like the 'cheese press'.

Long after the bags were unpacked back at school, the impact of the trip remained. The children returned to the classroom with a newfound independence and confidence, continuing daily conversations about facing fears and supporting one another. It was a thoroughly memorable residential where our Year 5 pupils truly flourished.

Mr J Grundmann





Year 5 Peat Rigg Residential

"I enjoyed ziplining because you could go on the high ropes (which I did) and you could go on twice in my group. I also liked my group teacher because he was really nice and friendly."

.....
Myla GB, Year 6

"I really enjoyed bushcraft because we had to find all the twigs for the fire ourselves in the forest. Once we got to our fire pit we had to use a fire lighter but it was really tricky to use and it took us 15 tries before we got the fire lit! After we got the fire going we got to roast some marshmallows - but mine nearly got burnt! "

.....
Max H

"I enjoyed caving because the experience was really realistic even though it was man made. In the cave we had to look around it for gemstones and fossils, and try and find all of them. We were only given a map and two head torches and were put into groups of three. "

.....
Kathryn F

"I really enjoyed orienteering because I liked it when it was dark - we went in groups with maps to find letters and we went really deep in a forest and found a badger. It was my first ever sight of a badger. I also liked the hot chocolate afterwards."

.....
Theodore C





YARM SCHOOL

LANDMARKS, LIGHTS, AND WEST END SHOWS

On Tuesday, 10th March, 62 very excited Year 5 pupils set off on their highly anticipated trip to London. As soon as we dropped our bags at the hotel, we were straight out into the city. Our first afternoon included a walk down to Trafalgar Square and through Covent Garden, where we stopped to watch some brilliant street performers. After a quick dinner at Pizza Express, we hopped onto an open-top bus for a night tour. Seeing the city landmarks all lit up was a fantastic experience

and a real highlight for many of the children, who loved catching their first glimpses of the London Eye, Big Ben, and the Houses of Parliament.

Wednesday was a busy day from start to finish. We spent the morning exploring the Tower of London alongside Lord Crathorne, where the children really got stuck into the guided tours and asked some brilliant, thoughtful questions. In the afternoon, the drama began with a trip to the Apollo Victoria Theatre to watch a spectacular performance of *Wicked*.

Our final full day was just as action-packed, with visits to the Houses of Parliament and the London Eye, a delicious meal at Byron Burger, followed by our second West End show, *Matilda*.

Throughout the four days, the children were enthusiastic, well-behaved, and a real credit to Yarm School. They made the absolute most of every moment, and they have come home with brilliant memories that will last a lifetime.

.....
Miss A Henderson



"My favourite part of the London trip was probably going on the London-Eye because it was so high up and had such a great view of the whole city. I enjoyed taking photos of parliament from above and the city was spectacular."

Genevieve P

"I loved the open top bus tour and seeing famous buildings such as the Walkie Talkie and the Shard. London is beautiful at night with lots of the buildings illuminated in different colours and shades. There was lots of blue though! "

Edward W

"I liked the musicals and the London Eye because the musicals were incredibly good, especially *Matilda*, and the London Eye was amazing because I felt like I was on the top of the world. Overall, London was incredible and I loved it."

Ben S



FROM HIGH ROPES TO RUSHING GHYLLS

Diary of the Year 6 Lake District Trip

Monday

The adventure began the moment I arrived at school on Monday morning. I could hardly contain my excitement as I thought about spending three whole nights in the Lake District with my friends and teachers. Every step up the stairs seemed to make my excitement grow stronger. Soon, after a quick talk from Mr Harandon, we boarded our coaches and set off on our journey.

After a few hours of chatting and laughing, we finally arrived in the beautiful Lake District. Surrounded by rolling hills and breathtaking scenery, we carried our bags up to the campsite and gathered

in the marquee. We met Mr Mathers, the Head of Outdoor Education, who explained the plan for the week before we rushed off to unpack and begin our first activity.

Our first challenge was the High Ropes Course. Wearing helmets and harnesses, we faced the towering Jacob's Ladder. The giant wooden rungs became further apart the higher we climbed, making every step more challenging than the last. Working together with a partner, I felt a huge sense of achievement when we reached the top. That evening, we enjoyed a tasty dinner before snuggling into our sleeping bags, ready for more adventures.

