

# The Phoenix Flier

# The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 787—Friday 4th October 2024

# A message from Mr Sawyer

What a wonderful few weeks it has been since the start of term, with teamwork shining through in every corner of our vibrant community! Whether in the classroom, on the sports fields, through charitable efforts, or out on exciting educational trips, the spirit of collaboration continues to be at the heart of our school. This week's edition of the Phoenix Flier highlights our lively recognition of the European Day of Languages, where pupils delved into the beauty of new languages and cultures, as well as the scientific investigations comparing animal



skulls and teeth in Year 4. These experiences not only bring topics to life but also demonstrate the value of working together and sharing ideas, whilst teaching valuable lessons in communication, empathy, and the joy of learning alongside one another.

The benefits of teamwork are far-reaching, both at school and in wider endeavours. Our sports teams have embodied this perfectly, showing grit and unity in the U10 Clegg Cup and the North East Junior Schools rugby and hockey competitions. Their efforts, win or lose, are a testament to the power of support, trust, and hard work. Meanwhile, several curriculum-based trips have allowed our pupils to explore and enrich their learning in new environments, sparking curiosity and furthering their understanding. Our Open Morning last weekend also demonstrated how well our pupils can pull together and showcase their ability to be superb ambassadors for the school. It's clear that working together, in whatever form, deepens our learning and growth.

# Bill Sawyer

# Head's Challenge:

I'm not something you can do alone. With every hand, I become strong. What am I?

# Photo of the Week:

A very enjoyable trip to The Great North Museum for our Year 3 children last week. More images and comments can be found inside.



# **European Day of Languages**

Today I enjoyed wearing my hat about Great Britain. I also enjoyed the assembly when the Senior School talked to us about different languages.

Jamie F.

I liked making my headband for European Day of Languages. I based mine on Italy.

Rae B.

The assembly was the best because Senior School students came to tell us about different languages

Aria T.

I loved assembly on European Language Day because I learnt a German insult which means you want to slap someone in the face. It was 'Backpfeifengesicht.'

Jack B.

On European Day of Languages I enjoyed making a hat and wearing it. My hat had pizza, a map of Vatican city and the Leaning Tower of Pisa on it.

Azaan S.

I enjoyed making and wearing my Spanish hat for European Day of Languages. Assembly was great fun because we learnt some funny words in different languages and I got to go in the photo!

Harman K.

I made an Australian themed hat because I adore Australia. I had a cardboard hat frame with a flag on the main part of the hat and felt kangaroos with scrabble letters saying AUSTRALIA and G'DAY on the rim.

Amelie T.

On European Day of Languages I wore a Portuguese themed hat that I made. I really enjoyed seeing everyone's hats. Ralph's was a cloud and it looked really good!

Henry F.

In assembly we learnt some words in different languages. Nahrungsmittelunverträglichkeit means food intolerance.

Emma W.

I enjoyed European Day of Languages because it was fun to make the hats and see other interesting hats other people had made. My hat was based on Spain. It was a red and yellow headband with jewels, feathers and the flag at the front. At first I thought I could have done better, but I felt proud when I wore it and even more proud when I received a prize!

Веа Т.











# **Year 3 Great North Museum Trip**

On Tuesday, the Year 3 children visited the Great North Museum to find out more about the Stone Age. So far this term, the children have learnt about The Amesbury Archer and Skara Brae as well as developing their historical skills such as chronology, using artefacts to answer questions and







understand key vocabulary such as Neolithic, Mesolithic and Paleolithic. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the museum and participating in the workshop activity. They discovered that life in the Stone Age meant hard work. Did you know that there are the remains of an ancient elk found at Neasham exhibited in the museum? A wonderful place to visit and augment knowledge of life in the past, well done Year 3.





Mrs Jones

























# **Year 4 Science**

Year 4 have been learning about teeth in their science lessons. Many thanks to Bertie for bringing in these amazing animal skulls so we could compare animal incisors, canines and molars with our own. We could see how the teeth of herbivores are different to omnivores. The children have also been looking at their own teeth, using disclosing tablets to

help them.

