



TAUNTON  
SCHOOL

# Prep & Pre-Prep COURIER

19th November 2021

#TAUNTONSCHOOL

## LEST WE FORGET



Taunton School fell silent on Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday as students, staff, cadets and Old Tauntonians remembered the heroes who sacrificed and fought to defend freedoms and protect Britain. In the thoughts of those attending were the Armed Forces and their families from Britain and the Commonwealth. See more pictures on page 18.

### More Inside

- Fireworks
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- Sports news

Next Prep Courier: 17th December 2021

## Message from the TPS Headmaster



It seems a long time ago now, but I hope that you all enjoyed a great half-term break and are looking forward to the exciting and busy weeks leading up to the Christmas holidays. It was lovely to see so many of you at the fireworks evening, and a big thank you to Mr Coleman and all of the other members of staff who joined together to make the event possible.

The pupils' progress in the classroom must always lie at the heart of their school experience, and I want to start my piece today by focussing on the academic side of school life. I am very pleased every week when I see how many pupils have been nominated by their teachers for a 'Learner of the Week' certificate in assembly. It was also 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. We have started the series of parent/teacher consultations for each year group, and I hope that these are proving useful and informative for parents. Thank you very much for adapting to the new online system so well, and please do remember that any parent is welcome at any time to contact a subject teacher about how his/her child is getting on. Our teachers are always happy to arrange for a phone call or meeting.

There have been many performing arts events to enjoy recently and I have been thrilled to see the pupils achieving so much. In drama, the Saturday morning enrichment group gave a captivating performance of 'The World is on Fire', and well done to all of the pupils who have produced such good assemblies this term. 6G, 5S, 7V and 7W have all made superb contributions on stage in Centenary Hall. Congratulations also to the very many pupils who have competed so well in this week's Taunton Festival of Drama, and we have seen many cups and shields brought back into school by pupils returning from their competitions. In dance, our scholars and Leaders in Years 7 and 8 put together a terrific

show which they performed in front of all of the pupils in Years 7 and 8. The dancers created their routines themselves, and showed great independence, courage and maturity, as well as a very high level of skill. Very well done to all of the pupils and staff involved, and special thanks to Miss Hartland-Mann and Miss Turner. We are very blessed to have two professional dance teachers who provide such a wide range of wonderful opportunities for our boys and girls.

And in music, we have enjoyed greatly the Performing Arts Cafés on Tuesday evenings, including a tremendous concert by our music scholars in Years 7 and 8 this week. I hope that many of you will be able to enjoy our Michaelmas Concert next Tuesday.

In sport, you will find in today's Courier details of how some of our pupils from our school have proved themselves the best in the South-West (cross-country) and the best in the country (biathlon). Please do take a closer look and marvel at the standards being achieved by our pupils. Very well done to all of the boys and girls and the staff and parents who support them so well.

Last Thursday, all of our pupils and staff in the Prep School took part in our Prep School Remembrance Service, helping our pupils to develop a mature understanding of wars and conflicts around the world. The boarders also attended the service for all residents last Sunday. 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. It was very good to raise £580 last Friday for the Royal British Legion on our charity day with a good time had by all.

I hope that you all have a very enjoyable Exeat weekend and that you are looking forward to the numerous exciting events and activities planned for the final weeks of term.

**Andrew Edwards, TPS Headmaster**

## Message from the Head of Pre-Prep and Nursery



It does feel like winter is gradually creeping up on us with the dark evenings. Thank you to all the parents who have joined us for any remote parent consultations over the last week or so. We also look forward to the Year 1 sharing assembly taking place in the Centenary Hall next week, on Thursday 25th November. A big thank you to the staff involved in preparing the children for their assembly performance.

It also seems appropriate to take this opportunity to publicly thank the catering team for all that they do to feed us throughout the year. I know that this is proving to be particularly difficult at the moment, with the many challenges affecting the catering and hospitality industry.

As I fast forward the next few weeks, I look forward to the start of our Christmas events with our sparkle and glitter beginning on Friday 3rd December on 'Christmas craft day' with the opportunity for the children to wear their Christmas jumpers. Further details about booking tickets for all our Nativity performances and the Christingle service will be shared at the end of next week.

Finally, for both the Nursery 3 and Nursery 4 parents, we have remote parent consultations taking place all this week and next with the children's key staff. Thank you to those of you who have booked in for this already, it is always a lovely opportunity for us to share information in addition to hearing about the children's interests at home. Have a good weekend.

