



# The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 792—Friday 22nd November 2024

## A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to this week's edition of the Phoenix Flier which gives you a flavour of life at Yarm Prep School. Reflecting on the last few weeks since we returned from half term, I am incredibly proud of the way our pupils throw themselves into the opportunity to be of service to others. Whether it's attending council meetings, or taking on responsibilities such as being a peer mentor, a buddy, or just helping out when required, they consistently embrace the chance to be of service to the school and wider community. These experiences help our pupils understand the value of service—how it fosters friendships, boosts wellbeing, and creates a positive school culture. It is wonderful to see how seriously they take this work, as serving others benefits not only the recipient but also enriches their own lives.

A recent example of this commitment was our Stephenson Charity Day, which was organised by our resourceful pupils. They raised funds for a local community farm that supports young people with learning and physical needs. The event was a huge success, thoroughly enjoyed by all pupils. It also provided a valuable lesson in understanding the world beyond our school gates and reinforcing one of our key values—showing compassion for others. Thank you for your continued support in nurturing these important life skills in our children.

*Bill Sawyer*



**Tes Schools Awards 2024**

**Winner**

Independent  
Prep School  
of the Year



## Head's Challenge:

Once tightly bound, I leap with a crack. I change my form and never look back. I am delicate and airy, though I start quite dense. What am I?



## Photo of the

**Week:** Pupils donned animal-themed attire last week as part of Stephenson's Charity Day in aid of JPC Community Farm.



# Stephenson House Charity Event

Thursday 14th November saw Stephenson House host a wonderful charity event to raise money for JPC Community Farm.

This local charity empowers young adults with learning and physical disabilities to develop essential independent living skills while enjoying time with animals. Wearing animal themed clothing, Year 6's planned, resourced and managed a range of stalls featuring lucky dips, guessing competitions, obstacle courses and shootouts showcasing their dedication to this fundraiser. Everyone had fun whilst raising money for such a worthwhile cause.

**Well done to Stephenson for raising an incredible £617.27!**

Mrs Arrol



## Holiday School Dates

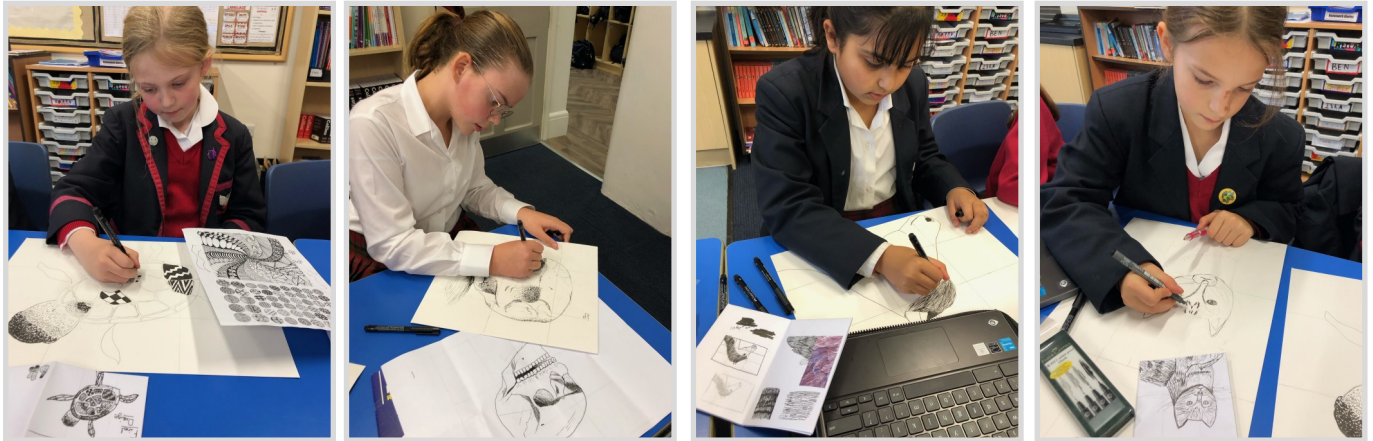
**Christmas 2024:** - 16th—20th December 2024; **Easter 2025:** - 7th—11th April 2025; **Summer 2025:** - 14th July—1st August 2025



