



The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 799—Friday 31st January 2025

A message from Mr Sawyer

A warm welcome to this edition of the Phoenix Flier, which showcases another week filled with opportunities for all pupils to explore different perspectives and collaborate in various ways. A standout moment was our vibrant Chinese New Year celebrations, where Mrs Frost, Mrs Ladhar, and Mrs Gupta Bhalla delivered a colourful and informative assembly about the customs of this significant festival. Their presentation brought the rich heritage of Chinese New Year to life, allowing our pupils to gain a deeper appreciation and understanding of this important celebration. The traditional lunch prepared by the Sodexo team was a delightful addition to the festivities.

Elsewhere in school, pupils have engaged in a variety of teamwork-based activities. From choreographing dance routines during activity lessons and designing challenge corners in PE, to making bread in science, these collaborative experiences are key to fostering communication, empathy, and problem-solving skills. In the wider world, teamwork drives innovation, unites people, and enhances outcomes by drawing on individual strengths. These shared experiences at school are invaluable in helping our pupils grow into purposeful individuals, ready to contribute meaningfully to their learning and, in time, the world around them.

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge: There is something in the forest that cannot be felt. It cannot be heard and cannot be smelt. It lurks beneath boughs and under root. What is it?

Photo of the Week: It's basketball season in PE this term!



Tes Schools Awards 2024

Winner

Independent
Prep School
of the Year



House Chess—Rounds Two and Three

Round Two Report

The second round of our annual House Chess Championship was even tougher than the first.

Brunel survived a late comeback attempt from Telford to win their second consecutive match, by a score of 11-6.

Captain Fathe Chahal led by example, winning two and drawing one of his games. Further points were added by Manha Abdullah, Hugo Kelly, Scarlett Yang, Austin Oman, Agam Vats (the top scorer, with the three wins) and Harrison Vanek. Captain Henry Stanley won one game and drew one for Telford, but despite further points from Rory Fitzgerald, Ben Feighery, Daniel Shavit, Rosie Lowe and Arian Ladhar, it was not enough to stop the Brunel rollercoaster.



Meanwhile, Arkwright got back to their winning ways after their narrow defeat in the first round, with a 7-6 win against Stephenson. Arkwright's points came from captain Paari Muthukrishnan, Jayden Wang, William Garratt, Jamie Frost and Bea Tailby.

Stephenson, who were 0-5 down at one point, made a valiant effort to fight back, but fell just one point short. However, there were great points scored by captain Stan Dugdale, Freddie Bonner, Max Hollingsworth, Edward Williams, Zoeya Altaf and Sandy Omar.

We are all set for Wednesday's finale, in which all four teams still have plenty to play for, whether it is the title, House team pride - or both!

Mr Marsh

****Although Round Three has been played, the final report will be in next week's edition of the Flier.****



Free Chess Webinars with Mr Marsh!

Mr Marsh is delivering a weekly series of FREE chess webinars for children aged 7-13. Places are limited for these worldwide events. Click on the link/image below for further details!

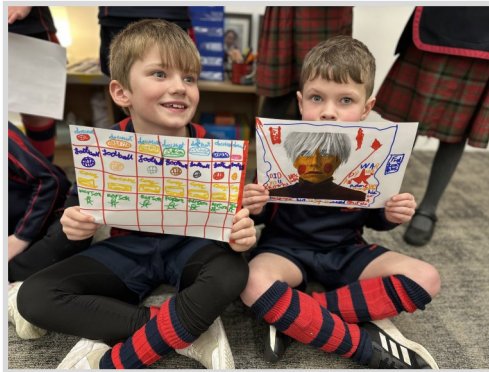


Biography Club

Last week Biography Club learned about the famous artist Andy Warhol. They loved his pop art style and recreated some of his most well known pieces. Some of their favourite facts were:

- ◆ His real name is Andy Warhola but when his work was first printed they missed the 'a' from his second name.
- ◆ He loved taking ordinary items and making them extraordinary.
- ◆ He was very shy but it did not stop him achieving his dreams.

Mrs Barton



Year 6 Bread Making

6H have been making bread as part of a topic on microbes. They were looking at how yeast works in the production of bread.



PE and Games News

Our pupils are working really hard in basketball lessons this term so far. We have concentrated on strong dribbling and shooting. 4SU have been updating our 'challenge corner' today and the other PE classes can have a go next week! Well done Year 4.

