



TAUNTON
SCHOOL

Prep & Pre-Prep COURIER

24th September 2021

#TAUNTONSCHOOL

LIFE RETURNS TO TAUNTON PREP SCHOOL



See some of the action from the first week of term here:

[Watch video](#)



More Inside

- Meet new Director of Music and Performing Arts
 - Boarding Life in Thone
- Taunton Prep School Swimmers Selected for National Development Programme
 - TPPS student Patrick features in Captain Tom's new book

Next Prep Courier: 22nd October 2021

The Head has his say...



It has been a real pleasure to see the school community well and truly back into the swing of things, and I have been particularly impressed with the way in which new pupils and new staff have settled in. The atmosphere in school could not be better as we look forward to a very successful, happy and rewarding school 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 and friendly communication 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.

It was lovely to see so many parents at the 'Meet the Tutor Evening' last week and I have much enjoyed seeing so many parents attending our sports fixtures. We are very much hoping that we are going to be able, as the year progresses, to give parents more opportunities to be back on site and feeling fully re-connected with the staff and the school community. I know that parents will, however, understand that, at the moment, we are still needing to be very vigilant in our approach given the efforts we are all having to make to limit the spread of the virus.

On the subject of COVID, it is clear to me that the school community (parents, pupils and staff) is continuing to work together in a very positive way. Across the whole school (Pre-Prep, Prep, Senior and International), we have had some (but not many) positive cases amongst staff, and some (again, not many) amongst pupils. We have dealt with them efficiently and sensitively in accordance with the government guidance, working closely with the local health authorities, who have praised us for the way things have been handled. We have been communicating with parents of pupils who have been directly affected (including of course pupils and their parents who have been deemed to be 'close contacts' of positive cases). I am certain that the right way forward is for the whole community to remain calm and to continue to do what is necessary in a quiet and efficient way. Please do let me know if you have any queries at any time and I would be happy to discuss things with you.

Having mentioned sports fixtures above, I have to say how wonderful it has been to see so many of our pupils representing the school on the sports pitches, and I know that there are plenty of newcomers to the Prep School who

have been very excited to be playing inter-school matches for the first time in their lives. It has also been terrific to see pupils already experiencing the joy of trips out of school and attending clubs.

For pupils in Years 3 to 6, the Saturday morning enrichment programme has got off to a superb start. If your child is attending and has a friend who does not attend TPS, but who would like to come along on Saturday mornings, he or she will be very welcome. The charge for non-TPS children is £100 per term and parents just need to send an email to tpssaturdayenrichment@tauntonschool.co.uk

Thank you to Mr Coleman for holding the reins of the school for some of this week whilst I was attending the Annual Heads' Conference of the Independent Association of Prep Schools. It was very apparent to me that there are many independent schools who are not finding it easy, and it made me feel very privileged to be Head of our school which is in such a strong position. With waiting lists in some year groups and secure income, we are able to push ahead with ambitious development plans and invest in developments which will further enhance the quality of education and care enjoyed by our pupils.

Finally, many congratulations to some of our pupils who have told us about terrific achievements of theirs 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 pupils have excelled in a whole range of activities including dance, music, drama, horse riding, laser run, tetrathlon, go-karting and swimming (to name just a few!). Very well done to all of our pupils who have shown such ambition and spirit over the summer.

Thank you very much to those pupils in Year 8 who have volunteered to act as guides at tomorrow morning's Open Morning, and I wish all of you a very enjoyable and restful exeat weekend.

Andrew Edwards, TPS Headmaster

News from Pre-Prep



A very warm welcome to all our children and parents. It has been such a positive first few weeks, with lots of very busy children in the Pre-Prep and some very enthusiastic learning taking place. I would like to extend my welcome to the three new staff joining the Reception team – Sophie Palmer, Priya Kumar and Matt Sutton, and the three staff joining or re-joining the Nursery team – Rebecca Fabris, Thea Wearmouth and Jodie Maven. It really is very exciting to have such talented, well qualified staff joining the existing team.

