



# The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 794—Friday 6th December 2024

## A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to the penultimate edition of the Phoenix Flier for this Autumn Term! As we approach the much-anticipated Christmas break, our festive celebrations and Christmas productions are now in full swing. It was a true delight to welcome so many members of our school community to the Princess Alexandra Auditorium on Wednesday evening for our Festival of Carols, featuring all pupils from Years 3 to 6. The children performed wonderfully, delivering a beautiful array of readings, carols, and musical pieces that showcased their talents and made the evening truly special for everyone present. The audience was in fine voice too, joining in with enthusiasm throughout the night. A heartfelt thank you goes to Mr Gooding for leading the musical preparations and to Mr Stone and Mrs Pawluk for their invaluable support.

We are also incredibly grateful to everyone who has contributed to our Christmas hamper collection for the Cause Foundation. These donations will be warmly appreciated by families in our local community. Supporting local causes was also a key focus at this year's YPSSC Ball, held the Saturday before last, which raised valuable funds for Home Start Teesside. Hosted in the PAA, the event was a resounding success. A huge thank you to all who attended, purchased raffle tickets, bid for auction lots or donated prizes. The enchanted forest theme transformed the venue into a magical space, and the band kept the dancefloor buzzing all night long. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, and I extend my deepest thanks to every member of the YPSSC, Sodexo, PAA staff and our Estates team, whose hard work ensured the night was truly memorable.

*Bill  
Sawyer*

### Head's Challenge:

I have a neck but no head and I still wear a cap. What am I?

### Photo of the Week:

We had a fantastic few days last week with renowned beatboxer, Danny Ladwa. Find out what we got up to inside.



**Tes Schools Awards 2024**

**Winner**

Independent  
Prep School  
of the Year



# Festival of Carols



[Click here to watch the Festival of Carols again.](#)

# Beatbox Workshops

We had a hugely enjoyable time with Beatbox champion Danny Ladwa last week, who brought his infectious enthusiasm, positivity and teachings to the Prep School. All of the children took part in workshops, learning how to beatbox and producing tracks.

Our thanks to Danny and his team at *School of Beatbox* for coming along, and to Mr and Mrs Howell who sponsored the event.

*Mr Stone*



3B had a wonderful time learning how to beatbox with Danny Ladwa, who was joined by special guest Dylan Howell who is an expert beatboxer.

*Mrs Barton*

A professional beatboxer called Danny, taught us how to beatbox by making our lips move and using our throats. When you are beatboxing you can't stand still you have to move around.

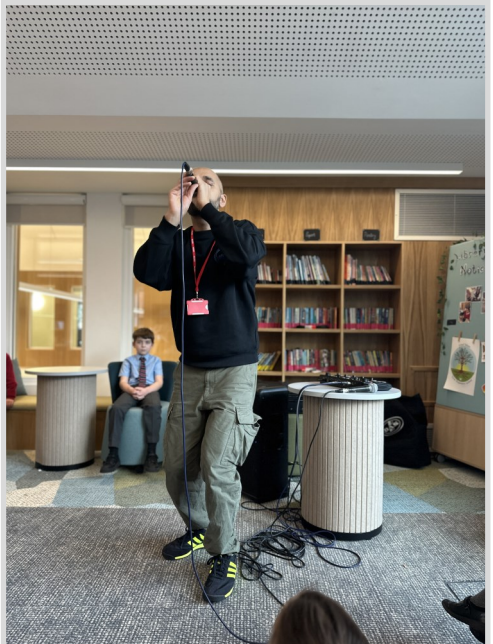
*Matthew M.*

Danny sounds like a real airplane and a helicopter.

*Ava B.*

Danny taught us how to do the 'k' sound.

*Ada A.*



# PE & Games News

## Under 11 Hockey v Red House

We took a good number of Year 6 girls to play 2 hockey fixtures v Red House School last Friday. Despite the cold temperatures the girls enjoyed their run around v our local opponents. Well done to all and further congratulations to Evelyn and Gussy who were named players of the match for the teams.