# Drawing from the Heart

Some of our Year 6 children are now well underway with their final drawings in their 'Drawing from the Heart' activity. Using their sketch books and drawing pens, the children have explored creating tone and patterns. They have used the skill of scaling-up to begin their larger drawings. Watch out for some finished pieces of artwork before Christmas!

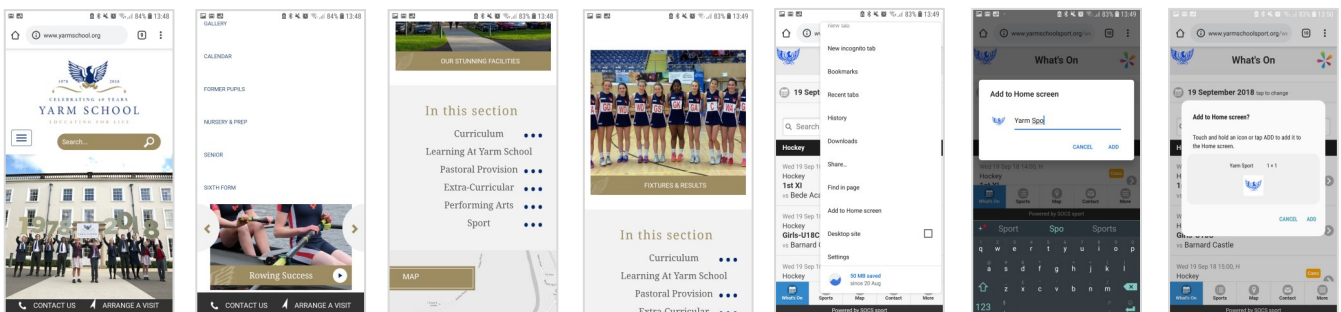
Mrs Donoghue



## How to set up Fixtures Pro on your Smartphone

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

### FOR ANDROID DEVICES:



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

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

3. Click on 'Sport' which appears down the left-hand side.

4. Click on 'Fixtures and Results'.

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

6. Give the link a name.

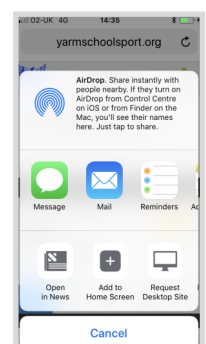
7. Add to your phone home screen.

### FOR APPLE DEVICES:

Follow steps 1-4 above, then:

5) At the bottom of your phones screen drag your finger up and you have a square and arrow icon (photo left) and if you click this you can then see the icon that says 'Add to home screen'. Click this.

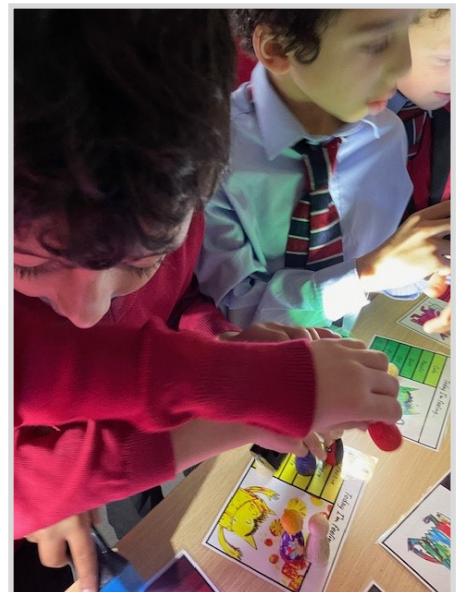
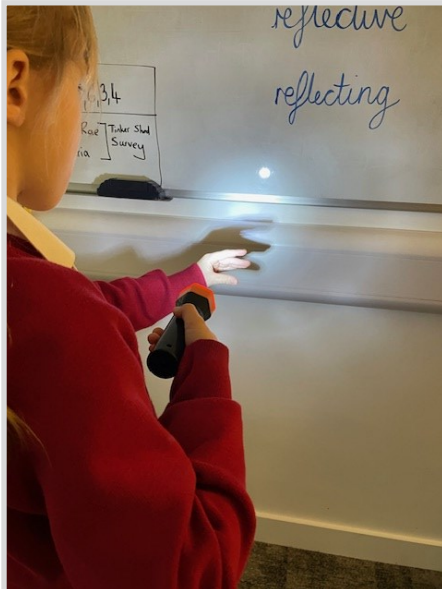
6) Congratulations! You are all set and on your phone screen you should see the Yarm School logo which is now your very own shortcut to team sheets etc.



