



YARM SCHOOL

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

P H O E N I X



2023/2024

Exploring new heights

Yarm Prep continues to instill confidence and curiosity

Visiting the past:
Year 3 take a trip to York

Sports day continues to amaze

Yarm Music: Melody Makers





YARM SCHOOL

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

Helping our pupils to be the very best they can be

Welcome to Yarm Preparatory School's Phoenix Magazine, which gives you a flavour of the highly successful 2023-24 school year.

Our pupils across the 3-11 age range have flourished in terms of their knowledge, skills and personal development. The partnerships we foster with our families and wider community have continued to deepen. Our staff team have gone to great lengths to ensure our pupils have thrived on our broad and dynamic curriculum and continued to develop their skills in music, sports, drama and our unrivalled extracurricular programme. We have opened new facilities and received the highly coveted accolade of being named Independent Prep School of the Year 2024 by the TES Awards. There has certainly been a great deal for us all to celebrate and be proud of.

Within these pages, you will discover the vast array of opportunities our pupils enjoy in all aspects of school life. Every day, they embark on the adventure of learning, growing tremendously as a result. Our School Values, which include ambition, respect, resourcefulness, compassion, responsibility, and safety, guide all our actions, fostering a culture of positivity and empowerment. These values are ingrained in our pupils at every stage, providing a framework for their success beyond school.

I am grateful to everyone who contributed to this vibrant collection of photographs, reports, and cherished memories from our school community. As we conclude the 2023-24 school year, we reflect with pride and look forward with excitement to the next chapter at Yarm Preparatory School.

Mr Bill Sawyer
Head of the Preparatory School



Inside our Prep School magazine

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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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Designed and printed by Raus Design www.rausdesign.co.uk

Building to the future

The Hazel Andrews Building was officially opened on 2nd February, and it was a pleasure to finally come together as a school community to celebrate at the end of an eighteen month capital development project on a challenging site.

Hazel Andrews was a founding governor, who in 1978 had the dream of opening a school for boys amidst a change in the educational landscape nationwide. The current Prep School site was unused at the time and Hazel, with the support of a group of committed governors and parents, opened Yarm School the same year. From the humble beginnings of a school of 60 boys aged 11-18, the school now stands as a 3-18 establishment for 1100 boys and girls. For this rapid growth and continued excellence the school is rightly seen as one of the success stories of the independent sector. Without the foresight, courage and determination of Hazel, and many others along the way, the school would not be where it is today. It

therefore felt fitting that we should honour Hazel's contribution by naming the new building after her.

The afternoon of the opening ceremony started with Hazel and Baroness Grey-Thompson, our guest speaker, cutting the ribbon with the School Captains, Dr Williams and Mr Sawyer. By this time the pupils from Years 3-6, staff and assembled guests (including founding Headmaster Neville Tate, Governors, former staff and many people involved in the build project) were assembled in the Hall for the start of the ceremony. We were welcomed by Dr Williams who reflected on Hazel's contributions to Yarm School and the founding principles which are still present across the school today.

Kaiden G (Year 5) then delighted everyone, bringing a few people to tears, with a truly stunning rendition of one of Chopin's Nocturnes which are generally considered among the finest short solo works for the piano. Following this spectacle, we were inspired

by Baroness Grey-Thompson who shared with us some of her life events and the importance of never giving up. She fielded a range of questions from the pupils and was both candid and amusing throughout. Proceedings then took a lively and creative turn as we were treated to a high octane dance from the Year 6 Drama Week and a fabulous performance by our Senior Choir of Chilcott's Red Boots On!

Mr Sawyer closed the event looking ahead to how the Hazel Andrews building will feature in the lives of our school and wider community and reflecting on the many messages heard during the ceremony. It became clear that the importance of mindset and not giving up have remained part of the school's culture since its inception, have featured heavily in the lives of Hazel

Andrews and Baroness Grey-Thompson and are traits we should all endeavour to adopt in our lives.

After the ceremony guests enjoyed tours of the building and some refreshments, whilst a range of photographs and interviews were captured for the archives and local press. It was a wonderful afternoon and one which allowed us to rightly honour the legacy of Hazel Andrews which we hope will always remind us of her courage and determination to turn her dream into a reality.





In 2023-24, our school partnership work included 39 schools across 13 projects, with over 3500 pupils participating in over 6100 hours of partnership activities!

Everyone involved in our partnerships - the teachers and pupils from Yarm School and the teachers and pupils from partner schools - are overwhelmingly positive about their experiences. Teachers value the opportunity to work together in new settings and with different pupils, while pupils from all schools are proud to be involved and learn new skills. Pupils develop resourcefulness and respect for each other through the experience of working in diverse groups to solve problems. Pupils have the opportunity to lead activities like our VR workshops, or lead groups, as

they did on our STEM days.

Our partnership work covers an exciting range of subject areas! We've shared Clay Workshops, Virtual Reality Sessions, Internet Safety, Programming with Micro:Bits, Woodland Sessions, Sports Afternoons, Team Quizzes, Author Visits and more!

Highlights this year have included an extra special full day Clay Workshop led by Great Pottery Throw Down star, Rebecca Norris, the Internet Safety Day, and the two STEM Days we held in collaboration with the North East Stem Foundation when we welcomed 12 industry workshops.

With the wonderful space our new Hazel Andrews Building offers we are excited about lots of future opportunities to bring different organisations together at the Prep School!





YARM SCHOOL
EDUCATING FOR LIFE

Every day is a fun day in Nursery

What an amazing time we have had in Nursery this year. We explored clay, played outside, watched chicks hatch, dressed up as our favourite story characters, enjoyed music lessons and even got to visit a real planetarium! Every day is a fun day in Nursery.







KEEPING IT LOCAL

The children in Reception have enjoyed a year of exploring the wonders of Yarm and the local area. From visits to the High Street to buy ingredients for bread baking, to helping clear the rubbish from the beach in Marske, the children have taken full advantage of the wonders of the North East. These activities and more have helped some of the youngest children in the school relate their experiences to real life.







OUT AND ABOUT

We enjoyed some wonderful trips to support the children's Year 1 learning this year. In the Autumn Term, our visit to Hartlepool Art Gallery inspired some fantastic artwork in the style of Johnny Hannah. Johnny's collages and multilayered artworks were a real talking point for the children and they loved recreating his exhibition on their return to the classroom.

In the Spring Term, as part of their 'Look Up!' topic our children were fortunate enough to 'take

to the skies' as they jetted off for a trip on Middlesbrough College's mock plane fuselage. Once aboard their specially commissioned flight, the children learnt the importance of in-flight safety and the roles of pilots and cabin crew. There was time for a quick onboard snack before they returned to the 'tarmac'! Once the pupils were back at school, the children met Mr Adotey, a real pilot. Their questions for him were fascinating and they now all know where and how a pilot eats his lunch in the air!

Summer Term saw the children thoroughly embrace our 'Local Legends and Landmarks' topic. A trip to the iconic local landmark of the Transporter Bridge was a real awe and wonder moment. There were many questions asked about the sheer scale of the build and the work involved in ensuring it stands tall to this day. The children were inspired to create their own bridge designs and their resilience and determination saw them produce some fabulous local landmarks of their own!





HIGHLIGHTS OF YEAR 2

Year 2 has had a very busy and exciting year. The children have shared their highlights:

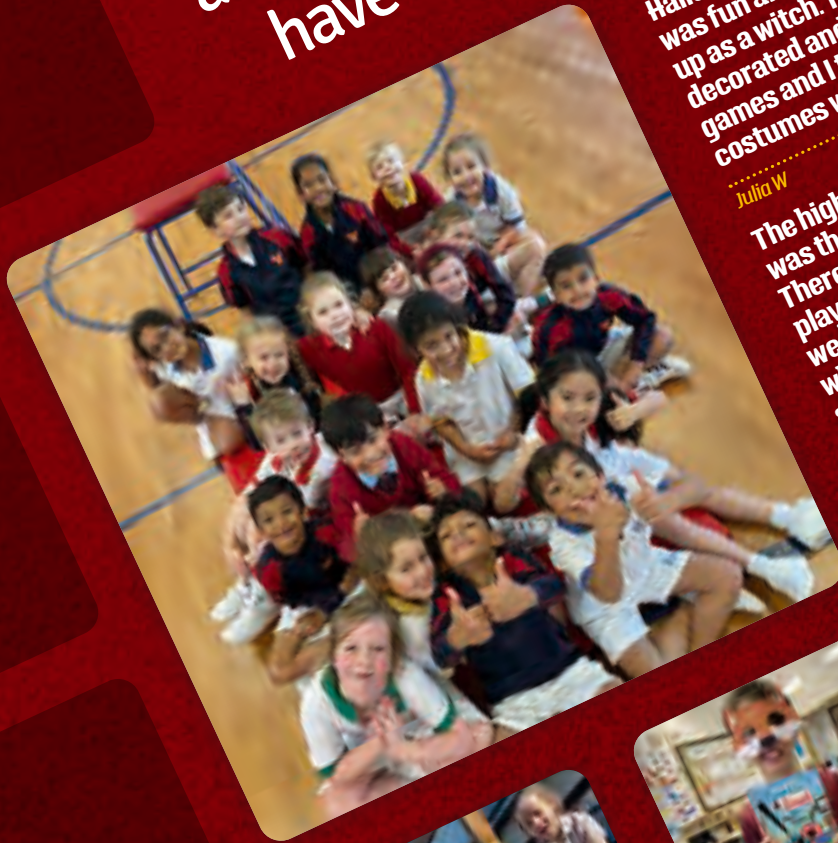


My highlight of Year 2 was the Halloween disco because it was fun and I enjoyed dressing up as a witch. The hall was decorated and we played great games and I thought everyone's costumes were very nice!

Julia W

The highlight of Year 2 for me was the trip to the Centre For Life. There was a ship where you could play hide and seek. After that, we went to the planetarium where we got to see the story of a little bear. He was trying to see if there was a constellation of him in the sky.

Lucian S



The highlight of Year 2 was the trip to the dinosaur museum in Newcastle (The Great North Museum). There was a skeleton of a T-Rex.

Albert L

My highlight of Year 2 has been PE because I really like cricket and tennis and the other stuff too.

