



The Friends of Taverham Hall School

Newsletter – March 2011

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2011. The committee is now in full swing with new members and new projects underway. We are very keen to encourage parents to join The Friends, as they say, many hands make light work and it needn't be a huge commitment, in fact it can be as little or as much as you want to make it. Above all it's a great way of meeting parents who you may not necessarily come across, making friends and being able to help with the arrangement of social events for the families and children of our very special school. Please do speak to anyone of the members for more details.

Events:

M&M Pop Quiz – will be taking place tonight (18th March) in the drawing room. This is always a fun event and we will update you on news of the winning team soon. If you haven't attended a school Quiz Night yet, do not fear, you haven't missed out as the next one will be coming up in November.

School Disco – is coming up on Friday 25th March. This event is funded by the Friends and is very popular with all the children throughout the Pre Prep and Prep School. Our entertainer has been booked and forms should've gone home with the children over the last couple of weeks. If you are yet to fill in your reply slip we would ask that you would do so and place the slip in the Friends 'box' (on the wall near Matron's Surgery in Prep School and in the Library in the Pre Prep). This will enable us to make sure we can supply enough food and drink for the children attending.

Summer Fair – is one of the biggest events of the year for us and will be taking place in May. The fair has followed the same format for several years and we are very keen to put some new features and games into play. If any parents have any suggestions we would be very keen to hear from you. It has been suggested that an auction would be a popular attraction – if anyone has any items they feel would be suitable then please do get in touch.

Recent purchases:

As a committee we raise money mainly through the above events which we feed back into school. These are usually items which we feel enhance the children's daily life at the school.

Cameras: A request came through to the committee from the teaching staff asking if the Friends would be happy to purchase some cameras that the children from all areas of the school would be able to use. Craig Martin, our current Treasurer, looked into this and purchased several suitable cameras that are being used in the Nursery, Pre Prep and in the Prep school of varying durability, depending upon their use. Before the purchase of these cameras the children only had access to the Crossley's family camera which wasn't ideal. The cameras are now available to pupils and teachers to be signed out from the school office. Mr Crossley said that the staff are very grateful and they are already being well used.

Greenhouse - Sally Barter, our Chairman, had a request for a Greenhouse to be bought through the friends for children throughout the Nursery, Pre Prep and Prep School to use. It was agreed by all that this would be a good addition to the facilities already implemented by the friends and that it was something the committee would be happy to fund. The greenhouse is already on site and is gradually being erected on the remains of the old cold frames in the walled garden. The base can possibly accommodate another greenhouse if this one proves to be a success! Mike Skipper got a bargain at the opening of the Summer greenhouse site. The greenhouse has automatic vents and ground opening vents and is made of polycarbonate. The total spent was approximately £310 for an 8 x 6 greenhouse which is excellent value.

Future purchases:

Swimming Pool – any of you who have been into the swimming pool area will have undoubtedly noticed that it is need of some TLC. The current covers have been on the pool for many years and are badly in need of replacing. At present it takes two members of staff a considerable amount of time to remove the covers before a lesson can take place. With this in mind the Friends have set themselves the target of raising £6000.00 to pay for new semi-automatic covers to make life much easier for the staff and to help the pool run more efficiently. There are other areas that the school and the newly formed Development Committee will be looking at in the coming months and the friends are very excited to be involved with this much need refurbishment.

Website and Newsletter

It is generally felt that there is not enough information going to the parents at the school with regards to the activity of the Friends, who the Friends actually are and how you become involved. Therefore our secretary, Lisa Green, will be coordinating with Mrs Crossley to get news items onto the website and to produce termly

newsletters to be sent home with the children, so please do look out for them coming home with your children or log onto our page on the school site.

Class Reps

Getting information to parents is not the easiest of tasks for us. We would very much like to set up a class reps system whereby we have a parent from each class who we would be able to feed information to. If you would like to know more about this then please do get in touch.

OT's

You may have recently seen an article featuring one of our current year 7 pupils in the EDP. Ben Green, one of Mr Newton's budding historians, wrote a lovely letter to the EDP Letters editor asking OT's (old Taverham Hall Pupils, aka Taverhamiam's) to get in touch and share their memories of life at Taverham Hall School. So far Ben has had 4 responses, one of which Mr Crossley read out to the school during assembly. The letters are proving to be a great source of entertainment for all the children in the Prep School as well as for Ben and his year 7 classmates. If you are an OT's or you know of people who are please ask them to get in touch with Ben using the school contact address. If you would like to view his letter then please go to the news section of the school website, click on news and then on OT's.

Yearbook

Some of you may have heard that The Friends will be producing a Yearbook for the school which will be out in June. The Yearbook will not follow the regular format of being produced specifically for the year 8 leavers; it will feature children from throughout the whole school and bring together the vast amount of news that has happened throughout the academic year.

We will be printing 1000 copies of the Yearbook. The cover will be 300gsm silk with a gloss laminate outer cover and the inside pages will be 170gsm silk and will be perfect bound and full colour throughout. We intend the book to be a minimum of 44 pages and 12 maximum of these will feature advertising. If you or a friend feels that they have a business that would benefit from advertising to the parents, families, OT's and Governors of the school then this is the perfect opportunity to get your message across. Get in touch soon though, as we are restricting the space available and already have pages booked out and sold. Leaflets with costs are available and can be obtained through the members of the committee and on the parent's notice board. We are hoping that the Yearbook will bring us closer to the £6000.00 target for the swimming pool covers!

Alternatively call Lisa on 07590 503100/01263 734433 or email her at: lisanian@btinternet.com

Our next meeting is on 5th May
If you would like to come along please get in touch with one of us, we
would be very pleased to see you!

The Committee

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