## Year 3 Science

This week in science, the Year 3 children were investigating 'What is a shadow?' as well as being able to create some of their own. We used lots of our oracy skills to incorporate scientific words such as opaque, transparent and translucent in full sentences when explaining our understanding.

*Mr Pengilly*



## PE and Games News

### Under 10 Rugby v Barnard Castle

Last Friday the U10 boys traveled to Barnard Castle School to play rugby. The fixture presented the boys with a number of new challenges, which they took on admirably. The defence continued to develop with more effective tackles and counter rucks and in addition to this new ways of scoring became more apparent through different ways of thinking.

The new learnings from this experience can be taken into future fixtures.

*Mr Simpson*

### Under 11 Rugby v Barnard Castle

Friday saw the U11 boys host a very good Barnard Castle set up at Green Lane. All three matches were very entertaining. All



the teams demonstrated great structure, securing the ball and then distributing it wide.

This was a challenging fixture played in the correct spirit. The boys, quite rightly, should feel proud of themselves. Well done!

*Mr Underwood*

### **Under 10 and Under 11 Hockey v Barnard Castle**

We had 4 teams playing v Barnard Castle last week with the U10's travelling away and the U11's hosting. It was great to see the U10's showing how much they have progressed in recent weeks supporting one another on the pitch and driving one another forward. There were plenty of goals and the girls should be proud of their improvements across the board.

The U11's continued their promising season and were excellent hosts to the opponents. I have been impressed in how hard they have worked in lessons and the standard of hockey on show.

*Mrs Redhead-Sweeney*



## **School and Club Sports**

It is great to see so many of our pupils attending local clubs and we highly recommend joining one to aid learning further.

### **Hockey**

**Stockton Hockey Club** - Junior training takes place Monday nights on the Yarm Sc senior astro 5.30pm-6.30pm <https://www.stocktonhockeyclub.co.uk/teams/team/11741808>

**Stokesley Girls Hockey** — This takes place on Wednesdays 5.30pm-6.30pm on the Yarm Sc senior astro 5.30pm-6.30pm <https://www.stokesleyhockeyclub.com/>

**Norton Hockey Club**— Junior training starts again on Sunday 24th Sept at Norton astro. 10.30am-12pm. <https://www.nortonhockeyclub.co.uk/>

### **Tennis and Squash**

**Yarm Squash Club and Yarm Tennis Club**— <https://yarmsquashclub.co.uk/>, <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/yarmtennisclub>

### **Netball**

[The link here](#) gives you clubs in the North East, contacts, training venues and exact timings for each age group.