Mrs Smith

















# **PE and Games News**

#### **Under 10 Clegg Cup Rugby**

On a bright and breezy day, Barnard Castle hosted the 2024 Clegg Cup. The U10 Boys performed admirably, playing good open rugby, passing and supporting each other across the whole pitch. If the U10 boys can continue this development they will become a very talented team in the future.

Mr Underwood

#### **Under 9 Rugby v DCSF**

A lovely afternoon of weather saw the U9 boys entertain DCSF in a training fixture. This was the U9s first fixture of contact and they did themselves proud. They supported and encouraged each other at all times. This is a very good start to the season and promises much over the coming years.

Mr Underwood





# How to set up Fixtures Pro on your Smartphone

It's how to find details of sports fixtures and team line-ups for the Prep School. It is also very easy to set up on your Apple or Android device. Please follow these instructions.

#### **FOR ANDROID DEVICES:**















1. Access the Yarm School website via the browser on your device.

2. Click on 'Senior School' at the top of the page.

3. Click on 'Sport' which appears down the lefthand side.

4. Click on 'Fixtures and Results'.

5. In the top-right | 6. Give the link a corner of the browser, click on the three dots, then click on 'Add to Home screen'.

name

7. Add to your phone home screen.

#### **FOR APPLE DEVICES:**

Follow steps 1-4 above, then:

- 5) At the bottom of your phones screen drag your finger up and you have a square and arrow icon (photo left) and if you click this you can then see the icon that says 'Add to home screen'. Click this.
- 6) Congratulations! You are all set and on your phone screen you should see the Yarm School logo which is now your very own shortcut to team sheets etc.



## **Music lessons**

If your child is in Years 3-6 and is interested in taking part in individual peripatetic music lessons, <u>please fill in this form and Mr Gooding will get back to you</u>.

Mr Gooding

## **CEOP**



The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) aims to keep children and young people safe from sexual abuse and grooming online.

Parents, carers and children can report a concern about child sexual abuse or online exploitation to the CEOP Safety Centre.

# ANY CHILD IN IMMEDIATE DANGER SHOULD ALWAYS CALL 999 FIRST.

You can contact CEOP by clicking on the logo on this page. This links to the CEOP website where you can report any concerns you may have. Alternatively, click <a href="https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/">www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/</a>.

Mr Stone

# **Speech and Drama lessons**

If your child is in Years 3-6 and is interested in taking part in individual peripatetic speech and drama lessons, <u>please fill in this form and Mr Stone will get back to you</u>.

Mr Stone

# **Clubs and Activities**

It has been an exciting start to our clubs and activities programme, and a real pleasure to see so many children looking to try out new clubs.

We still have some spaces in a number of clubs. If your child is interested in joining any of the following, <u>please contact Mr</u> Stone.

**MONDAYS:** Y3-6 Advanced Fencing (for those who have fenced before; begins after half-term).

**TUESDAYS:** Y4-5 Biography Club, Y5-6 Table Tennis, Y5-6 Hard Ball Cricket

WEDNESDAYS: Y4-5-6 Chess For Fun, Y4-5-6 Music Theory

**THURSDAYS:** Y3-4 Board Games, Y4-5-6 Autumn Art, Y4-5-6 Philosophy (begins 26/9), Y4-5-6 Squash, Y5-6 Drama.

Mr Stone

## Reminder

Please can we politely remind parents to make use of our car park during the busy drop-off and pick-up times, rather than use Blackfriars or any neighbouring streets. Please also only use the disabled bays in our car park if you have a blue badge.

Mr Stone

# **October Holiday School**

Bookings are now open for the upcoming October Holiday School which will run from Monday 21st to Friday 25th October Our Holiday School is for Nursery, Pre-Prep and Prep School children only.

The price per child per day is now £42 per day. Please note, payment will only be accepted once places have been confirmed by myself via email and will be taken via BACS or via childcare vouchers if you are eligible.

Once places have been confirmed, parents have 72 hours to amend or cancel any bookings. After this time, payment will be expected in full within 7 days. If days are cancelled after this time payment will still be expected.