Yunosuke I

One of my favourite highlights of the year was the trip to Edinburgh because of the fabulous Pizza Express. It was one of the top 1000 foods of my life!

Omran S

My highlight of Year 2 was the Twinkly Nativity because I was a star. All of my friends were great and we all had fun.

Matthew M

My highlight was the beach clean in Redcar. I picked up lots of rubbish.

Zun R

The favourite part of Year 2 was World Book Day when Mrs Jennings dressed up as Mrs Spider and I was Little Red Riding Hood.

Ana T

My highlight of Year 2 was Halloween and we had a party at the Prep School Hall. I was dressed up as Wednesday.

Tupelle M

My favourite thing of the year is when we planted our sunflower seeds and our beans because we got to take them home and we also planted them by ourselves.

Ada A

My highlight of Year 2 is doing maths because Mrs Jennings teaches me lots and lots and I am growing up to be a maths teacher.

Annabel B

In outer space week Liz Million came and drew alien pictures. She was very funny!

Harman K

My highlight was hunting for aliens in the woods because I liked finding alien slime.

Edith V





Year 2 headed to Edinburgh for a fun-filled day in the beautiful Scottish city.

First we went to the castle and there were guards playing a tune. They were playing drums, trumpets, bagpipes, flutes and cornets.

Albert L

We met at Darlington train station to take the train to Edinburgh.

Ben W

We had lots of fun when we went to Edinburgh. We walked the Royal Mile and heard the band; they were practising for the Military Tattoo.

Lucian S

I enjoyed the train journey but I fell asleep on the way home.

Louis S

Mrs Jennings took us to Edinburgh and we had an amazing time! We went to Edinburgh Castle and watched the Beefeaters march (and they were great!).

Edith V

I enjoyed the science exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland.

Dylan H

I loved going to Pizza Express, the food was delicious.

Ella G

My favourite part of Edinburgh was seeing Greyfriars Bobby.

Teddy B

Edinburgh Castle is on an extinct volcano.

Harman K

WE ALL LOVE



We visited Princes Street and saw the bronze dog who sat next to his owner's grave for fourteen years.

Ada A

We had lunch in Princes Street Gardens where we saw the floral clock.

Tupell'e M

We had a very busy day and at the end we were exhausted!

Julia W

We visited The National Museum of Scotland in the afternoon and saw Dolly the Sheep, she is made out of DNA.

Annabel B

We got high fives from the soldiers at the castle.

Heidi H

I had to wake up at 6 o'clock to not be late! We went on an LNER train to Edinburgh.

Arya J



EDINBURGH!





Woodland Adventures



The children have been full of enthusiasm and energy for their woodland adventures. They have embraced the wild weather - splashed in puddles, built dens and chased around the woods enjoying the freedom to explore safely. Many of the School's core values have been very evident during our sessions - resilience, team work, compassion for each other and nature, being responsible and learning to love and respect our environment.

Taking part in favourite activities like den building, bug hunts, art, mud monsters, water runs, hide and seek and of course roasting marshmallows over the fire has sparked the children's curiosity, adventurous spirit and creativity!



Pre-Prep Woodland



CHESS TO IMPRESS

From the very young Year 2 beginners all the way up to regional champions, our Yarm chess players continue to enjoy playing chess and 2023-24 was one of our most successful years, with events for all ages and abilities.

We continue to have two full days of chess every week over the course of the whole year as our core offering, featuring a very large range of activities from one-to-one lessons, lunchtime clubs to after-school sessions and regular tournaments.

One of the many highlights of the school year was the 28th Teesside Team Championship, one of the longest running chess tournaments in the world.

Yarm teams took the top places in both the Under-11 and Under-9 sections, although they had to work hard to overcome the challenges from other schools. In fact, they had to work harder than usual this year, as we had 26 teams in action from all across Teesside this time – easily the most we have seen post-COVID.

The attendance for all of our events – both internal and external – increased this year and we were grateful for the extra space afforded by the magnificent new school hall. The first chess event to enjoy the benefits of the new

building was the internal round of the Delancey UK Schools' Chess Challenge and the children enjoyed playing in the plush surroundings.

Our annual expedition to the HMC Chess Championships, at QEGS in Wakefield, gave our players the opportunity to test their strength against the best teams from all over the North of England. Our best performance on the day was produced by our Under-9 team, who finished in second place.

The Yarm Preparatory School House Chess Championship always brings out the competitive edge in our children. This time, Brunel outplayed the other three Houses to claim their first title since 2015.

The 7th Teesside UK Schools' Chess Challenge 'Megafinal', held once again at the prestigious Princess Alexandra Auditorium, was another great highlight of our busy year.

This exciting event brought together 150 eager competitors from all over the country and the standard of play in all of the sections was undoubtedly higher than ever. Such is the popularity of our annual Megafinal that we ran out of places several weeks before the closing date for entries.

The final term of the school year is always the busiest. We hosted the Teesside Individual Chess Championships, had the big Yarm School KO Tournament and several of our players went on to compete in the Delancey UK Schools' Chess Challenge 'Gigafinal' in Manchester.

Chess even makes appearances at our school Open Mornings, giving prospective new pupils an opportunity to see our lessons in action – and, of course, the chance to play against some of our star players.

The new school year promises to be even more action-packed than ever before and we are looking forward to another magnificent year of chess.

Mr S Marsh







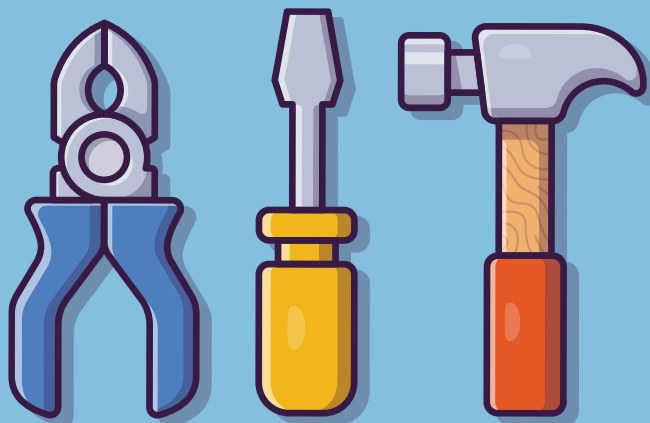
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

The saws, hammers, pliers, glue guns, needles and scissors of the D&T room have all been very busy this year, as have our children! Year 3 have been making mazes out of Lego and wood, as well as air-powered moving monsters. Year 4 have been using crumble and their woodworking skills to create a light up box. They have also designed and made their own pencil cases. Year 5 have been making bug hotels from reclaimed wood, as well as donning their chef's hat to create salads. Year 6 made slippers and observation wheels.

Whatever the project, children have needed to be creative, resilient and resourceful. Problem-solving skills are essential as are good communication skills. D&T develops all of these things and more!

The tinkershed opened this year and has provided a place for children to explore, invent and be creative. Tinkering is about exploring materials, taking things apart, assembling things and imagining new possibilities.

Mrs E Smith





Here's what our children liked about D&T in our recent pupil voice survey:

I like that we can all do slightly different designs but still make the same things (e.g in Y5 we all made bug houses but they were all very different and diverse).

Zara P, Year 6

I like how creative we can be and it's so nice when we see all our finished products.

Heidi K, Year 6

The thing I like most about D&T is that there are various things that you can do such as; making salads and bug hotels.

Ellie A, Year 6

I like how you can sketch your design first and then make a masterpiece.

Zoe X, Year 6

I like using all the different tools.

Florence A, Year 6

You can be free and creative with your designs.

Imogen C, Year 5

I like the projects because they are not too hard but not too easy.

Roland M, Year 5

I like creating fun things such as mazes and pencil-cases and then at the end of the year we can take them home.

Emily B, Year 5

I like that we make projects with wood and other materials and we can use things that we would never be allowed to use at home.

Alia M, Year 5

I like textiles the most because I like sewing.

Aphelia S, Year 6

I like making things and creating, it helps with my growth mindset.

Olivia C, Year 5

I like that we make something new and problem solving as well.

Jana A, Year 4

I like how we learn how to sew.

Emily W, Year 4

I like the challenges because they are like a puzzle.

Ayah B, Year 3

I find the tinkershed amazing because it's such a good opportunity for people to improve their skills with design and make cool stuff to take home.

Thomas M, Year 5



The planetarium was outstanding and I really enjoyed making the moving planets using crumble for the cabin display.

Jack M, Year 5

The space theme was really good because we learnt lots about space and normally only Y5 get to do that. I like working with partners and seeing what everyone else did at the end of the week was interesting.

Jana A, Year 4

STEAM week was really fun, I liked making the slides, finding pictures and researching constellations. I also liked drawing my phoenix to make my own constellation with my best friend Noah.

Agam V, Year 3





STEAM

BLASTS OFF INTO

SPACE

We blasted off into space for our 2024 STEAM week. Our sports hall hosted a planetarium for everyone to visit and there were lots of space-related activities like dressing up and exploring space using VR headsets. We also 'borrowed the moon' and our children had a chance to hold and examine a range of lunar rocks and soils, as well as meteorites and tektites. Assembly time saw a range of speakers share their industries with us. We heard from a satellite engineer, chemical engineers who make rocket fuel and an aviation engineer who spoke about the path from pilot to astronaut. One of our Pre-Prep cabins was transformed into an out of this world experience using

art and technology, with children contributing work from across the school. As well as this, we had our class challenges which saw the children tackling a number of STEAM projects from making Mars rovers to creating constellations. We loved seeing everyone's work during our celebration afternoon.

This year has also seen our school enter robotics competitions. Two teams ventured out to Newcastle University to take part in the Full Volume VEX IQ Robotics Competition. We also took a team to Nissan in Sunderland to compete in the First Lego League Masterpiece Competition. Well done to this team for winning a best newcomer trophy.

Hearing from STEAM industry experts has enhanced our

learning. Many thanks indeed to Sam Wyman who spoke about STEAM careers in farming, Thomas Hanson for his presentation about civil engineering, Christina Foo from Fujifilm who spoke about biotechnology, Beth Clarke who told us about software engineering, Dave Parsonage who covered aircraft engineering and Kevin O'Henly from ConocoPhillips who talked about the oil and gas industry.