**Grangetown** coach Michelle runs a U8/9 training session for Yarm pupils on Thursdays 3.55pm-4.55pm at school, as well as a host of age group teams. For further info email: [grangetownnc@hotmail.com](mailto:grangetownnc@hotmail.com)

**Headlanders Netball Club** in Darlington where Mrs Jolly coaches. Contact [dheadlanders@outlook.com](mailto:dheadlanders@outlook.com) for further details re. Wednesday night training. [https://www.facebook.com/DarlingtonHeadlanders/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/DarlingtonHeadlanders/?locale=en_GB)

### **Rugby**

**Stockton Rugby Club** who train at Stockton CC - <https://stocktonrugby.co.uk/minis/under-11/>

**Yarm Rugby Club** - <https://yarm.rfu.club/teams>

**Darlington Mowden RFC** - <https://www.mowdenpark.com/>

**Darlington RFC** - <https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/darlingtonrfc/>

### **Cricket**

**Yarm Cricket Club**— <https://yarmcc.play-cricket.com/home>

**Stockton Cricket Club**— [www.stocktoncricketclub.co.uk](http://www.stocktoncricketclub.co.uk)

**Norton Cricket Club**— <https://norton.play-cricket.com/Teams>

# Christmas at the Prep School

By way of reminders, we are reprinting our Christmas letter—which was sent out last week—in the pages of the Flier in the run up to the festive season. **Anything vital or important will be written in red!**

## Festival of Carols - TICKETS

This year the Preparatory School **Festival of Carols will be held on Wednesday 4th December at 5.30pm** in the Princess Alexandra Auditorium. We are delighted that the Reverend Darren Moore will be joining us for the special event in our calendar and we hope that many of you will also be able to attend. Please note, this is a compulsory event for the pupils.

**Tickets are now not available as the deadline has passed. If you have any queries, please contact Mr Stone.**

The last weeks of term look like this:

### Saturday 23rd November

YPSSC's annual **Christmas Ball** on from 7pm - midnight. Tickets can be [purchased via Classlist](#).

### Monday 25th November

**Our Christmas Mission to support the CAUSE Foundation begins at school.** Representatives from the charity will be coming in for assembly to help launch the mission. We are asking for support for the most vulnerable in our area by collecting items for hampers, which will be organised on a class-by-class basis, with each pupil being asked to bring in a particular item. **Collection points will be located in each form room, and are open until Thursday 5th December. Further details have been shared via pupil planners, including the item wanted.** Thank you for your support.

Last **Year 3 swimming session** of the term.

### Wednesday 27th November

Last **Wednesday after school clubs** of the term today.

**After School Care for December must be booked by 9am today. [You can do this by clicking on this form.](#)**

### Friday 29th November

You may notice our staff are proudly supporting Movember, raising awareness and funds for men's health – please cheer us on as the facial hair grows! **We will culminate our Movember efforts with a whole school crazy hair day on Friday 29th November. Your child is welcome to come to school sporting a fake moustache, wearing a wig or by styling their hair in a crazy way. The cost for this will be £1 to be paid on the day.** In the meantime if you would like to sponsor our efforts please go to our team page <https://movember.com/t/yarm-prep-school?mc=1>.

### Monday 2nd December

**Reports** will be released to parents at 4pm via the [parent portal](#). Details to follow.

The **Christmas Post Box** will be opened. It will be placed outside Mr Stone's office. Please may we ask the children to write full names and forms on envelopes to avoid any confusion.

Last **Monday carousel** activities sessions of the term.

The **Spring Term activities booking form** will be open for your children to select their activities.

**All clubs and activities finish this week.**

### Wednesday 4th December

**All children** in Years 3 – 6 will stay behind after school for tea and preparation for our Carol Service.

All the children will remain at school on Tuesday for a light tea and will then be walked down to the Auditorium by the teaching staff. Doors will open from 4.40pm for guests. After the service, the children should be collected from the Senior School Sports Hall, where all families are welcome to join us for festive refreshments.

Pupils will not need to bring their bags home that evening and will collect their coats and blazers from the Senior School changing rooms after the event.

Please be aware that parking is limited at the Senior School and once the car park is full no further cars will be allowed to access the site, so do use the Prep School car park as well.

