



The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 796—Friday 10th January 2025

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to the first Phoenix Flier of the Spring Term and Happy New Year! It has been wonderful to see the pupils return this week, filling the school with energy and life once again. Despite the frosty conditions outside, the enthusiasm for learning has remained as vibrant as ever across the pupil body. New topics are underway, fresh goals have been set, and we are all back into the familiar rhythm of school life. The start of this term has been a perfect opportunity to focus on personal growth and the power of community, with our first assemblies highlighting the importance of the people around us in helping us to develop and flourish.

In our assemblies, we explored the inspiring journey of Luke 'The Nuke' Littler, a young darts sensation, and how the people around him have played a key role in his success. His story illustrates how positive and supportive relationships can motivate you, helping you to push through challenges and achieve your goals. We also emphasised the importance of showing respect to those we support, encouraging everyone to be mindful of how they help others to shine. This theme resonates throughout the school, reminding us that, whether in learning or in life, we can play a role in helping others to grow, stay motivated, and ultimately, succeed.



Tes Schools Awards 2024

Winner

Independent
Prep School
of the Year



Head's Challenge: Journey without it and you will never prevail, but if you have too much of it you will surely fail. What am I?

*Bill
Sawyer*

Photo of the Week:

Another brilliant fundraising effort by the Prep children just before Christmas, with £786 raised for Teesside Mind following our annual Reindeer Run!



Reindeer Run for Teesside MIND

Well done to everybody who took part in our festive Reindeer Run on the last day of the Autumn Term. Spurred on by the motivational powers of the 'Mental Elf', the children raised a superb £786 for Teesside Mind!

Mr Stone



Year 3 Science

This week, 3P have been exploring shadows and light in science. We were investigating how the angle, location and distance of a light source can change a shadow.

Mr Pengilly



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/>

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/.

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

PreLoved Uniform

Nursery, Pre Prep, Prep & Senior Uniform

PE and Games

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

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

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

Holiday Club Dates

Easter 2025: - 7th—11th April 2025

Summer 2025: - 14th July—1st August 2025

*Please contact Mr Simpson
(holidayschool@yarmschool.org) should you require
any further information regarding our Holiday Schools.*

Coming Up at the PAA

[Reflections - Bella Gaffney \(Live in person in the Friarage Theatre\)](#)

Saturday 1st February

Bella Gaffney's show, 'Reflections,' offers a captivating blend of original compositions and traditional tunes that delve into both British folk and Americana, all viewed through the lens of the troubadour lifestyle.



[Magic of Motown](#)

Saturday 15th February

Seen by over a million people, now in its 18th year touring the UK. It's no surprise that this show is one of the



biggest success stories in British theatre history.

Come and join us for 2025 as we reach out and show you there ain't no mountain high enough with the biggest Motown party of the year. Get ready for all the hits, glittering costumes, dazzling dance routines and outstanding musicianship in this breath-taking live concert spectacular.

Showstopper - The Improvised Musical

Wednesday 9th April. 7.30pm

With fifteen years as an Edinburgh Fringe must-see phenomenon, a BBC Radio 4 series, a critically acclaimed West End run and an



Olivier Award to their name, The Showstoppers have delighted audiences across the globe with their ingenious blend of comedy, musical theatre and spontaneity.

A brand new musical comedy is created from scratch at each performance of this award-winning show as audience suggestions are transformed on the spot into all-singing, all dancing productions with hilarious results.

Clubs and Activities

Our Spring clubs and activities programme commences on Monday 13th January. [Please do check back in the booklet](#) for specific details/requirements of any clubs your child is

participating in.

We also have some spaces in the following after school clubs:

TUESDAY: Year 3 Silver Stories, Years 3-4 Biography Club, Years 4-6 Music Theory, Years 5-6 Winter Cricket Training

WEDNESDAY: All Years Philosophy, Years 4-6 Chess for Fun

THURSDAY: Years 3-4 Netball, Years 5-6 Drama*

FRIDAY: Years 3-4 Street Dance*

Clubs marked with an * incur a cost to parents.

