



# The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 789—Friday 18th October 2024

## A message from Mr Sawyer

As we reach the end of this half-term, it is a joy to reflect on the academic and personal growth of all our pupils. Their enthusiasm for learning, in all areas of school life, has been evident in their commitment to new challenges and their developing confidence. Each new academic year brings fresh opportunities, and every child is encouraged to reach new heights. This is particularly felt at the start of the year, when routines and procedures are being established in new year groups. It is only through fostering a culture of empowerment and support that we can help our girls and boys achieve their best, and this first half of the Autumn Term has certainly demonstrated just that!

Teamwork has played a vital role in getting the 2024/25 academic year underway since the start of term. Our commitment to group projects, sports teams, musical concerts, and chess tournaments has allowed us to reinforce the value of collaboration. Learning to be an effective leader, team player, listener, and problem solver in a group context is highly important in school and the wider world. It is a pleasure to see this in action on a daily basis and to watch our pupils develop these skills so well at such a young age.

We have built solid foundations for an excellent second half of the Autumn Term, which I look forward to immensely. Wishing everyone a well-deserved and restful break!

*Bill Sawyer*



**Tes Schools Awards 2024**

**Winner**

Independent  
Prep School  
of the Year



## Head's Challenge:

Can you turn  
188 into 200  
with one line?

## Photo of the Week:

An important life lesson for Year 6 Stephensonians this week as Mrs Wheatley taught them CPR in their Health & Happiness. Carousel activity.



# Silver Stories Visit Middleton Retirement Village

Our Year 3 Silver Stories tellers got the opportunity to visit Middleton Retirement Village last week. The club allows children the opportunity to write stories, before sharing them with the residents of local care homes. It is a real privilege to be able to run such a scheme, expertly led by Mrs Jennings and Mrs White.



### Mr Stone

I enjoyed the part when I was telling the story because everyone was listening to me. I finally got to tell the entire story that I wrote to an audience. I was really excited to meet the residents of the care home and was extremely happy to see Jean in person. She was lovely.

### Julia W.





Yarm  
Preparatory  
School

Home

- Little Wandle
- Start of Academic Year
- Parent Information Events
- Curriculum Booklets
- English
- Mathematics
- Homework Menus
- Use of IT in the curriculum
- PSHE/RSE



## Parent Curriculum Information Site

Welcome to the Yarm Preparatory School Parent Curriculum Information Site.

The aim of the site is to provide you with the key curriculum information for each step of your child's journey through school. Additionally, there are links to resources and guidance for supporting your child at home. Please pass on any requests for additional information to your child's Form Teacher or email Mrs Pawluk and Mrs Speight. The site will be regularly updated.

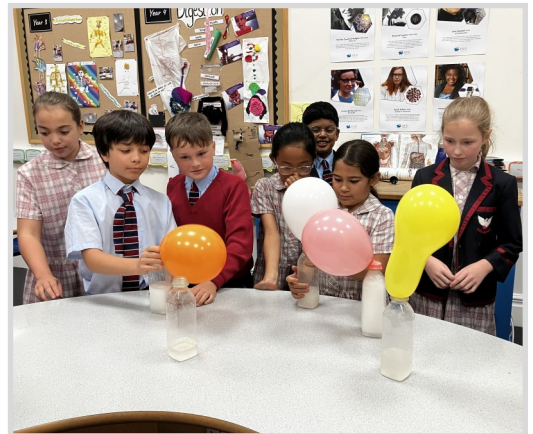
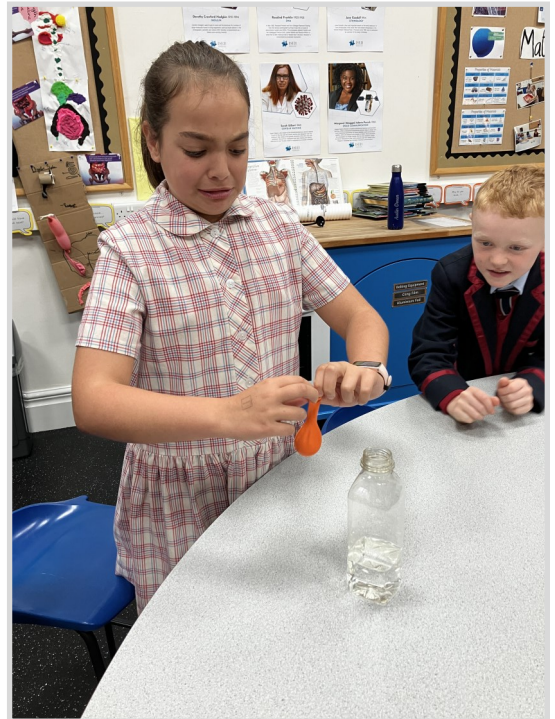
[jp@yarmschool.org](mailto:jp@yarmschool.org) [jsp@yarmschool.org](mailto:jsp@yarmschool.org)

Please click the images below to take you to each curriculum page or use the menu tab.