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney

Year 3 Netball with Cundall Manor

The year 3 girls kicked off their netball season with a trip to Cundall Manor this week. They took part in a mini game, run the gauntlet, ball work and a possession game alongside the Cundall girls. Once again they represented the School really well and were a pleasure to spend the afternoon with.

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney



Reduce- Reuse- Recycle

New Pre-Loved Uniform Shed!

YPSSC are excited to announce our Pre-Loved Uniform Shed is officially up and running!

We are located near to the entrance for Nursery on the Pre Prep site.



We provide & Collect Pre-Loved Uniform

Summer- Winter – PE – Games – Accessories

Nursery, Pre-Prep, Prep, Senior & Sixth Form

Come and have a browse-The shed will be manned periodically throughout the week by volunteers and enquiries can still be sent by email or **classlist**.

ypssc@yarmschool.org

Ypssc.co.uk

Give the Pre-Loved Uniform Shed a Name!

We are running a competition to give our new uniform shed a name! To enter, use one of the suggestion boxes on Mrs Banham's or Mrs White's desks, or [fill in the Google Form here](#). The best names selected by the committee will go forward to a vote!

Get those thinking caps on!

YPSSC

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

Clubs and Activities

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

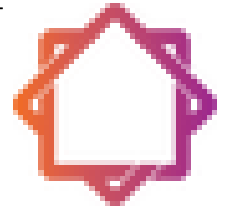
Telford Charity House Event

***** WEDNESDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2025*****

Telford would like to support the [Corner House Youth Project](#) for our local charity nomination. Corner House Youth Project is a leading community organisation supporting children and young people in Stockton-on-Tees. They work to enable children and young people to have opportunities, get involved in their communities, enjoy their lives and achieve their potential. Furthermore, they provide high quality youth services for the area through their own direct youth work and by liaising with and supporting partner organisations working with young people.

The Corner House Youth Project offers open access youth

provision across the borough of Stockton-on-Tees in 4 locations. This means that children and young people can simply turn up to sessions and join in with planned activities for free. Sessions run on a weekly or bi-weekly basis, dependent on funding.



Further information about the charity can be found here:

<https://www.cornerhouseyouthproject.co.uk/>

It is the intention of our house to raise awareness and money for the charity. On **Wednesday 5th February** we will run a charity event with each pupil in Years 3-6 paying £1 to the charity. Form teachers will collect the money during registration. In order to raise awareness children can wear one item of 'funky' clothing with their uniform e.g. bright ties, a pair of odd socks/bright tights, quirky hair accessories (no hair product such as gel or dye please), bright jumpers/T-shirts.

On the day, our Y6 and some Y5 pupils will also run various stalls such as a tombola, "guess the number of sweets in the jar" and various challenges. Therefore, it would be wonderful if your child/children can also bring in small amounts of change e.g. 10p, 20p, 50p and £1 coins (no more than £5) in order to participate in the events. There will be prizes up for grabs!

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact one of us at school.

Mr Harandon

Poetry Activity

Our poets have been busy researching and performing poems they enjoy. Some children even brought in poetry books from home to share with the group.



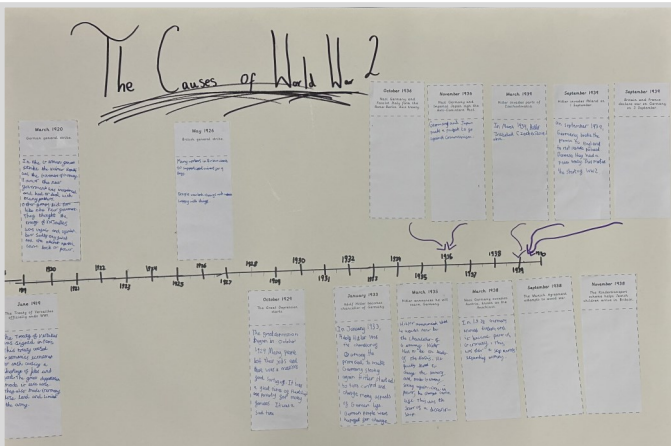
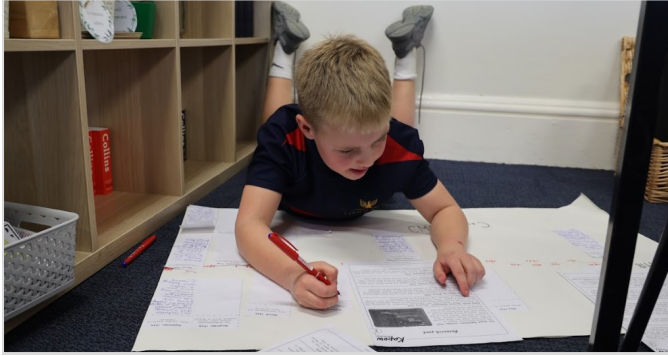
Mrs Hart