Tuesday

After a filling breakfast, we packed our lunches and headed off to hike Loughrigg Fell. The climb was steep in places, but the spectacular views made every step worthwhile. We stopped for a delicious pain au chocolat before continuing higher up the fell. At the top, we enjoyed our packed lunches while gazing across the magnificent mountains and valleys below.

On the way down, we explored Boulder Valley, scrambling over enormous rocks that looked as if giants had dropped them there. To make the day even better, Mrs Simpson treated us to ice cream before we returned to camp.



Wednesday

Wednesday was packed with excitement. We travelled to Lake Windermere for a day of watersports. Canoeing was brilliant fun. After learning how to paddle and steer, our team worked together brilliantly and even won every game, including canoe polo. In the afternoon, we tried dinghy sailing. Rain drizzled from the sky as we ate lunch under a canopy, but that didn't spoil the fun. Once we launched onto the lake, the wind caught our sail and whisked us across the water. Sailing with Annabelle was thrilling, especially when we nearly capsized! It was definitely one of my favourite activities.

That evening, we enjoyed a delicious barbecue and choc-ices before gathering around a crackling campfire. We sang songs, watched performances and drank hot chocolate under the evening sky.

Thursday

Although everyone was feeling tired, there was still time for one last adventure. At Sticklebeck Ghyll, we scrambled through rushing water, climbed slippery rocks and swam across pools beneath powerful waterfalls. It was exciting, challenging and incredibly fun.

Later, we tackled rock climbing. At first, the rock face looked enormous, but I pushed myself to give it a try. To my surprise, I reached the top! Abseiling down was trickier, and I ended up sliding part of the way and getting completely covered in mud.

Before we knew it, it was time to leave. As we boarded the coach home, I reflected on an unforgettable week filled with adventure, friendship, laughter and memories that will stay with me forever. Even though the weather was wild, the Lakes Residential was one of the best experiences I have ever had.

Harriet A, Year 6





YEAR 6 SPORTS TOUR

In late April, Year 6 went on our sports tour to North West England. Our two day trip started early in the morning at school. Our year got divided into four groups and put on separate mini-buses. We began our journey across the country to Kirkham Grammar School for an afternoon of competitive athletics. We first stopped off at a park for a nice lunch, courtesy of our fantastic dinner ladies who packed our lunches for us. Upon arrival at Kirkham, we were put into small groups. We all took part in various activities: long jump, 200m sprint, 100m sprint, cricket ball throw and relay. Everyone tried their hardest - and what can I say - it most definitely made us get our steps in! Yarm ultimately won, Kirkham were great hosts, and we received gingerbread and juice.

Afterwards, it was roughly a forty minute drive to our hostel. When we arrived, we were

immediately put into rooms of between four and six people. After settling in, we had a well earned dinner downstairs. You had the choice of either spaghetti or jacket potato - both were delicious - and a highly satisfactory dessert that consisted of cake and custard. When we finished our dinner, we all took part in a team quiz led by Mr Harandon. We had an interlude in between the first and second round of the quiz, and we went to a nearby park where we wound down for the night. We went back to the hostel and played the final round of Mr Harandon's quiz. When we completed the quiz, we finally retired to our rooms for the night where we (eventually) all fell asleep, preparing ourselves for another day of sport, or, more specifically, cricket.

The next morning, everyone was raring and ready to go. We ate our breakfast, made

our lunches, packed our bags and loaded our bags onto the mini-buses. We left for Skipton Castle where we would spend our morning on a tour and learning about its impressive history. We had a great lunch in the gardens there and we shortly got back on the mini-buses to head towards Stonyhurst. We split into teams and played cricket in the glorious weather that blessed us that afternoon. The matches were highly competitive, featuring some fantastic catches, fast bowling and excellent boundaries. Some teams won and others lost. Nevertheless, everyone gave it their all. After the fixture, we all had Oreos which most certainly lifted everyone's spirits. We returned to Yarm that evening with full hearts and brighter smiles, concluding the 2026 Year 6 Sports Tour.