<https://bit.ly/yarmcurriculum>  
Click here to access the Parent Curriculum Information Site

# Year 5 Science

Year 5 have been exploring what happens when you mix vinegar with bicarbonate of soda—an irreversible change.



# PE and Games News

## Half-Term Hockey Round-Up

It has been a busy but fulfilling half term of hockey and I am so pleased with how the girls have progressed in that time. The Year 3s have enjoyed two away trips to Queen Mary's and Cundall and made friends along the way. Their skills are improving every week and we have high hopes for them as a year group. The Year 4s built on their skills from last year and this culminated in the fabulous festival we hosted last week. We welcomed 5 other schools onto the site and the girls were involved in 8 matches throughout the day. You



The U10 and U11's have played

7 a side games on Friday afternoons and hosted Red House, Cundall, Durham and also travelled to Queen Mary's. This week we finish with our house hockey tournament and I know the girls are very much looking forward to that event.

*Mrs Redhead-Sweeney*

## Yarm Under 9 Rugby Festival

It was a pleasure to host our friends from Dame Allans, RGS, Durham and Cundall for our U9 rugby festival held at Green Lane. All the boys showed fantastic collaboration and demonstrated the core rugby values of teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline and sportsmanship. Well done to all involved.

*Mr Underwood*



## 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 [www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/](http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/).

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.

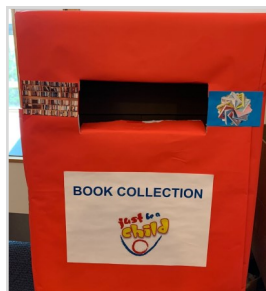
Mrs Smith

## Just Be a Child Book Collection

We were delighted to welcome 6th Formers and former Prep pupils, Ameen Khunda and Haider Ali, to give an assembly last week. They spoke about the *Community Action Group* project they are working on, on behalf of the charity **Just Be a Child**. The charity's focus is to give children in Kenya the chance to experience a childhood of imagination by giving them toys, books and taking them on trips.

Ameen and Haider have asked the Prep School community to come together and collect our old children's books to give hope to children who are less fortunate by donating them to the charity. All of us have old children books lying on our shelves, so why not give them to benefit those in need?

If your child (or you!) have some books you would like to donate, please bring them to school after half-term. We have set up some book collection boxes in the



library for the books to be dropped into. The boys will then come and collect them on Friday November 15th.

Mr Stone

## Cressida Cowell Author Visit

Year 3 were thrilled to meet Cressida Cowell, the author of the *How to Train Your Dragon* book series, last Wednesday! She gave a fascinating talk about her journey to becoming an author and her inspirations, and spent some time at the end signing books and chatting to the children.

Mr Pengilley



## YPSSC

### PreLoved Uniform

Nursery, Pre Prep, Prep & Senior Uniform

PE and Games

See Listings on [Classlist](#) or  
Email Us

[YPSSC@Yarnschool.org](mailto:YPSSC@Yarnschool.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!!

## Smartphone Free Childhood

In our increasingly digital world, concerns about smartphone use among children are growing. You [will no doubt have seen recent news articles](#) exploring how parents in some school communities are getting together to run an initiative to work together, ensuring children are not given such devices before the age of 14, with [Smartphone Free Childhood](#) launching as a grassroots campaign to support parents in this.

Many studies suggest that early exposure to smartphones can negatively impact mental health and social development. To address this, we encourage parents to consider joining a community-wide initiative to delay smartphone use until their

children are at least 14 years old. By coming together and setting this common standard, we can better protect our children's wellbeing. If you are interested in learning more or need support with this initiative, please [get in touch with Mr Stone directly](#).

