



TAVERHAM HALL

Preparatory School

2 December 2009

Dear Parents

This will be the last newsletter of 2009 and with it comes my warmest wishes for a very merry Christmas and a prosperous 2010. There is a lot of 'doom and gloom' on TV and radio on a daily basis and should politicians and the like ever need a tonic, they should come and spend time with children in a school at Christmas – magical!

Those of you fortunate enough to have seen the school's production of 'Oliver' will certainly agree that the children did themselves proud. Over three fabulous nights the standard just got better and better. Mr Drew Batty and Mrs Foulkes-Arnold worked tirelessly and the results were outstanding. There are simply too many people to thank here including a clutch of staff, all of whom played their part in a production about which we are all very proud. Well done to all and enjoy a well-earned break over the weekend.



It was lovely to hand out several Headmaster's commendations this week. One was for Samuel Baker whose piece in the Drayton Parish magazine reflected his love of hamsters and another for George Clements for an outstanding mathematics result in the recent exams. James and William Graver and Amelia Ellis-Baumber received subject commendations for their contributions in mathematics and Victoria Baker received an English commendation for a superb newspaper report. Edward Briscoe and Rhys Pearson-Shaul were both well deserved recipients of the 'Radiator of the Week' award. Ed regularly sets up the Inner Hall for morning assembly with no prompting whatsoever and always with a smile. Rhys has been particularly helpful in the Dining Room easing the workload of both Matrons.

It was also good to hear that James Cherry had been awarded 'Man of the Match' at North Walsham U9 Rugby Club and Miriam Whadcoat had a clutch of medals and trophies for her ballet. Both pupils received recognition and applause in Monday's assembly. Ed Briscoe was part of a very successful North Walsham U12 rugby side

who won a tournament at Norwich Rugby Club on Wednesday evening after playing for the school side that afternoon! No mean feat.

Sport

It's been a busy week on the games field as the staff reports indicate...

Mrs Hambidge reports that the **girls' house hockey matches** showed good sportsmanship by all. There were some very close and competitive games as always with house matches. Cecily Rainey and Victoria Baker gave outstanding performances and there were notable contributions from Samantha Blackman, Rosie Griggs and Eleanor Richardson-Howell. The final results were 1st Hawks (goals from Hollie Milton, Annie Serruys and Sophie Owles) and Runners Up – Wrens.

Rugby

1st XII v Town Close – After a bright start when we were close to scoring, a confident and well-drilled Town Close side took a grip on the game and outplayed us in all aspects of the game. To our credit we rallied in the second half and Harry Gayfer, William Burton and Blyth Few competed strongly but our only real threat came when Robert Goldsmith showed flashes of his pacey running skills. However, these fizzled out as he lacked support at vital times. It was a disappointing end to the season where the highlights were our wins against Finborough and Gresham's II. Colours awarded to Harry Gayfer.

Colts A v Town Close

The Colts A started well and were camped in the Town Close 22m line for the first 5 minutes and could have scored if the team had been alert to the strong driving run of William Mitchell, who proved to be a thorn in the side of Town Close all afternoon. Town Close then struck with two quick tries, one a long solo effort from their own 22m line. After the half-time pep-talk the team performed better in the second half, with some strong driving runs from Freddie Mann, Ben Green and Tom Martin in the forwards. The backs started to move the ball, but were caught out twice by sucker punches from Town Close. It was good to see James Robb, Rhys Pearson-Shaul and Will Barker make an impact in their first game for the A team. Oliver Obeney kicked well and set up good field position but again we were unable to cross the line. Despite sniping runs from Robert Baker, it was left to the strong tackling of George Clements to save the day again. Thanks to the boys for their hard effort over the course of the season. We look forward to next year, particularly since seven boys from the Y5 age group have already played for the A team this year.

Colts B v Town Close

With many of the main colts' players on the bench for the A team, the other players in the colts had a chance to lead the team and some to play their first games this season. Town Close started strongly with a big set of forwards and scored a breakaway try early in the game. Play was even between the two sets of players,

although Taverham showed a little more control of the ball as a team in the maul, Town Close fought hard and passed slightly better. Taverham came back immediately when Alex Conway scored from the restart in the corner, breaking away from the defenders with speed and agility. Town Close came back strongly and scored again. They were beginning to dominate and were 3 tries up to 1 after a lack of concentration and poor tackling allowed them back in the game again. The second half saw a change as Albert Sorensen Pound was driven over with help from Alex to score the best try of the match. Strength and determination were the keys with good forward team play. Oliver Conway then scored to level the game, but with 1 minute left Town Close broke down the right wing with a great try to take the lead again and probably closed out the game. Taverham drove forward from the restart and after many phases of controlled rucking and mauling captain Peter Walker spun out from the back of the maul to score in the corner and level the match at 4-4. Well played by all of the team and especially good to see Sam Baker, Edward Clough and Jamie Clamp make their debuts, along with James Graver and Joss Mordaunt who all contributed well.

The U9 Boys' A Team finished the season against a very strong Norwich side. They were a little shell-shocked in the first half and conceded a try early on. They improved as the half wore on but were unable to break the Norwich line. A change of tactics was needed after half time and the boys started playing some proper rugby. As soon as we started mauling the ball, we managed to move forward and Jack van Poortvliet scored a superb try after some excellent build-up involving every member of the team. Unfortunately we conceded another try just before the end as their number 10 managed to break through a number of tackles. We had 2 minutes to get back into the game, but Norwich intercepted the ball from our restart and ran through to score 3-1 to Norwich. We did manage to score another try after some excellent rucking but it was all too late. Final score 3-2 to Norwich. A hard fought end to an excellent season.

