

25 November 2011



Dear Parents

This week's major event is clearly the official opening of the wonderful new extension to the Nursery by Peter Kavanagh this Friday afternoon. Peter is a well-known Norfolk based children's illustrator and he spent a considerable amount of time with our younger children in both the Nursery and Pre-Prep, reading them stories from books he has illustrated and drew pictures on request. Mrs Davies thanked everyone who made the new extension possible and the event culminated with Peter cutting the ribbon with a monstrous pair of scissors much to the delight of all the youngsters!

Earlier in the week there was much to celebrate with the announcement of the winners of the 'Design a Christmas Card Competition'. Winner of the Seniors was Jemma C and runners-up were Grace G and Isobel H. Ben C was winner of the Juniors with Tilly M and Arthur O as runners-up. Well done to all.

Congratulations to Charlie D who has been awarded a place at the Children's London Ballet Company and has been invited to train, along with just 9 other boys, with the Principal Male Dancer of the Royal Ballet School in London early next year. We wish Charlie lots of luck and look forward to hearing how he does when he auditions for the Royal Ballet School in May 2012.

There was a Headmaster's Commendation this week for Ben R in Year 4 who produced a superb PowerPoint Presentation on the theme of Roman Army and I am already hearing about some excellent exam results from our pupils in Year 7 and Year 8.

Our Radiators of the Week were Jack B and Alice M in Year 4, both of whom spent time putting others before themselves. In Jack's case it was caring for a friend in trouble and in Alice's case it was an act of generosity which was repaid. Whilst Mrs Ives will give you chapter and verse, the potted version is as follows:

Alice and her mother had tickets to see Alice's favourite show, 'Strictly Come Dancing'. Unfortunately age restrictions prevented Alice from attending and the family kindly donated the tickets to Mrs Ives and Mrs Richardson. Mrs Ives, out of an audience of 6,500 won a 'dancing in the aisle' competition last Saturday night and returned safely to Taverham Hall School complete with a fabulous 'Strictly Come Dancing' programme signed by all the stars. What a story, and it could only happen to Mrs Ives – our very own Ginger Rogers!

Also presented with certificates for the Primary Mathematics Challenge in assembly this week were Madeleine, Charlie, Gregory, Charlie, Thomas, Harry and Stephen.

Sport

The following children all won medals in the UEA Swimming event last Saturday and given the age of all these pupils, the swimming future of the school looks very rosy indeed. Well done Gemma P. Claudia VP, Anna G and Ben G!

The Under 11 Girls team won medals as Runners-Up in Wednesday's Indoor Hockey Tournament and there were some fine results for our other sports teams as well this Wednesday. As ever, full details can be found 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

The musical entertainment in assembly this week was provided by Jemma and Hannah. Both girls have been part of this term's group of practical music exam candidates and the assembly was a great opportunity to show off their skills.

Hannah played 'Minuet' by Haydn with excellent skill and sensitivity. Jemma played an anonymous Baroque piece, 'Allegro in F' with dexterity and subtle contrasts. These performances were just two examples of the huge musical talent at Taverham Hall School and we eagerly await news of their successes!

Just a reminder that we look forward to welcoming you all to the Carol Service on **Tuesday 13 December at 19:00 in the sports hall**. Chapel Choir will lead the singing and there will be a special performance by Years 3 and 4. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Outer and Inner Hall accompanied by some seasonal music from the school's woodwind ensemble.

Pre Prep

Reception classes have started preparing for Christmas! A lot of fun has been had, making papier-mâché nativity characters using washing up bottles that had been collected by the children and staff. These were then transformed into figures using newspaper and wallpaper paste. Once they have dried the children will add features and clothing, so now decisions have to be made as to whether their figure will be Mary, Joseph, a king or a shepherd.

Year 1 children have had a go at writing winter poems this week. They gathered together to brainstorm both ideas and winter vocabulary, before producing some fantastic, individual poems. Many of the poems featured snow and while the children may be hoping for snow now, staff and parents probably have a different point of view! Signs of Christmas are also evident as there are some beautiful stained glass windows appearing.

Year 2 classes have been creating some amazing project books about the events of the Great Fire of London. The children are very enthusiastic and some of the accounts of the disaster are really superb. They have also used the Museum of London computer programme to look at different sources of information from that time and have enjoyed using the graphics to attempt to extinguish their own 'Great Fire'.

As part of their science project on food the children have made their own butter which they enjoyed eating, spread on wholemeal bread.

Nursery

Children in Nursery 2 have been learning all about Road Safety this week. They were visited by Peter, Benjamin and Bethany from the council, who taught them the important rules when near a road. The children have been creating traffic lights and their own road signs and spotting ones in the school grounds. They played the 'traffic light game' in the sports hall and had races on the tennis courts in their chosen cars.