Mr Stone

## Partnerships HELP!

As part of our partnerships work, we are running a project with Stockton Borough Council to get 1000 Year 4 children across the borough to produce a clay figure of themselves. These will be used for an art installation on the steps cascading down to the River Tees that will be made when the Stockton riverside development is completed in Summer 2026.

Naturally we are a fair distance from that point, meaning we will need to store the figures as the children make them! As such, **we are desperately looking for old wine boxes (wooden or card) with the bottle separators, wine glass cases (with the separators) and bubble wrap**, so we can preserve the models as safely as possible until then.

If you are able to help out, please send any [donations in or contact Mr Stone](#).

Mr Stone

## Year 6 Health & Happiness

Year 6 Stephenson children took part in a CPR workshop with Mrs Wheatley during their Health and Happiness activity this week.

Mrs Hart



## Autumn Concert

This term we planned to hold one informal concert. However, a huge number of pupils were recommended to play by their teachers the we couldn't fit them all. It's a good problem to have and we have solved it by scheduling an extra concert.

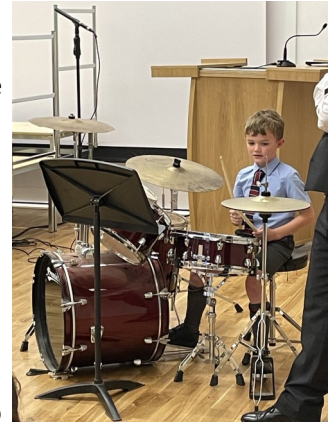
Last week's concert was therefore the first of two this term and it was a joy. We had pupils from Year 4 and above,

playing at all levels from beginner to advanced. A large number of our performers were playing in front of an audience for the first time and it was lovely to have a cohort of beginning pianists introduced by Mrs Ryan.

The concert began with the choir singing Be thou my vision by Bob Chilcott and we had solo performances from every family of instruments. Everyone did beautifully, the audience was appreciative and we are proud of all our players.

Our next informal concert will be on Wednesday 13th November.

Mr Gooding



## Thank You!

Thank you to all of the parents who brought in bags of unwanted clothes in recent weeks. We were able to collect for a local charity based in Northallerton, who gratefully received a whopping 345kg of clothes, coats and shoes!

YPSSC

## 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

## Tooled Up Education

So much of daily life and routine in our families is based around food, from quick bowls of cereal in the morning, to snacks concealed in school bags, to quick dinners before evening sports, to leisurely meals where we sit and reconnect as a family. Tooled Up has always drawn on the wide body of research about food and nutrition, and we have many resources about the importance of healthy eating and mealtimes, and the nutrition that young people need for success in school, sport and beyond.

Of course, food can often be a fraught subject for parents. This recent article with dietitian Paola Falcoski is full of advice on helping children develop a [Healthy Relationship with Food](#), from ways to ease the pressure on mealtimes to working with children's individual tastes and preferences. One important foundation in this relationship – and a common topic from Tooled Up parents – is the [Importance of Breakfast](#). Read dietitian Ananjee Kohli's advice on starting the day in the most nutritious way.

For parents of fussy eaters, mealtimes can be a source of frustration and stress. Ananjee's [advice](#) for parents of fussy eaters will provide reassurance and practical tips, brilliantly complemented by her advice on [Introducing Children to New Foods](#).

A more severe issue that families face is allergies. Professor Adam Fox is a leading paediatric allergy expert, and in this [webinar](#) he answers many of the most common concerns from parents about allergies, including those to foods such as nuts and dairy.

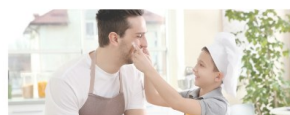
When children are busy inside and outside of school with clubs and sports, and when the pressure of academic work increases, do you know the best foods that will keep them charged up and ready to succeed? This advice on [Nutrition and Exams](#) will help you keep children full of energy for the stressful exam period, and try our guidance on [Nutrition for Young Athletes](#).

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

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

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 [here to register for an account](#). It takes less than 2 minutes to enter your details and unique school PIN: YPSII03 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*



Developing A Healthy Relationship With Food



How to Help Fussy Eaters



How To Introduce Children To New Foods

# TOOLED UP®

BECAUSE EVIDENCE MATTERS

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



Publish date: 06/02/19

# What parents need to know about AGE RATINGS



If you have children, it is understandable to have concerns about the films and TV shows they watch, as well as the games they play. In this guide, we take a look at the two official ways you can assess if a particular title is suitable for your child. Both the BBFC and PEGI have search facilities on their websites that can be used to look up individual titles so you can check their ratings.



