



TAUNTON
SCHOOL

Prep & Pre-Prep COURIER

6th November 2020

#TAUNTONSCHOOL

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



On Friday morning, the Prep School held a poignant remembrance service in the school chapel.

The service included poetry readings by the pupils, a rendition of 'Make me a Channel of Your Peace' by the choir and the Chaplain told the pupils about some of their teachers' relatives who had served in the military.

The last post was played and a minute's silence was observed.

More Inside

STEM Club

Meet the Director of Sport

Performing Arts Café

Weekly Awards

Year 5 Poets

And plenty more....

Next Prep Courier: 20th November 2020



The Head has his say...

I hope that you all enjoyed a great half term break and are looking forward to the exciting and busy second half of term leading up to Christmas.

The National Lockdown mark 2 has caused me to feel hugely grateful again that we are able to continue to give our children the first class education and care which they deserve and which we all want for them.

Before half term, the Performing Arts Department had to think creatively and imaginatively as to how the Year 4 children could enjoy their Theatre Production Week this year. Instead of a staged musical, we decided to make "Wiz Wham Alakazam" into a movie, using locations around our beautiful school. Year 4 parents and pupils have been sent a link to the whole movie and if any other parents or pupils would like to view it, it will be premiering on facebook from 5pm tomorrow afternoon.

Very well done to Mrs Hornsby and her team, Mr Coomber and his team (for the filming) and to all of the pupils for a fantastic achievement.

Remaining on the subject of performance, thank you very much and well done to all of the pupils who have produced such good assemblies this term. They have all made superb contributions on stage in Centenary Hall this term.

Alongside the successes of our boys and girls in the co-curricular areas, it is their progress in the classroom which always lies at the heart of their school experience. It was therefore extremely pleasing for me to see so many impressive grades being awarded just before half term in the first set of assessments for Attitude to Learning. Every Monday, in assembly, we call up to the stage and applaud up to around ten 'Learners of the Week', all of whom are listed in the Courier. Please do have a look at this week's list on page 13.

Today, we took part in our Prep School Remembrance Service, helping our pupils to develop a mature understanding of wars and conflicts around the world. The fact that we have a large core of pupils and staff from military backgrounds adds power and depth to Remembrance Day, and these members of our community are always helping us to strengthen the sense of service and values which are at the heart of our school.

I hope that you all enjoy a safe and enjoyable Guy Fawkes weekend!

Andrew Edwards
TPS Headmaster



Mike Stuckey



News from Pre-Prep

Welcome back. I hope that you all managed to enjoy time together as a family over the half term break. This week has seen some very bright, sunny afternoons with the children making the most of our wooded and forest areas for their learning.

Reception to Year Two were part of yesterday's Pre-Prep service to commemorate Remembrance Day. The Chaplain shared a lovely presentation for the children and the Chapel simply looked stunning against the backdrop of the deep blue sky. I thought I would take this opportunity to share our beloved Mr Booth's quote from yesterday before he laid a wreath at the altar; **'We should have confidence. Every generation faces its own challenge. Everything will be alright in the end.'** I hope that we can all take some comfort from these wise words.

Next week we will be communicating with the Pre-Prep parents about our Remote Parent Consultation Meetings, taking place on both Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th November from 4.00 – 6.30pm.

Friday 13th November will see our extended Children in Need 'Wake Up Shake Up'. This will take place remotely and the children will remain in their year group bubbles. The children will be able to wear their own choice of clothes and we ask that if you feel it appropriate, that you make your donation to Children in Need directly. We are so sorry that you will not be there to join us this year.

Have a good weekend.

Mrs Louise Leah, Head of Pre-Prep and Nursery

Year 5 get poetic pulses racing

As part of the Science topic on Keeping Healthy, pupils in 5P wrote short poems to explain what affects the heart beating. Here are four to get your pulse racing...

