



The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 801 — Friday 14th February 2025

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to this week's edition of The Phoenix Flier! It's been an especially exciting time for our Year 6 pupils of late. During Drama Week they truly shone in terms of creativity and collaboration. The process of bringing their Golden Microphone Awards to life—from crafting scripts to staging musical performances—showcased not only their individual talents but also their remarkable ability to work as a team. The energy and joy that filled the room were infectious, and it was heartwarming to see the confidence of each child flourish. It was a fantastic celebration of the arts and the power of creative expression. Congratulations to all involved! On the sports front, our U11 netball team has given us even more to celebrate! They delivered an outstanding performance at the IAPS U11 regional tournament, winning in fine style and earning a well-deserved place in the National Finals. The team's skill and determination were all on full display, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievement. The National Finals, scheduled for late March, will see them competing against the very best IAPS teams in the country. There will be few easy games and everything to play for!

We are eagerly looking forward to next week's STEAM Week, which will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Stockton to Darlington Railway. With the launch assembly this week, pupils will be immersed in a fantastic range of workshops and activities centered around Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Maths from Monday onwards. It's set to be a week of discovery and innovation, and we can't wait to see the excitement it will bring!

Bill Sawyer

Head's

Challenge: Mary's father has five daughters. Their names are: 1. Nana, 2. Nene, 3. Nini, 4. Nono and ?? What is the name of the fifth daughter?

Photo of the

Week: Well done to our Under 11 netball team, who came out on top of the IAPS regional qualifiers last week. They qualify for the National Finals in Dorset, taking place in March.



Tes Schools Awards 2024

Winner

Independent
Prep School
of the Year



IAPS Netball Success!

The girls were very excited as we made our way to Bronte House School last Friday for the IAPS netball regional round, knowing that a place at Nationals was within their grasp. This is a tournament we have not entered since 2020. We knew that we would be facing lots of tough competition not just from the North East, but from teams that had travelled from the North West.

Facing tough competition, the team showcased incredible resilience and tactical play, each girl playing every position on the court. From precise passing to outstanding defensive work, every player contributed to a series of hard-fought victories. Our first and last match were particularly intense, with our girls holding their nerve to secure some fantastic wins against some very skillful netballers. Sealing their well-earned qualification for Nationals, and proving why they deserve a spot among the top twenty teams from independent prep schools in the country.

A huge congratulations to the entire squad for this phenomenal achievement. Their dedication, perseverance, and team spirit has truly paid off. We can't wait to see them represent Yarm Prep on the national stage—bring it on!



Mrs Jolly

I enjoyed going to the IAPS competition because it felt like I was winning something for the school. The best game was against Pownall Hall in the final where we won 6-4. It was intense as we were both good teams and I found it an interesting game to play.

Bella M.

PE & Games News

Under 10/11 Boys' Hockey v Pocklington

Last Friday afternoon, the U10 and U11 Boys made the long journey to Pocklington for their annual hockey fixture. This was the first hockey fixture of the term due to the weather. All of the boys that took part showed great character as the weather was bitter, but the boys showed determination throughout.

The hockey on show, demonstrated that the skills that they have learnt in Games sessions and after school clubs. There were many great goals scored through open play, as well as some great defence and last ditch tackles. This experience will help aid the boys going forward. Well done everyone involved.

Mr Simpson

Netball Round-Up

It has been a very busy few days for the girls with fixtures aplenty. The Year 4 girls started proceedings with their trip to Durham for lots of 5-a-side games. It was great to see how far their netball has come this year! Then, on Friday all girls in Year 5 played in matches v Pocklington School up here on our courts. Players of the matches were Emily W and Harriet A.

The Year 6 girls also played Pocklington using the Paddock courts down at the Senior School. It was great competition with all



involved. Over the 3 matches Yarm secured wins in two of the matches.

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney

Under 8 Boys' Hockey with Teesside High

Teesside High welcomed our Year 3 boys for a hockey workshop. In somewhat cooler temperatures the boys enjoyed making new friends and playing their first fixture of competitive hockey. It was a pleasure to see everyone trying to pass the ball over distance and using the space available. Well done to all involved.

Mr Underwood



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.

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

Headlanders Netball Club in Darlington where Mrs Jolly coaches. Contact dheadlanders@outlook.com for further details re.

