



TAUNTON
SCHOOL

Prep School COURIER

18th September 2020

#TAUNTONSCHOOL

IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK



It's been great to have our students back physically at school! It's been wonderful to hear the buzz of activity and happy voices around the place again.

More Inside

Forest School
Year 7 team building

Mini Detectives
And plenty more....

Next Prep Courier: 2nd October 2020



The Head has his say...

I believe that Tuesday 8th September 2020 will forever go down as the best day of my teaching career! More particularly, it is that golden half an hour spent welcoming so many beaming faces back into school which will stay with me, I am sure, for the rest of my days. For many children and their parents, it was of course their first day of proper school for nearly 5 months! As if that wasn't enough pleasure and excitement for one day, we were, just a few hours later, eating in our fantastic new Dining Hall for the very first time. It has been wonderful to see our children enjoying the delicious food prepared in our brand new state of the art kitchens in such beautiful surroundings.

I have been particularly impressed with the way in which new pupils and new staff have settled in, and the atmosphere in school could not be better as we look forward to a very successful, happy and rewarding academic year. The New Pupils' Tea Parties were an ideal way to welcome our new pupils and their parents into the Prep School. Many of our visitors comment on the open, genuine, warm and friendly communication and interaction which they experience when they visit, and we see it as one of our top priorities to instil in our young people the ability to communicate positively, with respect, kindness and good humour.

I want to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all of our parents who have shown, and continue to show, terrific flexibility and teamwork in adapting to our new traffic layout, especially on the first day when there were some inevitable delays. Thank you very much for your understanding if you were delayed or inconvenienced in any way. As a whole school community, parents, pupils and staff have all shown a tremendously positive attitude to the adaptations which have had to be made as a result of COVID. Thank you very much to all of you, and I will be giving parents next week the opportunity to send us feedback on how all of our new procedures are working from your point of view.

This week has seen the start of our very comprehensive clubs programme and I am delighted that we have been able to offer so much given the current COVID restrictions. Instrumental, drama and dance lessons started this week, and we are very much looking forward to the start of our Saturday Morning Enrichment programme tomorrow.

Finally, many congratulations to some of our pupils who have told us about terrific achievements over the summer. As well as many excellent performances on the cricket field, with many of our pupils involved in representative matches for Somerset County, our whole school team of eventing horseriders did the school and themselves proud at Hickstead (the 'Wembley of Eventing'). Very well done to all of our pupils who have shown such ambition and spirit over the summer in a wide range of different areas.

The weather will hopefully continue to be amazing over the weekend, and I wish you all a lovely time in the September sunshine!

Andrew

Andrew Edwards,
TPS Head



News from Pre-Prep

A very warm welcome to all our children and parents. It really has been a challenging but productive couple of weeks with lots of very happy children creating some fabulous work. Thank you to the Year Two parents for your support with the Tower of London posters. I have enjoyed looking at all the children's work today.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to the whole community for receiving all of our communication and then following these plans. We are very grateful for your co-operation and support as we navigate these uncharted waters. It is at times like these that you appreciate everyone's contribution to the crew effort.

I hope that you enjoy receiving the information booklet from your child's teacher today. We hope that you find this document informative and that we have been able to answer any of your questions. I know that your class teacher will be happy to assist with any additional communication should you need it.

I will endeavour to be at the entrance of TPPS most mornings and evenings. If you have a query that you would like to discuss with me, I am happy to listen and will do my best to assist and support you.

Though we are a busy Pre-Prep with over 200 families, we look forward to getting to know you all over the next year.

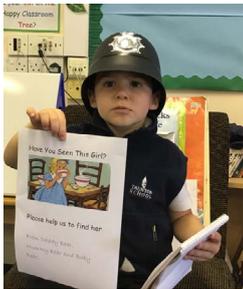
Louise

Louise Leah,
Head of Pre-Prep and Nursery

Who's been sitting in my chair?

The Year 1 children have been investigating the crime scene at The Three Bears' House. Somebody went into the house when they were out for a walk! The children took turns to be a police officer, asking questions to get evidence of the crime. They discovered that somebody ate the porridge, broke baby bear's chair and fell asleep in baby bear's bed. The culprit was discovered by the Three bears when they returned from their walk, but she fled the scene. The intruder had golden hair, a blue dress and orange shoes. Please alert the Year 1 Crimestoppers if you see her.

The Year 1 Team



Airfix and Warhammer Club

The photo shows the new crop of modellers with some of the old hands at the first meeting of the club since March.