If you work in a STEAM industry, or know someone who does, and can help out with an assembly presentation in the Spring Term, please do get in touch with Mrs Smith or Mr Stone.

Mrs E Smith





WE LOVE SCIENCE!

“SCIENCE IS FUN. SCIENCE IS CURIOSITY. WE ALL HAVE NATURAL CURIOSITY. SCIENCE IS A PROCESS OF INVESTIGATING. IT’S POSING QUESTIONS AND COMING UP WITH A METHOD. IT’S DELVING IN.”

Sally Ride, American physicist and astronaut

And delve in, we have! This year has been full of fun, curiosity, investigations and questions. Amongst many other things: Year 3 have made their own compass, tested the strength of magnets, investigated leg length, made fossils and found out what plants need to grow. Year 4 were kept busy learning about our digestive system, dissecting owl pellets, investigating sound and exploring habitats. Year 5 studied lifecycles, rearing ladybirds,

researched the planets and made pulleys. Year 6 made bread, used troubleshooting skills to form circuits, researched the life of Carl Linnaeus and investigated the bacteria on our hands. All in all, it has been a busy, informative and exciting journey through the wonderful world of science.

Many thanks to some of our parents who have supported our science curriculum this year: Emma Hilditch for her rocks presentation to Year 3, Anthea

Howlett for her teeth presentation to Year 4 and Johnny Ferguson, Ian Paul and Amy Norrington for running a cardiology workshop in Year 6. Your help and support is much appreciated and thank you for linking our science curriculum to the real world. If you think you might be able to support science in school in some capacity, please do get in touch with Mr Stone or Mrs Smith.

Mrs E Smith



Here's what some of our children said they enjoyed about science:

What I like about science is that you get to discover so much more about the universe and learn about all the tiny things that make up the world and us!

Laurel G, Year 6

I like how you can be free with your ideas and you can experiment to understand how things work instead of having to know and remember it.

Emily Q, Year 5

I like how we get to do loads of experiments in science.

Meadow E, Year 5

I like that you learn a different thing every single lesson. Science is really, really, really, really, really fun.

Aditi K, Year 4

I like electricity and how you experiment with motors and buzzers.

Ziad S, Year 4

I like how you find something out that you might never have known before.

Sylvia D, Year 6

You do experiments and record the results (I love doing that). I also love everything else.

Rosa W, Year 5

I love, love, love looking at magnets.

Eddie P, Year 3

All the topics we do are really interesting and you feel like you can get your teeth stuck into them.

Ollie B, Year 6

I love how it is connected to so many parts of our day-to-day life.

Vedh A, Year 6

I liked when we were finding the suitable fabrics for the dark.

Lucy A, Year 3

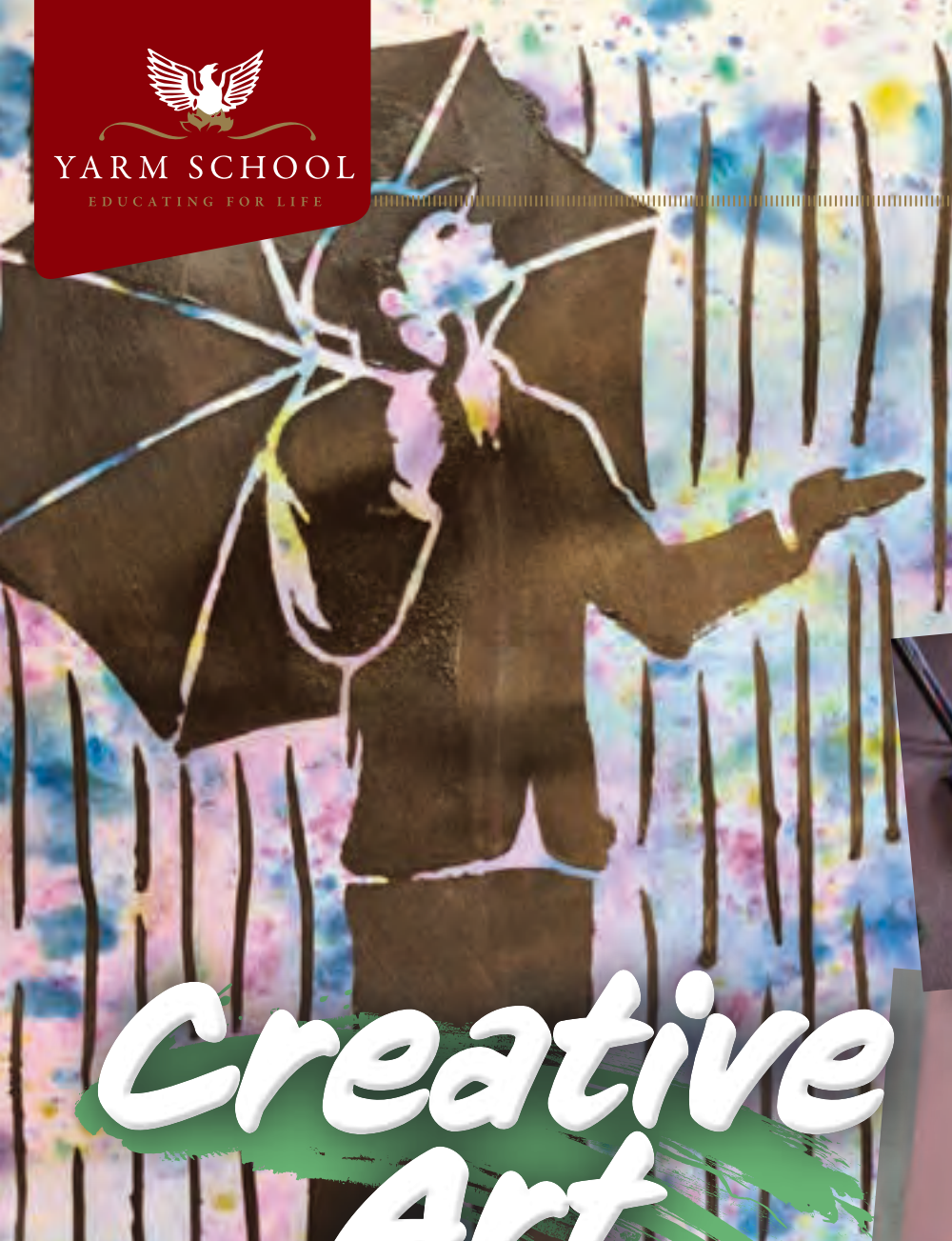
It's fun because you do fun things.

Jayden W, Year 3

I like science because you can learn about different scientists.

Isla L, Year 4





Creative Art



The art room is always such a bustling, creative environment, however, this year has been exceptional! It is a pleasure to see the joy on the children's faces when they realise what they have achieved, and the relaxation and comfort art can provide when the children are attending clubs and activities and completing their very own masterpieces.

This year, we celebrated Christmas Films by dressing shop windows with iconic scenes and characters from Home Alone, A Christmas Carol, Arthur Christmas, The Polar Express, The Snowman and Elf. From ceramic door knockers to pencil sketches of Kevin, this exhibition was a wonderful opportunity for us to share the children's superb work with the community.

Throughout the year, the children have thoroughly enjoyed enhancing their artistic skills whilst also strengthening

their scientific, historical and geographical knowledge, as well as transferring their mathematical skills to art lessons. We also debate issues, discuss the use of art for pupil well-being and explore careers in art.

Year 6 have been looking at Picasso's Guernica mural and taking inspiration from his incredible work. Using a wide variety of mediums, the children expressed their concerns regarding issues of their own choice through the cubist abstract style.

Year 5 crafted a variety of masterpieces! They have created batik images inspired by Indonesian culture as well as traditional Indonesian Wayang Puppets which were used in music lessons when exploring Gamelan music. Street art has been a very popular topic this year too.

Year 4 carefully crafted Egyptian canopic jars using the coil method. The children thought

carefully about which organ would be stored in the jar, and therefore, which design to use!

Sculpture was also practised when the Year 4 children built a stunning Himalayan village based on the inferences they have drawn from their class reader *Asha & The Spirit Bird*. The children loved working with freedom in an imaginative and individual manner to interpret the story in their own creative way.

Year 3 children enjoyed our Prehistoric project which allowed them to visualise the very beginning of art, across the continents and to recreate the drawings discovered in magnificent caves such as Lascaux in France.

Studying Botanical Art has led to the Year 3 children dissecting flowers and recording from observation. They also studied the remarkable Marianne North, taking inspiration from

her beautiful artworks.

The Paris Olympics was a perfect springboard for some original art! Year 6 explored how movement can be portrayed in drawings and paintings and focused on sketches of the human body. This then led to exploration of the Pop Art movement as well as superb ceramic sculptures of athletes. Year 5 redesigned the medals after taking inspiration from the Paris medals for the games this summer. Activities sessions worked on a collaborative piece which was a celebration of the Olympic sports.

We were delighted to meet Rebecca Norris from The Great Pottery Throwdown when she came to visit us in May. Local schools joined in and we created ceramic masterpieces inspired by Picasso.

Mrs R Shepherd



Arts Award

This year we became an Arts Award Center, and the first cohort of children completed the Explore Arts Award. It has been a wonderful journey, one which allows the children to see art in a more holistic way and one which provides a springboard for those who have a flair for the subject. We have interviewed artists and visited organisations, as well as working with a variety of mediums such as ceramics, gel printing and wet felting to name a few.

I have enjoyed putting all our ideas into our scrapbook most in the Arts Award. I also liked making our ceramics and finding out about artists as well as meeting them.

Completing the award has changed my view of myself as an artist, and my art as a career, as I learnt new methods, and realised that art is not just producing an artwork, but how you create it, and the meaning behind the masterpiece.



Art

Pre-Prep Art

Our Pre-Prep children also enjoyed their art projects:

I loved making 3D birds. I liked drawing, painting and then building them.

Olivia H

I enjoyed making a story book and doing the front cover because I did bubble writing.

Harry A

I enjoyed doing the Mackenzie Thorpe picture. To copy his picture was so neat.

Edith G

I liked doing the Transporter bridge picture. The background and shading made it darker.

Patrick H

I like drawing and copying art and love how calm it is.

Louis S

I enjoyed copying my full face. I thought it was fun to try and observe it.

Annabel B

I loved making polar bears. We did cold and warm colours, it was colourful and creative.