Wednesday night training. https://www.facebook.com/DarlingtonHeadlanders/?locale=en_GB

Tennis and Squash

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

Hockey

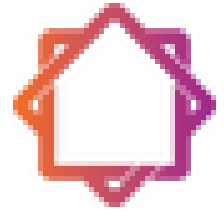
Stockton Hockey Club - Junior training takes place Monday nights on the Yarm Sc senior astro 5.30pm-6.30pm <https://www.stocktonhockeyclub.co.uk/teams/team/11741808>

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/>

Telford House Charity Day

On Wednesday 5th February, our Y5 and Y6 Telford pupils got together in order to raise funds for the Corner House Youth Project. This charity runs youth clubs in the Stockton-on-Tees area to help teenagers develop key skills and to get involved with the local community. They provide high quality youth work and liaise with other services in order to make sure that local teenagers get good opportunities in life.



On the charity day, our Y5 and Y6 Telford pupils ran a range of exciting stalls such as a quiz corner, guess the number of pasta pieces in the jar and a lucky dip to name but a few. The wider school community in Years 3-6 brought in money from home in order to win prizes. In addition, all children contributed £1 in order to wear an item of "funky" clothing such as bright ties and colourful hair accessories. In total, Telford raised £711.75 which is a fantastic amount of money.

I would like to thank those children in Y5 and Y6 (and their parents) for creating the stalls and gathering prizes. I would also like to thank my colleagues in Telford House: Mr Frank, Mrs Hart and Mr Underwood for supervising the children.



If you wish to learn more about the charity or even make a donation, please visit this link: <https://www.cornerhouseyouthproject.co.uk/> We hope to

have a representative visit us in one assembly so that our captains, Bella and Immy, can present a cheque on behalf of Telford House.

Mr Harandon



VEX Robotics Competition

It was a very exhilarating competition and the pressure was on but with teamwork and work we got through it. The skills that you learn there are marvellous since you learn how to persevere as a team. VEX is new thing for me and I have learnt so much from it. I really enjoyed the cookies that Nissan gave us too.

Kaiden G.

I greatly enjoyed this year's Rapid Relay VEX competition because of the skills you learn such as coding, teamwork, communication, strategy and problem-solving. The other thing I liked about VEX is how we learn about the engineering and mechanics, this was probably my favourite thing.

Thomas M.

In the VEX IQ competition there were ups and downs. Our teams all had a few bumps in our plans and things weren't working to plan. However together all of our teams helped each other out even the other schools tried their best to be supportive. It is lovely to see such a positive and safe environment for us to work together in. Our team had a problem and we were not doing as well as we could so together we overcame the problem showing the true spirit of VEX IQ.

Georgie D-B.

I have LOVED VEX this term because this year's competition was a ball picking up and flinging game called "Rapid Relay" there were 3 teams 3859B (Our Team) 3859Y (3 Y6 and 1 Y5) 3859R (Y5 Team). We came 4th out of about 20 schools.

Jack S.

The thing I think was good about VEX was that we were good at teamwork and we had some good practice tries but the things we needed to improve on are the coding and the building of the robot, which were quite hard. The thing that went wrong was that we had put the brain upside down and we had put the cables in the wrong ports.

Harrison G.

I love VEX . Everyone works as a team like passing. People always listen to you. The only problem was the pressure.

Henry S.

I greatly enjoyed the rapid relay overall and I had a great time with my team, Mrs Smith is a great teacher. I feel like I helped a lot with the competition but I also liked talking to the judges and the other competitors. I am not sure what else to write other than I wish we could do it in senior school with Mrs Smith.

Jake S.

I really like VEX.I think it is a good club because it is fun and interactive. It could also help your teamwork skills. I think that if your really stressed about something it is a good way to calm down and take a break.

Felix M.

On the 30th of January, we went to the VEX robotics competition in Sunderland. The competition was very noisy but I did like seeing all of the different teams' robots. One team built a robot that uses conveyor belts to push the ball to the top of the robot and then it slipped into the switch. We moved around quite a lot discussing strategies with other teams. There were a lot of goals shot on an angle and it would have been more accurate if the robot was directly in front of the goal. We could have also done the autonomous coding to score a few more points.

Bryan P.



Lego League Competition

I loved the Lego Competition, my favourite part of it had to be the judging session where we had to explain how we built our robot, how we overcame problems and how would you live underwater / how you would go underwater. I also enjoyed how we had to work together to build the gameboard and robot!

Jack S.

On the 7th of February, we went to the First Lego League competition. On the day, we were all very excited and when we got there we really enjoyed it! The best part of it was when we got to show our presentation. I think the presentation went really well and I was really proud of it. We won a few matches and lost a few. I think it was the best time I ever had and it was very fun.