## RATINGS FOR FILMS, TV & MUSIC VIDEOS

Since 1912, the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) has informed UK residents of the age suitability of films, TV and music videos - providing parents with the information needed to assess whether or not it is appropriate for their child's age. This applies to cinema releases, DVDs and streaming video services such as Netflix.

### WHAT ARE THE BBFC RATINGS?

BBFC ratings are broken down into seven age categories:



Universal, suitable for all ages



Parental Guidance required



Suitable for people aged 12 and over



Suitable for people aged 12 and over; anyone younger must be accompanied by an adult



Suitable for people aged 15 and over



Suitable for people aged 18 and over



Adult content only available in specially licenced cinemas and specialist retailers

### WHAT ELSE CAN BBFC REVEAL?

Accompanied with the age suitability rating, BBFC also provide an additional warning regarding the content and what to expect, such as swearing, sexual content, violence and anything you may consider to be inappropriate for your child. In addition to this, the content is also rated in three levels: frequent, mild or strong.

### LIMITATIONS OF BBFC RATINGS

It's important to note that there is no obligation on streaming video services to use or display BBFC ratings. Due to this, we advise that you check the rating online before your child streams the content. It may also be a good idea to watch the content first yourself or discuss it with other parents to help you decide whether or not it is suitable for your child.

Source: [www.bbfc.co.uk](http://www.bbfc.co.uk)

## RATINGS FOR GAMES

PEGI (Pan European Game Information) is a content rating system that ensures all video games are labelled with a minimum age recommendation. These age recommendations are based on the types of content featured within a game. With each game, PEGI also provide a content descriptor that indicates the potential issues and concerns, including sex, violence, bad language and drugs.

### WHAT ARE THE PEGI RATINGS?

PEGI ratings are split into age restriction and content descriptors. Additional 'content descriptors' help parents and children to understand the type of content featured within a particular game, including sex, fear, bad language, discrimination, gambling, drugs, violence, and in-game purchases. In combination, the two different ratings can provide a good level of information to help make informed decisions regarding the suitability for your child.

PEGI age ratings are broken down into five categories:



PEGI content descriptors are broken down into eight categories:



### LIMITATIONS OF PEGI RATINGS

It's possible for young people to buy games online without a required proof of age, opening them up to age-inappropriate content without you knowing. We advise that you regularly monitor your child's gaming activities and maintain a honest and healthy dialogue with them about the online world.

### PARENTAL CONTROLS

It is a good idea to put in place parental controls for all online accounts which your child may use to purchase or download online games e.g. The App Store, Google Play Store, PlayStation Store and Microsoft Xbox Store etc.

Source: [www.pegi.info](http://www.pegi.info)





Yarm School Association

# CHRISTMAS INDOOR MARKET

SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

10AM - 4PM, YARM SCHOOL

ADULTS £4, CHILDREN FREE  
PAY ON THE DOOR

SANTA'S GROTTO  
CRAFT STALLS  
UNIQUE GIFTS  
FOOD & DRINK  
CHILDREN'S GAMES

# Coming Up

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

## **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
- Sat 23** Prep Ball (PAA; 7pm)
- Mon 25** ABRSM examinations  
Y3 Activities Carousel 2 begins  
(Arkwright/Brunel still swimming)
- Tue 26** Beatbox workshops
- Wed 27** Beatbox workshops
- Thu 28** Beatbox workshops
- Fri 29** U10/11 Hockey v Red House  
(away; 2.15pm start, 3.55pm return)  
U10/11 Rugby v Durham School

(home; 2.15pm start)

# Term Dates

## **Autumn Term 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.	Violet T.
3J	Yunoske I.	Jemima T.
3P	Aria T.	Florence S.
4F	George B.	George M.
4J	Ned F.	Violet P.
4SU	Eliza S.	Edward W.
5G	Annabelle A.	Azlan U.
5S	Jude C.	Freddie B.
5W	Jana A.	Ted H.
6H	Cooper W.	Evelyn C.
6K	Logan M.	William G.
6L	Daisy C.	Angus F.

**Head Teacher Award: Year 4**—Max H., Zara G. **Year 5**—Hugo K. **Year 6** - Daisy C., George S., Emily B.