Simon Williams, Head of Science



**There was a scary movie on telly,
I was feeling nervous in my belly,
And then my pulse rate goes right up,
I was so nervous I spilt my cup!**

Elsbeth Craik

**Watching TV slows your heart beat,
Instead of running on your feet,
As it will make your muscles stronger,
And you live a bit longer.**

William Kemmish

**I'm glad that I have a heart,
It's been with me right from the start,
It beats all day and sounds like a song,
It's truly my best body part.**

Lucas Baker

**Helps blood travel around your body,
Exercise makes your pulse rate higher,
Although a shock makes it rise too.
Relaxation calms the heart,
Thank goodness for such a complex
body part!**

Ellie Onesti

The Week Ahead

Saturday, 7th November	9.00 - 12.00 Enrichment (Years 3 to 6)
Sunday, 8th November	-
Monday, 9th November	8.30 - 8.55 TPS Weekly Assembly
Tuesday, 10th November	9.00 - 11.30 - Reception Forest School 'Nature Detectives' 16.15 - 17.15 - Music Recitals
Wednesday, 11th November	-
Thursday, 12th November	-
Friday, 13th November	Children in Need (Loveday) Charity Day (wear something spotty) 8.30 - 8.50 - TPS Chapel
Saturday, 14th November	9.00 - 12.00 - Enrichment (Years 3 to 6) 9.30 - 16.00 - Ballet Exams
Sunday, 15th November	-
Monday, 16th November	8.30 - 8.55 - TPS Weekly Assembly 9.00 - 11.45 - Year 2 Forest School Morning
Tuesday, 17th November	16.15 - 17.00 - Performing Arts Cafe
Wednesday, 18th November	-
Thursday, 19th November	13.45 - 17.15 - Dance Show, Centenary Hall
Friday, 20th November	8.30 - 8.50 - TPS Chapel

Not a load of Rubbish!



The Year 3 children enjoyed a fantastic day at Carymoor finding out how to live like a Celt and how to live sustainably through reduce, reuse and recycle. Transported back 2000 years ago, the children ground flour from barley using a quern stone just as the Celts did and then used this to make bread which they baked over an open fire inside a roundhouse. The children then turned their skills to weaving and used willow to make a plate. After half term, Year 3 are looking at reducing, reusing and recycling, so to start off this topic the children learnt all about sustainability and even learnt a song about recycling. We were the only the second school ever to be able to go and

see the dropping off of the rubbish from South Somerset in their new facility. This rubbish is burnt rather than placed in the ground and is used to power 70 000 homes! It was fascinating to see the lorries coming in to dump off their rubbish and watch the digger make huge piles from it before it is taken away for burning, however the smell from the rubbish was something to behold! It is always a fantastic day out at Carymoor, the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and definitely learnt a lot. Throughout the day, the children demonstrated curiosity and were behaved impeccably

leaving the staff feeling super proud of their wonderful classes.

Take a look at our film of our great day out at Carymoor here: <https://vimeo.com/476219976>

The Year 3 Team



Talking Teeth



On Tuesday, Year 3 were treated to a terrific talk on teeth from Dental Therapist Claire Bennett following our Healthy Eating and Teeth Science topic last half term. We learnt all about the different roles of people working in a Dental Practice and discussed the importance of visiting a dentist regularly. The children were able to demonstrate what they had already learnt about the different types of teeth and how to look after their teeth as well as extend their knowledge to learning about gum disease, why 'baby teeth' fall out and other tools we can use to keep our teeth extra clean. Mr Rowse and Mrs Hill were challenged to brush their teeth for two minutes without timing and it turns out that 2 minutes is much longer than some of us thought! Claire demonstrated how people working in a Dental Practice are remaining COVID safe by wearing her scrubs, apron, mask, visor, glasses and even a respirator! We learnt that whilst dentists look a little different underneath all of the protective equipment that they are still people and we should all continue to go for our regular dental check-ups. Thank you so much to Claire for an inspiring talk; I am sure we will have some aspiring dentists amongst us now.