Poppy C-W

I learned about how to make patterns in different ways.

Ali A

I enjoyed doing abstract art with tissue paper.

Honey C

I enjoyed learning how to make art with dots. I made an aboriginal turtle.

Shahaya G





Dance delights

The dance department at Yarm School has had another remarkable year, continuing to grow in participation, talent, and enthusiasm.

Prep School dancers engaged in school holiday dance workshops, weekly private lessons, various activities, and dance assemblies. Children learned choreography in a range of dance styles including commercial, musical theatre, and contemporary, whilst also enhancing their dance techniques during their weekly lessons.

The Christmas and Easter dance assemblies showcased a broad range of talent, building pupils' confidence and performance skills with routines set to "What Do You Mean?", "Runaway Baby," and "Dance the Night."

A total of 170 pupils from Year 3 to Upper Sixth took to the stage to perform in the 2024 'Once Upon a Dance' showcase. The evening was filled with entertainment as dancers spun their way through fairytale stories, performing with energy, confidence, and flair to celebrate a year's worth

of hard work. The night was magical, adventurous, and brimming with feel-good fun.

The Year 3 and 4 dancers performed a magical routine to 'Symphony' for The Little Mermaid section. Their smiles were on display and they performed with energy and enthusiasm. They received an ear-splitting round of applause from the audience when the lights went down to signify the end of their performance! A successful start and a hard act to follow.

Beauty and the Beast was next up for the Prep Dancers. For the 'Be our Guest' routine, the children entered the stage with their cloak hoods up and they were each holding a single rose. Heidi, who was performing as Belle, found herself amongst the bed of roses for a dramatic and engaging start. They then broke into a highly energetic choreographed routine with opportunities to

display their acting skills as well. All pupils who attended the half term workshop were able to perform so we had a mix of Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 pupils performing. Another crowd pleaser!

To finish off the first Act, our Year 5 and 6 dancers performed a wonderful routine to 'Hair' for the Rapunzel section of the show. The children loved getting creative by adding colourful and flamboyant hair accessories to their costumes. This routine even gave Miss Dixon a lump in her throat!

The second act was just as successful. The Prep School's first dance was a Bollywood Medley for the 'Aladdin' section. This quick paced dance was an enjoyable watch. Next up was an 'Alice in Wonderland' medley where Ettie took on the role of Alice and the other children were rabbits. Ettie created drama and really set the scene of falling down the rabbit hole.

The children also got to bust some moves to 'Dance the Night Away' from the recent Barbie movie. Last, but certainly not least, the Year 5 and 6 dancers finished on a high with a routine called 'Adventures of a lifetime'. This was part of the 'Peter Pan' section. The children were spectacular and it definitely got their hearts racing. There was incredible teamwork and dedication to create a routine that was so synchronised.

The dance pupils at Yarm continue to challenge and push themselves at every lesson and always have so much energy and enthusiasm. There is a genuine love of dance at Yarm School which is evident not only in the big showcases and performances but in the everyday life of the school. Well done for another fantastic year!

Mrs J Dunkley & Miss N Whitehouse

This year's dance showcase was the best yet. The whole auditorium was filled which was our goal for this year. The choreography throughout the year was amazing and Miss Dunkley made it super fun for us.

Flo P and Ettie A

This year's dance showcase was outstanding. Miss Dunkley worked really hard. I especially loved this year of dance because I was given the opportunity to play the part of Belle. I loved every second of it even though I was nervous about how big the audience was! It was AMAZING! I loved it!

Heidi K





YARM SCHOOL

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

The young musicians at Yarm Prep have had another great year of achievement.

MELODY

The plethora of passes, merits and distinctions in exams has been a tribute to the hard work of our players and singers, as well as their instrumental and vocal teachers. Our Wider Opportunities scheme has continued to introduce Year 3 and 4 pupils to a whole range of instruments and our ensembles have grown. Our choirs, orchestra, brass and guitar group have been joined by a new recorder ensemble, harp duet and cello club.

Our children have grasped so many of the opportunities offered to them. The carol service featured singing from all, some tricky Britten from the Senior Choir and the world premiere of a brand new carol composed for the school. The choirs have made Christmas and Easter visits, bringing cheer to the residents of several care

homes in the area. Our twice-terminally informal concerts have given early performing experience to many children and they have all done themselves great credit. We have added a new venture in the shape of our summer music soiree, which has given older children the chance to perform solos in a slightly different atmosphere, and to learn about performance, presentation and stagecraft.

Our Senior Choir was extremely excited to take part in a performance of Handel's Messiah. This was a marvelous occasion, combining Yarm School Choral Society, Yarm School Choir, the Black Dyke Band and other visitors. Our singers loved it! They sang beautifully, successfully navigating Handel's mighty choruses and proved that young people are perfectly

capable of performing and enjoying great music when it is put in front of them. Nobody will forget the experience in a hurry.

The large number of school music awards - bronze, silver, gold, platinum and colours - presented this year is a testament to the enthusiasm and commitment of our young people. Experience of music at Prep is for most their first experience of performing and the first stage in what for many will be a lifelong passion.

Mr R Gooding



MAKERS





CELEBRATING CULTURES AND LANGUAGES

The week before Easter saw the Prep School celebrating different countries, cultures and languages. Assemblies explored the importance and benefits of learning different languages and some of the problems associated with Google Translate! We were treated to a wonderful insight into Latin American language and culture from Mrs Troya and Lucia from Year 3 and an informative presentation from a group of Sixth Form students about Indian language and culture.

Kaira and Anika from Year 6 even showcased some superb traditional Indian dancing. French exchange students came to talk with our Year 6 pupils empowering them to speak French and offered some top tips on improving pronunciation. Chef Pippa excelled by preparing international cuisine each day and Year 4 enjoyed sampling the delights of Indian cuisine! Our race across the world and travel roadshow events were a huge success!

Mrs A Arrol



COMPUTING

At the Prep School, computing aims to foster digital literacy and technical skills in our pupils. Through a range of engaging and age-appropriate activities, children from Year 1 to Year 6 explore various aspects of computing, from programming and digital citizenship to online safety and historical perspectives on technology.

In Year 1, children have been using art tools to create their own versions of the Transporter Bridge. They are also learning to program routes using Beebots, navigating from one location to another.

Year 2 have been learning how to use Google Apps including Slides, where they have made their own slideshow. They have also had the opportunity to explore coding further using ScratchJr and Scratch.

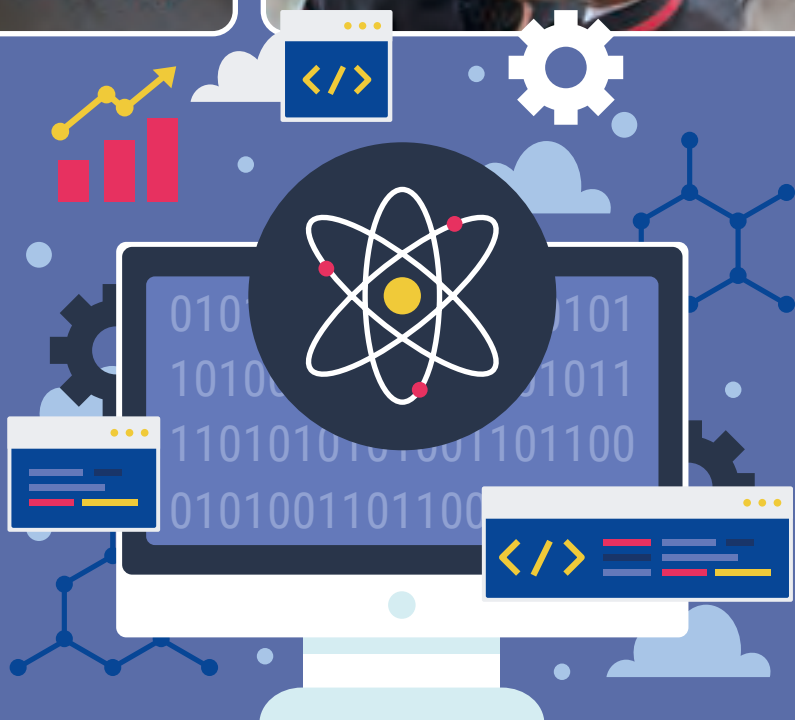
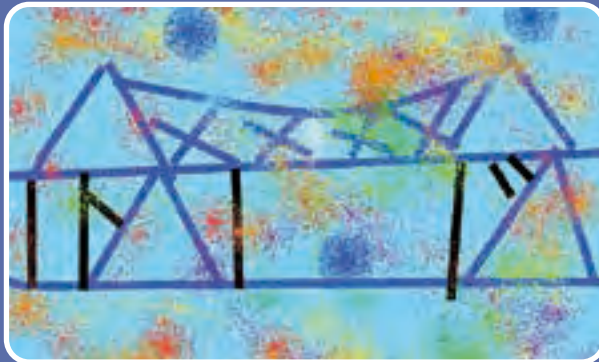
Year 3 pupils began by setting up their computing portfolios. These portfolios will store work completed from Years 3 through 6, serving as a platform to celebrate and reflect on their accomplishments. The Year 3 curriculum also focuses on becoming proficient with various Google Apps, including learning about emailing and email etiquette.

Year 4's primary focus has been on Digital Citizenship and toy designing using Scratch. Pupils were given a brief to create a toy, guiding them from concept to the final product. Throughout the process, they considered the toy's input, algorithm, and output.

In Year 5, pupils delved into the history of encryption, exploring how and why Emperor Caesar used ciphers to send secret messages. They also advanced their coding skills on Scratch, designing games aimed at Year 2 or 3 pupils that incorporate school values. For instance, James created a game where players must safely cross a road and answer safety-related questions.

Year 6 explored the history of computing and the pioneers behind modern technology. During the Spring Term, they focused on online safety, digital habits, and the dangers of plagiarism. In the Summer Term, they learned coding and HTML to create their own web pages.

Our Digital Leaders had a busy year, helping to run some important partnership events. Chief among these was the Internet Safety Workshop in February, where they welcomed Digital Leaders from eight local primary schools, along with representatives from companies such as Google and C-Learning, to talk specifically about the findings from our annual Internet Safety Survey. They have also been visiting local primary schools across Teesside, delivering virtual reality sessions to a total of 900 children over the course of the year.