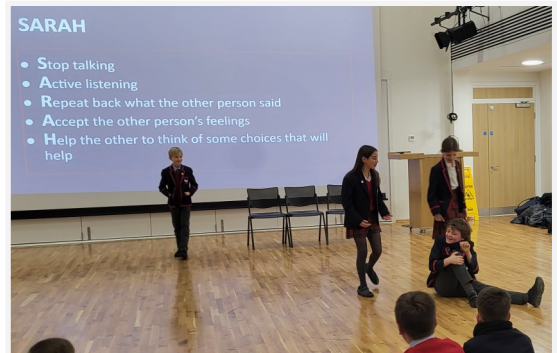
If your child is interested in joining any of these clubs, [please email me](#).

Mr Stone

Peer Mentors

Our Year 6 Peer Mentors took part in their latest training session this week. We explored how things are going so far with their various roles and duties, before talking about listening skills and how to support a child who comes to them for help. We finished off by dramatizing some scenarios that peer mentors from the past have dealt with.

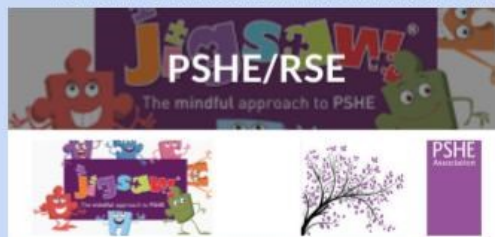
Mr Stone



<https://bit.ly/yarmcurriculum>

Click here to access the latest

Parent Curriculum Information Site



Recent updates include a new PSHE/RSE page and the spring term Prep Homework Menus

Tooled Up Education

Happy New Year to our Tooled Up Parents and Carers!

Tooled Up Education warmly invites you to register for their upcoming January 2025 webinars:

Everything Parents Need to Know about Roblox

January 27, 2025, 10:00-11:00

[Click here to register.](#)

Former Detective Chief Inspector Lucy Howard, dives into the in-depth world of 'Roblox'; a popular online gaming platform. Lucy will be addressing all your questions about what Roblox is, all its different features, potential risks, and how to protect your child.



Tooled Up Education & Parenting Matters Present: Parental Engagement in Learning—Small Things, Big Impact

January 30, 2025, 19:30-20:30

[Click here to register.](#)

Did you know how powerful parents are when it comes to supporting children's learning? In this webinar, Dr Kathy Weston and Professor Stephen Scott, two leading experts in parenting and parental engagement, talk about the small things we can do at home to bolster children's academic development and confidence. During the talk, Professor Scott will also be sharing some exciting data relating to reading as a lever for attainment.

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

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

A quick reminder :

As a parent at a Tooled Up school, you have full unlimited access to the Tooled Up library. If you have not created your account yet, click [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

TOOLED UP[®]
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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Currently, children are growing up in an immediate and throwaway culture when it comes to content that's consumed online. So much material is now deliberately created to be shorter in nature – and may often contain hidden elements such as advertising, or extreme political and cultural views. With complex algorithms built to keep people on their phones and engaging with social media content, it's becoming increasingly difficult to reduce time spent on these platforms.

1 REDUCE DOOMSCROLLING

It's concerning how common for young people to spend hours 'doomscrolling': trawling through social media and aimlessly viewing every post they see, many of which might make them feel sad or anxious. Social media can be useful for keeping in touch with friends and family, as well as staying up to date on current events. However, it's important to use it with a clear purpose, instead of endlessly scrolling through content, which could lead to young people accidentally discovering harmful material.

2 TALK ABOUT THE CONTENT

It's important to keep apprised of the kind of content that a young person is being exposed to. Discussing what they're watching online can help you understand why they're using social media in the first place. Furthermore, ensure that children are aware of hidden content, such as advertising of a product – and that they know how to spot that the creator is being paid to talk about it.

3 FIND POSITIVE ASPECTS

Despite all the concerns, there's plenty of wholesome content on social media. It's worth spending time with children to help them find something suitable and enjoyable. Perhaps you'll even discover a joint interest, and you can enjoy the content alongside the child. As part of this, you should also point out why certain things shouldn't be given attention, explaining why it isn't suitable and why it's been created in the first place.