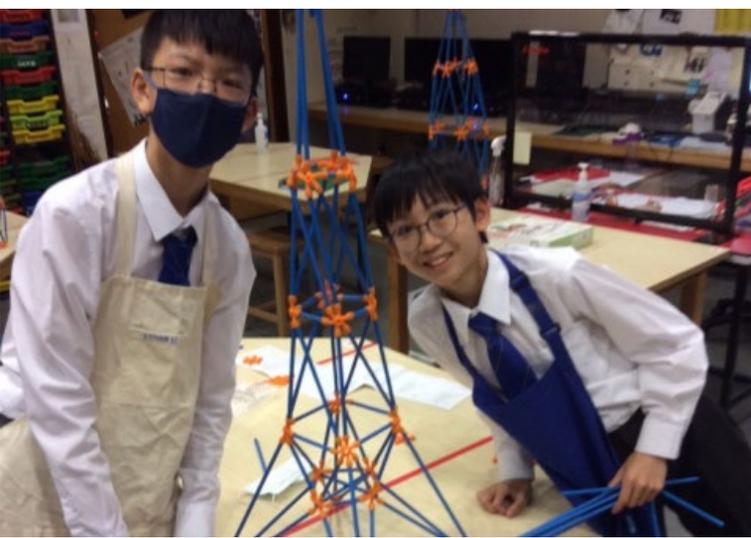
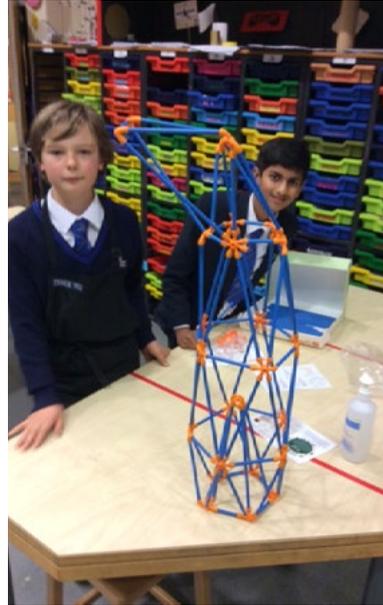
Mrs Hill



STEM Club Tower building

TPS STEM club have been experimenting with the new structure kits. These are made of bamboo and the Eco Club have got their eye on them. They were challenged to make one of the set designs for the towers but then add extra members to the top.

Simon Ashmore



Little Detectives



This week, something very exciting happened. When the Reception children returned from playtime with Mrs Wallace, there was a huge mess in Mrs Jenner's classroom. They used their detective skills to work out who had left such a mess. On closer inspection they saw some small footprints. The children followed the footprints which led them around the classroom, out the window, over the building blocks to a basket of treats and a letter from the Gingerbread Man. The children were very excited when they realised that the Gingerbread Man had left them each a biscuit to decorate and enjoy for their afternoon snack. What a lovely start to their new topic, 'Celebrations'!



Reception Team



Wiz Wham Alakazam!



We are delighted to present Year 4's magical musical "Wiz Wham Alakazam!".

The children and staff have worked incredibly hard in sometimes challenging circumstances but we have all pulled together to make a stunning and memorable musical production which we hope you will all enjoy.

The full video will premiere on our facebook page at 5pm on the 8th November: www.facebook.com/tauntonschool

Mrs Hornsby, Miss Hartland-Mann, Mr Baker

House Points

BRONZE

James Sercombe – 4F
 Quinn Stott - 4P
 Sam Martin – 3H
 Harrison Webb – 4F
 Jessica Miller – 4C
 Siddu Chaganti – 4P
 Ted Maloney – 5H
 Jamie Abbott – 5H
 Louis Ayrinhac – 5H
 Emma Mason – 5H

Lottie Perrone – 3H
 Aquilla Notaro – 4P
 Bella Vile – 5H
 Emily Dempsey – 3H
 Isabelle Read – 4C
 Finty Gallimore – 4C
 Poppy House – 4C
 Jed Ben-Chabaane – 3H
 Ben Leahy – 6T
 Samia Johnson – 7V

Amarra Beviss – 7V
 Edward Wreford = 3R
 Daisy Gregory – 3R
 Oscar Sanderson – 3R
 Dylan Simmons – 3R
 Barnaby Roberts – 3R
 Nicolas Du Toit – 7V
 Alex Hewer – 7V



Performing Arts Café

Pupils performed with confidence and enthusiasm in the Performing Arts Café on Tuesday 3rd November. Well done to you all.

Jayne Hornsby, Head of Music and Performing Arts

TUESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER

Rose Arynhaç	Clarinet	Evie Linden	Harp
Valentin Bala	Clarinet	Connie Burton	Piano
Ethan Li	Clarinet	Freya Simpson	Violin
Joshua Green	Euphonium	Ben Hatcher	Trombone
Safa Boraçi	Piano		



Meet the Director of Sport - TPS, Shaun Winsor

What is your job role, and which age groups do you work with?

My role is to oversee the provision of sports and physical education across the Pre Prep and Preparatory schools. This includes both the curriculum lessons and the sports/games fixtures. I work very closely with Mrs Foad who looks after the girls side of the sports. I am also responsible for overseeing the co-curricular provision in the school – so all of the after school clubs and activities.

How has the first half term at Taunton Prep School been going? What impact have the new restrictions had on sport?