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney



# Movember—Crazy Hair Day

Thank you to everyone who donated towards our Movember fundraising, as well as all of the children who took part in Friday's Crazy Hair Day. Overall we raised an incredible £1054!

Mr Simpson



# Christmas at the Prep School

## 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.

**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.

**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.**

## 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

## Uniform Reminders

Yarm School prides itself on the happy and harmonious sense of community that exists within the school and in which pupils wear a uniform with pride and a sense of ease because the same overall standards and expectations apply to all pupils and students. It is our belief that upholding a strict uniform policy supports our ethos of respect for all, regardless of background or personal beliefs and promotes cohesion within the school community.

We celebrate the diversity of the school community but also value the fact that by wearing a set school uniform for academic and extracurricular activities, all pupils are encouraged to participate fully and freely from the external pressures that society and culture at large can place on young people with regard to their appearance and image.

We politely request that all parents and pupils are aware of these and follow the uniform requirements set out by the school. This includes the wearing of school quilted winter coats only, correct footwear (smart, black school shoes—not trainer-type shoes) and no jewellery. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Prep Management Team.

Hair should be kept clear of the face, clean and tidy, neatly cut or shaped and of natural colour. Extreme styles, very short hair or streaked hair / obvious highlights or hair products (wax, gel etc.) are not acceptable. Long hair should be tied back with a suitable small fastener, school scrunchie or hair band. Hair bands (school style) may also be appropriate for

shorter hair.

Mr Stone

## Coming Up at the PAA

[Totally Tina—](#)

[Saturday 1st](#)

[March, 7.30pm](#)

Returning to Yarm in 2025, come and shake a tail feather with the UK's supreme Tina – Justine Riddoch – and her talented cast. This breathtaking recreation of a live Tina Turner



concert celebrates the Queen of Rock 'n' Roll's incredible songbook. Justine's got the looks, she's got the moves, she's definitely got those legs, but most of all, she's got THE voice.

Join an army of loyal fans for a truly authentic, fun-packed musical spectacular!

[Ben Fogle - Wild—](#)

[Thursday 6th March,](#)

[7.30pm](#)

Ben Fogle's theatre show WILD brings to life on stage, stories and tales of hope, possibility, and positivity. In this brand-new show full of hope, simplicity, and harmony, WILD is a hair-raising, uplifting and wildly entertaining show that tells the extraordinary true stories of Ben's amazing encounters with people and animals, and how they changed his life... and the discovery of helping you find your Ocean of Possibility.



[Janis Joplin the](#)

[Musical—Live](#)

[Stream—](#)

[Thursday 13th](#)

[March, 7pm and](#)

[Sunday 16th](#)

[March, 2pm](#)



This multi award-winning show captured recently at the Sadler's Wells Peacock Theatre is an extraordinary musical journey paying homage to Janis Joplin and her biggest musical influences. Like a comet that burns far too brightly to last, Janis Joplin exploded onto the music scene in 1967 and, almost overnight, became the queen of rock & roll.

## LNER Competition

In February, we will be running a steam-themed STEAM week to tie into the bicentenary celebrations of the Stockton-Darlington railway. As a preamble to this, children are invited to enter a competition run by LNER to design the train company uniform of the future. [For information about how to enter please click here.](#) Entries must be submitted to LNER by midnight on Friday 13th December.



We would be also grateful to hear from anyone who has connections with railway-based industries. If you can help, [please contact Mrs Smith.](#)

Mrs Smith

## Spanish Activity

Spanish activity made churros last week with a little help from Pippa in the kitchen! The children enjoyed making them—but eating them was even more enjoyable!

Mrs Arrol



## Stephenson Charity Day

Today Paul and Rachel from JPC Community Farm came to accept the money raised from Stephenson House charity event last month. They gave a fascinating presentation about the work they do and brought some interesting animal friends for the children to become acquainted with!

Mrs Arrol



## 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!!

## Tooled Up Education

This is a key week for disability awareness across the globe, with the UN's International Day of Persons with Disability on December 3rd, and UK Disability History Month running until mid-December.

At Tooled Up we have a whole host of resources on disability, just a few of which are highlighted in this email.