Year 5 History

5W worked in groups to create a timeline that showed the events leading up to Britain declaring war on Germany in 1939 as part of our WW2 topic. They had to explain what the different events were and what the significance of that event was.

Mrs Simpson and Miss Whitehouse



Telford House have worked together to create a fun and lively dance routine in their Monday Carousel Slot. We have been impressed with their growth mindsets, hard work and team work! Well done.

[To view Telford's dance routine, click here.](#)

Miss Whitehouse

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.

Internet Safety Event for Parents - 4pm, Wednesday 12th February

You are invited to our internet safety event, aimed at parents to coincide with Safer Internet Day, on Wednesday 12th February. The event will take place in the Prep Hall, commencing at 4pm and finishing around 5pm. The event has been put together by our Digital Leaders and will feature a range of activities for you to enjoy and find out about, including:

- Our Debating club will be participating in a debate entitled, *"This house believes children under 14 should be allowed to have smartphones."*
- Some of our Digital Leaders will be performing short drama sketches that focus on online safety matters.
- Digital Leaders will also be presenting on topics such as age-appropriate apps they use and how to stay safe on them.
- The event will conclude with an online safety 'marketplace', where Digital Leaders (and some parents/staff) will be setting up stalls for you to come along and find out about topics such as: *Pinwheel phones, Kids Lock app, Smartphone Free Childhood, staying safe on Roblox, etc.*

The event is open to all parents and we hope many of you will take this opportunity to come along and find out from the children themselves how they are being proactive in their online environments.

[If you are able to come along, please let us know via this quick and easy form by Monday 10th February.](#)

Mr Stone

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.

Coming Up at the PAA

New just on sale this week: [An Audience with Ricky Tomlinson—Monday 14th April, 7.30pm](#)

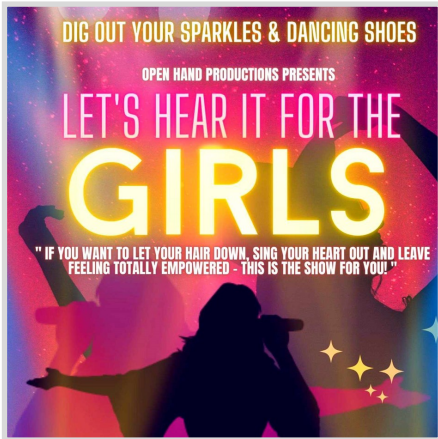
From Brookside to the Royle Family and his iconic role as Mike Bassett, Ricky Tomlinson has been ever-present in scouse living rooms for more than 40 years.



Join us as Ricky Tomlinson, alongside special guest host Asa Murphy, delivers an unmissable audience with style event, filled with stories from his glittering career in show business, plenty of laughs and an audience Q&A.

[Let's Hear it for the Girls—Saturday 10th May, 7.30pm](#)

Dig out your sparkles and dancing shoes, and indulge yourself for over two hours of music with the girls, as we celebrate the music of ABBA, Chaka Khan, Beyoncé, LaBelle, Whitney Houston, Aretha Franklin, Shania Twain, Sister Sledge, The Bangles, Alanis Morissette, Lady Gaga and so much more



[Movie Musicals—Wednesday 18th April, 7.30pm](#)

Get ready for a dazzling celebration of the most iconic movie musicals ever brought to the big screen! This spectacular live performance will take you on a journey through beloved cult classics and modern favourites, featuring show-stopping numbers from Wicked, Dirty Dancing, Moulin Rouge, Mamma Mia, Little Shop of Horrors, Rocky Horror, Hairspray, Chicago, and many more.