Thank you to all the parents who have joined us for either the information evenings or the parent consultations last week. We hope that you found these to be both informative and reassuring.

If you do have any further queries, or just feel a little unsure about an aspect of your child's day, please use your child's teacher or key person as your first point of contact. If you still feel that your questions remain unanswered, please either contact the Room Leader or do either email or come in and see me. I will continue to aim to be on the front door most mornings and will try to keep my diary free for the start of the day so that after drop off, if you would like to discuss anything at all with me, I will be available.

The present global, political, environmental and economic landscape is challenging, to say the least. In the Pre-Prep, never has there been a more important time to teach our children positive values. This week, we have continued to celebrate any kindness to our friends.

I hope that you all have a good weekend.
Mrs Louise Leah, Head of Pre-Prep and Nursery



New Staff

Matthew Jelf, Director of Music and Performing Arts

"I join Taunton Prep School from my previous role as Director of Music at the Prebendal School, the cathedral choir school for Chichester. As a passionate advocate for the arts, I am looking forward to working with our specialist team to ensure quality and diversity in the way we deliver dance, music and drama across the school community."

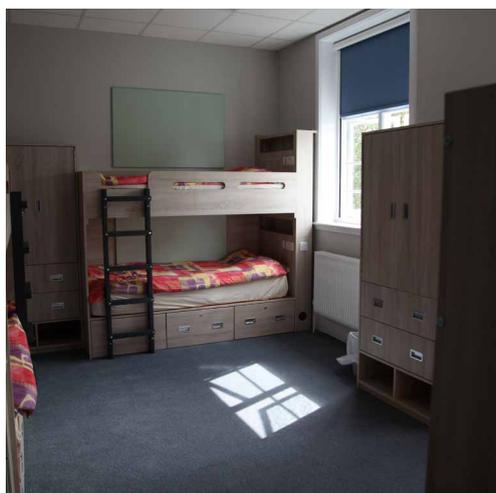
Diary Dates

Whole School Open Morning	25th September 2021 9:30am – 12:30pm
Bring on Year 9 (Year 8 to 9 Information Evening)	13th October 2021 6:30pm – 8:30pm
11+ Scholarship Deadline	26th November 2021
13+ Scholarship Deadline	Monday 10th January 2022

Register your place for our upcoming events on our website here: <https://www.tauntonschool.co.uk/open-mornings/>

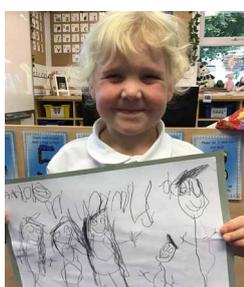
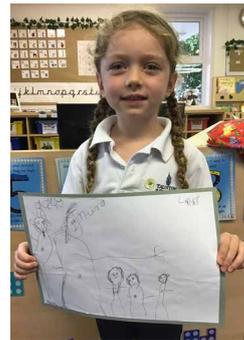
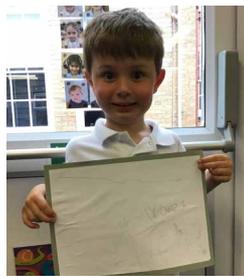
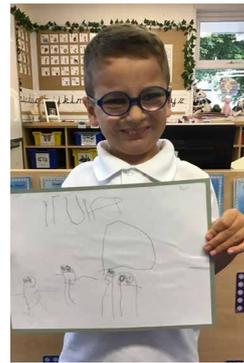
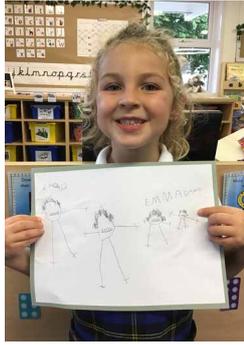
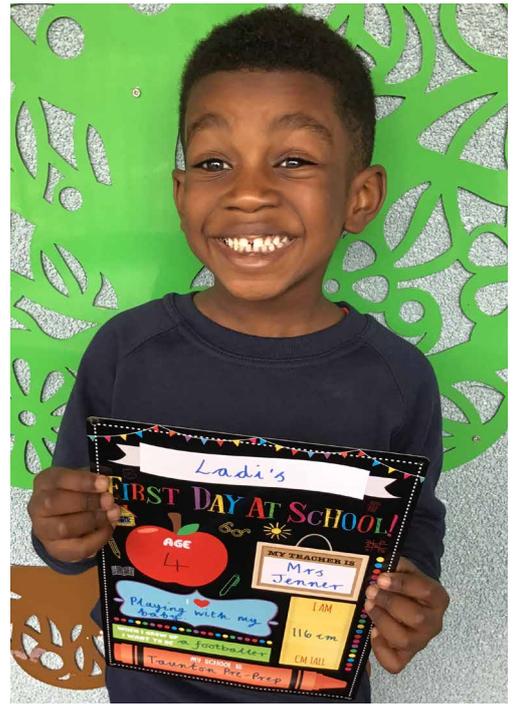
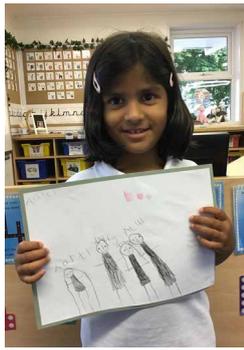
Thone Refurb