Bringing the Drama

Year 4

Year 4 embarked on their much anticipated Drama Week in March and it did not disappoint! It was a week full of singing, circus skills, dancing and acting! The children arrived at the first session full of excitement and were ready to get started. The focus and determination to acquire tricky skills was phenomenal. Everyone enjoyed singing songs from Wicked - Defying Gravity could be heard throughout the corridors and Emerald City was a clear favourite. Year 4 teachers were amazed at how quickly the children learnt the songs and found ourselves humming along too. The children were challenged and pushed out of their comfort zone and although the week did not culminate in a performance, the quality of work was worthy of an audience. A great week was had by all and a big thank you goes to Mr Brookes, Alice and Tom.

Year 5

I enjoyed the Year 5 Drama Week because I enjoyed the responsibility of making sure you learnt your lines and being in the right place at the right time. It was a time to enhance your voice and learn how to fit your facial expression to the way your character was feeling. I liked the fact you had a class performance and a year group show. The performance created a spark of competition in the air.

.....
Jack A

I enjoyed the Drama Week because I love dancing and singing. It was also a change from a normal school day. My favourite part in Matilda was when we did the "Revolting Children" dance and when I had to get carried to safety. I enjoyed the Lion King because there are great songs to sing along to and it has humorous things in it as well. I enjoyed learning both of these musicals but my favourite was Matilda.

.....
Emily B

Year 6

In January, we saw the return of Year 6 Drama Week! After last year's success, we welcomed back Alice, for another week of singing, dancing and acting. The theme this year was 'A Night at the Movies' and when the children found out, they couldn't wait to get started!

The children learned five songs: Somewhere over the Rainbow, You've got a Friend in Me, Live and Let Die, This is Me and How Far I'll Go. They performed beautifully and the audience could clearly hear every word! Not only did the children learn five songs, they also learned some challenging choreography.

The girls then brought the emotion during their performance from Moana whereas the boys brought their acting skills when they became spies for Mission Impossible. The children had so much fun learning all the different dances and really gave it their all during the performances. Children were able to perform some drama scenes: 6L created a duologue inspired by Harry Potter, 6W did a comedy skit for interviewing the next James Bond and 6H created silent movies full of over exaggerated facial expressions and movements.

What a fun week full of new opportunities and a wonderful way to express their creativity.

My highlight of drama week was the Mission Impossible dance because I really enjoyed being the main character. I had to pretend to be James Bond and I had to point the gun and bring swagger and charm to the performance. The audience loved it and I even got a few laughs!

.....
Pradyoth K

I really liked the Barbie dance because the music was current. Even though I didn't perform it on the night, my favourite was still Grease Lightning because it was the most upbeat and energetic and it got the crowd going.

.....
Flo P





ECO SCHOOL WARRIORS

We are delighted to once again be awarded the prestigious Eco Schools Green Flag - this year with merit! The international accreditation recognises our work in promoting sustainability and raising environmental awareness.

This year pupils impressively built on past achievements by focusing on 3 key issues: Litter, Marine and Biodiversity. The Eco-Committee then successfully delivered a diverse range of

activities including planting a new copse of native British Trees, litter picking at Marske beach and creating bug hotels to improve the biodiversity on our school grounds.

It has been inspiring to see how the children have embraced our school values through the work they completed to achieve our Green Flag award. Congratulations to everyone involved.

Mr A Pengilley





STARS OF THE SHOW

‘Ladies and gentlemen, prepare to be dazzled. Prepare to be amazed!’ certainly came true if you were fortunate enough to see this year’s Year 3 production.

Marking the last ever performance in the Prep Hall, the show will be remembered fondly by all who came to watch.

In this particular version we were transported to Bethlehem where a team of ‘Inn-Spectors’ arrived to conduct a rigorous inspection. They made the most ferocious ISI inspectors appear gentle!

The ‘Inn-Spectors’ arrived in Bethlehem to find a ‘health and safety nightmare’ where a kind innkeeper and his wife had allowed Mary and Joseph a safe place to

stay for the night. There were also the usual visitors of shepherds, a trio of very loud sheep, three Wise Men from the East, soldiers, travellers, Gabriel and his angels and a Star accompanied by her ‘Twinkles,’ all of whom added to the entertainment.

Each and every member of Year 3 shone as they delivered their lines, sang the songs and acted on a star-bestrewn stage which would not have looked out of place in the West End!

Mrs N Jones

Magic of the Manger

Nursery and Reception enjoyed putting on this cheerful Christmas Nativity. Twinkling stars, exquisite angels, dignified Wise Men, sturdy shepherds and loveable lambs celebrated the birth of the newborn King! The children were true superstars, singing all those songs with enthusiasm!



SHINING BRIGHT

The children in Year 1 & 2 were shining stars in their production of "A Twinkly Nativity". This was a shiny retelling of the traditional story, with a good dose of dazzle and no shortage of delight. The children sang seven wonderful and quirky songs that certainly brought 'some sparkle to our toes'. A firm favourite song, which was performed for the encore was 'It's Good News'. All the children boogied down and sang like the angels they are! Well done to Year 1 and 2!



FAIRS AND FUNDRAISING

This year, the enterprising children of 6H, 6L, and 6W joined forces in mixed groups to run a variety of stalls with a shared goal: raising funds for a new sensory space. On Friday, 21st June, the Summer Fair unfolded under a glorious afternoon sun, brimming with community spirit and vibrant energy.

The children were supported by the Yarm Prep School Social Committee, many parent volunteers, Mr Stone, Miss Rhodes (and her band of merry Business Studies students) and the Year 6 staff. With an Olympic theme, the Year 6 entrepreneurs really made for a smooth-running and lively event.

There was also an element of competition between the Year 6 pupils as each group was scored against a range of criteria such as teamwork, tidiness, budget planning and so on. The winning groups and individuals were treated to a special lunch the following week.

Congratulations to the following Year 6 pupils for their outstanding efforts:

- **1st** - Bread Bros (Hannah C, Charlie D-B, Olivia G, Vedh A, Harry H)
- **2nd** - Prep from Paris (Heidi K, Lolwa S, Jacob B, Alice S, Brian F, Eric PF)
- **3rd** - Five Rings (Emily W, Maisie S, Wahaj M, Laurel G, Joey P)
- **Effort award** - Alex P

In addition to the stalls manned by the pupils, the fair featured an array of attractions, including funfair rides, a climbing wall, a petting zoo, a puppet show, and various food and drink stalls.

The Year 6 pupils and staff would like to thank everyone involved for the generous support from our wider school community. The fair raised a total of £1140.10.

Mr K Harandon



Good times Good causes



The Yarm Prep School Social Committee is made up and run by parent volunteers. Our function is to provide a social network for the whole school community and raise funds for the children and local charities. Every parent/guardian and member of staff is automatically a member of the Committee and is welcome to attend meetings and volunteer at events. Each year we look to facilitate a varied programme of events to enrich the children's school experience and to help bring parents together, the highlight of which is our Winter Ball!

The Yarm Prep School Social Committee held a spectacular cruise-themed ball, The Captain's Ball, at Christmas and raised an astounding £10,639 for the Neoangels charity. Neoangels is a charity which supports the special care baby unit at the University Hospital of North Tees and the neonatal unit at The James Cook University Hospital. Both units provide care to hundreds of premature and poorly babies every year and support for their families.

Parents and YPSSC members, Balinder and Jasdeep Ladhar, nominated Neoangels to benefit from the fundraiser.

The charity is close to their heart as it provided much appreciated support and care for the couple and their daughter, who spent 33 days in the special care baby unit after her premature birth.

The fun-filled Captain's Ball saw the PAA transformed into a 5-star cruise liner for the night, complete with ship's wheel, lifebuoy rings and deck railings for that all-important Titanic-inspired photo! It featured live music from Chameleon Wedding and Function Band, and a delicious four-course menu of smoked salmon terrine, raspberry sorbet, then stuffed chicken, followed

by a dark chocolate sphere with a salted caramel base and burnt chocolate mousse on a blue sea.

Supporters of the event included: Lucy and Mark Howard, Aspire Technology Solutions, DenPlan, Chris McGlade, and Andrew Edgar. Special thanks to Mariam Fuentes for graphic design work used to promote the event. Huge thanks to everyone who supported the event through volunteering their time, attendance and offering auction prizes, and to the teams from Sodexo, Estates and the PAA.

ypssc@hotmail.com



A look inside our Houses...

Arkwright

House Assemblies

House assemblies are an excellent way of promoting collaboration and collegiality within our Houses. The topics covered link to our school values and ethos. Here's what some members of Arkwright had to say about them:

The assemblies are a good way to spend time with our Houses. We get to talk together and share ideas!

Genevieve P, Year 3

House assemblies are good because you get more information as you're in a smaller group.

Amelie T, Year 4

I like House assemblies because we always talk about interesting and meaningful subjects like bed poverty and how we can help.

Roland M, Year 5

I like House assemblies because you get to contribute more than you would in a normal assembly.

Alex P, Year 6

Arkwright's Charity Day

For once, the weather was kind as Arkwright held their annual charity day, and the Year 6 Arkwright children took the lead in choosing a theme for their stalls, aiming to maximise donations for a very worthy cause.

At the start of this academic year, Mrs. Redhead-Sweeney suggested that the House raise money for Zarach, a charity founded by a teacher in Leeds with the mission to end bed poverty. It's hard to imagine, but some children living nearby have no bed to sleep on. Everyone in Arkwright agreed wholeheartedly with this choice.

The goal was set to raise £600, enough to buy four bed packs and provide four children with a comfortable place to sleep. The enthusiasm and dedication of the children were evident, and the event raised an impressive £702.43! This fantastic news highlights the generosity and community spirit of Arkwright's pupils, parents and staff. A huge thank you to everyone involved for making such a meaningful difference.

The best part of our charity day (apart from the fun of saving penalty shots) was knowing that it was helping an important charity.

Harrison C, Year 6.



House Matches

As always, the House competitions have been fiercely contested, with Arkwright performing admirably across the board. The boys' hockey team triumphed once again, securing the top spot for the second consecutive year, a fine achievement that highlights their dedication and skill.