First week in Prep Boarding



Our Prep boarders in Thone have had a fabulous first week back. It has been wonderful to hear the sound of laughter in the house once more and to see the children embracing our 'new normal' with excitement and valour. We have welcomed 14 new members to our boarding family and life in the house is as happy and vibrant as ever. Children and staff alike have enjoyed time spent outside, a beach trip, house games, cricket, rounders, drama productions, tuck nights, swimming, birthday cakes, films and the odd ice-cream or two! A surprise visit from Alfie's Ices was undoubtedly a highlight for us all. We could not be more delighted to have our boarding family back together again and, indeed, more proud of the positivity and enthusiasm that the children have demonstrated throughout the opening weeks of term.

Katherine Wells, Head of Prep Boarding



Year 3 Forest School

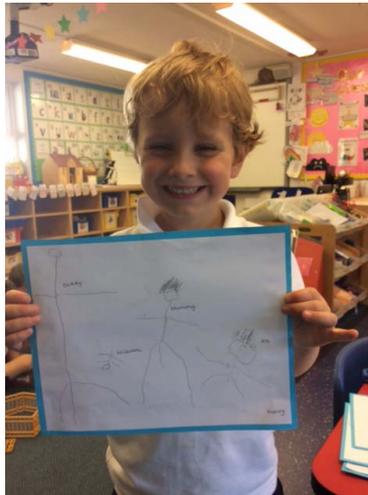
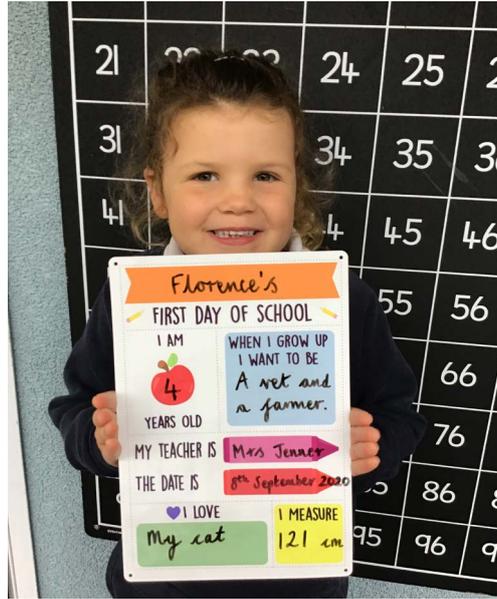
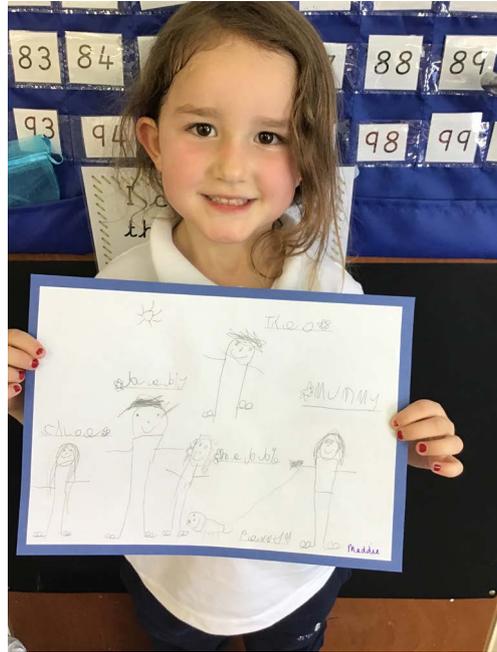
Year 3 were treated to glorious sunshine and weather on Thursday morning at a Celtic themed Forest School to provide a 'stunning starter' to our 'I am Warrior' topic. We travelled back in time to 250BC and imagined how the Celts built their houses from wattle and daub using only natural materials to provide insulation. Pupils demonstrated excellent teamwork, working in pairs to create their own model roundhouse using only clay and straw, thinking about the need for a hole in the top of their structure to allow smoke out. The final sculptures looked great, adorned with carefully sculpted doors and added personal touches to create wonderful homes. In addition, we looked at the importance of Celtic jewellery before making their own torc (a Celtic necklace) from wool and foil. We very much hope we will be able to visit Carymoor Education Centre next month where we all have the opportunity to go inside a replica roundhouse and cook bread on an open fire.

Katie Hill



Hello Reception class!

Reception have had a lovely week settling into their new classes. They have explored their new environment and made new friends. They have been busy painting portraits, sharing their special 'All About Me' boxes and learning their new handwriting families. Mrs Wallace and Mrs Jenner are very proud of all of the children and have been so impressed with how beautifully they have come into school each day.



