

4 November 2011



Dear Parents

Welcome back after, what I hope, has been a relaxing half term break. This first week of the new half term commenced with the Boarders' Halloween Party and finished with the hugely popular bonfire night. Both of these events were very well attended and my thanks go to staff, parents and The Friends' Society who have worked extremely hard to ensure their success. The grounds team of Mike Skipper, Terry Havis and David Brown deserve a special mention for all their efforts and of course to Mike Chapman who organised the wonderful firework display.

The closing date for scholarships has now passed and I am excited by the prospect of interviewing so many potential new pupils next week, many of whom have already had trial days in the school. Interest this year has surpassed expectations and next Wednesday and Thursday will be extremely busy days. All applicants should have received letters outlining the procedure for the days.

Congratulations go to Carys Green who received a Headmaster's Commendation this week for a magnificent World War 2 project which she completed over half term. Our Radiators of the Week this week are Lucy Reader in Year 5 and Tom Poole in Year 7, both of whom spent time this week helping others in the community and generally having a very positive impact on school life. Well done Tom and Lucy.

Year 7 and 8 exams are on the horizon and revision information is available on the website in the Parent/Teacher Section (you will need the password to access this).

Those parents involved in organising the flower arrangements around the school will also be decorating the school to celebrate Christmas on Friday 2 December and are asking for offers of help. This is always a really lovely event and the morning is rounded off with a glass of wine in the drawing room in the company of the Headmaster. After helping in the morning you are invited to have lunch with your child. Please give your name to Mrs Richardson in the school office if you would like to be involved.

For those of you who have not visited the Inner Hall recently please do so! The children have responded wonderfully well to the competition to create an indoor aquarium. Mrs Stamp tells us more..

"Mr Crossley and I had a lovely time this morning looking at all the homemade sea creatures entered for the house art competition. Though there were so many imaginative and innovative creations across all year groups, it was Louis Drane who took the Junior prize with his marvellously realistic giant manta ray and Sam Field as the Senior winner with the brave little diver. Runners up were James Duffy and Joss Mordaunt. All the entries can be seen in the inner hall aquarium and the website will have photos and a list of special mentions for the other pupils with prizes and reds to be awarded in due course."

Sport

This week's sporting fixtures started with a very exciting and closely fought victory over Riddlesworth Hall in the swimming pool on Tuesday. A huge percentage of pupils were in action on Wednesday and full details can be found on the website. Highlights this week

might be the fact that the under 9A rugby side march on unbeaten with Ben Blowers scoring a hat trick of tries, not to mention the performances of the U11 boys and girls in particular.... that said, the 1st team rugby side defeating Wyndam College was also a fabulous achievement! Full details are 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

Thursday's Music Assembly featured one of our Year 7 flautists, Miriam Whadcoat. Miriam gave a superb performance of 'Comic Song', by Cecilia McDowell accompanied by Mr Drew-Batty on piano. As we begin our second half of term it is always encouraging to know that we have a queue of aspiring performers to entertain us on Thursday mornings and we are always pleased to welcome parents who would like to attend.

Christmas Carol Service

Please keep your diaries free for our Taverham Hall School Carol Service which will take place on **Tuesday 13th December at 19:00** in the school's Sports Hall.

The Carol Service is always a highlight of the year and we do hope as many pupils and parents as possible will attend. In recent years the carol services have been organized separately between the Junior and Senior pupils. This year a huge amount of effort has been invested in making this event a 'whole school' celebration. All members of the school are very welcome to attend what is planned to be a great celebration of Christmas through readings and music. The singing will be led by the school's Chapel Choir with readings to be presented by members of the school. This year the order of service is based on the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols and readings are taken from The King James' Bible which celebrates its 400th anniversary this year. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Boarders' News

The boarding community enjoyed a fun-filled Pumpkin Night this week. We were delighted at the number of superbly carved pumpkins. Tea was full of strangely named drinks and food amidst some lovely decorations. Our pumpkin night walk took us on a search for lit pumpkins, leading us to Mrs Goldsmith's home. Thanks to Mrs Goldsmith who kindly came back to school to judge the boarders' pumpkin competition. Congratulations to Carys Green, the overall winner. Matron Ives later led the boarders in a Boogie Session, dancing to a CD of special spooky music kindly lent by Matilda. Spooky sweet treats were also shared.