We are pleased to confirm that we will be accepting payment of the holiday school charges via childcare vouchers should you wish to use this method of payment. Childcare vouchers are offered by some employers for their staff as a tax efficient method of paying for qualifying childcare. For those parents who do not have access to this type of scheme via their employer, the Government provides a similar scheme called "tax free childcare". For more information including eligibility criteria please visit <a href="https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare">https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare</a>. If you would like to pay via childcare vouchers/tax free childcare, please ensure that you indicate this will be your method of payment on the booking form and then make the payment via your childcare voucher provider for the exact amount of holiday school payment due.

Yarm School is already registered with the following schemes, so should be available as an option for childcare provider when you request the vouchers: Enjoy Benefits, Allsave, Kiddi Vouchers, Edenred, Computershare, Fidelity, RG Childcare, Care-4, Sodexo, Tax Free Childcare (Government Scheme). If your employer runs a scheme not listed above please contact Julie Robson in the Finance Office (fees@yarmschool.org) prior to requesting vouchers via your employer. Please note that these vouchers cannot be used for school fees or extras and any payment in excess of the holiday school charge will be refunded to your tax free childcare

account less an administration fee.

Nursery Parents: Your child must be fully toilet trained and not wearing pull-up nappies to attend Holiday School due to the nature of the activities and excursions. Nursery children can be booked on to Holiday School for the same number of days each week that they would usually attend Nursery. Please speak to Mrs Cardwell or Mrs Banham if you have any questions.

The timings for the days are from 8am to 5pm. A timetable of the trips has been attached to the booking email and a further email will be sent out if any specific clothing/equipment is required closer to the start of Holiday School.

#### Bookings can be made by clicking here.

Places on all days are limited and the deadline for applications is 9am Monday 7th October. Please only book the days that you require. If there are any changes to your plans at any time, please contact holidayschool@yarmschool.org.

Mr Simpson

### **Year 4 Wollow**

Jack Pritchard from Upper 6th visited Year4 German lessons this week. He talked about his time in Nuremberg, a city steeped in medieval history. The children enjoyed learning some medieval themed vocabulary and excelled in the quiz!

Mrs Arrol



## Yarm Fair

#### 17th - 19th October 2024

During the week commencing Monday, 14th October, traffic around Yarm will face some disruption as the annual Fair comes to town. Whilst a very popular local event, it is a shame that the dates of the Fair coincide with term time rather than our half-term holiday, as is normally the case, and certain aspects of school life will be impacted as a result. We therefore ask you to please ensure that you and your children understand the details shared below.

The Fair itself takes place on 17th, 18th and 19th October. As a result, the A67 Yarm High Street will be closed as follows:

Tuesday, 15th October 6.00pm - 11.00pm Thursday, 17th October 5.45pm - 10.45pm Friday, 18th October 5.45pm - 10.45pm Saturday, 19th October - 11.30am - midnight

Please note that when the High Street is closed, traffic is permitted to go around the Fair via West Road, but this is often very slow and congested, so please plan for heavier traffic than usual.

On Tuesday-Friday that week, all clubs will run as normal. However, we ask that you make every effort to collect your child on time.

After School Care will run as normal but we ask that parents collect their children by 5.45pm at the latest.

Parents' Evening consultations booked to take place in school on Tuesday-Wednesday will go ahead as planned, but please allow additional time to travel to school.

Thursday Squash club will carry on as normal, but please can parents endeavour to collect from the Squash Club just before 5pm. Any children not collected will go into after school care at the Pre-Prep, but please note the slightly earlier finishing time.

The main school gates will be closed by 6.00pm.

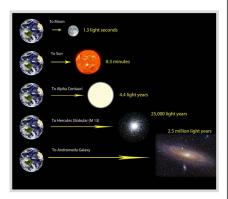
Mr Stone

# Coming Up at the PAA

<u>Astronomy Talks – The Scale of the Universe</u> <u>In person talk in Friarage Theatre— Tuesday 15th</u>

# October 2024 7:00pm

The Scale of the Universe – how big is the universe and how far can we see with our most powerful telescopes.



We will discuss how

far away objects are that we see in the night sky – from the moon, to the most distant galaxies.

We will also explain how these distances were deduced. No previous knowledge of astronomy or science is required.

More dates available on the website as this is a series.