Hattie P.

When we went to the First Lego League we did not have all our code finished but we overcame the challenge and we did well. The interview was really good fun and the judges thought we were really good and enjoyed the environmental idea for the sea. I think the thing we could have done better is to have used up more of our time so we could get the code done.

Stan D.

I greatly enjoyed the First Lego League this year because of all the skills we used. These skills include teamwork, coding, building, accuracy, sportsmanship and many more. My favourite part of the competition (at Nissan Sunderland) was testing the robot with different codes and contraptions and seeing how they made a difference to the amount of points the robot scored.

Thomas M.



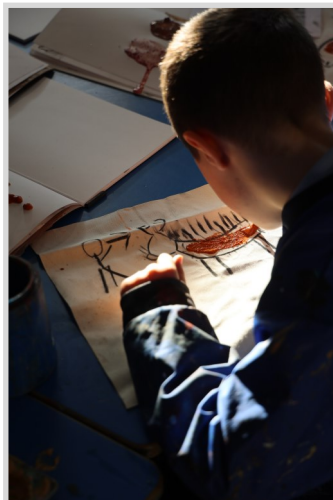
Free Chess Webinars with Mr Marsh!

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!



Year 3 Art

Lots of exciting creativity taking place in our Year 3 art lessons recently!



Yarm Preparatory School

Parent Curriculum Information Site

Welcome to the Yarm Preparatory School Parent Curriculum Information Site.

The aim of the site is to provide you with the key curriculum information for each step of your child's journey through school. Additionally, there are links to resources and guidance for supporting your child at home. Please join us by requesting additional information to your child's form teacher or email our Parent and Site Support. The site will be regularly updated.

info@yarmcschool.org www.yarmcschool.org

Please click the images below to take you to each curriculum page or use the menu tab.

<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

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

Coming Up at the PAA

[Magic of Science - Tuesday 27th May 11am and 3pm](#)

Hang on to your seats and experience a non-stop action packed interactive magical science show with experiments and magic that will capture the imagination. New for 2025!



Join Top Secret as they go on a High Voltage Adventure!!!

[Legend - The music of Bob Marley - Thursday 29th May, 7.30pm](#)



Legend – the music of Bob Marley is an unforgettable evening celebrating this musical icon in one fantastic stage show.

Combining his superb, distinctive vocals with flawless musicianship, a supremely talented cast recreate the timeless

hits Could You Be Loved, Is This Love, One Love, No Woman No Cry, Three Little Birds, Jammin', Buffalo Soldier, Stir It Up, Get Up Stand Up, Exodus, Waiting in Vain, Satisfy My Soul, Iron Lion Zion, I Shot the Sheriff and many more reggae classics.

[Dinosaur Adventure Live - Thursday 31st July, 2pm and 4.30pm](#)



The adventure of a lifetime awaits... bring the family on a T-REX-IFIC journey with

our BRAND NEW dinosaurs, meet their ROAR-SOME babies and help the rangers save the Island. Are you brave enough to face the Jurassic Storm!

Show is 1 hour in duration.

Speech and Drama

Face Time

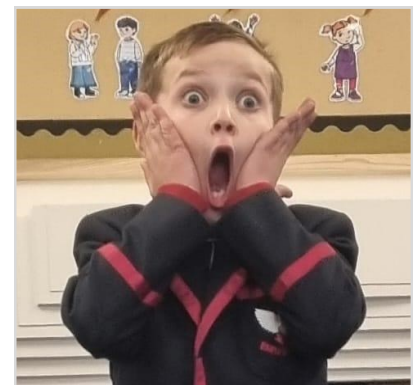
Some of us are more expressive than others and that is quite fine – but it is a good thing to be aware of our facial expressions and body language when we communicate with our voices. Speech and Drama teaches self-awareness and encourages positive development in our communication skills.

Thank you for all your interesting adjectives and their synonyms to describe our *Face Time* expression three weeks ago (see right)!

“He looks *flabbergasted*”, exclaimed one boy in Year 5 .

That word certainly stood out from others in the list that week. Well done to Felix Meredia, for your great word choice!

Face Time no .2



What is George’s face and body language telling us this week?

How many interesting adjectives can you think of to describe his expression?
 Let’s see who can make the longest list or find some sophisticated or unusual word choices to describe George’s Face Time.

Mrs Ham-Ying

Prep Philosophy Club

Prep School Philosophy club is a chance for the pupils to talk about topics that they might not get to explore in class as well as think about things from new and different perspectives.



