

# The Phoenix Flier

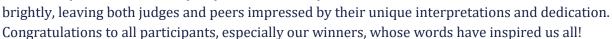
#### The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 788—Friday 11th October 2024

#### A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to this edition of the Phoenix Flier, a reflection of the vibrant and bustling life within our school. This week's articles cover exciting events such as our Poetry Competitions, the Yarm Team Chess Championship, North East Junior School (NEJS) sports events, and much more, all highlighting the hard work and enthusiasm of our pupils.

Our Year 3–6 poets captivated audiences last week with their heartfelt performances as part of our poetry competition which coincided with the 30th anniversary of National Poetry Day. Their creativity and confidence shone





A heartfelt thank you for your generous contributions to our recent food bank collection. Thanks to your kindness and support, we collected an impressive 376.8 kg of food, which will greatly benefit families in need within our community. It's excellent to see our children engage in such meaningful initiatives and understand the importance of giving back.

## Bill Sawyer

# Head's Challenge: A cat, a dog, and a rabbit are having a race. If the cat comes in second and the rabbit finishes before the dog, who came in

#### Photo of the

first?

Week: The Prep School was proud to host the Yarm Team Chess Championship again this year, one of the oldest chess events of its kind in the world!





#### **Poetry Competitions**

With the date of our poetry competitions coinciding with the 30th anniversary of National Poetry Day 2024, the children in Years 3-6 rose to the occasion and delivered an array of outstanding performances.

The audience were treated to an unseen recital involving a scorpion from Cooper in Year 6 and Rae in Year 3 writing her own recital in the form of an acrostic poem based on mythical creatures.

Every contestant should be commended

for their hard work on learning their poems and performing them with zeal. Comments from the judges echoed the sentiments expressed by the audience and praised everyone involved for a pleasurable morning.

What will next year bring if this is the standard already?!

Mr Pengilley

















#### 2024 Poetry Competitions Roll of Honour

#### Rae Burnett - OVERALL Year 3 winner

Abeer Agarwal - 3B Omran Soliman - 3P Meera Shah - 3J

#### Zoyaa Soni - OVERALL Year 4 winner

Hannah Mhando - 4SU India Brown - 4J Edward Williams - 4F

#### Emily Williamson—OVERALL Year 5 winner

Aditi Kumar—5G Freddie Bonner—5S Thomas Howard—5W

#### Cooper Willis-OVERALL Year 6 winner

Rosa Williams—6H Manha Abdullah—6K Stan Dugdale—6L

#### 29th Yarm Team Chess Championship

Our annual team tournament is one of the longest-running chess events in the world and we were delighted to welcome a plethora of teams from other Teesside schools to compete against our own chess stars.

This year, we had 17 teams of four players in action, all of whom enjoyed playing in the Hazel Andrews Building.

Yarm A (Jayden Wang, Agam Vats, Daniel Shavit and Harrison Vanek) proved to be too strong for the opposition in the Under-9 section. They won all of their games and matches to claim the title in style.



Yarm C (Rosie Lowe, Max Hollingsworth, Edie Thompson and Zoeya Altaf) finished in a very meritorious second place, leaving Yarm B (Zoya Soni, Noah Speight and Kathryn Frost) to share third place with Yarm D (Raheem Ahmed, Herbert Beckerlegge, Constance Bowers and George Maddren) and Billingham South Girls.





Yarm A (Dara Jafari, Henry Stanley, Paari Muthukrishnan and Rory Fitzgerald) won the Under-11 section too, ahead of Yarm B

(Fathe Cahal, Manha Abdul, Scarlett Yang and Hugo Kelly), who held the A team to a 2-2 draw early on in the tournament), who finished in a very impressive second place.

Yarm C (Sandy Omar, William Garratt, Ben Feighery and Freddie Bonner) was another team on great form and they forced their way into third place, ahead of the chasing pack.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the event such a great success.

For more details and photographs please click here.

Mr Marsh



#### **PE and Games News**

# U11 North-East Junior Schools Rugby Festival

Last Wednesday, the U11 boys traveled to GSAL for the North East Junior Schools Rugby Festival. Over the course of the day they played five very competitive games, with the boys demonstrating their growing understanding of the game, as well as challenging themselves to create space by using the ball in a variety of ways. A great day was had by all involved.