The first half of term was definitely a challenge. We really had to modify how we taught; little things from not always calling pupils directly in to you as you teach different parts as you have to try and socially distance. Also stopping periodically to spray hands. Even within the changing rooms we have had to stagger changing and spread out to various changing rooms. To be fair the pupils have been amazing and probably adapted quicker than we did! On the sport side the girls were able to carry on near normal with the hockey. The boys were faced with zero contact in rugby. For the vast majority this was a big disappointment as they really enjoyed the physical part of the game. Instead though we were able to focus on other non-contact skills so hopefully that part of their game will have developed more for next year. The biggest change, and the area I feel most sorry for the pupils, is the lack of competitive sports fixtures with other schools. Although we had things in place to make the fixtures safe most other schools felt that they shouldn't be playing sport. The pupils definitely miss the competition with other schools but also the away trips and without doubt the match teas!

When did you start at TPS and what did you do before?

This is my 7th year at Taunton. Prior to here I was a Director of Sport for eight years at New Hall School in Chelmsford. This was a similar type school to Taunton with day and boarding pupils but pupils only started in Reception. My role there was slightly different as I was responsible for sport from Reception to Yr 13 with the academic A level and GCSE PE. Before that I worked at two large senior schools in Essex as a Head of PE.

What led you into teaching Sport?

I really enjoyed school and playing sport but I knew I was definitely never good enough to make a living playing it so my original plan was to be a policeman. It was only after studying A levels at Exeter College and thoroughly enjoying A level PE that I decided I wanted to teach sport instead.

Do you have any special tricks or techniques to get the children engaged?

I think if you make the lesson as fun as possible and keep pupils active the vast majority of pupils will love sport. The pupils at Taunton are amazing so the most of them stay on task and do enjoy what they are doing. Having 3 children of my own definitely helps with how best to communicate with various ages but also to



understand the processes they are working through.

Who inspires you?

No single person, just a range of people. My family, so wife (who is also a PE teacher) and my children. I am also very fortunate to have a really hard working department at the school so would like to think we inspire each other.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Hopefully all teachers would say the same but definitely the children. I alluded to it earlier but the pupils come enthused to every single lesson so it is hard not to enjoy your job. The other part is sports fixtures. Although we are proud to behave in a way that means winning isn't everything the

sports teachers enjoy success as much as the pupils.

What do you find most challenging?

Balancing demand and provision for sport with facilities and suitable opposition. Our aim is that every week a pupil can represent the school playing sport. To achieve this can be difficult on a Wednesday and Saturday when playing different sizes and strength of opposition school.

How do you 'switch off' from your job at the end of the school day?

Sitting down with the family for an evening meal.

Quick Fire questions now...

Favourite Film?

The Rock

Favourite Book?

Bravo Two Zero

Hobbies?

I want to say exercising but it's probably family time and trying to watch the Chiefs play rugby. I do enjoy cooking as well.

Any Pets?

We have a pond at home so various size fish with some huge koi carp.

Favourite singers/bands?

Coldplay and showing my age I did like Deacon Blue and Manic Street Preachers.

Favourite TV programmes?

I like funny shows so Have I got News for You, Would I Lie To You and also the Great British Bake Off. Also partial to a bit of Strictly. Again showing my age, Only Fools and Horses. My children though think it's the least funny programme ever. Clearly Trigger's well maintained broom was lost on them!

Any claims to fame?

I was county champion at chess and won £10 once in a chess tournament playing adults!! This was quite a lot of money back then, especially to a 10 year old.....

Thanks for telling us about yourself, Shaun. We challenge you to a game of Chess some time!

Perfect Symmetry for Year 1

In maths, the children have been learning about symmetry. They folded paper shapes to find the line of symmetry and sorted the shapes into groups; 'symmetrical' and 'non-symmetrical'.

Then they drew half a picture for a friend to complete as accurately and symmetrically as possible. Later the children enjoyed printing symmetrical paintings.

These colourful pictures have made a beautiful display in our classroom.

The Year 1 Team



Nursery 4 Explore Autumn Leaves

This half term nursery 4 have begun to look at Autumn and the changing colours. We have explored leaves indoors and out and have found our nursery tree that we shall watch change throughout the year.