# <u>Girl from the North Country - (Live Steam) -</u> <u>Saturday 23rd - Sunday 24th November 2024</u>

Written and directed by celebrated playwright Conor McPherson and featuring Tony Award-winning orchestrations by Simon Hale.

Girl From The North Country reimagines 20 legendary songs of Bob Dylan as they've never been heard before, including "Forever Young," "All Along The



Watchtower," "Hurricane," and "Like A Rolling Stone."

It's 1934 in Duluth, Minnesota. We meet a group of wayward travellers whose lives intersect in a guesthouse filled with music, life and hope.

# The Nick Ross Orchestra: The Glenn Miller and Rat Pack Era - Saturday 18th January 2025 7:30pm

The lights soften, the mood settles. An audience waits for that first moment of sound. The Big Band is poised, relaxed, but with eyes anxious for the lead.



And then, as if giving body to an echo, the murmured notes of 'Moonlight Serenade'...

and the night, it seems, is suddenly full and timeless.

There are those who watch and listen who tap a shy finger to the melodies, others who follow with a silent foot-beat, still others who murmur softly through the lyrics, and those who simply permit a fleeting smile. But common to all are memories. Recapture the sounds of a bygone era as the Nick Ross Orchestra presents 'an unmissable evening of music and song' – the Classic Big Band Sound of the 1940s and 50s.

# **Poetry Activity**



This week in our poetry activity we shared ideas, discussed the upcoming poetry competition and created our own sticker poems.

Mrs Hart

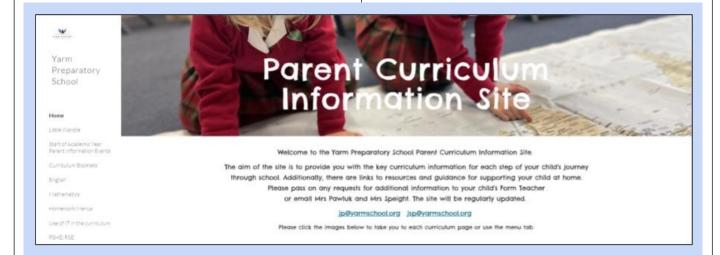
# **Holiday School Dates**

October 2024: - 21st—25th October (5 days)

Christmas 2024: - 16th—20th December 2024

Easter 2025: - 7th—11th April 2025

Summer 2025: - 14th July—1st August 2025



# https://bit.ly/yarmcurriculum

Click here to access the Parent Curriculum Information Site

# **Tooled Up Education**

This Friday it's World Teacher Day, so here at Tooled Up we're thinking about how to support our children at school and making the most of the parent-teacher relationship.

The season of Parents' Evenings is coming up for many families, so how can that conversation between parents and teachers be a fruitful one? This resource covers 30 Things You Might Say To Teachers At Parents' Evenings, with plenty of ideas to keep conversations positive and constructive. Partnership between teacher and parent gives children the best possible chance of thriving.



Things To Say At Parents' Evenings

As parents, we will always be our children's first teacher so this is the perfect week to reflect on what we are doing at home to cultivate <u>intellectual curiosity</u>, to inspire <u>dialogue</u> and to develop our children's <u>thinking skills</u>. No matter what subject they are learning about in school, parents can complement that learning by showing a general interest and asking their children to teach them something!

Sustaining motivation for learning is something many parents are interested in. One way to do this is to consider how we praise our children. This <u>podcast</u> with Neuroscientist, Paul Howard-Jones describes effective praise as focusing on a child's perseverance rather than their performance. He also suggests taking your child aback with your praise. If the feedback that you offer feels novel or surprising, it is more likely to be motivating.

October is going to be a busy season of webinars for Tooled Up parents! Always check the <u>Events page</u> on our site to see what is coming up.

Parents interested in learning more **smartphone**-free childhoods can enjoy this <u>webinar</u> on the 9th October. For those interested in research on **gaming** and its impact on teen wellbeing, tune into this <u>webinar</u> with Professor Paul Etchells on 14th October.

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

We always value your feedback and want to ensure that we are giving you the resources that you need. Email us at <a href="mailto:research@tooledupeducation.com">research@tooledupeducation.com</a> to let us know how we are doing!