Mr Simpson

#### **U8 Hockey v Cundall Manor**

The Year 3 girls travelled to Cundall last week for their second workshop of the term. They made friends and worked on their dribbling, passing and shooting. As always Cundall looked after us and were very welcoming.

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney

#### U11 North-East Junior Schools Hockey Festival

On Wednesday the 2nd of October a team of Y6 Yarm girls went to NEJS hockey. We played 8 other school's most confident teams and thoroughly enjoyed it. Yarm's first match was against GSAL- we played well but unfortunately we couldn't score, so we finished 0-0. Our second match was against St. Peters, we had lots of chances to score but they played exceptionally well, and beat us 1-0. Next, we played Pocklington. Our score was 0-0. We all tried our hardest (especially the defence) but once again we couldn't score. Yarm then played Dame Allan's. Daisy scored an amazing goal with one minute left, but unfortunately we conceded a goal in the last 30 seconds of the match. The score finished 1-1. Barnard castle was Yarm's 5th match. We played very well and the game was won 1-0 with another amazing goal from Daisy. We were very pleased! Hymers College was next in line; they were superb! We felt that this was our hardest match because they are incredibly good. We drew with them







0-0. RGS was our penultimate match. We played competitively, and it paid off with a 1-0 win! Yarm's final match was against Newcastle High School for Girls. We scored a whopping 2 goals with Daisy scoring one and Holly the other! All our players - from defence to attack - played with grit, determination and incredible perseverance. Yarm finished with one loss, three draws and three wins! It was a 3rd place victory! We went home with memories to last a lifetime.

Rosa W.

#### **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

#### **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

#### **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

#### **HELP! Plastic Bottles**

Our DT department would be grateful for any donations of clear plastic empty 2 litre drinks bottles. Please send any in with your child. Thank you.

Mrs Smith

#### Coming Up at the PAA

#### <u>There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly —</u> Tuesday 29th October 2024 2:00pm

There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly. I don't know why she swallowed a fly...But The People's Theatre Company do!

And now you can too as they

bring



the world's best loved nonsense rhyme to life with a delicious blend of live action, puppetry and animation. It's the perfect treat for everyone aged 3 to 103!

#### <u>Santa and the Race to Save Christmas — Saturday</u> 14th - Sunday 15th December 2024

Christmas is fast
approaching, and all is
going well in Santa's
workshop as Mrs Claus
and the elves busily
prepare for the big night
The presents are wrapped
and the reindeers have
completed their training
then suddenly disaster

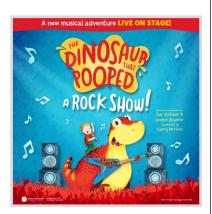


strikes! As newly qualified reindeer Rosy gets in a jolly pickle!

Crisis hits the North Pole, what is Santa going to do? How will he deliver everyone's presents? Will Santa and the gang manage to find a solution in order for the sleigh to set off in time for Christmas eve? Will everyone live happily after?

#### <u>The Dinosaur that Pooped—Wednesday 26th</u> <u>February 2025 12:30pm, 3:30pm</u>

When Danny and Dino's favourite rock band are playing their last ever concert, they go on a quest to get the last two tickets. But with a villainous band manager lurking, nothing goes to plan. Will the band perform? Will Danny rock out? Or will Dino's



rumbling tummy save the day?

Adapted from the number 1 best-selling books by Tom Fletcher and Dougie Poynter, the whole family will have a poopy good time enjoying a brand, new story for the stage. Featuring new songs by Tom and Dougie, a lot of laughs and a whole lot of poo!

#### Year 6 Homework

#### **Amibitious**

Don't be afraid to fail,

Do good things and be off the scale.

Life is about living,

Be happy through giving.

If there's a challenge there for you to battle,

Lead from the front don't follow like cattle.

Always look around to care for others,

It's better to work like a family of brothers.

Encourage others to succeed,

They will grow strong like a single seed.

Friendship is more important than success,

Life can be complicated like a game of chess.

Always take advice from those you trust,

You'll only thrive if you're ready to adjust.

Work together like a honey bee,

Grow towards the light like a strong oak tree.