A calm and positive start for Year 2

Mrs Brodie and Mrs Cooper have been extremely impressed with the positive, calm and enthusiastic way the Year 2 children have begun the year. We are delighted to be back and are having fun getting to know one another again and making new friends. This term we welcome three new families to Year 2 - Ugo, Anna and Kiki - and do hope they are beginning to feel at home. In and outside of the classroom, the children have been involved in a variety of creative and team building activities, which have given them opportunities to share ideas, work together and express any worries they may have. Last week, using the children's suggestions, each class produced their own set of pebbles displaying key words that will make us all happy. This week, the children have presented their Tower of London posters to their class and we have all enjoyed seeing and listening to them share their fabulous knowledge. After an introduction to sewing on Wednesday, Raven making begins next week! Well done Year 2 - what a super start to the year!

Mrs Cooper and Mrs Brodie



Welcome back Nursery 4

We are so proud of everyone in Nursery Four who have embraced returning and also welcoming our new friends. We've been so busy exploring our new toys and have spent lots of time in our lovely big garden.

Nursery 4 Team



Year 7 Activity Day



It was supposed to be a day of surfing, playing in the sand dunes and BBQ'ing on the beach at Saunton Sands, but this year it was decided that Year 7 would keep the annual 'Bondi-beach' fun day within the boundaries of the school site. So, on Saturday morning the entire year group plus staff abandoned lessons at first break and headed over to Uppers for as much fun as we could possibly pack into a couple of hours. The chaos began with an ultimate rock, paper, scissors knock-out tournament. Try to imagine the scene as 65 competitive 11 year olds went toe to toe (or rather hand to hand) in a do or die knock-out, with no second chances, where winners collected their own tribe of loyal supporters until just 2 remained. Semi-finals and the grand final apparently took place in the heart of the on-looking crowd, who by this point had been whipped up into a frenzied mix of supportive chants, cheers, boos and hisses. The Colosseum, Uppers is not, but in that moment, with the sun beating down, the crescendo of noise during the final would have struck fear into the heart of any combatant awaiting their turn to enter the fray! Next on the agenda, following a series of warm up games to get hearts pumping even more rapidly, was an incredibly well

devised and executed scavenger hunt, for which Mr Winsor should take all the credit. This activity involved the pupils being split into groups of 5/6, learning names and making new friends along the way. Not content with hiding the all-important secret discs on Uppers alone, Mr Winsor took to his bike and spread the targets across Lower and Foxcombe as well, guaranteeing that each group had to walk/run several miles in order to successfully complete the course! Regardless of the physical exertions, not one person gave up the hunt in pursuit of overall (and eventual) glory. So long was the scavenger hunt that our plans for a rounders tournament were abandoned in favour of a slow walk back to Greenham and the prospect of a BBQ lovingly prepared by both Mr Ws, Wells and Williams. With a senior school cricket house match to watch and plenty of time to relax with friends new and old, the fun and laughter continued whilst burgers and bangers were demolished by all. Just as the boys and girls thought the event was coming to a close, we had one last surprise in store with the arrival of a fully loaded ice-cream van. There was pure joy on everyone's faces at the sight of the brightly coloured van rolling towards us (across the cricket pitch!), and this delight just added



an extra layer of happiness to what was a memorable and uplifting day at TPS. A big thank you to all staff who made this possible and the children for their endless smiles and enthusiasm.

Mr Wells, Head of Year 7



The new dining room

There was added excitement to the first day back at school with the opening of our brand new Dining Room. Students from across the school sat safely in their year group bubbles and enjoyed their first lunch in the new facility. The huge glass doors create a beautifully bright and airy space in the heart of the main school building.

After an enforced five week absence just before Easter, the contractors returned to site at the start of May and managed to complete the project before students returned to school. The new dining hall is equipped to cater for 1,600 covers and seat up to 400 people at any one time. It has been built using sustainable materials and uses the latest lighting technology and energy-saving devices, in line with the School's environmental policy.

The happy faces of our students already show what a huge success this new facility is!



The new dining room



Equestrian team success

We are very proud to share another fantastic achievement for our young equestrians at Hickstead this summer.

Congratulations to Fliss who was placed 6th out of 122 competitors and Taunton Prep student Emily came 28th.

Qualifying for this event is an achievement in itself. It is an incredibly high standard of competition set in a professional venue which can be very intimidating for both horse and rider. Well done!



TAUNTON SCHOOL *Online!*

Autumn Term

Performing Arts Cafés

 A collage of photos of students performing various instruments (violin, saxophone, cello, flute) and a scroll listing the dates of the Performing Arts Cafés. The scroll is yellow and has the following dates:

- Tuesday 22nd September
- Tuesday 29th September
- Tuesday 6th October
- Tuesday 17th November

 The collage also includes a decorative swirl at the bottom right.