A quick reminder As a parent at a Tooled Up school, you have full unlimited access to the Tooled Up library. If you have not created your account yet, click <a href="here">here to register for an account</a>. It takes less than 2 minutes to enter your details and unique school PIN: YPS1103 and if you need assistance, we are always happy to help. If you already have an account and you have forgotten your password, then simply click on any of the resource links above, click "Lost your password" and follow the instructions.

Dr Kathy Weston

# TOOLED UP® BECAUSE EVIDENCE MATTERS

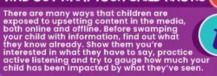
At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit national college com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH UPSETTING CONTENT

A Guide for Parents and Carers

Raising children in the digital age seems to be getting tougher, with the world currently experiencing so many uncertainties. From climate change to military conflicts around the globe, right now children across the globe can scarcely go online without being exposed to unsettling stories, images and ideas. Reassuring a concerned child can be difficult, especially when bad news feels omnipresent. We've put together some advice to help you in discussing upsetting events with young ones.

#### FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS





Starting a conversation about upsetting content probably isn't the best idea when your child is studying for an exam or about to go to bed. Choose a time when they're relaxed and open to talking, to make sure you have their full attention. Remember, these conversations can become emotional, so choose somewhere your child feels safe and comfortable.

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#### KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE

With younger children, try and keep the conversation more general and avoid leading questions and complex detail. You can go slightly deeper into the specifics with young teenagers but keep monitoring their emotional response. With older teens, you can be more open about the realities and consequences of what's happening – but again, do stay aware of their emotional state.

#### EMPHASISE HOPE

Upsetting content can make anyone feel angry, scared, sad or overwhelmed. Try to find stories of hope, generosity and strength related to the content you're discussing. Children often feel reassured when they know they can do something to help, so encourage your child's sense of control through activities which make them feel they're positively impacting the events they're concerned about.

#### MONITOR REACTIONS

All children react differently, of course, and young people might not directly say that they're scared, angry, anxious, confused or uncomfortable. Emotional reactions are natural when discussing upsetting topics, so take note of your child's body language and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings in a non-judgmental space and try to stay mindful of how they might be feeling.

#### CONSIDER YOUR OWN EMOTIONS

It's not only young people who find upsetting news difficult to process: adults also have to deal with strong emotions in moments of stress. Children develop coping strategies by mirroring those around them, so staying on top of how you appear to be regulating your emotion on the outside is important for supporting your child through worrying times.

### Meet Our Expert

is a reporting system that is currently being used by schools and companies to fight bullying around the world. FaceUp helps give a voice to bystanders by encouraging them to speak up and get the help they not only want but need.

#### SET LIMITS

Managing screen-time and content can be difficult even in normal circumstances, but especially in unusual or stressful periods (at the start of the pandemic, for example). It's virtually impossible to keep children away from upsetting content completely, but it's important to try to limit exposure by using parental controls, talking about the dangers of harmful content and enforcing screen-time limits.

### TAKE THINGS SLOWLY

Try not to overwhelm your child with information all at once: instead, take the discussion one step at a time. You could make the first conversation a simple introduction to a potentially upsetting subject and then wait until your child is ready to talk again. Opening the door to the conversation and demonstrating that your child can talk to you about this type of issue is a vital first step.

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#### ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS

Online, troubling images, posts, videos and stories are shared across multiple platforms, many of which your child might access. Even if the content is actually inappropriate, encourage your child to discuss what they saw instead of being angry at them for seeing it. Children are still learning that not everything online is accurate – you want to be their ultimate source of information, not their device. .2

## **FIND A BALANCE**

There's often a tremendous compulsion to stay right up to date with events. Our phones frequently send us push notifications urging us to read the latest article or view the most recent video on social media. It's essential to remind your child that it's healthy to take regular breaks, and to focus on positive events instead of 'doomscrolling' and risking becoming overwhelmed by bad news.

#### **BUILD RESILIENCE**

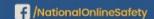
News has never been more accessible. While our instinct may be to shield children from upsetting stories, it's important that they're equipped with the tools to manage this content when they are exposed to it. Talk about upsetting content more generally with your child and emphasise that they can always tell you or a trusted adult if something they see makes them feel uneasy.

