



14 December 2010

Dear Parents

The school has a real festive feel to it now the Christmas Decorations are up again. A special thank you to Mrs Karen Drane, from Taverham Garden Centre, who, once more, provided some wonderful Christmas trees which are located around the school.

Last Sunday's family lunch, followed by a magician and disco (!) was a huge success and my thanks go to Alex Crossley and Sharon Turner in particular who ensured everything went to plan and also to the catering team who put on a delicious Christmas lunch.

With pantomimes, concerts, boarders' outings and prefects' dinner this week, staff, as ever, will be very busy and we are hoping to have our staff **'get together'** following the end of school on Friday. If parents are unable to pick up pupils at the specified times on Friday due to work commitments please advise the office as soon as possible in order for us to understand numbers and arrange supervision.

### **PREP**

The prefects' supper on Monday evening was a lovely event organised by Mr Worrall and as a thank you for all the hard work undertaken by the older pupils this term. The children made a real effort and ball gowns and dinner suits were common place. Dinner was served at 1915 and the children behaved impeccably.

### **SPORT**

Matches were once again cancelled due to the ice and we are hoping to be back on track after the Christmas break.

### **PRE-PREP**

Last week has been a very busy one for the Pre Prep. On Monday the Prep school children came to watch the final dress rehearsal of our Christmas production. On Tuesday and Wednesday the children performed the 'Grumpy Sheep' to a packed house. It was lovely to welcome so many parents and friends. The children put on a superb performance on both days, the audience could hear every word spoken and the singing was clear, excellent and enthusiastic. A performance of such excellence by children of this age is the result of a great deal of hard work by the children themselves and staff and all are to be congratulated.

I am delighted that parents and friends responded with their usual overwhelming generosity, the magnificent total of £434 was raised at our two leaving collections for the Pre Prep Christmas charity – Quidenham Hospice. Thank you all so much.

This Thursday the children will be enjoying their Christmas party and eagerly anticipating a visit from Father Christmas.

We look forward to seeing many parents and friends at 1115 on Friday 17 December as we conclude our festivities with carols around the Christmas tree.

### **NURSERY**

This term has been a settling in experience for all the Nursery children - the older pupils have moved up to Nursery 2 and the younger Nursery 1 class is full of two year olds, enjoying school for the first time. The past few weeks have seen much fun in the snow in our wonderful grounds and recently practising the Nativity play to be shown this week on Tuesday and Wednesday. We look forward to all parents attending on one of these two days.

### **TODDLERS**

The second half of the Toddler's Autumn term began with the celebration of Diwali known as the Festival of Lights, which is an important five-day festival in Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism, occurring between mid-October and mid-November. To commemorate this event the Toddlers decorated wooden coasters to hold a tea light candle. These beautiful Diwali decorations certainly brightened up our autumn days.

To add more sparkles to the proceedings, the boys and girls very much enjoyed the 'firework' activities. Using fluorescent paint and sand, they drizzled, dripped, dabbed and scattered resources to produce some extremely effectual pieces of artwork. In addition, the Toddlers decorated chocolate fingers using icing sugar and sugar strands to create hand-held edible sparklers.

The topic of 'Transport' followed, and here the children decorated templates of trains, vans, tractors, aeroplanes and helicopters which now have pride of place and are on display in the Pre-Prep Hall. Our little Princes and Princesses also had great fun making attractive crowns.

Christmas craft activities began slightly early this year, however the children had a brilliant time making calendars, 'Santa, please stop here' door hangers, personalised Christmas cards and beautiful ornamental, glittering Christmas trees. They also created their own personalised hand-print Christmas cards which will provide their parents with a lovely keepsake for years to come!

Craft activities are just a small part of what our Toddlers get up to each week. Language for communication is also catered for and our Toddlers are provided with the opportunity and encouragement to use their skills in a range of situations such as role-play whilst our 'home corner', 'small world' play, dressing up clothes, play kitchen resources, fruit stall and a wide selection of books, flash cards as well as our weekly 'sing-a-long' action songs add great value in stimulating this area of learning. We finish each session sharing some music together, and this also

incorporates 'movement and space' which encourages our Toddlers to be active, interactive and improves their skills of coordination, control, manipulation and movement.

## **GENERAL**

Many of you will be sad to say goodbye to Rachael Kirkham, my PA, who moves on at the end of the year and I know you will join me in thanking her for her dedication and input into school life. We wish her every success in her new ventures in 2011. Her replacement Lara Golden, is no stranger to education having worked as a senior PA in a school previously, and I know she will be very keen to meet parents next term. I am confident Lara will be an excellent addition to the secretarial team with her strong experience in the fields of marketing and admissions in particular.

Mr Paul Hill, one of our visiting music teachers, passed his LLCM and FLCM exams in November. The exams are both the new Jazz Guitar performance diplomas and he was the first person to pass the FLCM, which is the highest diploma awarded by the London College of Music and Thames Valley University. Congratulations Paul!

There will be several new pupils joining the school on Wednesday 12 of January and that is always a pleasant announcement to make. As ever, impressions are formed of the school when parents visit the school, arrange taster days and speak to staff but it is firmly, I believe due in the main, to the welcoming nature of our pupils and I would like to thank them for their generosity of spirit and pride in Taverham Hall School which is always very much in evidence and very much appreciated.

Football in the Community will be running a 1 day football Christmas fun day at the school's Sports Hall on Tuesday 21 December. In addition, the school will also be running a New Year's Holiday Club from 4 to 7 January 2010 and booking forms for both events have gone out in the children's book bags. Alternatively, booking forms can be downloaded from the school's website under News Pages – Forthcoming Events and [www.fitc.org.uk](http://www.fitc.org.uk).

As this will be the last newsletter of this academic year may I take this opportunity to wish everyone the very best for Christmas and for 2011 from myself, Alex and the children.

M A Crossley  
Headmaster

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>14 Dec</b>	<b>1100</b>	<b>Nursery Christmas Play</b>
		<b>1830</b>	<b>Y 5&amp; 6 Panto</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>15 Dec</b>	<b>1100</b>	<b>Nursery Christmas Play</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>16 Dec</b>	<b>1400</b>	<b>Pre-Prep Christmas Party</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>17 Dec</b>	<b>1200</b>	<b>Pre-Prep School TERM ENDS</b>
		<b>1230</b>	<b>Prep School TERM ENDS</b>
			<b>(Nursery will remain open all day as usual)</b>