**5.30pm – Prep School Carol Service in the Princess Alexandra Auditorium.**

#### **Thursday 5th December**

**Deadline for goods to be brought in for our Christmas Mission to support the CAUSE Foundation to be brought in.** We would be grateful for it to be sent in without any wrapping paper and in a 'bag for life' where possible please.

#### **Friday 6th December**

**Mrs Dunkley's dance groups** will be performing in assembly. Parents of those performing are welcome to attend between 9.45 -10.10am in the Prep Hall.

The **Spring Term activities booking form will close at 9am** in the morning.

**All clubs and activities will be finished by today. There are no clubs and activities running on any day the following week.**

#### **Monday 9th December**

We will be beginning our annual '**Carols on the Gate**' during morning drop-offs from today. Please come along and join in! We will be collecting for *The Mustard Seed Project*.

**Prep School Library Books** - Please can **all** Prep library books be returned today unless agreed with your child's form teacher.

**2pm – Some choristers** will be singing carols to the residents of Middleton Hall Retirement Village. Children will be back at school for 3.45pm collection.

**PLEASE NOTE: Nursery finishes at 3pm; Reception-Y2 at 3.30pm; Prep as usual at 3.45pm this week. After school care is available.**

#### **Tuesday 10th December**

**2.30pm – Year 3 Christmas Show in the Prep Hall.** All Year 3 families are invited to attend either this performance or the 5.30pm show. The performance should finish by 3.15pm. Once finished, refreshments will be available.

**[To book your tickets for this event please go to this form.](#)**

**Year 3 children** will all stay behind after school for tea and preparation for their Christmas Show.

**5.30pm – Year 3 Christmas Show in the Prep Hall.** All Year 3 families are invited to attend either this of the 2.30pm performance. This performance should finish by 6.15pm. Once finished, refreshments will be available.

**[To book your tickets for this event please go to this form.](#)**

**PLEASE NOTE: Nursery finishes at 3pm; Reception-Y2 at 3.30pm; Prep as usual at 3.45pm this week. After school care is available.**

#### **Wednesday 11th December**

**House General Knowledge Quiz** will take place during the morning.

**2pm – Some choristers** will be singing carols to the residents of Park House Care Home, Stockton. Children will be back at school for 3.45pm collection.

Please send **any lost property** into school that does not belong to your child today.

**PLEASE NOTE: Nursery finishes at 3pm; Reception-Y2 at 3.30pm; Prep as usual at 3.45pm this week. After school care is available.**

#### **Thursday 12th December**

**Lost Property assembly** will take place today, so please have one last look in rooms, bags, wash baskets, etc for any items that do not belong to your child! We endeavour to return as much as possible to the rightful owners.

**PLEASE NOTE: Nursery finishes at 3pm; Reception-Y2 at 3.30pm; Prep as usual at 3.45pm this week. After school care is available.**

**Friday 13th December**

**All school bags and kit bags to go home today please.**

**Christmas Jumper Day**, in aid of Save the Children. Children to bring in £1 to wear a Christmas jumper of their choice.

During the school day, the children will enjoy their own carol service at Yarm Church.

**Mental Elf Run for Stockton and Middlesbrough MIND.** Elf ears are included. [We welcome donations via a Just Giving page which can be found here.](#)

School Christmas lunch!

At the end of term, we shall ensure that your child's locker is cleared of Christmas cards and that any coats, hats, gloves and scarves also find their way home to you.

**PLEASE NOTE: Nursery finishes at 3pm; Reception-Y2 at 3.30pm; Prep as usual at 3.45pm this week.**

Please ensure you have arranged for your child to be collected from school at 3.45pm. **There is no after school care on the last day of term.**

**Monday 16th - Friday 20th December**

**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SCHOOL.** If you would like your child to attend, please complete the form which will be emailed to you by Mr Simpson. This is always a much enjoyed and busy Holiday School and staffing and outings need to be arranged well in advance.