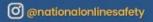
#### **IDENTIFY HELP**

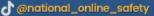
It's hugely important that children know where to find support if they encounter upsetting content online. Encourage them to open up to an adult that they trust, and make sure they're aware of who their trusted adults are. It is essential that children understand that they're not alone, and that help is available if and when they need it.











# **Coming Up**

# You can find the Yarm School calendar for the Summer Term by clicking here

Sat 5 Teesside Team Chess Championship

(Prep Hall; 9.30am-2.30pm)

Mon 7 Y3 Swimming begins (Arkwright/Brunel)

**Tue 8** Silver Stories trip to Middleton Hall

(Y3 members; 4.45pm return)

Wed 9 Informal Concert (4pm; Prep Hall)

Cressida Cowell author visit for Y3

(details to follow via email)

**Thu 10** Yarm U9 Invitational Rugby & Hockey Festivals

(Green Lane/Astro; 11.30am-2.30pm)

Fri 11 U10/11 Girls' Hockey v Cundall Manor

(home; 2pm start)

Mon 14 Parents' Evening (4-6pm)

No after school clubs run by form teachers this

week

**Tue 15 Parents' Evening** (4-6pm)

**Thu 17** Yarm Fair begins (High Street closed)

Fri 18 Half-term begins after school

After School Care runs as normal

U10/11 House Hockey

Mon 21 October Holiday School (until Fri 25/10)

#### **NOVEMBER 2024**

Mon 4 Pupils return

School Diwali celebrations

Wed 6 School Council

Thu 7 NEJS Cross-Country (U9/10/11)

At Barlborough Hall; 12pm start, 5pm return)

Fri 8 U10./11 Rugby & Hockey v Pocklington

(away; 2pm start, 5pm return)

Mon 11 Remembrance assembly

Anti-Bullying Week

Activities Carousel 2 begins (Y4-6)

YPSSC (6pm; Library)

Tue 12 NEJS Chess Tournament

(QEGS; 8.15am depart, 5.30pm return)

Wed 13 \*\*\*NEW DATE\*\*\* Informal Concert (4-5pm)

Thu 14 Stephenson Charity Morning

Fri 15 U10 Girls' Hockey v Barnard Castle

(away; 2.15pm start, 4.30pm return)

U11 Girls' Hockey v Barnard Castle

(home; 2.15pm start)

Sat 16 Senior School Christmas Craft Fair

Tue 19 Curiosity Emporium (1pm; Library)

U8 Rugby training with Durham

(away; 2pm start, 4.15pm return)

# **Term Dates**

### **Autumn Term 2024**

Preparation Day Tuesday, 27th August 2024

Wednesday, 28th August 2024

All pupils return Thursday, 29th August 2024
Half term begins Friday, 18th October 2024

(after school)

Pupils return Monday, 4th November 2024
Term ends Friday, 13th December 2024

(after school; no after school care)

#### Spring Term 2025

Pupils return Monday, 6th January 2025

Half term begins Thursday, 20th February 2025

(after school)

INSET Day Friday 21st February 2025
Pupils return Monday 3rd March 2025
Term ends Friday 4th April 2025 (after school)

#### Summer Term, 2025

Pupils return Wednesday, 23rd April 2025 Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May 2025

Half term begins Thursday, 22nd May 2025

(after school)

Pupils return Monday, 2nd June 2025 Term ends Thursday, 3rd July 2025

(after Prize Giving)

# **Celebration Assembly**

	Values	Endeavour
3B	Annabel B.	Arya J.
3J	Meera S.	William A.
3P	Edith V.	William A.
4F	Darcie M.	Genevieve P.
4J	Aaron Y.	Zara G.
4SU	Lily S.	Naveah MT.
5G	Freddie W.	Beatrice T.
58	Harrison G.	Elizabeth H.
5W	Robert W.	Hugo K.
6H	Jack S.	James B.
6K	Ayaana K.	Martha L.
6L	Bryan P.	Jack M.

**Head Teacher Award: Year 5:** Wilbur M-S., Thomas H., Freddie W., Andres O., Beatrice T.