



TAVERHAM HALL Preparatory School

21st October 2009

Dear Parents

As half-term approaches, I am left asking where has the first seven weeks gone? The next half term promises to be just as busy with 'Oliver', the Pre-Prep and Nursery Christmas productions, carol services, bonfire night and perhaps, less popular...school exams for Years 5 to 8! All books are due home over half term along with kit, some of which is long overdue and more than ready for the washing machine.

Open Morning was a busy and productive time and I would particularly like to thank the tour guides in Years 7 & 8 who did a fantastic job. Prospective parents always comment on the quality of the children in our top two years and having witnessed them in action last Friday I would concur with their observations as they were polite, courteous, helpful and above all pro-active.

Year 3 had great fun in their annual trip to Yarmouth. Mrs Marles takes up the story.....

A small group of seventeen evacuees are about to board a train to Nottingham. Are they downhearted? No far from it, there is a sense of anticipation and excitement amongst them. This is because both the children, the WRNS, WRAF and nurse who accompany them are the staff and pupils of Year 3 at Taverham Hall School. They have come to the Time and Tide museum in Great Yarmouth to take part in a workshop which will help them share some of the experiences of children their age during the world war two.

While they wait for their train the children meet two ARP wardens. A variety of gas masks were demonstrated (including the famous Mickey Mouse Mask) but the highlight of the morning occurred as they dived into the Morrison shelter when the air raid siren sounded.



The second warden showed them how to make an incendiary bomb safe with the help of a stirrup pump. Later at the local shop they saw the type and amount of food available to buy with their ration book and coupons. Amongst these were boiled sweets and powdered egg.

Two local ladies gave the children some handy tips on converting an old dress into a wrap over piny and they all tried their hand at making a rag rug or turning an old newspaper into toilet paper.

The day was a great success for everyone who took part and the children returned to school with lots of stories to share with family and friends.

Assemblies this week have focused on ensuring we do not become over-reliant on satellite navigation systems (!) and also on appreciating how lucky we are. Tuesday's assembly was courtesy of Nick Nicholson and his team from Norwich City Council who are keen for the school to develop a partnership with a school in Dezda, Malawi. It was an excellent assembly and the pupils gave every indication that this link could well be forged in the near future.

Sport

The Under 12 rugby side had a full Sunday in Finborough recently..

Finborough Tournament

We started the morning against Thetford Grammar and things got off to a good start. The team tackled well and fought for the ball extremely hard setting up opportunities for Georgie Michael to side step his way to the try line and for Will Mitchell to finish off a good move to add a second before half time. After the break we went to sleep slightly and Thetford scored a try of their own as we missed our tackles. We soon regained our composure and sealed the win with a great try from Edward Briscoe.

The second game against the hosts Finborough was an extremely physical game and we were unlucky to go a try down before the break. The boys certainly didn't give up and after a deep kick off from Georgie and great chase from Will Burton we soon found ourselves level. The winning try seemed to elude us, as efforts from Will B and Ed were ruled out by the referee before Will M scored the winner with the last play of the game.

The final pool game was against Wisbech Grammar and like us they had won their previous two games. We dominated the first half but managed to waste numerous scoring opportunities before Ed scored. Unfortunately Wisbech were able to score a try of their own straight from the kick off as we missed our tackles. We did our best to defend our lead in the second half but were unable to extend it before Wisbech scored a second try to seal the win.

Because of this result we finished runners up in our pool so qualified for the main cup competition, earning ourselves a quarter final against last years winners Holmewood House. This proved to be a game too far and we certainly were not at our best. Although Holmewood proved too strong, the boys should be extremely proud of the way they played in this tournament and I thank them for their efforts and the positive way they represented the school.

Last Wednesday witnessed the girls in action against St Felix..

Under 11 A Hockey

Score 2-0 to St Felix. The under 11 A side had a good match against St Felix; It was an even match with the ball being played around nicely. Unfortunately our forwards could not get the ball in the goal; there were many opportunities but luck was not on our side. Sophie Wigglesworth had a great game in defence and made some excellent tackles. Chiara Bettoni played very well at goal keeper making some amazing saves. Annie Serruys and Rosie Griggs played well together in mid field and attack, but found it hard to get around the opposing defence. Well played girls. Player of the Match Sophie Wigglesworth.

