

20 January 2012



Dear Parents

Welcome back after what I hope has been a relaxing holiday period with your children and may I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy new year.

The new pupils in the school all appear to have settled in very well and their shadows in particular appear to be doing a fabulous job.

An early date in everyone's calendar should be Friday 9 March when the Friends will be holding a social evening with games and Chinese food. This is a new initiative designed to draw areas of the school together for an evening where parents can play, chat, eat and drink – sounds ideal! Further details will be given by Sally Barter and the Friends' Society nearer the time. As ever, my thanks go to the Friends who remain such a heartbeat in the school community. Another date for your calendar is Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> of May when the Development Committee will be hosting our Summer Ball as a celebration the school's 90<sup>th</sup> jubilee – the theme for the Ball will be "The Roaring 20s" in keeping with the 1921 start date of Taverham Hall as a school.

This term's Open Morning appears on the horizon and I am fully aware that current parents, along with our pupils, are the school's best advert and therefore please encourage friends and others to attend next Friday 27 January between 9:00 and 12:00.

I was very pleased to present Ezra with a cup in assembly this week for 'Cub of the Year', awarded to him by Hethersett Cromwell Cub Scouts Pack. Well done Ezra!

### **Sport**

Congratulations to the following boys who represented Norfolk in Taverham Hall School colours last Saturday at Bedford Modern in the zonal stages of the ESTTA table tennis tournament. Our U13s were represented by Harry D, George C, Robert B and Edward C and the U11s were represented by Eddie D, George H, Felix H and Harry W. Full details can be found on the website but I am delighted to announce that the U11s side qualified as finalists for the next stage 'up North' in Blackburn. Having witnessed their performance first hand I must comment on just how far their skills have progressed under the expert guidance of George Luong, ably supported by Mr Martin. They were all an absolute credit to the school and are playing some outstanding table tennis.

This Wednesday's fixture saw a number of teams in action. Our girls played their first netball matches against Beeston Hall whilst Ben C's hat-trick in his first ever hockey match will take some beating! Match reports are detailed on the website as ever:

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/>

Sporting dates this term

<http://www.taverhamhall.co.uk/children-news/more-sport/spring-term-2012-tournaments-14939/>

### **Music**

The musical item in this week's Music Assembly was performed by Sophie in Year 8. She sang 'Silent Noon', by Ralph Vaughan Williams, which is one of the pieces Sophie had to prepare for her recent Music Scholarship audition. Sophie was accompanied by Mr Drew-Batty on the piano and she gave an excellent performance of a very beautiful but challenging song.

### **Pre Prep**

The children in Year 2 have started working on two new major projects. In Geography they are reading the stories of Katie Morag by Mairi Hedderwick, to give them an insight into life on a small island in Scotland. In Science the children have begun their topic on electricity. They have been finding out about the dangers of electricity and have created excellent safety posters which will be displayed in the Pre-Prep. They have also started to make their own working clocks which they are all very excited about.

Forest School has begun again and Year 1 explored the woods around the Colt's field, looking at how the winter had changed the appearance of the trees and they learned some new describing words – evergreen and deciduous. The children also made spider web patterns using sticks and string. In Topic, Year 1 are recording the weather each day using symbols and most of the children are hoping for the opportunity soon to use the one for snow!

Reception children have begun their topic on food by making pasta faces, using a vast selection of pasta and seeds. They have also discovered that potatoes are used to make crisps and they have had lots of fun trying different flavours and choosing their favourite. In preparation for the snow that the children hope will appear before the end of winter, they have designed their own snowmen and written a poem about the winter.

### **Nursery**

In the Nursery we have all been exploring the cold weather following our 'Winter' theme and the children have been playing games to learn how to dress themselves independently. They have been making their own bird feeders, looking at which foods and drinks keep them warm and going for walks to explore the effects of 'Jack Frost'. We have created a sound bag with the letter "w".

### **Boarding News**

The Taverham Hall School umbrella has proved to be very popular and looks extremely supportive on match days. Matron Ives and Matron Midgley would like to launch a "Where you and your brollie go" competition. A photograph of you and your brollie at a match or in unusual and exciting places should be submitted to the school shop or the surgery and a prize will be awarded at the end of Spring term, so get 'snapping' - rain or shine!

For a summary of boarding events in the Spring Term

<http://www.taverhamhall.co.uk/children-news/boarding/boarders-spring-term-events-14922/>

Mrs Marles, who retired at the end of the summer term, has asked me to pass on her thanks for all the lovely retirement presents she received and to tell you she has finally found a sun dial for her garden to remind her of Taverham Hall School - now all she needs is some sun to enjoy it!

### **Top Draw update**

As you are aware Top Draw is the school's 100 Club with the aim of raising funds to provide add-on facilities for the school and we are delighted to announce that the first draw will take place in the Outer Hall on Monday 20th February.

As a reminder 37.5% of receipts will be allocated as prize money. In the early stages the prize money will be divided into 3 prizes - the 1st prize = 50% of the prize money, 2nd and 3rd prizes will be awarded 25% each. However, you have to be in it to win it!

The closing date for the February Draw is 31 January 2012. Please note that it is not necessary to have a team of 4 - you can simply participate for £10 per month as an individual. Please make sure that you don't lose out – the Headmaster's PA, Lara Golden, has the relevant forms should you require a copy.

**The Headmaster's Photography competition** has had fewer entrants at this stage than was hoped and therefore the deadline has been extended until Monday 29 January in the hope that there are still some stunning shots lurking on cameras at home! The Parents' Camera Club run by Debby Besford have produced some fabulous photographs in their short time learning both the basics and more advanced skills and we eagerly await their photography exhibition to be held in the next couple of weeks.

It is lovely to see so many parents involving themselves in the immediate community and after last Friday's exhausting 5-a-side football it is the turn of Miss Chapman and the netballers. We will be alternating football and netball on Fridays whilst badminton and circuit training remain an option for all parents on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

I hope everyone has a relaxing weekend.

Mike Crossley  
Headmaster

## Calendar

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

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

and specific events here:

<http://www.taverhamhall.co.uk/forthcoming-events/information-evenings-14930/>

Sun	22/1/2012	13:00:00	Boys 1st XI Tournament at Town Close
Tues	24/1/2012	08:30:00	Circuits (Parents)
		16:45:00	Senior Chapel Choir Members to Norwich Cathedral Evensong
Wed	25/1/2012	13:40:00	U9 Boys A&B v Beeston
		14:15:00	Boys 1st XI v Beeston (A)
		14:15:00	Boys 2nd XI v Beeston (A)
		14:30:00	Girls U11A and U11B v Hethersett (A)
		14:55:00	Colts A v Beeston (A)
		14:55:00	Colts C v Beeston (A)
		15:30:00	Girls U13A and U13B v Gt Finborough (h)
		15:45:00	Colts B v Beeston (A)
		15:45:00	Colts D v Beeston (A)
		18:00:00	Boarders' Burns Night Celebration
Thu	26/1/2012	08:30:00	Circuits (Parents)
Fri	27/1/2012	09:00:00	<b>Open Morning</b>