Mr Stone

**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

**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

**December After School Care**

**After School Care** for December must be booked by 9am on Wednesday 27th November. [You can do this by clicking on this form.](#)

Mr Stone

**Join Us in Supporting Movember!**

This November, you may have noticed some extra facial hair on our staff as we proudly support Movember, raising awareness and funds for men's health issues, including prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and mental health.

We are excited to be part of this important cause, and we need your help cheering us on as the moustaches grow!

To celebrate the end of Movember, we'll be holding a whole school **Crazy Hair Day** on **Friday 29th November.**

We invite your child to join in the fun by coming to school with a fake moustache, wearing a wig, or styling their hair in a crazy way! To take part, we kindly ask for a donation of £1 to be paid on the day.

But that's not all! At the final assembly, a lucky pupil will have the unique opportunity to shave off Mr. Sawyer's moustache! Don't miss out on this exciting chance and our push to support men's health.

If you'd like to sponsor our efforts further, please visit our team page: [Yarm Prep School Movember.](#)

Thank you for your support – together, we can make a difference!

Mr Simpson



**YPSSC**  
**PreLoved Uniform**

Nursery, Pre Prep, Prep & Senior Uniform

PE and Games

See Listings on [Classlist](#) or  
 Email Us  
[YPSSC@Yarmschool.org](mailto:YPSSC@Yarmschool.org)

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

Thank you!!

**Coming Up at the PAA**

**Snow White Panto**

**12th December - 24th December, Various Times**  
**Limited tickets for many shows**



Join Tom Rolfe Productions for their fairest pantomime, Snow White. Bursting with dazzling costumes, hilarious comedy, sensational singing, beautiful scenery an the coolest Magnificent Seven ever!

**The Craziest Showman**

**Saturday 22nd February, 2pm**

In the latest high energy adventure, "The superstars of slapstick", CBBC's favourite and brightest comedy Stars Danny & Mick bring their particular brand of lunacy to the show, causing chaos



on stage and bringing screams of laughter from the whole family.

With a full supporting cast of international circus acts, dancers and singers, "The Craziest Showman' is like no other touring family adventure.

**An Audience with a Cricketing Legend, Sir Alastair**

**Cook**

**Monday 24th**  
**February, 7.45pm**



Hosted by Ex England cricketer and England cricket selector Geoff Miller. England's second highest test run scorer of all time Alastair played in 161 test matches scoring 12,472 runs. Alastair scored a century on his test debut made 175 catches and captained England in one of their most successful periods of English cricket becoming the number one ranked test cricket team in the world.

**YPSSC Winter Ball**

The   **Enchanted Forest**   **online**



**Auction is now live and open for online bids at**

<https://app.galabid.com/enchantedforest>

Whether you are a football or cricket fan, or are looking for a Christmas present; or maybe a family getaway...we have covered all areas. Come have a peak!

This auction is open to our whole community - you can place a bid online whether you'll be at the Ball or not; or you are a parent or not! And winning bids will of course help to support our charity, Homestart Teesside .

This online auction will close at 10pm on Saturday Nov 23rd so please take the time now to have a browse, register and bid!

 **Good luck!** 

**\*YPSSC Winter Ball RAFFLE\***

Thank you to everyone who has supported our raffle and donated prizes including afternoon teas, hair and beauty vouchers, champagne, artwork, tickets ....and more!

To be in a chance of winning these items please use the below link to purchase raffle tickets, and the best thing is, you don't even need to be attending the ball (although we highly encourage you to do so!) All tickets will be assigned to your name and your child's class so we can bring you your winnings!

## Tooled Up Education

“The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity.” These words by the American writer Dorothy Parker perfectly describe our belief in the importance of inspiring children with curiosity and a spirit of inquiry.

Peter Worley is the CEO of the Philosophy Foundation, a charity dedicated to promoting philosophy to young people. In this fascinating [podcast](#), he describes how we can introduce philosophy at home, and the benefits it can have.