Under 10

First time out for several of these players and everyone played with excellent determination. We had lots of opportunities to get the ball close to the goal but actually scoring eluded us and fortunately St Felix too! It was a very even and exciting match. Particularly strong performances from Amelia Ellis-Baumber and Jemma Crossley in the midfield and Lydia Ellis-Baumber and Emma Martin who were kept busy defending. Final score 0 – 0.

Under 11B

More determined play by both teams and Taverham definitely had the lion's share of opportunities and chances to score. For most of the match the ball was in our attacking circle but despite our best efforts their defence prevailed and our score remained at zero. One quick break away by St Felix gave them the only goal of the match catching our defence unawares. Outstanding and particularly determined play by Mollae Scott and also valuable contributions by captain of the team Anna Jolly and Sophie Richardson.

The girls finish this half term with matches at Great Finborough, the results of which will appear in the next newsletter.

Art

Mrs Stamp offers the following challenge to pupils in Years 3 and above with the winning artwork to be used as the Taverham Hall Christmas card this year and house points will be awarded to all pupils who contribute. There will also be prizes!

Angel Drawing Competition

Rules:

- A4 Paper any colour
- Any media – pencil, crayon, pain, collage, pen or IT (original creations)
- Labelled with name, form and house
- Entries close on Friday 6 November
- Completed entries should be given to form tutors or Mrs Stamp.

Photography Winner

Congratulations to Samantha Blackman who was a winner in the U12 photography competition at the Sculthorpe Moor Community Nature Reserve.

The winners of the Headmaster's photography competition should see their winning efforts on display next half term as the photos are currently away being mounted and framed.

South African Exchange Programme

Pupils from Years 7 & 8 who wish to be considered for the annual South African Exchange Programme, running 10-30 March 2010 should register their interest with their form tutor.

Music Department

On Monday 12 October our Sports Hall provided the venue for the first '**Singing Day**'. Taverham Hall School's Chapel, Junior and Pre-Prep choirs were joined by the choir of Firside Middle School for a day of music making.

After a fun warm up session, led by our Director of Music, Mr Drew-Batty, including, 'Hey, My Name Is Joe!' the choirs performed to each other. Our visiting music tutor, Mr Dodd, directed the Pre-Prep Choir in a performance of 'Samson' which proved to be a popular choice for the young singers who returned to their lessons after break. The remaining pupils began work on new music. Firside and our Chapel Choir enjoyed lunch together before having an extended break outside. It was great to see the children from each school socialising and joining in games. The choirs rejoined at 1330 for another workshop activity ending the day with a performance of all pieces learnt during the day to an appreciative audience of Year 4 pupils and staff. Two of the items included, 'Alleluia' by Mr Drew-Batty and Coldplay's 'The Scientist'.

Earlier this year in July, Mr Drew-Batty held a Choral Day at Salle Church with Taverham Hall School's Chapel Choir and singers from Bungay High School and this October's Singing Day is viewed as an extension of this; helping to promote the enjoyment of singing together.

Taverham Hall subscribes to the national 'Sing Up' initiative, endorsed by composer Howard Goodall, and it is hoped that further links will be made with other schools in the future. Five schools have already asked to be involved next year!

We continue with news of our youngest pupils.....

Toddler Group

The first half-term at the Toddler Group has proven to be a very exciting one. The children have been offered a wide range of experiences and activities which support all aspects of their development: social; physical; intellectual; communication; emotional. With numerous activities on offer every week the children are assured of a very stimulating and fun session each Tuesday. Activities provided include play dough, books, musical instruments, jewels, tool box and bricks, farm and animals, cars and garage, trains, dinosaurs, ponies, dolls, play cooker, fruit stall, dolls house etc as well as puzzles, matching, threading and more to help develop hand to eye co-ordination and expand thinking skills. These child-initiated play activities encourage use of imagination and help build social skills, promote sharing as well as developing friendships.