Self advocacy is an important skill to encourage in young people with disabilities. In this [webinar](#), educational psychologist Miranda Eodanable, discusses self-advocacy when it comes to empowering young people living with a disability, from childhood into adulthood. She also shares research into how identity is formed in relation to disability.

In this [webinar](#) on talking to children about cerebral palsy, you can see a sensitive and meaningful conversation in action, which you can use as a model for your own dialogues at home.

If you have a **younger disabled child** or family member, this [book list](#) featuring characters with "diffabilities" includes titles which celebrate inclusion and help to normalise talking about difference.

We spoke to adventurer Darren Edwards in this inspiring [webinar](#) about his astonishing battle with his own physical challenges. Darren was paralysed from the waist down in a climbing accident in 2016, but has pursued his love of extreme travel and adventure ever since.

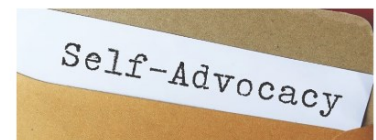
Whatever the age or disability, it's important to keep our children active. We chose our list of [100 Sports for Children and Teens](#) to be as inclusive as possible. From badminton to wheelchair rugby, there's a sport that everyone can try!

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: YPS1103 and if you need assistance, we are always happy to help. If you already have an account and you have forgotten your password, then simply click on any of the resource links above, click "Lost your password" and follow the instructions.

*Dr Kathy Weston*



Developing Self-Advocacy



100 Sports For Children And Teens

**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](http://nationalcollege.com).

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators CREATING FAMILY RULES FOR USING DEVICES

A set of family rules agreed on with children can promote the safe, responsible use of devices like tablets, smartphones, gaming consoles and computers. By developing rules around technology, it opens the conversation regarding boundaries and expectations, ensuring a healthy balance of screentime. This guide will help you to develop an age-appropriate family agreement to suit your household.

## 1 WORK TOGETHER

Collaborating with children when setting rules around the use of technology is a valuable task that can encourage them to take more ownership. It's important to make rules which reflect your family and are age appropriate. Think about what you all enjoy doing online and what apps, games or devices children use most frequently.

## 2 AGREE TIME LIMITS AND SUITABLE TIMES

Be realistic when setting screen time limits. These can vary depending on the child's age, whether it's a weekday or weekend, and what they're actually doing online. If they're conducting research for homework, that might require more time than if they were playing games. Consider when screen time begins: does it come after chores and homework? Agree times when technology and phones must be put away.

## 3 ENCOURAGE HONESTY

Family rules ensure that everyone can have fun with their devices and be safe while doing so. Nonetheless, children may make mistakes as they learn to navigate the online world. Emphasise that if they ever feel worried, unsafe or upset about something they've done, sent, said or received, they should tell you immediately so you can help them resolve the problem.

## 4 CHARGING AND OVERNIGHT STORAGE

To ensure children get the downtime they need overnight, it's important that devices – especially smartphones – are kept in a common space, where possible. This reduces the chance of pointless late-night scrolling or sleep being disturbed by calls, messages or notifications. There are charging boxes you can purchase, or all gadgets could be charged in the kitchen overnight to avoid distractions.

## 5 REVIEW RULES REGULARLY

Anything you agree on isn't set in stone. These rules will likely alter as children get older and the way they use technology changes. Take time to review these as a family; discuss what's working, and what isn't. Communication is key – so by doing this, you involve the child in their own online safety while promoting an open dialogue.

## 6 PROTECT PERSONAL INFO

Discuss and demonstrate the importance of protecting your personal information. Talk about what details you share online and who with. Use parental controls to block children from connecting with strangers, so that any information they do share is among their real friends. Ask a child's permission before posting any photos of them on social media, as this demonstrates positive online behaviour that they should learn and remember.

## 7 BE RESPECTFUL

Highlight the importance of showing respect to others when using technology. Encourage children to speak kindly to others online – such as on social media, when playing multiplayer games or in group chats (which can often lend themselves to teasing behaviour). Explain that if they aren't treating others considerately, they might be made to stay away from their devices for a while.