The girls' netball team also put on an impressive show, finishing as runners-up in a tightly contested competition. While Arkwright didn't clinch victories in other sporting events, the children consistently demonstrated their commitment and sportsmanship, participating enthusiastically in cricket, hockey, rugby, and the eagerly awaited sports day.

Arkwright's successes were not limited to the sports field. During the Autumn Term, the House won the House point tally and emerged victorious in the General Knowledge quiz event, a fabulous result that showcases their well-rounded excellence.

House Chess

The annual House Chess Championship was played in style, with three tough rounds. In the first round Arkwright played Brunel and it was a very close match, but eventually Brunel powered their way to a number of late, vital victories. Round two saw defending champions Stephenson give a strong performance over luckless Arkwright. In the final round, now playing for pride, Arkwright saved their best performance until last with a crushing victory over Telford, leaving them in eventual joint third place.

By Miles Page, Year 6

Sports Day

Arkwright House secured a respectable third place this year, and all Arkwrightians should be buoyed by their achievements. Every member participated valiantly, giving their best and working together as a team, embodying many of our School Values in the process.

The stands were filled with merriment and all members of Arkwright cheered on the participants of each and every race. Our collective thanks go to Mr Underwood and Mrs Redhead-Sweeney for making the event such a success and ensuring every pupil had the opportunity to shine. A memorable moment for our Year 6 pupils as they hand over the baton to our succeeding House Captains for next year.





Houses: Arkwright / Brunel

Brunel

Brunel have had such a successful year and the children from Year 3 through to Year 6 have collaborated and shown team work all year round. The Brunel staff have been impressed to see their competitiveness and desire to succeed and the support they have given to one another has been incredible. The children worked hard in lessons and demonstrated the school values and high fives around school in order to gather as many House points as they could.

This allowed Brunel House to be the House point winners in Spring Term! Not only were we successful in collecting House points, but our biggest successes have been during the House competitions. The Brunelians have gone from strength to strength and we came out victorious in many challenges. On the sports field, we came first in girls' hockey and boys' rugby and we also won House typing AND chess!

The Year 6 Brunelians have been particularly ambitious and organised this year as they ran a successful House Charity Day. This year, the charity day fell at the start of the academic year and the children only had a few weeks to prepare, promote and organise their stalls. The Year 6's worked well in small groups to create unique and exciting stalls and we raised £627.61 for the Hearing Dogs for Deaf People Charity.

A successful year all round that wouldn't be possible without the fantastic House and vice captains who have represented Brunel outstandingly.

- B**rave with ambition
- R**esourceful and resilient
- U**nstoppable when we work as a team
- N**ever rest until we've tried our best
- E**ager to win the Sports Day cup
- L**oyal to our school values

I loved Brunel House Charity Day because our stall was really successful. We created a Netball Shootout and we raised money for the Hearing Dogs for Deaf People charity. Even though it was raining, we still had so much fun!

Aphelia S, Year 6

I was House Captain for Brunel in the Autumn Term and I was responsible for leading the charity day and making sure everyone was enthusiastic to raise money for a good cause. I also was able to lead the rugby team to a successful win and I got to lift the trophy which was a proud moment for myself and the rest of the Brunel team!

Rex W, Year 6

This year, Year 5 had the responsibility of doing some of the House duties. I really enjoyed this experience because it gives you a head start for Year 6. I quite like doing the break time duty, especially at the Year 3 entrance because I get to know more people in the school community which has been really rewarding.

Manha A, Year 5

I recently joined Yarm school and Brunel in January. I have enjoyed doing the House duties because you feel responsible and you get to chat to others on duty in Brunel and get to know them better while doing an important job.

Annabelle M, Year 5



A look inside our Houses...

Stephenson



What a year it has been for Stephenson House! The Autumn Term saw us host the annual Stephenson House Charity Day, where we rallied to support Hartlepool Baby Bank. Everyone's generosity meant we raised over £600 for this vital cause. The funds were used to purchase essential toiletries, which have been distributed throughout the local area, ensuring that people in need do not go without.

Over the course of all the House competitions, Stephenson House competed on all fronts, coming away with significant wins in Sports Day, the House pancake race, girls' cricket, and netball. Everyone played their part in these events, ensuring a fantastic year for the House.

Sports Day was a huge success with us piping Brunel to the overall win, everyone gave their all and contributed to a fantastic event, and helped the House to regain the Trophy.

Highlights of the year:

Winning Sports Day and cheering on our friends because it was our last Prep School Sports Day!

Yasmeen S, Lolwa S, Amelia K and Georgie W, Year 6

House Cricket as we won the most games!

Zoe X, Year 6

House Charity Day, as we helped a lot of people, who use the Baby Bank.

Buddy T, Year 3

House Charity Day, as we raised lots of money for a good cause.

Dulcie B, Year 3

House Pancake Races, as it was fun to have the challenge of flipping and keeping the pancake in the pan.

Alice J, Year 4

Winning Sports Day and lifting the trophy.

Brian F, Year 6

House Rugby, as we worked well as a team.

Thomas M, Year 5

Running a stall at House Charity Day.

Harry H, Year 6

House Competitions as we all had to work well as a team and we all contributed to the final score.

Zara P, Year 6

House Pancake races were really fun and the pancakes looked yummy!

Gowri P, Year 3

Lifting the Sports Day trophy!

Olivia G, Year 6

Being made House Captain in the Spring Term.

Charlie D-B, Year 6



Telford

One of the main highlights of the year was our annual charity event; the Year 6 Telfordians ran a variety of stalls in order to raise money for the Bungalow Partnership in Middlesbrough. This is a charity that looks to improve the lives of young people in the local area through supporting and bettering their emotional wellbeing.

The House raised almost £600. This is an awesome achievement and shows how well our school community mobilises in order to support local charities. The Year 6 Telfordians showed wonderful resourcefulness and independence in running their stalls and gathering donations. All children in Years 3 to 6 also wore an item of yellow, the House colour, and donated £1 to charity. We look forward to supporting another local charity in 2025!



GOING BACK IN TIME



Our residential trip to York was a wonderful experience for all involved. Despite setting off on a cold, wet, and rather dreary Monday morning. Our first stop was Sutton Bank, where we walked across the top of the hill to see the famous White Horse of Kilburn. After lunch at the Visitor's Centre, we returned to the coach and headed for York.

Upon arriving in the city centre, close to Clifford's Tower, we disembarked from the coach and made our way to the Jorvik Centre. As we walked down to the reconstructed Viking village,

we paused to talk about the archaeology of York and primary evidence. The children were captivated by the immersive experience, observing the villagers at work and experiencing the authentic smells. Next, we went to see the new sculpture of Queen Elizabeth II and admired the architecture of the famous Minster. Our final activity of the day was a visit to Ask Italian where we thoroughly enjoyed a delicious dinner. Exhausted but happy, we then headed to the Racecourse Centre to settle in for the night. The children were

eager to find out their roommates - certainly the most frequent question of the previous week!

Tuesday morning began with a hearty breakfast before departing the Racecourse for Murton Park. We spent the first part of the day demonstrating our superb Viking knowledge and then it was time to put on a tunic and get to work in the Viking village. We quickly met the Chief who kindly allowed us to join him and we were given four different jobs to complete in return for a home and protection. Our tasks included: guard duty, quern stone milling, tallow lamp clay

sculpting and learning to play a Viking 'tafl' game. At the end of the afternoon, we skilfully defended our village against a rogue Anglo Saxon and set off back for Yarm.

This was the first residential experience for our Year 3 children and they were a pleasure to accompany. They upheld our School Values and are definitely looking forward to more Yarm adventures next year. Well done to all of the children in Year 3.

Mrs N Jones







A ROMAN ADVENTURE

Our 2024 residential trip to Vindolanda was a fantastic opportunity for the children to explore history hands-on.

This trip is a tradition for Year 4, marking their first two-night residential adventure. Using The Sill as our base camp, we spent our days discovering the local area.

On day one, we enjoyed bushcraft activities - including lighting fires and foraging for food to eat. We also got to walk along Hadrian's wall to Sycamore Gap. Day two brought history to life as we explored the Roman Army

Museum and Vindolanda. Our luck didn't stop there as we got to take part in an evening quiz! The adventure continued, on day three, we visited the Washington Wetland Centre - exploring wildlife. We even got to see otters and flamingos being fed. Overall, it was a fantastic experience filled with learning, adventure, and unforgettable memories!

Mr S Frank





I enjoyed the foraging, all of the plants were delicious. One of the plants even tasted like Tangfastics. The best name for the plants was Stinky Bob.

Hugo K

Hadrian's Wall was the best part of the trip for me. It was so nice seeing all of the wildlife. It was fascinating to see all of the views when we got to the highest point. When we reached Sycamore Gap, it was quite sad.

Sharvi P

I loved eating the homemade bread with everyone and finding all of the different plants. The foraging leader said that we could not eat some of the plants because they are poisonous!

Monty B

I loved making fires and foraging. I didn't know there were so many different plants that you could eat!

Amelie T





YARM SCHOOL
EDUCATING FOR LIFE



ROBINWOOD RESIDENTIAL



Yarm Preparatory School
Grammar School Lane
Yarm
Stockton on Tees
TS15 9ES

Dear Gregg and Jonny,

I'm writing to you to thank you for making sure our group was safe, teaching us new skills and helping massively to encourage us to do many of the amazing activities.

Thank you for helping with all activities at Robinwood. Please thank the chefs for the delicious food, the 'night ninjas' for solving all situations and the 'night time bouncers' for making sure we didn't forget anything. As soon as I returned home, I could not stop mentioning all of the overwhelmingly amazing activities.

The food was gorgeous; I enjoyed every single crumb. I also found the hot chocolate a lovely end to the day (it was sooooo good). The night ninjas and the night time bouncers made me feel safe and ready. All of the activities flew by so fast. I wish it lasted longer! The bed rooms are so comfortable. I loved Robinwood.

Thank you so much. You made me feel comfortable to do every task. You were very encouraging. Once again, thank you.

From,

Emily Q

Year 5 Robinwood Residential

Yarm Preparatory School
Grammar School Lane
Yarm
Stockton-on-Tees
TS15 9ES

Dear Freya,

I am writing to you about the best residential ever: Robinwood! Another reason I am writing to you is about new skills I developed, but I'll talk about that later in the letter. My top three favourite activities were: zipline, giant swing and the piranha pool. My biggest challenge was raft building because the water felt like -200 degrees, it was freezing! I honestly wish we could wear warmer clothes when we jumped in!