**Mrs Louise Leah, Head of Pre-Prep and Nursery**

## Diary Dates

<b>11+ Scholarship deadline</b>	26th November 2021
<b>Safeguarding webinar for parents</b>	29th November 6:30pm
<b>13+ Scholarship deadline</b>	10th January 2022
<b>Virtual Open Morning</b>	5th February 2022 9:30am – 12:30pm
<b>Whole School Open Morning</b>	12th February 2022 9:00am - 12:00pm (UK time)
<b>Year 9 GCSE Information Evening</b>	4th March 2022 6:30pm - 9:30pm
<b>Whole School Open Morning</b>	2nd May 2022 9:30am - 12:30pm



## Fireworks display goes with a bang



The skies over Taunton School were lit up for Bonfire Night as 900 people filled the grounds for the annual fireworks display, organised by Taunton Prep School for everyone to enjoy.

## Stepping out for dance solos

Our Dance Scholars and Leaders in Years 7 and 8 put on a wonderful show on 13th November. Here are some of the stunning images from the show.



## Ball Pool



Here are some photos of some of the new N1 babies enjoying their time exploring the new ball pool!

## Matilda adds another string to her bow

Talented violinist Matilda White is celebrating after being selected for the National Children's Orchestra. The 12-year-old, who started playing at the age of five, will rehearse and perform with the orchestra alongside young people from all over the country.

Matilda said: "To get into the NCO is a really big achievement and I'm really excited about it. It makes me feel very grown up and it's a big step up."

Matt Jelf, Taunton Prep School's Director of Music and Performing Arts, said: "Matilda is extremely hard working, dedicated and is not afraid to take on new challenges. This is a big deal for her and will be a good experience."



## Performing Arts Café is back!

TPS music scholars welcomed back audiences to their live Performing Arts Café this week, performing pieces to an in-person audience for the first time in many months. Congratulations to all the scholars and to all our musicians who are getting back into the swing of performing. The next two Performing Arts Cafés this term are on Tuesday 30th November and Tuesday 7th December. The Michaelmas Concert takes place on Tuesday 23rd November at 6pm in the Chapel. Places are limited to these events and must be booked in advance.



## Poppy goes for the chop for charity

Poppy has raised over £600 in sponsorship by having her hair cut in aid of the Little Princess Trust. Poppy has been growing her hair for two years and it will now be used to make a wig for a child or young person who has lost their hair. Money raised will go towards the cost of making the wig.



## Getting hands-on in Design Technology

Year 8 pupils have been busy in the Design Technology room recently, been learning to use a pillar drill, disc sander, strip heater and polishing wheel in their Design Technology lessons this week.



## Year 8 chefs cooking up a treat



Budding chefs in Year 8 have been learning cookery with Miss King, developing their cutting and baking skills in the Prep School kitchen. They have made potato wedges and stir-fry and are looking forward to making past bake and apple crumble later this term.

## Melting and sinking helps pupils learn about materials



Year 2 children have been testing different materials up in the Prep School Design Technology room. Year 2 were invited up to the Prep School DT room to indulge in some STEM (Science Technology Engineering Maths) activities.

They were challenged to test a range of materials and match them up with their properties on a table. Unusual materials such as styrofoam, acrylic and plywood, as well as some more common examples, were tested. The children had to twist, pull, cut, tear and scratch the pieces and also discovered what happens to the materials on water. A number of weights were added to foam to see if it would sink.

Mr Ashmore demonstrated what happens to acrylic when you heat it up in the oven. It was then press-moulded into different shapes. The children learnt that if you heat it again it returns to being flat.

## TSIMS students celebrate Diwali

Taunton School International Middle School students joined in the festivities as people around the world celebrated Diwali, the five-day Festival of Lights, celebrated by millions across the world.

From Thursday 4th to Tuesday the 9th November Hindus, Sikhs and Jains all over the world celebrated Diwali. At Taunton School International Middle School, students learned about the festival during its run up, and ended the five-day period with their own mini Festival of Light.

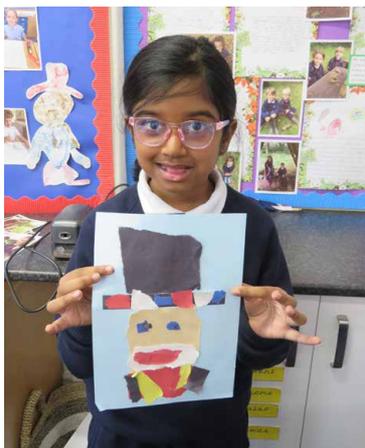
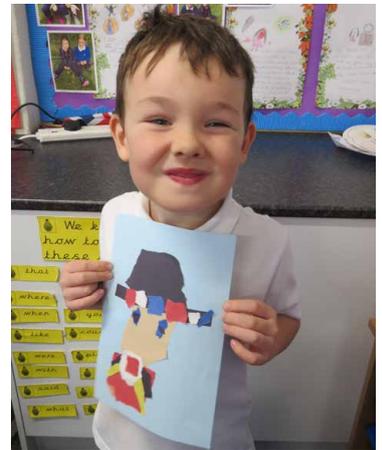
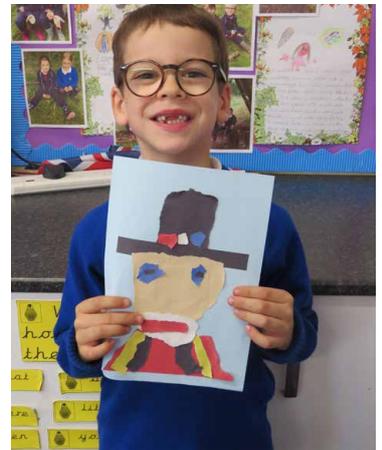
Students lit sparklers in the garden and shared some traditional Indian sweets with each other, which went down a treat - the 'milk cake' was a particular favourite. Finally, they ended the night by designing and making their own colourful Diwali lanterns, which the students have taken back to the boarding house to brighten up their bedrooms. [Read more on our website here.](#)