The U9 Boys' B Team finished the season with an entertaining fixture against Norwich School. The team have really improved their attacking displays this season but still need to work on their defensive lines. Another high scoring game finished with the score 8-6 to Norwich, with 4 tries from Jabez Cooke, 1 from Aaron Hollinger and 1 as yet unclaimed! Victor Konstantinidis, Thomas Barter and Oliver E were all making their first appearances for the team and played well. A suitable end to a high scoring and entertaining season. Thanks to the boys for all their efforts.



The **Under 13 Girls Hockey** Team had a cracking game against Gresham's; we were the dominant team from the start with Cecily Rainey and Hollie Milton putting the pressure on from the offset. Georgina Lyon and Charlotte Caswell were fast and efficient on the attack, getting the ball quickly into the opponents 'D' to score 3 fabulous goals in the first half. Our defence was true to form with some fantastic defending from Victoria Baker, Annabel Kennard and Samantha Blackman. Most of the team played out of position at points during the match, giving everyone the opportunity to play in attack. Annabel Kennard stepped up to the mark and scored a superb goal, which was set up wonderfully by Hollie. Sophie Owles rolled on and off in attack and made some beautiful crosses to the middle for Cecily and Georgina. Last but by no means least, Katy Larter outdid herself with some fantastic saves in goal. She also has been great at giving encouragement throughout all the matches we have played this term.

Mrs Steed added that she has been so impressed with all the girls in Y7 & 8 this term. Everyone has put 100% into games lessons and matches and they have been a joy to teach. The improvement in their hockey skills has also been noticed and commented on by parents, who have watched them throughout the term.

Under 11 A v Gresham's

This match brought out our best play of the season and was a wonderful game to finish on. Although Gresham's had lots of scoring opportunities in the first half, they only managed to take their score to 1 – 0 by half time, due to some attempts being off target and some excellent saves from Chiara Bettoni. In the second half, after some pertinent reminders, our game lifted a level. We had lots of play and Annie Serruys, showing some excellent skills both in and out of the circle, equalised for us. Both Annie and Chiara were congratulated by the opposing umpire for their outstanding play, which is always an accolade. Charlotte Billig had her best game this year, Sophie Wigglesworth was back on excellent form, and Rosie Griggs's usual steady, reliable game meant that we remained on course and finished with a well-deserved draw, just one goal a piece. Mollae Scott and Hermione Buttery up front had opportunities to score but were thwarted by a lively Gresham's goal keeper.

Players of the match	Annie Serruys and Charlotte Billig
Colours awarded to	Chiara Bettoni

Under 11B Girls v Gresham's

This was a slightly disappointing performance by the girls. With Anna Jolly being injured right from the start; the team failed to attack or defend the ball with much aggression or energy. Pippa Crabtree remained solid in defence; however Pippa, Emma Martin and Louisa Crabtree often had little support. By half time, Gresham's were 4-0 up. After half time, the girls came out with a little more drive and energy; however this wasn't enough to stop Gresham's form scoring another 2 goals. Just before the final whistle was blown, Lydia Ellis-Baumber fought through Gresham's

defence to score an exciting goal. The final score was 6-1 to Gresham's.

Pre-Prep

This year the Pre-Prep Christmas production was called 'The Hoity Toity Angel'. It was a fantastic spectacle, beautiful costumes, clear voices and confident children. The production was much more challenging as it was longer and included a number of songs that were musically quite challenging. Ella Fairbairn-Day was superb as the Hoity Toity fairy and anyone who saw Hugo Dodd as King Herod will never forget his spectacular performance! Each year our parents say that the performance cannot possibly get any better but each year – produced and directed by Mrs Fry, with Mr Dodd as the musical director - the performance reaches new heights! Congratulations go to all the children, who gave everything to make this the best Christmas present they could give their parents



Nursery

Much excitement in the Nursery this week as children arrived to discover a very large Christmas tree in the foyer. This has complemented the abundance of festive art and craft on display. The children have taken advantage of the mild weather to be involved in Forest School activities such as a bear hunt through the woods, running down leaf-covered hills, exploring dens, observing amazing fungi and negotiating the laurel enclosure (the first time they have been in here !). To top it all, Winnie the Pooh was discovered alive and well in Snake Wood. The Nursery staff value our wonderful grounds every day.

Staff Corner

Mr Hamilton, two weeks into fatherhood, accompanied by Mr Wood and our guitar teacher Mr Hill all successfully completed the half marathon at the showground again this year. Well done to all three.

Due to a glitch with the management information system, effort and attainment grades will now come home at a later date.

Dates for your Diary

Midsummer Ball

A Midsummer School Ball will be held on **Friday 25 June 2010** to which all current parents and Old Taverhamians will be warmly invited. Further details will be posted on this website in due course but in the meantime please keep this date free in your diary for an evening of entertainment, music and fun!

Carol Service

Thursday's Carol service at St Edmund's church, Taverham, will take place at the times below. Please pick up from the church where possible and whilst parents are very welcome, it is advisable to arrive in good time as places may be limited

1430 Yrs 3, 4 & 5

1545 Yrs 6, 7 & 8

Term ends at 1230 for the Prep School and 1200 for Pre-Prep and Nursery. Final assembly will include a Christmas message from the Reverend Seabrook and will be the last opportunity to celebrate all the successes of another wonderfully busy and productive term.

Activity Course

Limited places are still available on the multi-activity course, commencing 16 December. The office will operate as normal next week, so if you decide on a late booking due to the need for some last-minute shopping, please ring to guarantee a slot for your child.

And finally...

On behalf of myself and my family, I would like to wish all parents, staff and especially pupils a very relaxing Christmas and I look forward to seeing everyone rested and recharged in January!

M A Crossley
Headmaster