Next Wednesday is our Year 5 Sleepover – do book your beds in surgery if you haven't done so far. It will be an evening of fun for the Year 5s and our supporting boarders.

Operation Christmas Child

This year Taverham Hall School will, once again, support Operation Christmas Child – the UK's largest children's Christmas appeal. The idea is simple: You fill empty shoe boxes with little gifts and send them out to children in need overseas for Christmas. It would be great if you could get involved too! Leaflets have been distributed to the pupils and if you would like to find out more, simply go to www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk/how-to-pack-your-shoebox. Please return your box to school by 14 November. If you pay online please include the reference number with the box. More details will follow regarding delivery of the boxes to the Spixworth collection centre by some of our children.

Mrs Stamp has extended the deadline for the school Christmas Card Competition. The theme this year is "Angels" and entries should now be submitted by MONDAY 7 NOVEMBER which gives you a whole extra weekend to create something Angelic!

Richard Howard, Old Taverhamian and ex-member of staff at the school, has very kindly donated 2 copies of "Turned out Nice Again". The book, which he has co-written with Sue Smart, is a biography of George Formby. He also donated a CD of a Radio Norfolk production featuring Mr Formby and both these will be available to pupils in the school library.

Finally, a further plea with respect to the Prep school car park. Pupils have been repeatedly requested to wait, following handshake, for parents to physically walk them back to the car. This is to ensure safety remains paramount as the dark evenings set in and that younger pupils in particular are not tempted to cross in front of moving cars. Please support the school in this drive for pupil safety by not remaining in your car and beckoning children across the car park.

Due to my IAPS Committee commitments and a forthcoming trip west to join an Inspection Team for 3 days, I may be conspicuous by my absence in the next couple of weeks, but normal service will be resumed as soon as possible. Mr Worrall, as ever, will deputize in my absence.

I hope everyone enjoys a safe and relaxing "Bonfire Night" weekend.



Mike Crossley
Headmaster

Calendar

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

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

Mon	7/11/2011	14:00:00	School Team Photos
Tue	8/11/2011	15:30:00	Year 4 Parents Evening
Wed	9/11/2011		Scholarship Assessment and Interviews
		14:30:00	Girls U13A and U11 A v Town Close (A)
		14:30:00	Girls U9s v Beeston (A)
		14:30:00	Boys U9 A&B v Norwich (A)
		14:30:00	Colts B v Riddlesworth (H)
		14:30:00	1st XV v Langley (A)
		15:15:00	Girls U13B & U11B v Town Close (A)
Thu	10/11/2011		Scholarship Assessment and Interviews
		08:30:00	Circuits (Parents)
		16:30:00	Swimming Gala v Hethersett Old Hall (H)
Fri	11/11/2011	10:50:00	Remembrance Service
Mon	14/11/2011		External Music Exams
Tue	15/11/2011		Toddlers Photographs
		09:30:00	Y4 Fakenham Race Course for Maths and Art Day
Wed	16/11/2011	14:30:00	Girls U13A and U11A v Orwell (A)
		14:30:00	Girls U13B, U11B v Glebe (H)
		14:30:00	Colts A v Glebe (H) (U10s)
		14:30:00	Boys U9 v Glebe (H)
Thu	17/11/2011	07:30:00	Parents Bacon Butty Breakfast Morning
		08:30:00	Circuits (Parents)
Fri	18/11/2011	08:30:00	Assembly with Rev Seabrook
		14:15:00	Girls U9s v Norwich (H) (Indoor)
		14:30:00	Colts A and Colts B v Norwich (H)
		14:45:00	U11A and U11B v Norwich (A)