Chinese New Year

Our thanks to Mrs Frost, Mrs Ladhar and Mrs Gupta Bhalla for coming into school on Wednesday to help us celebrate Chinese New Year! They gave a colourful and informative assembly about the traditions of this important annual festival.

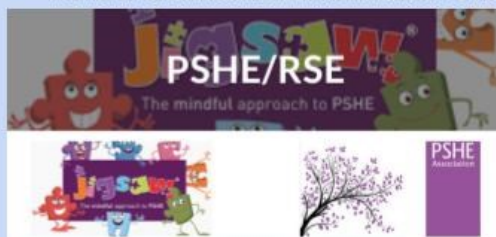
Mrs Jolly



<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

With new schools and families joining Tooled Up all the time, and our online library expanding every week, we always work to ensure that our articles, webinars, tips and activities are as easy to navigate as possible.

The links below show where to find the most useful and popular resources, assembled by topic, to help you get the most out of being a Tooled Up member.

[20 Resources for Parents Raising Boys](#) covers online safety, gaming, body confidence, resilience, sleep and more.

[20 Resources for Parents of Girls](#) includes expert resources on digital life, body changes, self-esteem and wellbeing.

Our Quick Guides provide fast, easy to use information on some of our most popular topics, from anxiety to alcohol use, and exam preparation. There are over 25 guides to choose from signposting and including links to other, relevant resources within the Tooled Up library.

You can browse the full range of Quick Guides [here](#).

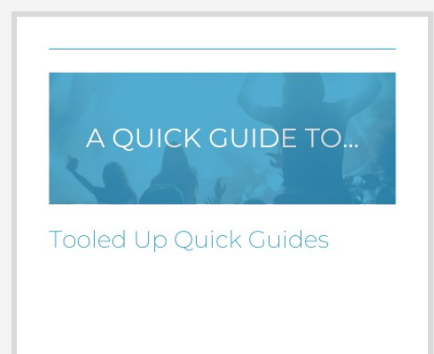
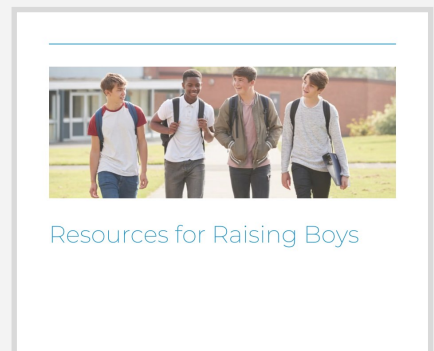
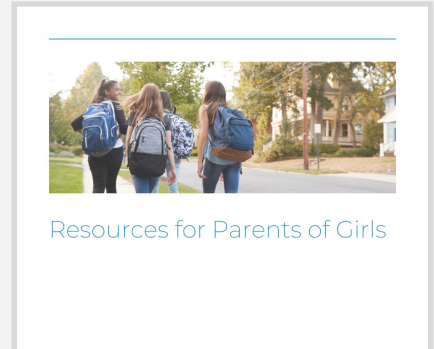
The Tooled Up library is already packed with almost 350 evidence-based resources, including interviews with over 80 leading experts from around the world. But, it's your library and we want to know how else we can help you? What new resources would you like to see? Which ones do you love? What could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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HEALTH & FITNESS APPS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Physical wellbeing apps are useful tools for monitoring and improving our health. They allow us to balance nutrition, set goals, track our activities and sleep patterns, and motivate us to exercise. Nonetheless, there have been some reported drawbacks; this guide outlines some of these concerns and explains how to use fitness apps safely.

LACK OF PERSONALISATION

Many apps take a one-size-fits-all approach, failing to account for the varying ages and abilities of children: a 16-year-old, for example, will have different physical needs to a child of 10. This can create unrealistic expectations and set exercises which may be too advanced for younger children or too simple for older ones.

NOT DEVELOPED BY EXPERTS

Some fitness and wellbeing apps are developed by experts in the field – but a concerning number of them aren't. As such, these platforms may contain inaccurate information. They may present safety concerns by giving incorrect advice regarding physical activities or might include age-inappropriate content which would clearly cause more harm than good.