Nursery 1 children have been looking at 'sensory' activities. They have explored different items and textures in the 'treasure basket', and drizzled 'gloop' through their fingers too. We tried and tasted different fruits and experimented by adding them all together to make a delicious, fruity smoothie. The children also made 'binoculars' and took them into the woods, looking and listening for birds and small animals.

Boarding News

Last Monday Mrs Midgley was delighted to watch a play devised by our youngest girl boarders, as well as experiencing an assembly in the Inner Hall run by the 'Headmaster', Hannah. What initially started out as a game of sardines, on Wednesday night, turned into a fun drama time in the Inner Hall. Later that evening the girls visited the Boys' House and enjoyed joining in with the mini cricket game and the racing car tracks. Thursday was a great evening, which started with a birthday tea for Maya, followed by an exciting Table Tennis Tournament run by Mr Martin. To read the tournament's match report written by Henry please click here:

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

Romeo and Juliet

May I remind all parents that tickets for the performances of 'Romeo and Juliet' and the Pre-Prep Christmas play need to be ordered early to avoid disappointment. I would urge everyone to keep Tuesday 13 December free as the whole community comes together for a Carol Service in the Sports Hall which promises to be very special this year.

Colleen Miller

It is with very great sadness that I have to inform you of the death this week of Mrs. Colleen Millar who lost her brave battle with cancer. Colleen has taught many children at Taverham Hall School to swim, through both school swimming lessons and after school clubs. We extend our sympathy to her husband and family. The family have requested donations rather than flowers and any parent who wishes further information should contact Mrs Davies in the Pre Prep. Colleen's daughter, Mrs Alison Turner, will continue to take swimming lessons for our Pre Prep children.

We look forward to hearing news as to how the Choir, who are travelling to Fishmonger's Hall in London this Friday, performed and as I write I am hoping that my Headmaster's Quiz team don't disappear without a trace at tonight's keenly contested Quiz and Chips event. This has been superbly organised by Sally Barter and The Friends' Society and the quizmaster this year is our own Mr Newton – perhaps the odd cricket question this year?

End of Term Breakfast at The Parson Woodforde

All parents are warmly invited to attend an End of Term Breakfast at The Parson Woodforde on **Monday 12th December** straight after school drop off in the morning around 8.30 am. Apart from having a yummy breakfast it will be another great opportunity to have a catch up with other parents of the school.

To reserve your place please contact Anne-Marie Boyd on m. 07833092186.

The address is:
The Parson Woodforde
Church Street
Weston Longville
Norwich
Norfolk
NR9 5JU
Tel: 01603 881675

You will recently have received a letter about the 'Top Draw' which the Development Committee have launched to raise funds for the school. I am very much looking forward to presenting the prizes, starting in the new year and, as an added incentive, any team that signs up before the end of term will be entered into a Prize Draw for a Christmas Hamper! Many thanks to John Reader for his hard work and effort in launching this initiative.

On a final note, I am very grateful indeed to the staff and parents who are working so hard to organise whole school events and initiatives. Parents' Forums, the Development Committee and the Friends' Society are very much appreciated by myself and the governors and the advice and views expressed are the means by which we move forward as a school and continue to grow as an organisation. The school is very fortunate to have this input and the people prepared to invest the time and effort really make a difference – thank you.

I do 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	28/11/2011		Harford Manor School Visit
		08:30	Parents' Christmas Coffee morning
Tue	29/11/2011	08:30:00	Circuits (Parents)
Wed	30/11/2011	08:30	Prep School Play Rehearsal
		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)
		09:30	Pre-Prep Pre-dress rehearsal
		14:00:00	Year 6 Visit to Buddhist Centre
Fri	2/12/2011	am	Christmas Decorations
		08:30:00	Assembly with Rev Seabrook
		14:30	Boys U9 C v Town Close (H)
Sun	4/12/2011	13:00:00	Family Christmas Party
Mon	5/12/2011	14:00:00	Prep School Play Dress Rehearsal
		14:30:00	Pre-Prep Dress rehearsal
Tue	6/12/2011	08:30:00	Circuits (Parents)
		14:30:00	Pre-Prep Christmas Play
		19:00:00	Prep School Play
Wed	7/12/2011	14:30:00	Pre-Prep Christmas Play
		14:30:00	Girls U13A Indoor Tournament (H)
		14:30:00	U11A, U11B and U9s v Wisbech (A)
		14:30:00	Colts A & B v Town Close (H)
		19:00:00	Prep School Play
Thu	8/12/2011	08:30:00	Circuits (Parents)
		14:30:00	Pre-Prep Christmas Play
		19:00:00	Prep School Play