The encouragement you gave team Waterfall was amazing. Also, thank you for keeping me safe on every activity and showing us how to use the helmets. I am glad that you're a supportive person for the not so confident people. If I'm honest, I wouldn't have gone in the piranha pool if real life piranhas were in there!

Now, it is time to talk about the food! Yes, the children's food was splendid but the adults' food... Now this was on another level! We had chocolate ice cream and they had chocolate fudge cake (a massive difference). Hopefully, in the future kids will have the same food as the adults (of course we also had amazing food).

Now like I said at the start, I want to mention the skills I developed. For example, before this trip I was horrific at canoeing, but now I am a pro. I also liked supporting my friends who weren't as confident as me. Just one little thing on the zipline bean bag activity, I think I should hit one-hundred, but I got sixty: that's atrocious for me! I thought I was good at throwing beanbags, I guess not. Just one little reminder team... WATERFALL is the best!

From the best waterfall child,

Rory B

Yarm Preparatory School
Grammar School Lane
Yarm
Stockton on Tees
TS15 9ES

Dear Tom,

I am writing to you to thank you for amazing encouragement when we felt terrified about some of the activities. I would also like to say a big thank you for keeping us safe!

My favourite activities were The Giant Swing, The Trapeze and The Zip Line. If you hadn't been there whilst I was doing some of these activities, I might not have been on some of the BEST ones. I thought that I might not go on The Giant Swing, but you showed me it was safe so I did (I am very glad I did too!)

I couldn't possibly write this letter without mentioning the wonderful food! My favourite meal was the hot dog. And the best dessert was the brownie (by far)! I think it was great that you were allowed fruit between activities because no-one could be hungry... ever! I think having hot chocolate on an evening was an amazing idea as it gave us a homely feel and something to help us sleep.

I would also like to thank the night-ninjas (a.k.a. the people who kept me safe at night) for their seemingly effortless help and support.

All in all I think this was one of the best trips I have ever experienced! I would definitely come again.

Thanks again,

Rosa W





It was that time again: the eagerly anticipated London trip! There was a feeling of both nerves and excitement in the hall, as the children gathered together, discussing all the exciting activities ahead. We arrived at the train station, which for some was almost as exciting as the trip itself. 'I cannot wait for the train ride!' exclaimed one child, as the others continued to debate which aspects of the trip will be the best. It all started with a trip to the British Museum, where the children were able to explore ancient artefacts - each one telling a unique story. The bus tour followed, where the children caught their first glimpses of sights such as: the London Eye, the Houses of

Parliament and Big Ben. Hungry stomachs were then satisfied with a trip to Pizza Express! The days that followed were jam packed with trips to the Houses of Parliament, and the London Art Gallery. The children embraced and enjoyed their guided tours, asking some incredibly thought-provoking questions along the way. Another highlight was going to see two award-winning West End shows: Frozen and Wicked, which were breathtaking productions enjoyed by all. A fantastic trip that will have created lasting memories for the children and the staff too.

Mr K Hutchcraft

I enjoyed the London trip because I had never been before; it was a very enjoyable experience as you learnt a lot at the museums and art gallery. The best part was the visit to Buckingham Palace. I still can't believe that I was less than 1000 yards away from England's monarch. I knew this because the royal standard was raised!

.....
Jack A

London was the best trip ever! I loved watching Wicked. I enjoyed going to the Houses of Parliament and getting to get shown around it. My favourite part was where we went into the House of Lords and Commons. We also got to meet Tanni Grey-Thompson and Matt Vickers - what a trip!

.....
Jack M

London was an amazing place to go to. My favourite part was the open top bus tour and Wicked. I would love to go again. So far, it is my favourite residential trip at Yarm!

.....
Sophia B





THE GREAT OUTDOORS

In their final chapter at the Prep School all of our Year 6 pupils spent four days visiting Windermere. Our fantastic outdoor education team from the Senior School provided a stunning location where the children camped in tents and did activities such as ghyll scrambling, sailing, canoeing, mountain hiking, rock climbing and high ropes. There was also the opportunity to have a barbecue and sing around a campfire.

The weather was mixed and the children learnt a range of skills that will stay with them for

life in the great outdoors. It was pleasing to see their confidence and resilience growing over the week. It has given them an idea of the wider opportunities on offer at the Senior School and how outdoor education is a fundamental part of developing their character.

Thanks go to Mr Mathers and his department for keeping our children safe and active as well as to the specialist instructors and Prep School staff who accompanied the children.

Mr K Harandon

“Earth and sky, woods and fields, lakes and rivers, the mountains and the sea, are excellent schoolmasters, and teach us more than we can ever learn from books.”

John Lubbock



Year 6 Lakes Trip



NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND SPORTS TOUR

On 21st March, 56 Year 6 children embarked on the annual Sports Tour, this year we visited the North West of England.

Our first destination was the Bowes Museum at Barnard Caste, where the children took part in a workshop with local artists. The pupils had the opportunity to work on either flipbook creations or self-portraits. After the workshops, the children explored the museum's exhibits, gaining insight into art and history.

Next, we travelled to Sedbergh Prep School for our first sports fixture. Despite the unpleasant weather, the children demonstrated exceptional skill

and determination. The boys showcased their talent in a hockey match, while the girls delivered impressive performances in their netball games.

Once we had travelled to the hotel and checked in, we went to Morecambe for some ten pin bowling, where there were some impressive performances on the lanes. Afterwards, everyone on the tour was tired and happy so headed straight to bed.

The following morning the children enjoyed their unlimited Premier Inn breakfast, I have never seen so much food on children's plates! Our next destination was Morecambe's arcades, where the children enjoyed the

bright lights and games, winning many tokens and claiming various prizes.

Our final destination was the spectacular Scarisbrick Hall School for our second and final fixture. The girls continued with netball, working well as a team and scoring numerous goals. Meanwhile, the boys switched to football, scoring impressive goals and making quality saves as goalkeepers.

After the fixture, we made the journey back to Yarm. All of the children were a joy to take on tour and I hope that they have made memories for life!

Mr C Simpson





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 floor running. Hosting opposition regularly taught them to be welcoming and hospitable.

The Year 3's set the ball rolling making many friends as we enjoyed regular workshops alongside Ashville, Queen Mary's, Dame Allan's and St Peter's from York across all three terms playing a wide variety of sports. These included netball, football, hockey, rugby and cricket. All Year 3's participated in 10 weeks of swimming through the year at the Rainbow Centre and the progress shown by every child was excellent to see.

The Year 4 girls loved their more recognised 5-a-side netball and hockey games playing Durham and Queen Mary's as well as hosting Barnard Castle 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's 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, Ashville Harrogate, Barnard Castle, Pocklington, St Peter's York, Red House and Queen Mary's. They were crowned U11 County hockey champions going on to represent the North East in the In2Hockey finals in Durham. The girls finished third in this competition which was a fine achievement. We attended the North East Junior Schools hockey and netball events for our U11's held at GSAL

and Hymers College and really did some miles in the process! The girls have been fantastic ambassadors for the school and it has been a privilege to teach and coach them all this year. In the NEJS hockey they finished 5th overall out of 13 schools. At the netball NEJS the girls were outstanding and finished

runners up in the cup after topping their group comfortably.

Summer Term

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, from Year 3 upwards, the children started to develop their techniques with the different strokes and enjoyed playing cricket. It was great to see their interest and confidence grow as the season progressed. This culminated in the school hosting 5 other primary schools for a sporting festival. We had over 200+ children playing sports together. This gave them a chance to play 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. The Year 4's played Durham and began to pick up the basics of pairs cricket. It was super seeing them bowling and taking wickets to great aplomb! Sadly the Year 4 festival of sport had to be cancelled due to the weather which I know many were disappointed by.

We hosted weekly Friday fixtures for our U10 and

U11's alongside many independent schools with up to and over 100 children playing at any one time!

The poor weather in May and June meant we had to adjust venues and ended up playing on the astros but it meant we still had fixtures. The second half term improved so we were able to fulfil most Friday fixtures which was pleasing.

As the term progressed the children then enjoyed practising the different athletics disciplines ready for the school sports day and once again we committed to every child doing every event.

At the NEJS athletics down in York, the U9, U10 and U11 teams finished 7th overall when results were added together for all.

The highest finishers were our U11 girls who placed 5th out of 16 schools. Heidi K, Year 6, won the vortex throw for the second year running therefore retaining the title. Annabelle A, Year 4, finished 2nd as did Manha A, Year 5, which are excellent achievements in the 80m sprints. We also had

top 3 finishes with Amelia C, Year 6, and Amelie T, Year 4, in the 100m and U9 vortex throw. 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 attended the NEJS tennis in Newcastle and the girls won their pool winning all 3 matches. They then went into the Cup competition where they beat GSAL but came up short v the eventual winners 9-12. Congratulations to Ellie A, Year 6, and Annalise D, Year 5 (who played up a year to partner with Ellie). Sadly the girls NEJS cricket was cancelled due to poor weather. This is the second year running which is a real shame.

It really has been a fantastic summer of sport and the weather didn't dampen spirits. Thanks as always to the girls for their efforts and staff equally.

Mrs N Redhead-Sweeney



YARM SCHOOL
EDUCATING FOR LIFE

GSAL Sport





GIRLS' SPORT

BOYS' SPORT

This year, pupils have faced obstacles, and yet at every opportunity the children have inspired and surpassed all expectations.

They have taken everything in their stride and made positive outcomes. The resilience and growth mindset from everyone has been a pleasure to observe and is a testament to their development as individuals in the sporting arena.

The year began well with the weather providing warm and sunny afternoons for rugby training to begin. Significant progress was made across all the year groups and the dry weather helped promote the development of the free, running rugby we like to play at Yarm. However, it is no exaggeration to say that it has been a season of two halves and while the fine weather at the beginning of the term was lovely I would have preferred more typical autumn weather if it meant that the second half of the term wasn't so wet and damp.