Peter also gave us these [top tips](#) for unlocking children’s thinking, from phrasing questions the right way to embracing silence and using visual cues.

The world of philosophy offers plenty of insight into how to become an effective learner. The key idea to embrace here is “aporia” – a feeling of confusion or perplexity over a problem that seems to be unsolvable. We might instinctively think that such a feeling hinders learning, but philosophers recognise aporia as fertile ground for new ideas and discoveries. Find out more in this [article](#) on what philosophy tells us about learning.

The children’s philosophy charity SAPERE joined Tooled Up for this interactive [webinar](#) with trainer Emma Leeson, demonstrating what it’s like to philosophise and introduce the ethos of Philosophy For Children. This session is packed with ideas you can use at home to inspire your own young philosophers.

You might also enjoy this short [video](#) on what it means to be inquisitive, and these [links](#) to Tooled Up resources that help to cultivate children’s curiosity.

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*



Learning Tips From  
Philosophy



Doing Philosophy With  
Children Podcast



Philosophy For Children

**TOOLED UP<sup>®</sup>**  
BECAUSE EVIDENCE MATTERS



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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

### DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

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

### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

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

### DANGER OF GROOMING

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

### BULLYING AND ABUSE

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

### POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

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

### COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

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

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

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

### REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

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

### CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

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

### COMMUNICATION IS KEY

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

### Meet Our Expert

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



Source: See full reference list on guide page at [nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat)



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



# Coming Up

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

## NOVEMBER 2024

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

## DECEMBER 2024

<b>Mon 2</b>	Clubs and activities finish this week No Year 3 swimming today Reports to parents
<b>Tue 3</b>	<b>EYFS Nativity Performance (Prep Hall; 2.230pm)</b> Nursery Information Event for new starters
<b>Wed 4</b>	<b>Prep Carol Service (PAA; 5.30pm)</b>
<b>Thu 5</b>	<b>Pre-Prep Nativity (Prep Hall; 5pm)</b> Deadline for CAUSE Christmas donations
<b>Fri 6</b>	Shawcross Band performing in school <b>Dance assembly (Prep Hall; 9.50am)</b> U11 Rugby v GSAL & QEGS (at GSAL; 2.15pm start, 4.30pm return)
<b>Mon 9</b>	Carols in the Care Home (Middleton Hall)
<b>Tue 10</b>	<b>Year 3 Christmas Play to parents (Prep Hall; 5.30pm)</b>
<b>Wed 11</b>	Carols in the Care Home (Park Rest, Stockton) House General Knowledge Quiz
<b>Thu 12</b>	Lost Property assembly
<b>Fri 13</b>	Carols at Yarm Church End of term assembly Mental Elf Festive Fun Run (for Stockton & Middlesbrough MIND) <b>End of term at 3.45pm</b> <b>No after school care</b>
<b>Mon 16</b>	Christmas Holiday School (until 20th December)

## JANUARY 2025

<b>Mon 6</b>	<b>SPRING TERM BEGINS</b> Pupils return After School Care as normal
<b>Wed 8</b>	Peer Mentor training (5pm finish)
<b>Mon 13</b>	Spring Clubs and Activities begin Sustainability Week

**Tue 14** Curiosity Emporium with Lord Wharton

**Fri 17** Y6 Senior School assessments morning

# 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	Louis S.	Jack A.
3J	Ali A.	Tupell'e M.
3P	Hugo B.	Harman K.
4F	Myla GB.	Lucy D.
4J	Zoyaa S.	Lucy A.
4SU	Austen F.	Faye A.
5G	Emma W.	Andres O.
5S	Ralph E.	Ziad S.
5W	Hugo K.	Ted H.
6H	Olivia T.	Rory F.
6K	Martha L.	Henry Sk.
6L	Holly B.	Wilfie B.

**Head Teacher Award: Year 4—Annabelle L. Year 5—**  
Mana H.