Over the summer, a significant investment has been made to Thone Boarding House including new furniture, carpets, blinds, heating and bathrooms. The rooms have also been painted and refreshed! Find out more about [boarding at TPS here >](#)



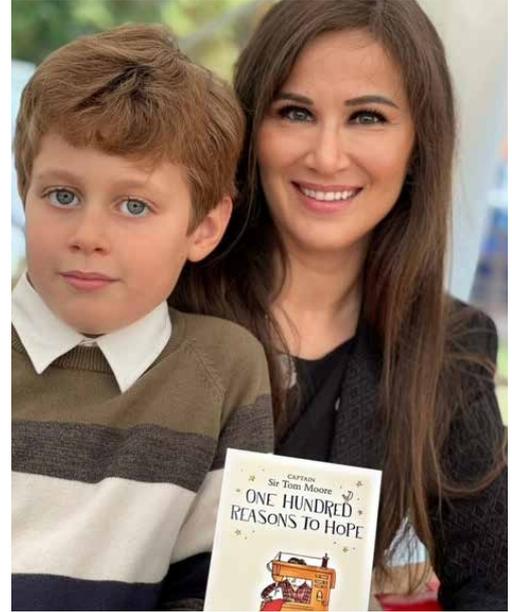
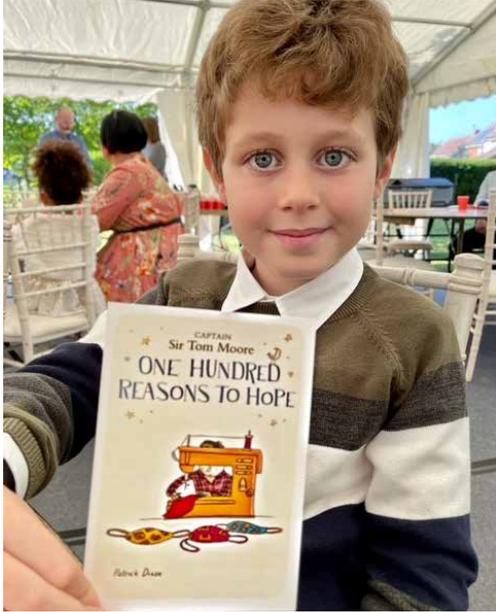
Hello from Reception

Reception have had a fantastic start to the school year. The children have enjoyed exploring their topic 'Knock, knock, here I am'. They have carefully drawn a pencil sketch of their family and have painted a picture of their house. This week the children have been introduced to their story for this half term 'The Three Little Pigs'. They have had fun learning the story using a story map and actions. Mrs Jenner and Mrs Lake are very proud of how quickly the children have settled in to their new school routines and are looking forward to all the fun we will have this school year.