.....
Scarlett Y, Year 6





GIRLS' SPORT

What a fantastic year of sport our children have enjoyed with so much going on! We travelled near and far and all had plenty of opportunities to play for school.

We started off the year in PE focusing upon gymnastics, health-related fitness and basketball. Gymnastics allowed the children to build their core strength and reacquaint themselves with the basic concepts of movement and balance as well as enjoying the larger wall apparatus. During Games it was essential for the pupils to refamiliarise themselves with the dynamics of team sports, and with fixtures coming thick and fast the children really did

hit the ground running. Hosting opposition taught them to be welcoming and hospitable and the Year 3 pupils set the ball rolling making many friends as we regularly enjoyed workshops alongside Queen Mary's and Durham School across all three terms playing a wide variety of sports. These included netball, hockey, and cricket. All Year 3 children participated in 10 weeks of swimming throughout the year at the Rainbow Centre and the progress shown by every child was excellent to see.

Hockey and Netball

The Year 4 girls loved their 5-a-side netball and hockey games playing Durham and Queen Mary's as well as hosting Dame Allan's amongst others, for our hockey festival in October. This is always a highlight in our calendar and seeing the girls make friends was fantastic. The Year 5 and Year 6 girls had fixtures for the vast majority of Fridays and we enjoyed large block fixtures so every child could be involved. This is something I am very proud of and am keen to continue next year. The girls travelled to many schools as well as hosting, and opposition included Cundall Manor, Barnard Castle, Durham, Red House, and Queen Mary's. They were crowned Under 11 County Hockey Champions and went on to represent the North East in the In2 Hockey finals in Durham. They then qualified for the Yorkshire and North East finals and finished 6th overall - a fine achievement. The Under 11s also attended the NEJS hockey and netball events held at

GSAL and Hymers College and covered some miles in the process! The netball team reached the cup competition at Hymers and finished 6th of 32 schools entered. The entire year group of girls have been fantastic ambassadors for the school and it has been a privilege to teach and coach them all this year.

Summer Term: Cricket, Tennis, and Athletics

As the Summer Term unfolded we introduced tennis, athletics and cricket to the pupils. There was a palpable sense of anticipation and excitement as the fine weather started to be realised. In tennis and cricket, from Year 3 upwards, the children enjoyed playing and started to develop their techniques. It was great to see their interest and confidence grow as the season progressed. This culminated in the school hosting five other primary schools for a sporting festival, with over 200 children playing football, netball, fencing, table tennis, rugby, hockey alongside other running challenges also. The cricket in school for girls continues to be very well





received and it has been great to see them embrace the challenges of bowling, batting and fielding. Sadly rain stopped play for the Under 9 fixtures but they all have a grounding in the basics of cricket. Their festival of sport once again welcomed over 260 pupils from local primary schools and was well received. We hosted weekly Friday fixtures for our Under 10 and Under 11s alongside many independent schools with up to and over 100 children playing at any one time! The early lovely weather meant we had plenty of time up at Green Lane working towards Sports Day and the many cricket fixtures.

At the NEJS Athletics in York, the Under 9, Under 10 and Under 11 teams performed excellently. As a school we finished 7th out of 16 which was a fair result. The mindset of the girls never fails to

impress me and their ambition and positive attitude shone through not just on the big stage but every single Friday when we travelled to friendly fixtures as well. In June we competed in Newcastle at the NEJS Tennis Competition, and took four pairs to compete across boys and girls doubles - well done to Sophie D and Ellora W who finished 3rd in the plate event. It has been a fantastic year of sport. Long may this continue!

Finally thanks to the many staff who run clubs, take teams, attend fixtures and give up holidays to attend tours, we really couldn't run such an ambitious fixture and sporting programme without you.

Mrs N Redhead-Sweeney



BOYS' SPORT



Autumn Term: Rugby

The school year began with sunny weather, allowing rugby training to begin in earnest and helping us to promote the free-flowing, running style of rugby we favour at Yarm. All teams performed well from the outset. The firm ground helps our preferred style - playing at speed, running into space, and avoiding unnecessary contact.

Under 8s and Under 9s: The Under 8s enjoyed their fixtures, entertaining Cundall Manor. Meanwhile, the Under 9s hosted their annual rugby festival, welcoming teams

from far and wide and meeting new peers from across the entire region.