Angus Ferguson

#### Harvest Collection—THANK YOU

A message from Helen Winspear, Manager of the Billingham and Stockton Foodbank:

Thank you so much to the families and teachers of Yarm Preparatory School for organising their generous donations for our foodbank. After weigh in it came to 376.8kg. I visited them on Friday to give a talk and update about our Billingham and Stockton foodbanks. They all made me feel very welcome. The pupils had plenty of questions to ask - they were clearly clued up about what is going on in their local community.

#### **YPSSC PreLoved Uniform**

Nursery, Pre Prep, Prep & Senior Uniform

PE and Games

See Listings on Classlist or Email Us YPSSC@Yarmschool.org

Donations of good condition, clean uniform and PE & Games items accepted all year. Kindly bag them and label them with 'YPSSC PreLoved Donations' and drop them at either Pre Prep, Prep or Senior School Reception.

Thank you!!

#### **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

# CERTIFICATE Stockton Borough foodbank



OF RECOGNITION

# Yarm Preparatory School - 376.80kg

For their incredible fundraising efforts in support of Billingham & Stockton Borough Foodbank.

Their dedication and support have made a huge difference to the lives of people living in poverty.

#### Claire Jennings

Billingham & Stockton Borough Assistant Foodbank Manager

#### **Tooled Up Education**

This seems to be the season for questions about smartphones, gaming and digital diets. Parents want to raise responsible digital citizens and to support young people as they grow and develop, but we also need good quality information to support family conversations and family decisions.

Digital parenting is one of the most challenging aspects of parenting today. Here are some resources that respond to what Tooled Up parents have asked our research team in recent weeks.

For parents of young children questioning the introduction of digital devices at home, this <u>podcast</u> with developmental scientist Andy Ribner should help with your decision-making. Even before the introduction of personal devices, parents can model the digital behaviour they wish to later see and establish digital values.

For those worried about the impact of screens on children, listen back to our chat with psychologist and science writer Professor Pete Etchells, on the <u>Real Science of Screen Time</u>, where he separates fact from fiction and encourages us to give more weight to what children are doing online. Professor Etchells is returning to Tooled Up to deliver a webinar on The Truth about Gaming on 14th October. Register <u>here</u> to come along.

A crucial aspect of parenting in the digital age is raising children to be skilled, self-protective users of technology. That means helping them develop an understanding of how content is created, how it gets served to them, and how they can be discerning and sceptical about what they read and watch online. Our article packed with tips on <a href="Developing Algorithmic Literacy">Developing Algorithmic Literacy</a>, and Dr Kathy Weston's webinar on <a href="Becoming A Digital Detective">Becoming A Digital Detective</a>, are packed with research-backed and realistic advice on how to raise confident, discerning online citizens.

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

We always value your feedback and want to ensure that we are giving you the resources that you need. Email us at research@tooledupeducation.com 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 to register for an account">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



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes.

For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# IN-GAME CHAT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS? Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

# DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

# CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

# DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

#### **BULLYING AND ABUSE**

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

# POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT



If a player would like a re-match with a canner after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless - but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

# COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE



Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

# Advice for Parents & Educators

#### LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot

#### REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

#### CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

#### **COMMUNICATION IS KEY**

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

#### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.

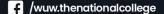


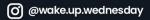


The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at inational college.com/guides/in-game-chat









 $Users of this \ guide \ do \ so \ at their \ own \ discretion. \ No \ liability \ is \ entered \ into. \ Current \ as \ of \ the \ date \ of \ release: 02.10.2024$ 

#### **Coming Up**

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

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)

Y2 Silver Stories visit to Middleton Hall

(4.45pm return)

Wed 20 Year 6 Senior School Taster Afternoon

(3-6.30pm)

**Thu 21** U9 Girls' Hockey v Durham School

(away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)

U9 Rugby Festival at DCSF

(1.30pm start, 4pm return)

Fri 22 NEJS Mass Participation Sports

(Green Lane/Senior School; 11am-3pm)

Flu Vaccinations for Reception-Year 6

#### **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	Heidi H.	Abeer A.
<b>3</b> J	Lucien S.	Teddy J.
3P	Rupert N.	Rae B.
4F	Kathryn F.	William D.
4J	Hinako Y.	Bertie B.
4SU	Faye A.	Leah R.
5G	Felix M.	Emma W.
58	Sia S.	Monty B.
5W	Wilbur M-S.	Harriet A.
6Н	Kaiden G.	Sandy O.
6K	Fliss W.	Annabelle C.
6L	George S.	Zara M.