TPPS student Patrick features in Captain Tom's new book

Taunton Pre-Prep School student Patrick has been chosen to be illustrated in Sir Captain Tom's new book '100 Reasons to Hope' after serving as the youngest member of a local volunteer group who sewed essential items for NHS workers last year. Patrick attended the launch tea party of the book this month and signed lots of copies for people who recognised him!



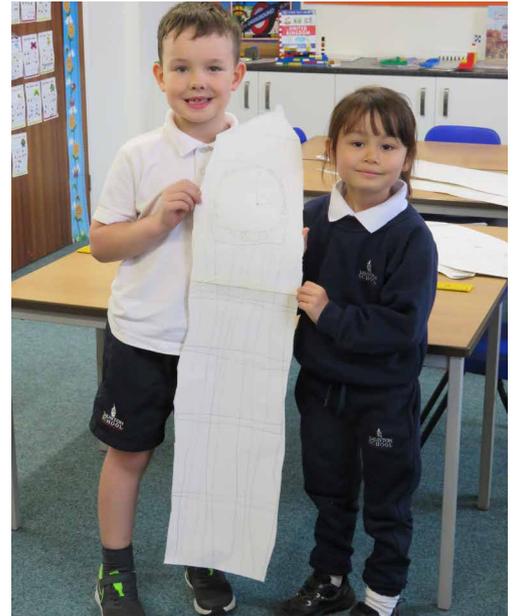
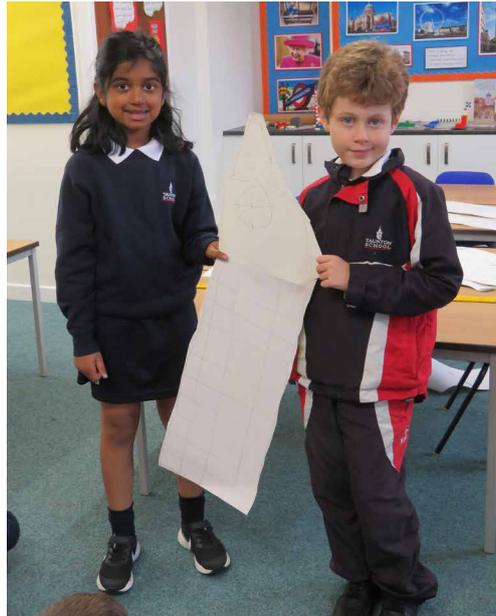
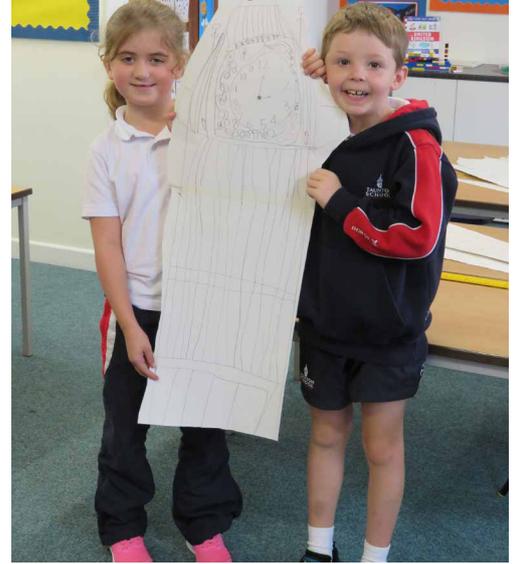
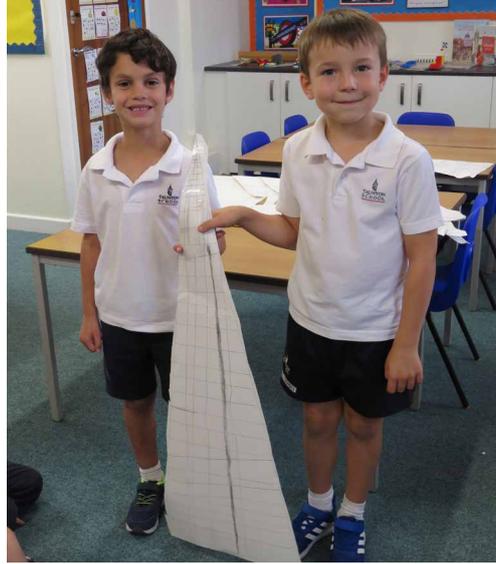
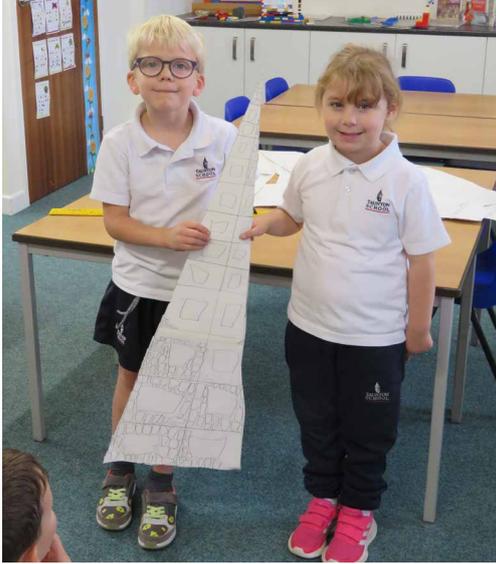
Year 1 Who's Been Sitting in my Chair?