Under 10s: The boys started their campaign at the Clegg Cup, hosted by Barnard Castle School, showing plenty of early promise. Over the term, they demonstrated excellent work in the contact area and focused heavily on passing skills. This resulted in superb, free-flowing rugby that was exciting to watch.

Under 11s: Working with the Under 11 boys was a pleasure. Keen to learn, they faced stern opposition throughout

the season, and - despite not being successful on every occasion - their teamwork, communication, and mutual support were impressive. Strength and depth across the year group allowed many boys to play in multiple positions, and they have the ability to outplay any opposition they face. The highlight of the season was the trip to the North East Junior Schools (NEJS) competition, where facing opposition outside their regular circuit allowed the boys to establish new connections as well as re-establish old ties, underpinning the RFU's core values.

Well done to all the boys for an exceptional effort this season.

Spring Term: Hockey and Football

In the Spring Term, the sporting focus shifted primarily to hockey. The fast-paced, tactical nature of the game sees hockey flourish at Yarm Prep School, with pupils producing exciting, attacking play. Accommodating varied skill sets, it allows all pupils to push each other's development. Progress across games lessons and clubs was

significant this year, visible in the boys' enthusiasm, high participation, and excellent results against other schools.

Under 8s: The boys worked hard on passing, receiving, and striking the ball through small-sided games. They also enjoyed a hockey workshop hosted by Cundall Manor, participating in a carousel of activities and making new friends.

Under 9s: Expanding on the skills built in Year 3, the Under 9s demonstrated excellent teamwork across a mixture of football and hockey fixtures. Their stick skills improved quickly, and their competitive edge gave them great resilience. Hosting schools sharing our ethos allowed us to celebrate individual player growth and team spirit rather than just the final result.

Under 10 and Under 11: The boys were extremely busy, playing both football and hockey whenever the weather permitted. The Under 10s show great promise, transferring spatial awareness from other sports into hockey, where their speed and passing accuracy made the difference against tough opposition.



Expectations were high for the Under 11 hockey season, with many attending extra training through school and club provisions. They performed excellently, culminating in the In2Hockey Championship and North East Junior Schools tournaments, where they relished testing themselves against top-tier opposition. Congratulations to all the boys on a fantastic season.

Summer Term: Cricket, Tennis, and Athletics

The Summer Term introduced tennis, cricket, and athletics, with pupils developing techniques and growing in confidence. This culminated in Yarm hosting a Year 3 sporting festival for five other primary schools, welcoming over 200 children to participate in football, netball, fencing, table tennis, rugby, hockey, and running challenges.

The Year 4s played against Durham School, picking up

the basics of pairs cricket, bowling accurately, and taking wickets with aplomb. The Year 4 festival of sport once again welcomed over 250 pupils from local primary schools and was well received. For the Under 10 and Under 11 squads, weekly Friday fixtures alongside multiple independent schools saw over 100 children playing, and the early good weather meant we had plenty of time up at our Green Lane facilities.

At the NEJS Athletics in York, the combined Under 9, Under 10, and Under 11 teams finished 5th overall, while the Under 11 Boys finished 4th out of 19 schools. Notable individual performances included Wilbur M-S (Year 6) becoming joint Long Jump Champion with a distance of 3.96m, Josh A (Year 5) winning his Long Jump event with a leap of 3.66m,

and Finley H (Year 4) also claimed a superb 3rd place in the 80m Sprint Finals.

In June, we attended the NEJS Tennis Tournament in Newcastle, with more pupils taking part than ever before. Atticus WT and Monty B performed brilliantly to reach the final and finish a very close second after losing by a single point. There was further silverware for Yarm as Ziad S and Ralph X won the Bowl competition!

Finally, the Under 10 and Under 11 cricket teams enjoyed a super, if damp, day at the NEJS Cricket at Woodhouse Grove.

Placed in a challenging group against GSAL, RGS Newcastle, and Bootham School, the boys played magnificently to advance completely undefeated. In a tense quarter-final against QEGS, the match finished tied at 55 runs each, but Yarm advanced on a higher wicket count. In the semi-finals against St Peter's School, a change in pitch, wind, and bounce caught our batters off guard, and, with first-class fielding from St Peter's, this is where our tournament run ended. It was a superb day of cricket, capping off a fantastic year of sport for all involved.