This activity is mainly led by the pupils. We will often start with a question of a philosophical or ethical nature such as: "What makes us who we are?" or "Why should we be good?" The pupils then lead the discussions and we see how the conversations evolve and develop from there.



We recently had a discussion about what kind of superpowers we would all like to have and one pupil mentioned the ability to travel in time. This then led to a conversation about the nature of time, the past and the future and, if time travel were possible, would we be able to change the past or were we already part of the events in history.

Everyone is encouraged to share their thoughts and opinions. No viewpoint goes unchallenged, which helps the pupils develop a better understanding of their own core beliefs as well as give them a chance to think critically. It is often one of the main highlights of my week listening to the pupils' arguments and ideas.

Mr Lyle

ZEBRA Bus Competition

Well done to all of the children who took part in the ZEBRA bus competition, which asked the children to design a logo for some Stagecoach buses in the Teesside area. Ten Year 3

children were the lucky winners of goodie bags, which included a beautiful toy zebra, colouring pens and a month’s free bus pass!

Well done to: Yunouske I., Wilfred M., Jemima T., Jamie F., Isbaelle F., Honey C., Harman K., Dylan B., Chloe Z. and Ali A.

Mr Pengilley



School Library Books!

We are currently holding a library book amnesty as we know children have taken a number of books home from our library and have not returned them! Please can you help and encourage your child to check at home for any outstanding library books? Thank you.

Mr Pengilley

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

World Book Day

Thursday 6th March - World Book Day 2025 - Reading Café and Book Fair

World Book Day presents the perfect opportunity to celebrate literature and reading together. This year, we would like to celebrate that children are more likely to

enjoy reading when their choices are championed and we make reading fun. Therefore, every year group will be invited to celebrate the joy of reading as a family by bringing their favourite story along to enjoy in our 'Reading Cafe in the new library at the Prep School.

Pre-Prep parents are invited to attend the **reading cafe** on **Thursday 6th March** from **3 - 5pm**. Parents from the Prep school are invited to attend from **3-4pm for years 3 and 4** then **4-5pm for years 5 and 6**.

Alongside our reading café, we are inviting the children to participate in our reading competition, where they can redesign the front cover of their favourite text in any medium they choose. This will culminate in winners being selected from the entries and vouchers awarded to spend at the **book fair** being held on **Monday 3rd - Friday 7th March**. The book fair will be available in Pre-Prep and the foyer at the Prep school. Children will be able to select and purchase books, or order others to be delivered to school. Every purchase made at the book fair provides the school with commission to be spent on new books for our children to share.

On Thursday 6th March we would like the children to come dressed in a costume from their favourite book, bringing their favourite story to share with other children during the day.

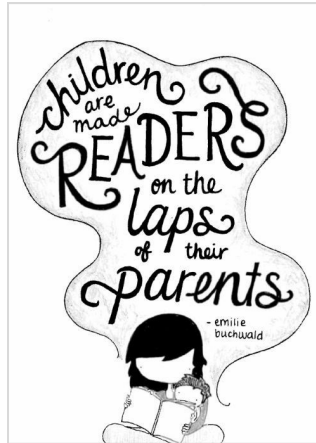
We ask that football kits are not worn this year. Every child will be given a £1 World Book Day token to swap for one of the ten books available this year in local stockists.

We look forward to championing reading with you.

Mr Pengilley

World Book Day Fancy Dress

In advance of World Book Day on the 6th March, the YPSSC is hosting a Fancy Dress Stall. Bring in old ones that don't fit anymore and find a new one at the stall. Donations of pre-loved fancy dress will be accepted until half-term (12-20th Feb). The stall will be open to buy outfits on the last day of



term, 20th February, and again when school reopens after half-term on the run up to Book Day.

YPSSC

YPSSC presents:

WORLD BOOK DAY FANCY DRESS STALL

DONATE your pre-loved
fancy dress!

Donate from
12th-20th February 2025

Donations can be sent to reception at
Prep & Pre-Prep school or Pre-Loved
Uniform Shed Donation Box

**Stall Open:
20th February-
5th March 2025**

Stall will be located at
Pre-Prep Pre-Loved Uniform Shed

*Proceeds will go to YPSSC
More Information: yarmpreloved@gmail.com

Safer Internet Day

This week, we joined schools across the UK in celebrating Safer Internet Day. This global event aims to promote the safe and responsible use of technology, encouraging children, young people, parents, carers, teachers, and wider communities to work together to create a better and safer internet for everyone.

