

18 November 2011



Dear Parents

After only returning to the fold late on Wednesday evening from an ISI Inspection in Berkshire, I feel I am reporting upon the week's events rather than having witnessed them! Congratulations go to Charlotte and Samuel who were our 'Radiators of the Week' this week. Both Year 8 pupils have been exemplary in the care and consideration shown to others, with Samuel having performed incredibly helpfully in his role as a Year 3 Mentor and Charlotte having ticked so many boxes with staff with respect to kindness and setting such a good example to others.

Well done to Mackenzie whose work won him a prize in the Abbots Country Wide Estate Agents' Halloween Art competition. Mackenzie's picture, featuring pumpkins and bats, was displayed in the window of Abbots and his prize was an art kit. Baylee and Charlotte were also awarded a certificate for contributing their pictures to the competition. Mackenzie, Baylee and Charlotte all belong to the school's Junior Art Club which takes place on a Monday afternoon.

### **Sport**

This week's sporting fixtures were all close encounters with the U11 B Rugby side drawing 33-all and another draw in the 13B hockey match. Full details can be found of all fixtures on the website:

Girls

<http://www.taverhamhall.co.uk/category/children-news/girls-sport/>

Boys

<http://www.taverhamhall.co.uk/category/children-news/boys-sport/>

More Sport

<http://www.taverhamhall.co.uk/category/children-news/more-sport/>

### **Music**

This week's Music Assembly featured a class of Year 8 musicians. They performed 'Feeling Good', by Nina Simone and their performance formed part of the current Year 8 study of Jazz and Blues. The pupils performed well and the audience showed their appreciation with rousing applause. Special features of the performance were the obligatory jazz solos, supplied by Rosie on piano and Pippa on violin. The solo vocalist was Sophie. Well done to all 8 Set 1 Music!

### **Pre Prep**

This week Reception children enjoyed listening to the story of 'Elmer the Elephant' and have now painted their own pictures of Elmer. They used lots of bright colours to design striped and spotty elephants. In Forest School the children enjoyed having fun with the newly fallen leaves – creating leaf crowns and exploring colours.

Year 1 enjoyed a gloriously mild afternoon this week, running in the woods and up and down hills in the 'donkey pen'. They took clipboards and had great fun choosing what to draw.

This week saw the first gathering of the violin ensemble. Nine children from Years 1 and 2 met with Mr Weitz on Tuesday lunchtime and there was great excitement as the children realised they would each be given a violin next week, to take home for practice.

Year 2 have been busy finding out more about the Great Fire of London and extending their 3D representation of Pudding Lane. They have also been finding out more about eating a balanced diet in science and have enjoyed tasting different fruits.

Finally the Pre Prep would like to thank Mrs Amelia Chamberlain who has been creating some beautiful themed flower arrangements in our entrance lobby.

### **Nursery**

Children in Nursery 2 have been further exploring the Antarctic and Arctic this week, looking at the inhabitants and different habitats. They have been creating their own icebergs with the help of Alan and Debbie in the kitchen and working out how to get to the treasure frozen deep inside.

We have also been practicing for our Christmas play, all choosing roles we wanted and learning the songs.

This week the children in Nursery 1 have been looking at 'Dark and Light'. They talked about animals that like the dark and having enjoyed listening to the 'Owl Babies' story they made their own, Sarah, Percy and Bill, out of newspaper and lots of feathers! In the 'dark' woods, the children have explored with their torches, made dens and looked at 'big holes', that they think badgers and foxes live in.

### **Boarding News**

The boarding community would like to thank Mrs Miers for the super Halloween decorations & sweets we were given for our Pumpkin Night. Thanks also to Mrs Drane for providing many spring bulbs which our boarders enjoyed planting out recently, in tubs. They will really brighten up the school.

Please click on the following link to read more about our boarding community including the long awaited presentation of prizes for the shoe design competition as well as the recent Year 5 Sleepover:

<http://www.taverhamhall.co.uk/children-news/boarding/shoe-design-winners-and-year-5-sleepover-14159/>

### **School Communication**

#### **Parents Forum Group**

As a further enhancement of the school's communication channels between parents and the school, we are delighted to introduce our newly formed Parents' Forum Group. Please click on the attached document to read more about this new group. Each member can be

contacted via email and their details can be found on the attached list which also indicates which Year Group each member represents.

All parents who wish to provide feedback, comments and/or ideas on school events, information evenings or general school matters can forward their suggestions to the relevant Year Group representatives.

The next meeting for our Parents' Forum Group is scheduled to take place on **Wednesday 8th February 2012**. The agenda for this meeting will be posted nearer the time.

### **School Council**

This term marks the start of the Taverham Hall School Council. Two representatives from each year group have been nominated and selected by their peers to represent the pupil voice in a twice termly council meeting. Agenda items may vary from food to carbon footprint and all are generated by the council members and the school community. The purpose of the council is to allow the pupils the opportunity to take ownership of their school; to help to shape the direction in which we move and to feedback and forward information to the wider community.