The Year 1 children have been investigating the crime scene at the 3 Bears' House. The children took turns to be a police officer, asking questions to get evidence of the crime. The children did a thorough search of the area to gather evidence and recorded the possible escape route of the intruder on carefully drawn maps. The chief suspect is a girl called Goldilocks, who has long golden hair. Please alert the Year 1 Crime Stoppers team if you see a person matching her description!



Year 2 Draw Sky High

In Year 2, the children were set a challenge to draw a London landmark that measured exactly 1 metre in height. Congratulations go to Amelia, Ella-Rose, Sacha, Samuel, Joshua, Camilla, Alba, Willow, Eleanor and Alfie for completing the challenge and drawing London landmarks that were exactly 1 metre tall.



Year 7 Mathematicians Challenged to 'Escape'

Some of the Year 7 pupils in Maths have been taking part in an escape room challenge, solving sequencing problems in order to make their way off the island. The pupils have been focusing on sequencing this term as part of the new Maths curriculum, and this has provided an excellent opportunity for the group to apply their knowledge and understanding to different scenarios in order to complete the challenge. The pupils were required to solve the problems presented in each room in order to be awarded a 'key' to the room. They needed to collect all the keys in order to solve the final problem. All students were keen to be the first to escape, with everyone making it to the last room location before Year 7 Catherine eventually 'escaped' first.



Walking the Coleridge Way

Year 8 student Daisy was inspired to walk the 36 mile 'Coleridge Way' walk from the Quantocks across Exmoor after studying the poet's famous poem 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'. She started at Coleridge's own house and crossed the finish line in Lynmouth, covering the distance in 2 and a half days!



Boarding life at Thone House



Our Prep School boarding family had a fantastic first weekend of the school year - including lots of fun in the sun with plenty of time to build friendships, both new and old. The giant inflatable assault course was a highlight for many with even the Headmaster, Mr Edwards, getting in on the action!



175 Years of Taunton School



Next year is a significant milestone for Taunton School: our 175th anniversary. We are putting together our plans to mark this important date and we want to hear from you.