REDUCED INTERACTION WITH OTHERS

Physical wellbeing apps can remove the social and interactive elements which physical exercise can offer – for instance, meeting people at fitness classes, at the gym or during any other such activities. Research has found that young people generally dislike this aspect of fitness apps, suggesting that they would rather exercise in the company of friends or other like-minded individuals.

DATA AND PRIVACY CONCERNS

Fitness and wellbeing apps tend to collect a lot of personal information from their users, including name, location, date of birth, details of their physical health and more. It's worth keeping in mind that some of these apps may sell this data to third parties. We'd advise that any apps young people download should have the correct legislation in place to protect their safety and privacy while using the service.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

While many fitness apps are free to download, the initial content is quite basic. Users will only receive more helpful content (such as new workouts, nutrition advice or a personalised plan) by signing up to a subscription or paying for extra features. This can incentivise users to spend money on the service – a cost which can quickly mount up.

DEPENDENCY ON THE APP

While physical wellbeing apps can help motivate young users to manage their fitness, there's a possibility that – without being sent frequent rewards and reminders – children could start to lose their natural drive to be active. Young people may also become obsessed with tracking their exercise, health and eating habits: this can have negative effects on their mental and emotional wellbeing.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EXERCISE AND SOCIALISE

Highlight the importance of children enjoying fitness activities with family and friends, rather than always exercising alone. Emphasise the fun they can have by interacting with others rather than solely relying on an app to maintain their regime. Remind them of the importance of staying active, as well as the benefits of doing so with company.

REVIEW THE APP FIRST

Before allowing someone under 18 to install a fitness and wellbeing app, check its age rating, read its reviews and scroll through its data policy, to ensure its suitability for younger users. You could also try it yourself, to see if it's appropriate for the child's particular needs and decide if you're comfortable with them using it. Ensure that any privacy-compromising features – such as location tracking – are disabled.

PROMOTE POSITIVE BODY IMAGE

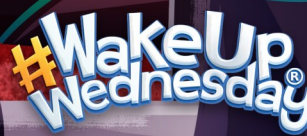
While we want children to be active and healthy, we must also ensure they don't become fixated on how they look and begin take things too far. During childhood and adolescence, the body is still growing and changing. It's vitally important for young people's wellbeing that we promote a positive body image and a healthy relationship with food, empowering them to make informed decisions about their diet and lifestyle.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

As with all apps, it's important for parents to familiarise themselves with any controls on the app and to use these on a child's account. The specific settings vary between platforms but – most commonly – these will relate to screen-time limits, disabling or capping in-app purchases, and managing social aspects or features which aren't age appropriate. By utilising these controls, you can help to ensure a child is getting a safe experience.

Meet Our Expert

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



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/wellbeing-fitness-apps>

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 22.01.2025

Coming Up

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

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)
Mon 17	STEAM WEEK House Coding begins No Y3 Swimming today No activities this week; clubs as normal
Wed 19	Riding and Golf activities/clubs as normal Year 5 London Trip—Zoom for Parents (4pm)
Thu 20	Half-term begins (after school) After School Care as normal
Fri 21	School closed (Staff INSET)

MARCH 2025

Mon 3	Pupils return Rare Diseases Day (bring in £1 to wear jeans)
Tue 4	School Council

	Curiosity Emporium (1pm; Mrs Hercock) House Pancake Races U8 Football Workshop with Durham (away; 2pm start, 4pm return)
Wed 5	Informal Concert (Prep Hall; 4pm)
Thu 6	World Book Day (dressing up day!) U11 Girls' In2Hockey (TBC) World Book Day Reading Café (after school)
Fri 7	Prep Red Nose Disco (Prep Hall; 6-7.30pm)

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 (after Prize Giving)	Thursday, 3rd July 2025

Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3B	Finley H.	Chloe X.
3J	Aria T.	Ali A.
3P	Rae B.	Rupert N.
4F	Faye M.	Genevieve P.
4J	Gowri P.	Violet P.
4SU	Faye A.	Connie B.
5G	Amelie T.	Atticus WT.
5S	Elizabeth H.	Jude C.
5W	Sajan G.	Emily W.
6H	Rosa W.	Olivia T.
6K	Meadow E.	Elliott E.
6L	Ayaana K.	Livvie C.

Head Teacher Award:

Year 3: Jack B.

Year 5: Freddie W. (2), Beatrice T.