This Year's Theme was *'Too Good to Be True? Protecting Yourself and Others from Scams Online'*. House assemblies in Years 3-6 explored this theme, while further assemblies saw the children find out more about how to protect themselves when playing games and sharing images online. Across Prep and Pre-Prep, all of the children have been finding out about a wide range of online safety matters this half-term in their computing lessons, ranging from private and personal information in Year 1, to how to identify accurate sources of online information in Year 6. Jack Morgan, one of our Digital Leaders, has designed a poster to highlight what we cover in our online safety modules (see overleaf).

A number of parents came along to our 'Internet Safety Event for Parents' on Wednesday afternoon, which was led by our amazing Digital Leaders and Prep Debating Club (with support

from the Senior School Debating team). There was plenty of support and advice available from the children to the parents, who shared and spoke with passion and clarity.

Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote in school, and celebrating Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity for us to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver regularly and throughout the year.

Continuing the Conversation at Home

As always, we would be delighted if you could join us in celebrating the day by continuing the conversation at home. To help you with this, we have partnered with a leading digital safeguarding solutions provider called Smoothwall to create a free Online Safety Hub for parents and carers to help keep their children safe online.

The Online Safety Hub offers an abundance of expert advice and guidance to help parents and carers manage their child's safety online. It also includes information on several topics when it comes to keeping children safe, such as how to manage your child's screen time, understand the latest gaming platforms and what they mean for your child's safety.

The home page for the Yarm School Online Safety Hub can be found here: <https://yarmschool.onlinesafetyhub.uk/>

Free Parental Control Support for Yarm School Families

As part of our partnership with Smoothwall, we are pleased to announce that we can offer Yarm School parents and carers a free Qustodio account which allows you to facilitate parental controls on any one device, and free premium access for 30 days from registration. Qustodio is an app that can also be

downloaded onto computers and laptops, and allows you to gain more visibility on what is going on in your child's online world. You will be able to block dangerous content, introduce screen-free schedules, receive alerts for inappropriate content, keep tabs on their location and more. [For more](#)

What Do We Learn About At School?

Year 2

- ★ Connected Devices And Their Benefits And Drawbacks
- ★ Navigating Safely Around A Webpage
- ★ Using Google And Keyboard To Search Effectively
- ★ Identifying Things That Are Safe To Click Online
- ★ What Bullying Behaviour Online Looks Like
- ★ Showing How Work Online Belongs To You

Year 1

- ★ Private And Personal Information
- ★ What To Do If They Feel Sad, Embarrassed Or Upset Online
- ★ Rules To Keep Us Safe Online
- ★ Ask Permission To Do Something Online
- ★ Being Kind And Considerate Online
- ★ How My Behaviour Online Can Upset Others

Year 4

- ★ How Companies Persuade Us To Buy Things Online
- ★ The Differences Between Personal And Private Information
- ★ Searching Online Safely With Keywords
- ★ How To Write Sensible, Effective Emails
- ★ Why Lots Of People Sharing The Same Opinions Or Beliefs Online Don't Make Those Opinions Or Beliefs True
- ★ Exploring The Concept Of Sharing Acceptable And Unacceptable Content

Year 3

- ★ Device-Free Moments
- ★ Using Kind Word Online
- ★ Identifying Fake Photos And Videos Online
- ★ How Website Encourage To Buy Product From Them
- ★ Exploring What Online Bullying Is
- ★ Age Restrictions Online and PEGI (Pan-European Game Information) Ratings

Year 6

- ★ The Benefits And Drawbacks Of Presenting Yourself Online
- ★ Benefits And Risks Of Chatting Online
- ★ Capturing Bullying Evidence Online
- ★ Plagiarism And How To Stop It
- ★ Exploring How Online Media Shapes Our Ideas About Gender
- ★ How Content Shared Online Does Not Disappear

Year 5

- ★ Explore How Apps Can Access Personal Information
- ★ How And Why Online Images Are Edited For Effect
- ★ Ways Of Communicating Online
- ★ Identifying Accurate Source Of Online Information
- ★ How Technology Can Affect Health And Wellbeing Exploring Misinformation And Disinformation Online

[information and to create your free account please click here.](#)

If you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe online, please do get in touch either one of us.