Nursery 4 Team



TYCA Festival - Message in a Bottle

Shortly before the half term holiday, our TPS Enrichment Performing Arts group embarked on an exciting challenge. We were filmed performing the play "Message in a Bottle", written by our former Speech and Drama teacher Darren Riggs. The film has an important environmental and cultural message, portrayed through drama, song, and dance. It was shown as part of this year's TYCA Festival, which has been a fantastic Performing Arts opportunity to have been involved with. Taunton Youth Culture and Arts (TYCA) have an annual festival involving Performing Arts groups across all of Somerset and we were thrilled to have been a part of it this year. The theme for this year's festival was the environment and Vision for 2020. The children performed magnificently on stage and on film. The finished product is still available to view on the TYCA website: <https://tycafestival.co.uk/the-festival>. Bravo to our talented Performing Arts Enrichment group!

Sam Baker, Music Teacher



Building Bridges in Year 2

In Science this term, Year 2 have been identifying, sorting and investigating materials. At Forest School the children enjoyed collecting a variety of natural materials to make their favourite London Landmarks. We were very impressed with their great team work and creativity. In the classroom, an investigation into the strength of paper led to a bridge making activity. The children worked in small groups to make a paper bridge which was strong enough to support a small car. They soon learnt that twisting, rolling and folding paper was a far more successful way to make a bridge, rather than cutting paper into tiny pieces!

Mrs Cooper and Mrs Brodie



Weekly Awards

19th October Awards

Learners of the Week

Catherine Kemmish – For an outstanding Prep project in DT on Polymers and their properties

Daniel Griffiths – For showing great ambition, curiosity and effort in their volcanic eruption case study, in the style of a Geographic article

Monique Du Toit - For showing great ambition, curiosity and effort in their volcanic eruption case study, in the style of a Geographic article

Nuria Mariano Soares Da Silva - For showing great ambition, curiosity and effort in their volcanic eruption case study, in the style of a Geographic article

Sportswoman/Sportsman of the Week

Rosey Cobbett – For showing great ambition to improve her hockey skills and confidence when playing matches

Jack Saxton – For showing great and resilience in playing a sport with a new peer group

Jack Bruford – For showing excellent effort and persistence in P.E and Games lessons this Half Term

Musicians of the Week

Jack Van Looy – For always being positive and practising the piano and trombone with perseverance and pride.

Matilda White – For achieving distinction in her Grade 1 Piano exam. She prepared herself for the exam – this takes great courage and responsibility



2nd November Awards

Learners of the Week

Harrison Adams, Charlie Bawden, Safa Boraee, David Bown, Harry Cottrell, Fedor Demochka, Camille Fouriner, Alex Leach, Heidi Mart, Bel McCarthy, Christan Onwubiko, Amelia Smith & Callum Tremear – For achieving their Bunsen Burner Licences and being sensible, striving for perfection and showing empathy and compassion to others throughout.

James Sercombe – For working well in Maths, displaying both confidence and ambition

Harrison Webb – For aiming high with his Maths and always looking to challenge himself

Jonny Sibanda-Jenkins – For excellent diary entries, using a wide variety of ambitious vocabulary written from the perspective of a German Solider

Ella Burns – For focus and hard work, showing determination to improve her skills in English

Sportswoman/Sportsman of the Week

Brook Kirtland – For showing great effort and persistence in rugby, making huge improvements over the term

Sophie Carruthers – For always demonstrating excellent teamwork and contribution to the school community in Games lessons

Musician of the Week

Ellie Discombe – For efforts in the choir, punctuality and wanting to succeed

Dancer of the Week

Emma Mason – For her independent, energetic and positive approach to Dance

Actress of the Week

Daniella Hudson – For her commitment, maturity and independence working towards a performance of 'Message in a Bottle'





Talented Musicians' Recital



Tuesday
10th November
4.15 p.m.



Autumn Term

Performing Arts Cafés



Tuesday 22nd September
 Tuesday 29th September
 Tuesday 6th October
 Tuesday 3rd November
 Tuesday 17th November



Michaelmas Chamber Concert



Recording:-
 Thursday 26th, Monday 30th November
 and Tuesday 1st December



TWEET OF THE WEEK

For up-to-date news, stories and announcements



TWITTER @TauntonPrep @TauntonSchool

INSTAGRAM @TauntonPrep @TauntonSchool

Taunton School @tauntonschool · Nov 4

The conditions couldn't have been more perfect for the Prep School's sports this afternoon ☀️

There was action on the rugby and hockey pitches and on the netball courts under cloudless blue skies 🏈🏏🏐

#WednesdaySport #ChallengeNurtureInspire



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