### **Boarders' Forum**

As a reminder - Taverham Hall School's Boarders' Forum was initiated last November, providing an opportunity for all boarders to take part, both through contributing to the agenda each term and also via attending the meetings. The forums are run by our Matrons Mrs Midgley and Mrs Ives and another school representative (teaching, pastoral or governor) will attend. The objective of the Boarders' Forum is to give our boarders a voice, so they feel that they are contributing to and shaping the boarding community. Minutes of these forums are displayed in both the girls and boys dormitories for boarders and parents to see.

### **Ragtime Ball – Saturday 5 May 2012**

A meeting is to be held on Tuesday 29 November at 8:30 am in the Dining Hall for anyone interested in helping to organise this event. The Ball will form part of the school's larger 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. Please contact Mrs Sam Mann on 01603 860236 (home) or 01603 865834 (work) or email at [manssam@aol.com](mailto:manssam@aol.com) for further information.

It is lovely to see so many parents taking the opportunity to either watch assemblies or have a coffee on a Monday and Thursday morning after drop off. If I could just request that the Outer Hall is cleared by 9:30 am it would be much appreciated. Our domestic staff do need to clean the area and teachers often use the area for drama based activities.

Next week's exams for Years 7 and Year 8 are important events and much of the teaching this week has been in preparation. Pupils should ensure their books go home with them over the weekend for obvious reasons!

NOTE: Revisions lists and the exam timetables can be found on the school's website in the password protected Parent/Teacher section.

### **Guidance regarding support and parental involvement with PREP**

Further to some recent queries regarding homework (Prep) our Director of Studies, Ms Sarah Menegaz, would like to remind parents of the school's Homework and Prep policy which is available on the website and contains some guidance about how you can help and support your child with prep:

*“Support and parental involvement - Pupils doing their prep at school have access to the ICT suite and can ask for extra support from the member of staff on duty. Parental help and support, when required, is invaluable as long as it remains within the realm of guidance, encouragement, and suggestion of strategies. The idea is to help the pupils to become more independent, to learn how to cope with difficulties, to acknowledge that mistakes are fully part of the learning process and to recognise that children are responsible for the progress they make in their learning”.*

We would also advise any parent to contact subject teachers if they are unsure as to the method used to teach a particular skill or concept. In this way, parents can remind their children about the path to the correct answer rather than showing them a different way (which will confuse them further) or doing the prep for them (which is counterproductive).

Prep isn't used for testing purposes as such but is a way for teachers to find out whether pupils have understood what has been taught and consequently whether they are capable of doing it independently.

Please click on the following link to view the policy:

<http://www.taverhamhall.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Prep-and-Homework-policy-sept-20101.pdf>

### **Movember**

During November each year, Movember is responsible for the sprouting of moustaches on thousands of men's faces in the UK and around the world. The aim of this is to raise vital funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer and other cancers that affect men. Mr Martin is valiantly growing a (slightly greying!) moustache and should you wish to donate to this worthy cause, you can sponsor him here:

<http://uk.movember.com/mospace/1062732/>

I hope everyone enjoys a relaxing weekend.



Mike Crossley  
Headmaster

## Calendar

Further advance dates can always be found on the school website here:

<http://www.taverhamhall.co.uk/calendar/>

Mon	21/11/2011		Year 7 & 8 Exams
Tue	22/11/2011		Year 7 & 8 Exams
		08:30:00	Circuits (Parents)
		17:00:00	Year 5 Parents' Evening
Wed	23/11/2011		Year 7 & 8 Exams
		14:30:00	Girls U13A & U13B v St Felix (A)
		14:30:00	Girls U11A Indoor Tournament (H)
		14:30:00	Girls mixed age team Henstead Away (changed from Home)
		14:30:00	1st XV, Boys U9s A & B v Beeston (H)
		14:30:00	Colts A & B v Beeston (A)
Thu	24/11/2011		Year 7 & 8 Exams
		08:30:00	Circuits (Parents)
Fri	25/11/2011	10:00	Senior Choir Fishmonger's Hall (app return 23:00)
		14:30:00	<del>Girls U11A Norwich High at UEA (A)</del> CANCELLED
		14:30:00	U11 B v Norwich High (UEA)
		15:00:00	<del>U13A and U13B Girls v Wymondham (A)</del> CANCELLED
		18:00:00	Friends AGM and Quiz and Chips
Mon	28/11/2011	08:00:00	Parents Christmas Coffee morning
Tue	29/11/2011	08:30:00	Ball Committee Meeting (Dining Room)
		08:30:00	Circuits (Parents)
Wed	30/11/2011	14:30:00	Girls U13A, U13B, U11A and U9s v Gresham's (A)
		14:30:00	1st XV v Culford (A)
		14:30:00	Colts A & B v Culford (H)
		14:30:00	Boys U9 A & B v Gresham's (A)
		15:15:00	Girls U11B v Gresham's (A)
Thu	1/12/2011	08:30:00	Circuits (Parents)
		14:00:00	Year 6 Visit to Buddhist Centre
Fri	2/12/2011		Christmas Decorations
		08:30:00	Assembly with Rev Seabrook
Sun	4/12/2011		Parents and Pupils Christmas Party