[Gavin Stone](#) and [Joanne Speight](#)

How to set up parental controls with Google Family Link

Link

1. Download Google Family Link on your device
2. Sign into your own Google account
 - 2a. Create your child their own Google account if they do not have one
 - 2b. Remove your existing account if necessary
3. Open your child's device and find the parental controls menu
4. Start setting up parental controls
5. Link your child's Google account to your own
6. Read about Supervision, and enter your child's account password
7. Let the accounts link
8. Manage your kid's apps and filters
9. Review controls, and set limits from either device

Scan us for more info



Holiday Club Dates

Easter 2025: - 7th—11th April 2025

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

[Please contact Mr Simpson for information.](#)

Tooled Up Education

Two things we love at Toolled Up are smashing stereotypes and encouraging children to be curious!

This week's **International Day of Women and Girls in Science** celebrates the pioneering work of women in fields as diverse as biology, engineering, space travel, exploration and quantum physics! It's also a day designed to promote STEM careers to girls and young women from all backgrounds.

Tooled Up has plenty of resources to help bring science to life for all children.

Ella Podmore is a senior materials engineer at McLaren Automotive. Listen to this informative [podcast](#) on her career in STEM and why she finds inspiring girls to follow in her footsteps is so important.

Research suggests that disparities in STEM achievement may begin in Early Years as boys and girls receive differing messages about science. Find out more and hear tips on fostering scientific curiosity in all young children in Dr Sona Kumar's podcast on [Helping Girls Feel a Sense of Belonging in STEM](#).

For all children, our resource [Celebrating Science: Books to Inspire Children of All Ages](#) is packed with accessible, fascinating titles that encourage knowledge and enthusiasm about the world of science, from looking inside the human body to learning the function of the elements that make up our universe.

Tooled Up has also collated a list of [Podcasts and TED Talks to Inspire Girls](#) and boys to discover the world of science.



Helping Girls Feel a Sense of Belonging in STEM

The Toolled 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 Toolled Up school, you have full unlimited access to the Toolled 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

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 SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

"CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

TALK TOGETHER

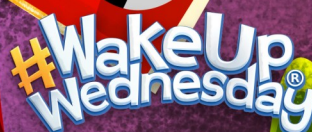
Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk for more.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fake-news-and-scams>



Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 05.02.2025

Coming Up

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

FEBRUARY 2025

- 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
- Tue 18** *****NEW***** Year 3 trip to Hopetown
- Wed 19** Riding and Golf activities/clubs as normal
*****NEW***** Year 6 trip to Hopetown
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 (3-5pm)
- Fri 7** **Prep Red Nose Disco (Prep Hall; 6-7.30pm)**
Bring Your Mothers/Grandmothers to Pre-Prep
U10 Hockey v Barnard Castle
(away; 2pm start, 4.15pm return)
U10/11 Netball v Red House (home; 2pm start)
U11 Hockey v Barnard Castle (home; 2pm start)
- Mon 10** Year 4 Drama Week commences
- Tue 11** **Year 5 London trip departs**
U8 Netball v Queen Mary's (home; 2pm start)
- Wed 12** Year 4 trip to EDF Teesmouth Centre
- Thu 13** NE Area U11 Girls' Hockey Finals (details TBC)
- Fri 14** Year 5 return from London
Red Nose Day for Comic Relief
(Wear an item of red; bring in £1)
Pre-Prep Holi Celebrations
NEJS Boy's Hockey competition
(at Pocklington; 11am start, 4.30pm return)
- Mon 17** Neurodiversity Celebration Week
LCM examinations week

Parents Evening (4-6pm)

No after school clubs run by form teachers this week

Tue 18

Parents Evening (4-6pm)

Wed 19

Year 6 Sports Tour—[Zoom Meeting for Parents](#)
(sign up by clicking on the link)

Peter Knutsford (wildlife photographer) visit

Thu 20

U9 Netball v Durham School

(home; 2.15pm start)

Fri 21

U10/11 Netball v Durham School

(away; 2pm start, 4.15pm return)

Term Dates

Spring Term 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	Heidi H.	Ada A.
3J	Lucian S.	Yunoske I.
3P	Joy F.	Teddy B.
4F	Wilf M.	Rosie L.
4J	Bertie B.	Oscar W.
4SU	Lucia RM.	Rosie L.
5G	Scarlett Y.	Austin O.
5S	Ziad S.	Bertie H.
5W	Wilbur MS.	Zac S.
6H	Henry S.	Jake S.
6K	Annabelle C.	Sophia B.
6L	Max J.	Charlie M

Head Teacher Award:

Year 4—Zoyaa S., Ned F., Harrison V., Genevieve P.

Year 5—Emily W., Zac S., Azlan U.

Year 6—Manha A., Emily Q., Jenson C.