Our new Foundation Director, Jack Clark, talked about one of the activities that is already underway: "Last year we started the Memories Project, a chance to collect photos and stories from across the school's history. We plan to curate and share these next year as part of our anniversary celebrations. As both a member of staff and a parent with three boys, in the Prep and Pre-Prep, I have really enjoyed joining Taunton School and seeing how much parents and staff appreciate being part of this community. That is why we want to hear from current parents and pupils about their experience of Taunton School and what they think makes this community so special."

Looking across the memories we have collected so far, what comes across clearly are the acts of kindness and generosity that pupils, teachers and parents have witnessed and benefitted from over the last 174 years. The school itself was founded on benefaction, when in 1847, members of the community took it upon themselves to solve an educational need and together funded the origins of Taunton School. Today's supporters are no different and each year hundreds of our school community generously donate to the charitable foundation.

If you have stories, photos or quotes about your experience of Taunton School, or if you would like to hear more about the work of the schools charitable foundation, then please get in touch with Mr Clark at Jack.Clark@tauntonschool.co.uk.





**TAUNTON
SCHOOL**

Lee Glaser and Barbara Gregory
are honoured to invite you to our

Charity Ball

Raising funds for

Love Musgrove & Taunton School Foundation

On Saturday 30th October at 7pm, carriages at 12.30am

At the Densham Suite, Taunton School, TA2 6AD

Dinner and dancing with live jazz band

Charity auction

Black tie

Individual tickets are £50

01823 703116 or events@tauntonschool.co.uk



Music at TPS



Our students have been busy getting back into the swing of performing live, with choirs, orchestra, string ensemble, glockenspiel Group "New Kids on the Glock", wind band... let's fill our school with music and celebrate rehearsing and playing all together again!

New Term, New Ukuleles

Year 5 are making great progress and having fun on a new set of class ukuleles, strumming merrily into the new term!



Join the Taunton School Community Choir!

We are inviting our wonderful community to take part in our Community Choir, which is open to everyone connected to the school; staff, parents, grandparents, helpers – anyone! We are working towards a November 'film music' concert and a 'Christmas Spectacular' with full orchestra on 5th December in the beautiful school chapel. Come along and give it a go! Thursdays 6:30pm in the Music School from October 7th.

Mark Cracknell, Director of Music

Summer Reading Challenge

Mrs Lockwood and I were hugely impressed with the entries for the Summer Reading Challenge this year and we really enjoyed looking at the range of books that had been chosen. All pupils who entered have received a Roll of Honour. Their efforts have also been recognised by Mr Edwards who is going to award each pupil with a book voucher. Well done to all!

Mrs Burton, Head of English



Tps Eco Club Begin Harvesting Honey

The Taunton School honey harvest was gathered this month after a dawn visit to the apiary. TPS Eco Club will be spinning honey next week and visiting the hives to feed the hives syrup. It's important to feed the hives before winter to replace the honey stores we have removed.



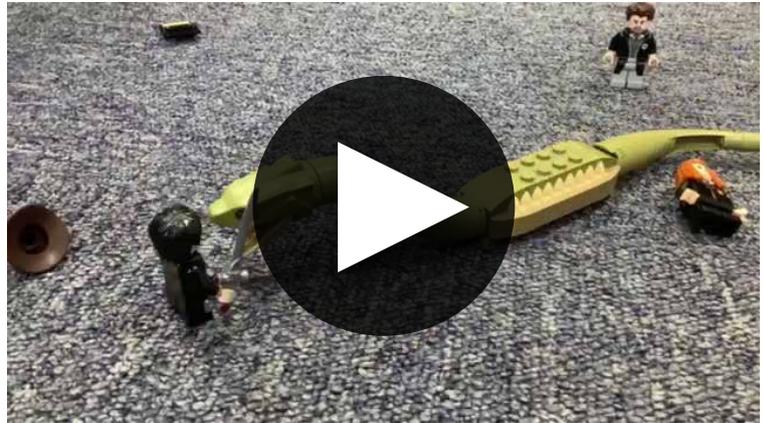
Model Pupils

The latest crop of Airfix and Warhammer Club members show off their latest creations. Ever popular, the club has been boosted with 14 new joiners from Years 3 and 4!