4 REDUCE SCREENTIME

Young people can sometimes be unaware of the exact amount of time they spend looking at social media. Smart phones don't just have the capacity to monitor screentime; they also record how much time is spent on each app. Consider setting targets to reduce this and support children to meet these goals, gradually reducing the amount of time spent on different apps.

5 FILL THE VOID

Monitoring and reducing screentime can create a lot of free time to fill, and young people can even face withdrawal symptoms when made to step away from their phones. To mitigate this, consider what offline activities you could introduce the child to, and what they would enjoy. This can ensure that young users will permanently cut down on their screentime, rather than temporarily doing so while they know it's being monitored.

6 REDUCE NOTIFICATIONS

One way in which social media platforms keep people coming back is through notifications. The algorithms behind these apps track people's daily habits, including the times of the day where they're most likely to engage with the platform. This data is then used to deliver specifically timed notifications to draw them back in. To avoid young users being exposed to this tactic, simply turn off notifications for the app in their phone's settings.

7 LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD

Overexposure to social media can distort someone's perception of the real world – from body norms to social conventions. This filtered environment can make it hard for young people to distinguish reality from online content, which is now becoming even more difficult with the rise of AI. To mitigate this concern, take time to teach young people how to discern truth from fiction, both on and off social media.

8 DIGITAL DETOX

Encouraging young people to take a 'digital detox', from even just a couple of the apps that they use, can result in an overall reduction of screentime and less exposure to potentially harmful content. Alternatively, rather than avoiding the app entirely, encourage children to take a 'digital detox' from content creators and influencers, and instead, keep in touch with friends and family – which is generally a far healthier use of these platforms.

9 MODEL GOOD BEHAVIOUR

Consider the habits that you're demonstrating to your children. How much time do you spend on your phone? How much do you 'doomscroll'? Comparing your own usage with the child's could put things into perspective for them – or if it turns out that you're also overusing social media, it can turn screentime reduction into a joint mission, which you and the child can work on together.

10 BE CLEAR ON THE "WHY"

Research shows that young people can become addicted to social media. There are many schools that are moving towards being 'phone free' due to the negative impacts of using social media and phones continuously. It's important to explain to young people why managing screentime is important. Set out the benefits and ensure they have all the relevant information, so it's not just seen as a punishment.

Meet Our Expert

John Inley is a senior leader in a Birmingham secondary school and has vast experience in leading schools over the past 15 years – including the development of computing curriculums across primary and secondary schools, writing e-safety policies and supporting schools with computing and e-safety advice.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/top-tips-for-safety-on-social-media>



Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 18.12.2024

Coming Up

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

JANUARY 2025

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) First Lego League (Sunderland; times TBC)
Mon 10	Internet Safety Week Internet Safety Workshop (Partnerships event; 10am-2.30pm) Y3 Stephenson/Telford swimming starts YPSSC meeting (Library; 6pm)
Tue 11	Dentistry assemblies Y3 Silver Stories trip to Middleton Hall (5pm return)
Wed 12	Internet Safety event for parents (Prep Hall; 4pm)

NEJS Football & Netball

Thu 13	Year 3 trip to Arbeia Roman Fort
Fri 14	STEAM Week launch assembly U11 Girls' County Hockey (details TBC) U10/11 Hockey v Cundall Manor (away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return) Pre-Prep trip to Shildon
Sat 15	UK Chess Challenge—School Round (Prep Hall; 9.45am-2pm)

Term Dates

Spring Term 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

Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3B	Violet T.	Louis S.
3J	Tupell'e M.	Meera S.
3P	Isabelle F.	Rae B.
4F	Kaycee W.	Zane R.
4J	Ned F.	Dulcie B.
4SU	Lily S.	Jayden W.
5G	Henry F.	Annabelle A.
5S	Ralph K.	Bertie H.
5W	Emily W.	Robert W.
6H	Isla R.	Imogen C.
6K	Clara F.	Thomas M.
6L	Zara M.	George S.

Head Teacher Award:

Year 4—Noah S.

Year 6—Jack M. (2), Annalise D.