## 8 "NO TECH" ZONES

Designating spaces in the house where technology isn't allowed (for example: bedrooms, bathrooms and at the dinner table) lets you keep an eye on what children are viewing and who they're communicating with. It gives you some quality, screen-free time with them, too. It also helps reduce any impulses to potentially engage with inappropriate content, as they're unlikely to do so in a common space within the home.

## 9 AGREE ON CONSEQUENCES

As a family, discuss why the rules are important: to balance their screentime, to ensure everyone enjoys gaming or interacting online, and that they are safe when doing so. Therefore, if these rules are broken, there has to be a consequence. Discuss what would be fair for certain breaches of the rules, as this can prevent a disproportionate response in the future.

## 10 KNOW ALL PASSWORDS

To protect children from inappropriate content, parents should have access to all passwords. Parents should also make it clear that they will check children's devices, should they have any concerns about their use. Emphasise that this isn't due to a lack of trust but is an extra way of keeping them safe.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: [nationalcollege.com/guides/tips-for-creating-family-rules-for-using-devices](http://nationalcollege.com/guides/tips-for-creating-family-rules-for-using-devices)



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# Coming Up

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

## DECEMBER 2024

- Mon 9** Carols in the Care Home (Middleton Hall)
- Tue 10** **Year 3 Christmas Play to parents (Prep Hall; 5.30pm)**
- Wed 11** Carols in the Care Home (Park Rest, Stockton)  
House General Knowledge Quiz
- Thu 12** Lost Property assembly
- Fri 13** Carols at Yarm Church  
End of term assembly  
Mental Elf Festive Fun Run (for Stockton & Middlesbrough MIND)  
**End of term at 3.45pm**  
**No after school care**
- Mon 16** Christmas Holiday School (until 20th December)

## JANUARY 2025

- Mon 6** **SPRING TERM BEGINS**  
Pupils return  
After School Care as normal
- Wed 8** Peer Mentor training (5pm finish)
- Mon 13** Spring Clubs and Activities begin  
Sustainability Week
- Tue 14** Curiosity Emporium with Lord Wharton
- Fri 17** Y6 Senior School assessments morning
- Sat 18** Open Morning (9am-12noon)
- Mon 20** House Chess begins
- Tue 21** Primary Schools Singing Day (PAA)
- Wed 22** School Council
- Thu 23** U9 Football v Durham (home; 2pm start)
- Fri 24** IAPS Netball  
(at Woodhouse Grove; 1pm start, 5pm return)
- Mon 27** Year 6 Drama Week begins
- Tue 28** U8 Netball Workshop with Cundall Manor  
(away; 1.45pm start, 3.45pm return)
- Wed 29** Chinese New Year celebrations  
Wear item of red—£1 donation to St Teresa's Hospice  
House Chess—Matchday 3
- Fri 31** Year 6 Drama Week Performance (4.15pm)  
U10 Netball v Queen Mary's (home, 2pm start)  
U10 Football v Durham (home; 2pm start)

## FEBRUARY 2025

- Mon 3** Activities Carousel 3 begins (for Y4-6)
- Tue 4** National Schools Quiz Championships  
Opening round; online; 10am-11am)
- Wed 5** Prep Duologues launched

- Thu 6** U9 Netball v Durham School  
(away; 2pm start, 4.15pm return)  
U9 Football Festival at NSB  
(away; 1.30pm start, 4.30pm return)
- Fri 7** U10/11 Netball v Pocklington (home; 2pm start)  
U10/11 Hockey v Pocklington  
(away; 2pm start, 4.45pm return)

# Term Dates

## 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	Matthew M.	Dora M.
3J	Jemima T.	Zuri R.
3P	Azaan S.	Jamie F.
4F	Buddy T.	Joshua A.
4J	Felicity T.	India B.
4SU	Felicity T.	Joshua A.
5G	Hattie P.	Amelie T.
5S	Ziad S.	Freddie B.
5W	Harriet A.	Wilbur M-S.
6H	Rosa W.	Fathe C.
6K	Elliott E.	Sophia B.
6L	Jack M.	Stan D.