Online!

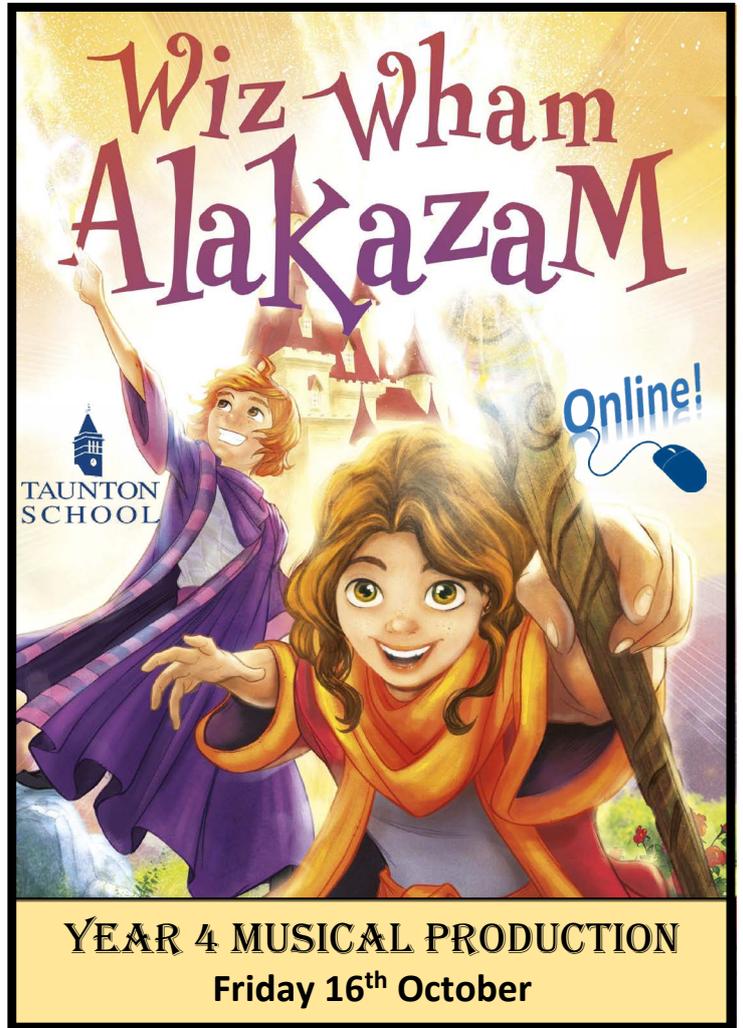
TAUNTON SCHOOL

Michaelmas Chamber Concert



Tuesday 10th November

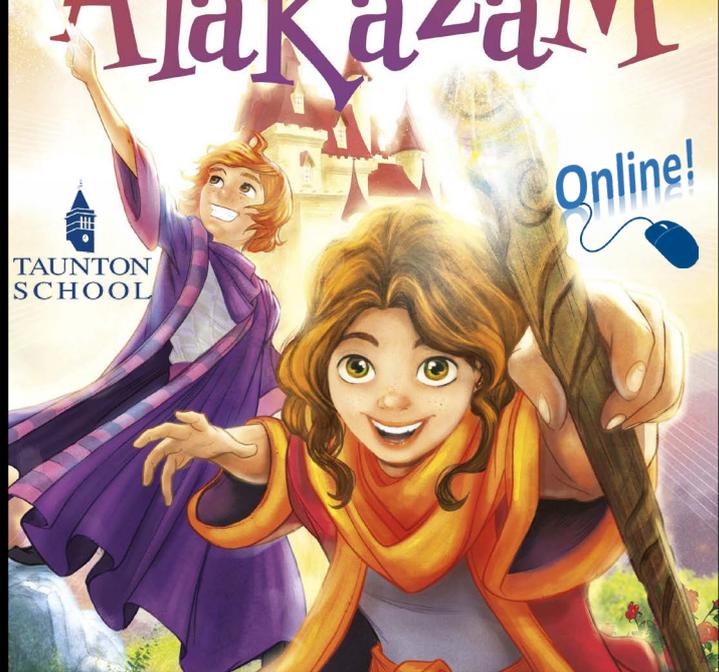




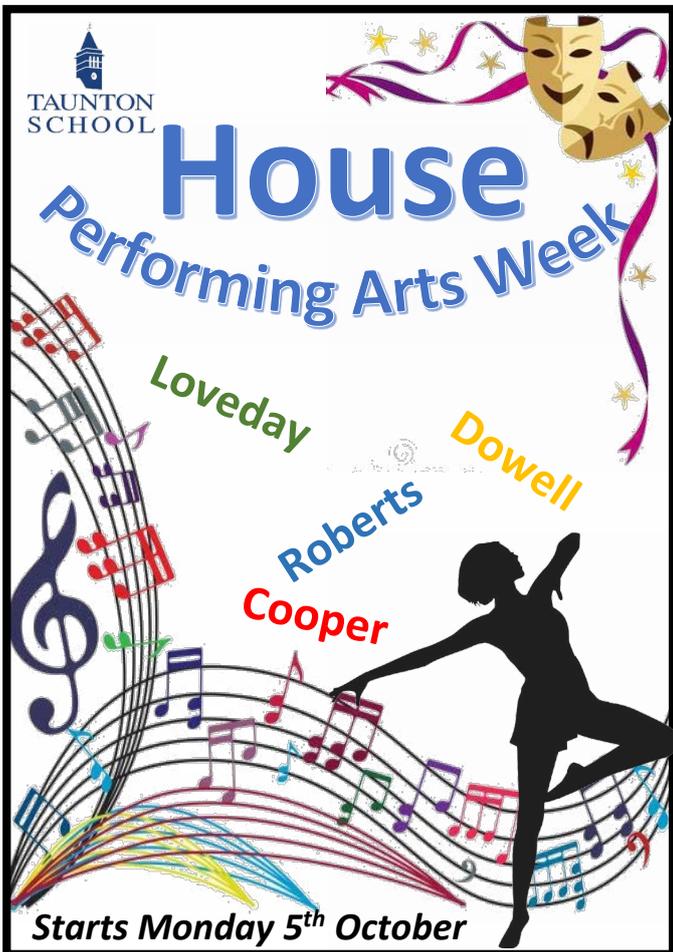
Wiz Wham Alakazam

Online!

TAUNTON SCHOOL



YEAR 4 MUSICAL PRODUCTION