Each week, two craft activities are provided and this half-term has seen us make buzzing bugs, paint using a salad spinner, make a peacock, create a pop up owl providing a hands-on sensory experience using bark chippings, use easels, roller painting as well as painting using balloons.

Encouraging each child's spiritual discovery and expression is an important part of our work, and the toddlers, as well as their parents/guardians have gained much pleasure and enjoyment in learning more about and celebrating Rosh Hashanah (which marks the first and second days of the Jewish New Year) and the Indian Diwali, 'Festival of Lights'. Our toddlers learned how to make a shofar and decorated an apple template to wish everyone a sweet New Year as well as making a jewelled clay pot containing a tea light and decorating an elephant as Lord Ganesha which is worshipped in most Hindu homes during their Diwali festival.

The onset of autumn was marked by printing with leaves and their wonderful displays can be seen in the porch of the Pre-Prep Hall. The "Leaves" poem by Elsie N Brady was added to the children's work and aims to describe the wonderful season of autumn:

How silently they tumble down
And come to rest upon the ground
To lay a carpet, rich and rare,
Beneath the trees without a care,
Content to sleep, their work well done,
Colours gleaming in the sun.

At other times, they wildly fly
Until they nearly reach the sky.
Twisting, turning through the air
Till all the trees stand stark and bare.
Exhausted, drop to earth below
To wait, like children, for the snow.

Every Tuesday the Toddler sessions in our Pre-Prep Hall end with lots of action songs, singing and dancing. Old favourites like Dingle Dangle Scarecrow, Miss Polly had a Dolly, Roly Poly as well as the Oki Koki provide great amusement for all and encourages the children to participate and become more confident.

Free trial sessions are available and more information can be found on the Toddler section of our website.



A message from our ever vigilant matrons..

Norovirus

Norfolk County Council has informed the school that there have been outbreaks of norovirus in the county. For more information on this gastroenteritis virus please look at the following website:

http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1195733752853?p=1191942172970

If your child has norovirus, you are to inform the school and confirm that it is norovirus. Your child may only return to school 48 hours following their last symptom (eg last vomiting or diarrhoea episode).

Chicken Club

You will have noticed that there are now four chickens in a state of the art coop at the back of the Nursery. Mrs Marles and her husband deserve great credit for this initiative as do the pupils in the Chicken Club who have had responsibility for input into the design of the coop and care of the chickens. The first egg was laid on Sunday – hurrah!

Bonfire Night

The response, as predicted, has been huge and the letter from the Friends' outlines arrangements and timings, details of which can also be found on the school's website. I would just like to reinforce the fact that parents and pupils are **not permitted** to bring their own fireworks or sparklers for Health and Safety reasons and pupils remain the responsibility of their parents at all times unless they are boarding.

Recipe Book

The Friends' Recipe Book has arrived with wonderful delights to try out. The cost is £6 and will make excellent Christmas presents and are available from the office.

Uniform Shop

Available from the Uniform Shop are:

- New School ties
- Autumn Term scrunchies/hairbands
- Packets of navy hair ties
- Track suits

Friends' Quiz & Chips Night Friday 13 November

The AGM will take place at 1900 prior to the start of the Quiz & Chips evening and all parents are warmly invited to submit any new nominations to join the Friends Committee to Mrs Lorraine Dunne at lorraine@dunne62.wanadoo.co.uk by Thursday 5 November. For further details regarding the Quiz & Chips evening please see the Parent-Teacher section on our website.

School Website

Most parents are now familiar with the school's new website. However, for those who have not had a chance to browse through it, please do, as not only are our weekly newsletter and other information/notices posted here, there are also regular updates of what our children get up to in Toddlers, Nursery, Pre-Prep and Prep in the relevant children's section under the News Pages post.

On a final note, I do hope everyone enjoys a restful half term and I look forward to seeing all pupils back in winter uniform after the break, which means arriving at school in ties and blazers for Prep pupils.

M A Crossley
Headmaster

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 5 November 1830 Whole School Bonfire Night
Friday 13 November 1900 Friends' Quiz & Chips Evening