Stop Motion Animation Club

Our Prep School Stop Motion Animation Club is back creating some magic with Harry Potter inspired stop motion films. This one was made by Year 3 pupil, Rhys, on just his second week!



Taunton Prep School Swimmers Selected for National Development Programme

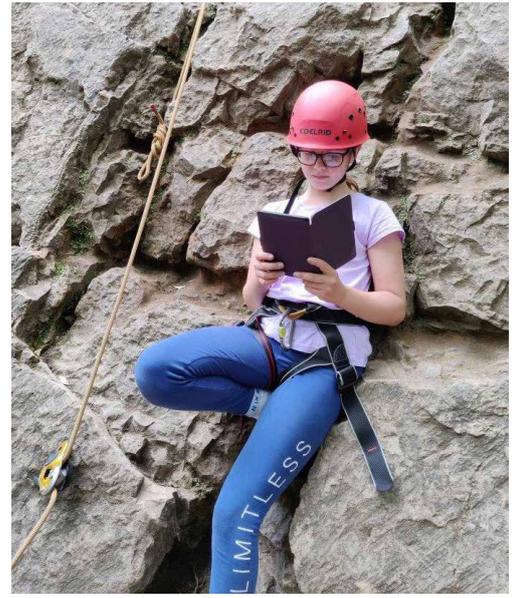
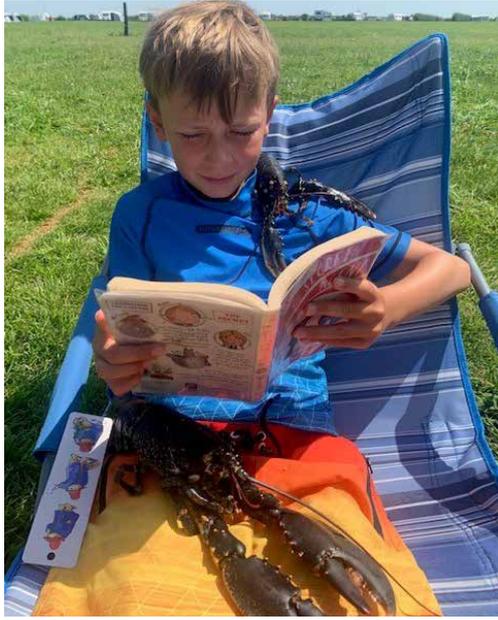
Two Taunton Prep School students have been selected to attend the first phase of the Swim England National Development Programme. Evie and Ronan in Year 8 will now take part in a series of online and in-person training camps which will help prepare them for national level competitions. The camps cover the technical and tactical aspects of their stroke as well as nutrition, mental wellbeing, race execution and post-training recovery.

The national programme identifies and supports talented athletes for the Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games of the future. [Read more here >](#)



Extreme Reading

Over the summer, students were tasked with finding some adventurous places to pick up a book!



Pony Club Grassroots Tetrathlon National Final

Congratulations to Zoe, Emily, Laura and Jess who competed together as a team in the Pony Club Grassroots Tetrathlon National Final in August. The championship involved riding, shooting, swimming and running and took place over three days in Warwickshire. The girls put in a fantastic performance coming home with first place team and all four individuals ranking in the top ten finishers from a field of 60 competitors from across England, Ireland and Scotland. We also took home several best and second best within individual disciplines. Well done girls!



Taunton Prep School horse riders win mixed height competition at Hickstead

In August, some of Taunton Prep School's youngest riders travelled to the hallowed turf of Hickstead, one of the most famous show jumping venues in the country, having qualified at competitions earlier in the year. After the long journey and overnight stay, Erin, Violet, Rory and Jessica were all excited to represent Taunton School at such an amazing venue.