Friday 16th October



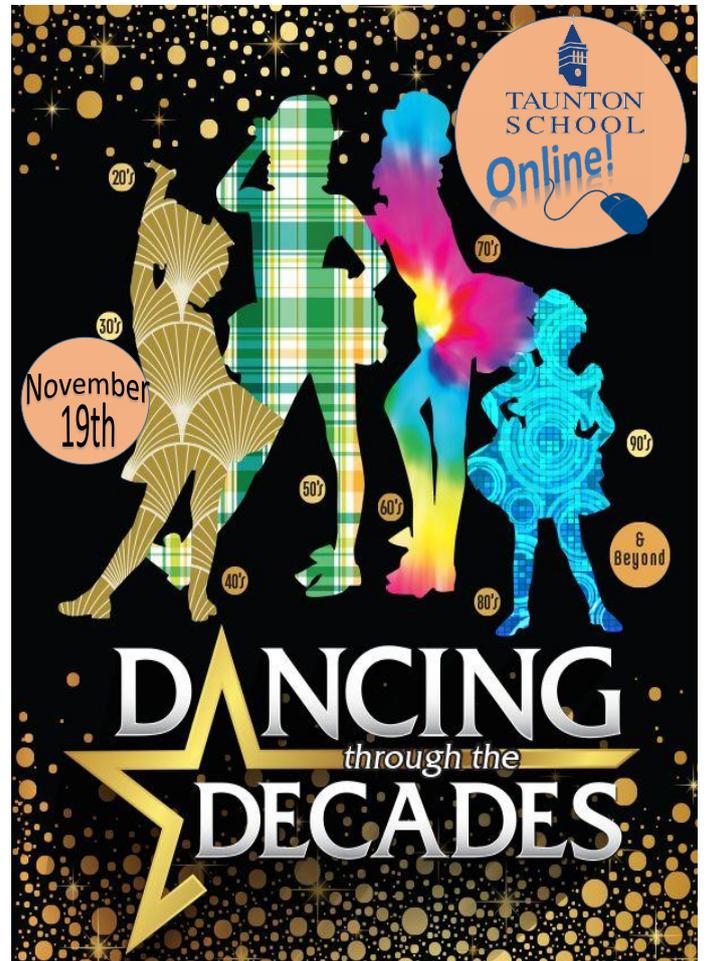
TAUNTON SCHOOL

House Performing Arts Week

Loveday
Roberts
Cooper
Dowell



Starts Monday 5th October



TAUNTON SCHOOL Online!

November 19th

20's
30's
40's
50's
60's
70's
80's
90's
& Beyond

DANCING through the DECADES