The teams performed well from the beginning. The U8s enjoyed themselves entertaining St Peter's early in the season and then facing off against Durham School and Cundall Manor before half term. The U9s found themselves travelling far and wide playing teams from as close as Teesside High and as

far away as Mowden Hall. It has been an excellent experience for the U9s to meet new friends and peers across the entire region.

The U10s started their campaign at the Clegg Cup hosted by Barnard Castle School. They showed plenty of promise of what was to come in the weeks ahead. As they progressed through the term the boys demonstrated excellent work in the contact area. Over the rest of the term the boys have worked on passing, using every free opportunity to practise and hone their skills with the ball. The result has been super, with the boys playing free flowing rugby that is great to watch. Well done to all involved.

Working with the U11 boys was a pleasure. They were keen to learn and develop from each other. They have faced stern opposition throughout the season and even though they have not been successful on every occasion, I was most impressed by their teamwork, communication and support of each other on the field. There is strength and depth across the entire year group,

with many boys able to play in a multitude of positions. Their strong running and work at the breakdown has been outstanding and they have the ability to outplay any opposition they face. The trips to the North East Junior Schools competition was the highlight of the season.

The prospect of facing opposition from outside of their regular circuit is always an exciting one. These competitions allow the boys to make new friends and reestablish old ties and underpins the RFUs core values. It has been a pleasure to be able to watch all the boys play and I have enjoyed seeing the





smiles at the end of each fixture. Well done to all the boys for an exceptional effort this season.

Spring Term

For the boys, the Spring Term primarily focuses upon hockey. The fast paced nature and tactical aspects of the game attracts many individuals. As a result, hockey is flourishing at Yarm Preparatory School and the boys are producing exciting and attacking play which is a pleasure to watch. It is a fascinating sport and is able to accommodate pupils with very differing skill sets. All pupils are able to compete against each other, pushing the development of all involved. The progress made over the term, during lessons and club times, was significant and it was evident in their enthusiasm, participation and the results that they have achieved against other schools.

The U8s worked hard on their hockey skills. They focused primarily upon passing, receiving and striking the ball. Through a variety of small sided games and activities the boys became ready to engage in full fixtures against other schools. As the term progressed the U8 boys had an exciting time when they were hosted by St Peter's for a football workshop. The boys got to take part in a carousel of activities, making new friends and having

lots of fun in the process.

The U9 boys have expanded and developed upon the skills they have developed in Year 3 to make themselves an exciting prospect for the years to come. They have enjoyed a mixture of football and hockey demonstrating excellent teamwork and collaboration no matter what team they have been selected for. Their stick skills are fast-improving and this accompanied with their natural competitive edge will give the boys resilience in fixtures.

The U10 boys have been showing great promise at hockey. They have been able to transfer the knowledge they have gained from playing different sports into the game of hockey. Their speed, movement and accuracy of passing made the difference against excellent opposition.

The U11 hockey season promised much, and delivered. Many of them had taken it upon themselves to attend extra training through school and club provision. Unbeaten, they performed excellently throughout, supporting and encouraging each other through difficult times. The season culminated in the team competing in the In2hockey championship and North East Junior Schools tournaments. To win the double was a significant achievement and congratulations goes to the whole squad. Phoenix E,



Ahmad I, Harrison C, Joseph A, Flynn N, Lewis D, Ronav G and Brian F all played their part. Special mention goes to Rex W and Miles P, whose leadership and support of their teammates made all the difference. It was an outstanding effort by all involved and the boys should be congratulated on a fantastic season.

Summer Term

In the Summer Term we introduced summer sports: tennis, athletics and cricket. In tennis the children developed their techniques with the different strokes. Enabling progression through each year

group. This culminated with the NEJS competition at Dame Allan's with Hugo M and Noah W representing the U11 boys.

As the term progressed the children enjoyed practising the different disciplines ready for the athletics season. At the NEJS competition at York the U11 boys, consisting of Rex W, Miles P, Harrison C, Ronav G and Flynn N, performed admirably coming fourth overall against 16 other schools.

Unfortunately, due to the weather, a couple of Friday afternoon fixtures were played but the NEJS 6 aside tournament was cancelled due to wet weather.



YARM SCHOOL
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Recipe for Success

- 1 cup Sportsmanship
- 2 cups Cooperation
- 1/2 cup Positive Attitude
- 1/4 cup Goal Setting
- 1/4 cup Safety
- 1/4 cup Respect
- Try your best
- 1 cup Responsibility
- 1 cup Encouragement
- 1 cup Honesty and Fairness
- 1 cup Practice

serves EVERYONE!

BOYS' SPORT



YARM SCHOOL

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

SPORTS

Nursery Sports Afternoon was for the first time on the astro on a glorious sunny afternoon. What a joy it was to be assisted by our Year 6 helpers. The children and adults took part in many activities such as a water relay, the egg and spoon race and a penalty shoot out. All children showed great determination in a quest to beat their grown ups! It was such a delight to see the children collaboratively taking on all the events offered.



DAY

Pre-Prep enjoyed the many track and field events with our Year 1 and 2 children supporting each other. What collegiality when supporting the Houses, the atmosphere was amazing. I am sure we have some budding young athletes of the future. Thanks to the PE department for organising such a superb event.



SPORTS

Friday 28th June saw Yarm Prep return to Middlesbrough Sports Village to compete in our annual Inter-House Sports Day. With the sun threatening to shine, the positive outlook was matched by the pupils enthusiasm which shone in anticipation for what was to come.

In our event every result counts. All pupils take part in each event and each pupil brings back points for their House. This approach not only makes it highly enjoyable for all the pupils but it also gives a true reflection of which House can rise to the top.

To witness the energy and enthusiasm of the children was a real privilege. The first session in the morning saw the Year 3 & 4 participate in their track and the Year 5 & 6 went to compete in the field events. The second session saw this reversed, culminating with the Year 6 on track.

As the competition neared completion, it landed on the final race, the House relay, to determine the overall winner. Huge congratulations to Stephenson who nudged out Brunel for the title. For the individual competition congratulations go to Rex W and Amelia C in Year 6 for winning the Victor Lodorum and Victrix Lodorum, respectively.



DAY



CHARITABLE COMMUNITIES

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has supported our charitable efforts this year. Your kindness, generosity, and compassion have truly made a difference.

Our goal is to instil in our pupils the importance of caring for and supporting not just their peers at school, but also those in the broader community. Charitable activities are a significant aspect of our school culture. Throughout the academic year, our pupils enthusiastically raise money for various local, national, and international charities. With the generous backing of parents, we are able to contribute to numerous deserving causes.

This year's House fundraising events have once again brought vibrant activity to our school, featuring everything from engaging stalls to fun dress-up days. It has been particularly wonderful to see our Year 6 students take the lead in organising these events more than ever before.

We've also had the pleasure of hosting volunteers who visited our school to discuss their charities' work and receive the collected donations. Our gratitude goes to our friends from Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, The Bungalow Partnership and Zarach for their inspiring presentations.

Our whole-school fundraising events allow us to unite as a community throughout the year and, thanks to your support, we have been able to aid many worthy causes. At Christmas, we raised money for Save the Children through our Christmas Jumper Day, and held our annual Reindeer Run in aid of Teesside Hospice. Other memorable events included Rare Diseases Day in February, supporting The David Ashwell Foundation, our Red Nose Day disco, wearing an item of blue in aid of the Butterwick Hospice and our Water Run in July, benefiting our international charity, The Mustard Seed Project.

Mr B Sawyer





HOLIDAY SCHOOL

Holiday School once again delivered an action-packed six weeks filled with trips and activities, offering pupils the perfect opportunity to meet up with friends and make new ones across the year groups. Our adventures this year took us across the North East and North Yorkshire.

This year's excursions were more adventurous than ever. The children travelled back in time at Beamish, learning about mining, and enjoyed farm life at Big Sheep Little Cow.

They experienced the thrill of a tractor ride at Piglets Adventure Farm, explored the gardens of Gibside and Fountains Abbey, and were entertained by the 'Play Your Cob Right' show and the 'Cornula One' at York Maze. We also visited the Bowes Museum and travelled to Newcastle to go to the Baltic. The fun continued at school with various sporting activities, including a special sporting trip to the Foundation of Light in Sunderland.

Throughout Holiday School, we witnessed personal growth and numerous success stories. Children were encouraged to take risks, learn new skills, and celebrate their achievements. And of course, they had lots of fun along the way!

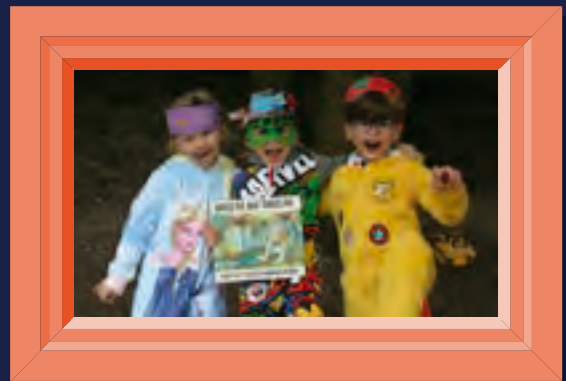
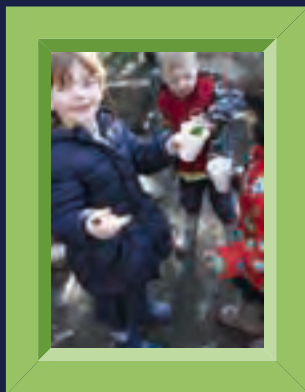
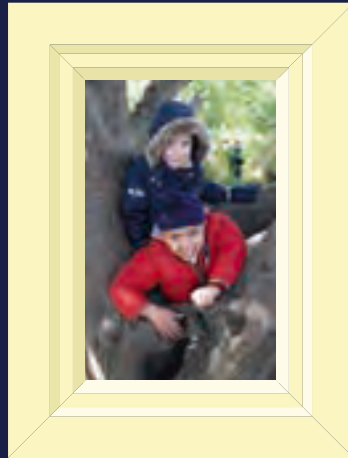
Mr C Simpson





FAREWELL CLASS OF 2024

As you embark on your next adventure, we hope you carry with you the memories from the Prep School - you have achieved a lot! Your contributions have made a lasting impact, and we are confident that there are no limits to what you can accomplish in the future.







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EDUCATING FOR LIFE

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