Mr P Underwood



YARM SCHOOL

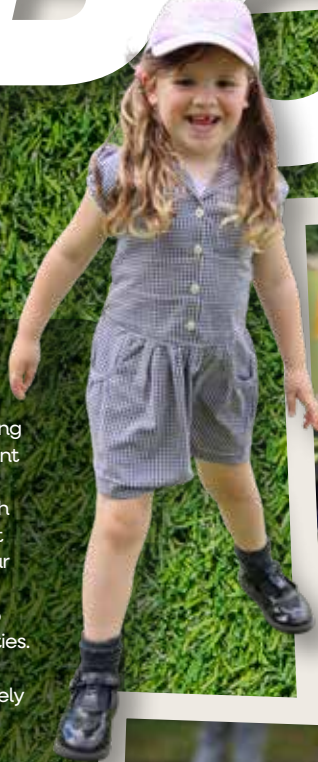
SPORTS

The school was absolutely buzzing with excitement during our recent Pre-School Sports Afternoon, and what a joy it was to see such high spirits under the sunshine! It was heart-warming to watch our children show off their growing confidence and skills through so many fun, action-packed activities.

The obstacle course was definitely a crowd favourite, with the children climbing, crawling, and leaping towards the finish line with beaming smiles on their faces.

It was a wonderful celebration of how far our children have come on this year, both in their physical development and their coordination. A huge, heartfelt thank you to all our parents for coming along and joining in with enthusiasm, your presence made the atmosphere even more special.

.....
Mrs L Cardwell



FUN

Pre-Prep Sports Morning was once again a spectacular highlight of the Summer Term. Bathed in glorious, warm sunshine, the morning was filled with boundless energy, enthusiasm, and plenty of smiles.

Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 pupils took to the astroturf to participate in a fantastic range of track and field activities. From fast-paced sprints and relays to focused beanbag throws, it was wonderful to see their confidence and determination shine as brightly as the weather. What stood out most, even more than the perfect summer conditions, was the incredible sense of teamwork and encouragement. A huge thank you to the PE Department for organising such a seamless, enjoyable morning, and to our wonderful families for providing such enthusiastic support from the sidelines.

With so much budding talent, positivity, and sunshine on display, we are already looking forward to next year's Sports Morning.

.....
Mrs J Speight





YARM SCHOOL

SPORTS

The blistering heat couldn't dampen the spirits at Middlesbrough Sports Village for our spectacular Annual Sports Day. Every child and staff member coped brilliantly, showcasing immense resilience in the soaring temperatures. It was fantastic to have so many supporters in the stands cheering the pupils on to their very best.

Pupils poured their energy into an action-packed schedule, tackling intense track races, the long jump, and the vortex throw with incredible enthusiasm. What stood out most, however, was the exemplary sporting behavior. Seeing competitors genuinely cheering and congratulating one another was a true highlight of the day.

The finale - the highly anticipated House relays - involved every single child, providing a thrilling and fitting end to a memorable, sun-drenched event! Congratulations to Brunel House who secured their first win in 3 years, and to Bertie H and Scarlett Y who won the Victor Lodorum and Victrix Lodorum respectively.

.....
Mrs N Redhead-Sweeney



DAY





YARM SCHOOL

HOLIDAY • CLUB •

Another fantastic year for the Prep School Holiday Club! Holiday Club is an action packed five weeks of trips and activities all over the North East, where children can see their friends and take part in new adventures outside of term.

This year saw more adventurous trips outside of school and days at school. The children enjoyed learning about mining and being an evacuee at Beamish, seeing and feeding the farm animals

at Monk Park Farm and Hall Hill Farm, watching a Wicked dance show, and finding bugs at Gibside. A firm favourite was our art days with Mrs Shepherd and Mrs Donoghue.

Yet again, Holiday Club was full of action, seeing personal growth and many success stories. Where the children were encouraged to take risks, learn new skills and celebrate their successes - and naturally have lots of fun too!

.....
Mr C Simpson





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