Erin, Violet and Rory started the day competing in the team 40cm championships and finished in 5th place as a team. Later in the day, the team took on the mixed height competition, with each rider jumping a different height. This competition had a great team feel and went right down to the last rider of the competition. We were all so happy when Taunton were announced as overall winners!



Return to Competitive Rugby



It was great to see so many boys out playing last Wednesday with the return of competitive contact rugby against other schools with spectators!

U10 and U11

TPS welcomed both Hazlegrove and Blundell Prep for a festival. In both the U10 and U11, schools had three teams per age group allowing every pupils to play in a round robin format. With the focus very much on training and returning to play, it was very encouraging to see so many pupils running, passing and tackling.

	Blundells	Hazlegrove
U10A	15-5	35-30
U10B	20-30	30-30
U10C	35-5	55-60

	Blundells	Hazlegrove
U11A	0-15	10-10
U11B	10-20	30-20
U11C	15-5	15-10

U13A v Hazlegrove

For many of the TPS team, this would be their first contact game for the school. The sun was out and the team were clearly excited to get started. Playing a previously unbeaten team, TPS knew it was going to be a very tough return to rugby. As a training game, it was agreed to play four periods of 10 minutes to allow changes to formation and tactics. In a very competitive game, both teams improved as the game progressed. Taunton probably settled quicker and, showing some good handling, went two tries up in the first period. The focus in the second period was to improve on our ruck and be more competitive around this area. As the game progressed, both teams continued to play some encouraging rugby and the result could have gone either way. They were very few handing errors and missed tackles and the difference between the two teams was probably the speed of the backs and moving the ball wide. Jack Saxton was player of the match, making four try saving tackles and carrying the ball back from kicks. William Maynard also had an excellent debut at fly half. Congratulations to the whole team. Lots more to work on. Try Scorers – Gethin x 2 Theo x 2 Dylan 1 Nic 1.

Result: TPS 30- Hazlegrove 15

U13B v Hazlegrove

This was a majestic display from the start of the match with plenty of fine performances from the Taunton team. As confidence grew, the tackling of the players improved, as did our own ball retention. A very resilient opposition never gave up but Taunton proved too strong towards the end with some strong running from Ronan and top try scorer, Zach.

Result: TPS 70- Hazlegrove 20

U13C v Hazlegrove

TPS U13C team played a solid first game away to Hazelgrove. There were many positive aspects to a well-earned draw, and some great performances from everyone, especially Cyrus and Ralph Dovey, Max Kaye, Alex Rampaul and Johnny Chiu. Six tries were scored by each side, some the result of some end-to-end flowing moves. A little more conviction in both carrying ball into contact and tackling will allow the team to improve still further.

Result: TPS 30 Hazlegrove 30

Success for TPS Pistol Team

A growing tradition of shooting continues to develop at Taunton Prep School. Over the summer there was more success for the pistol team who finished 3rd in the country which is an incredible achievement. Individual success to Zoe who finished 5th Nationally with Rufus and Laura both finishing in the top 20. This builds on last year's results where we had on top ten finisher and the team with Emily came in 3rd nationally. Pupils at Taunton Prep School are very fortunate with both pistol and laser shoot clubs being part of the after school activity programme on offer. British Shooting, the governing body for the competitions, have just announced the introduction of 10m Air Rifle shooting as a future discipline, this is something the school are looking to participate in, in due course.



Year 7 Harry ends the Go-Kart National Super One Series in 3rd Place

TPS Year 7 student Harry has now confirmed his position as 3rd nationally in the Minimax Super One Championship 2021. Harry races locally at Clay Pigeon in Dorchester and at Mansell raceway at Dunkswell at Club level. He now races all over the UK competing at National level. Harry has overcome many challenges in this championship, with some amazing driving and overtaking, as well as being resilient and getting back in the kart after a crash at 70mph in the tyre wall at Shennington, Coventry.





October Half Term Hockey Camp

- 25th-27th
- Taunton School
- 10am-3pm
- £100pp / £35pd



For more information and bookings contact:
will@wacoaching.co.uk