Nursery children have also been learning about Diwali.

## Learning about London through art

Year 2 children have been making Beefeaters by tearing and sticking paper as part of their London topic.



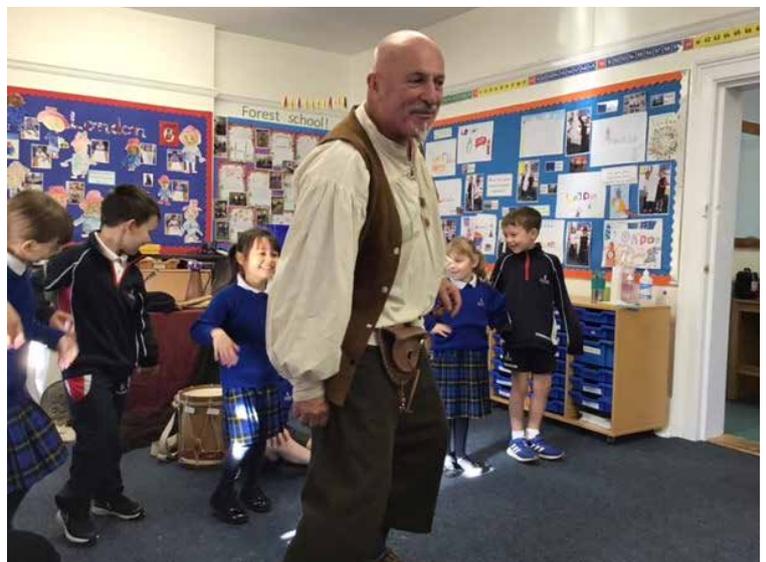
## War stories

Prep School pupils listened to Michael Morpurgo's 'Private Peaceful', read by Miss Kitchen in the library, as part of Taunton School's week of Remembrance activities.



## Author brings literature to life with storytelling

Storyteller and children's author Clive Pig visited Year 2 to help children learn about the Great Fire of London through stories and role play. It was so interesting, finding out about what life was like in London in 1666, and he made all the children laugh!



## Pole to Pole

Year 1 children have fully immersed themselves in their new topic, 'Pole to Pole', and have all enjoyed learning about the different animals in the North and South Poles. The children have been developing their observational painting skills and writing lots of detailed descriptions about their chosen Polar animal. This week, the children have been thinking about climate change and the changes they can make at home and in school to help the planet. After some fantastic discussions, the children created their own posters to show all of their fabulous ideas.

The children had lots of fun learning about and celebrating Diwali. Mrs Kumar kindly visited the class and told the children the story of Diwali, explaining how her family celebrates. The children had lots of fun looking at special objects and wearing beautiful, traditional clothing. A big thank you to Mrs Kumar from all of the Year 1 children for such an exciting morning.

The children are busily preparing for their sharing assembly next week (Thursday 25th November) and are looking forward to sharing all of their hard work and brilliant learning with their families.



## TPS House Charity Day for Royal British Legion

Following the Remembrance Day chapel service, children and staff at TPS recognised and celebrated the Royal British Legion by focussing on this charitable organisation as part of our House Charity Day on Friday 12th November. Children wore mainly red mufti and brought £2 which enabled them to take part in our arts and crafts activities as well as dancing to wartime songs in a fun-filled session led by our dance teacher Miss Hartland-Mann. There were also delicious cakes with edible poppy stickers.



## Celebrations and gingerbread for Reception children

Reception children have been enjoying their new topic 'Celebrations' this half-term. They spent a day celebrating Diwali. Teaching Assistant Mrs Kumar told them all about how her family celebrates Diwali and brought in traditional clothes to dress up in and special Diwali objects to look at. The children made a variety of Diwali artwork including elephants, peacocks, mehendi hands and diwa lamps.

The Reception children have also been investigating a mysterious white trail covering the playground. They followed the trail and found a basket full of gingerbread treats to decorate. The letter inside revealed that it was from the gingerbread man. The children have been learning the story of the Gingerbread Man and have impressed us with their storytelling and sequencing. They used their creative skills to design and draw their own gingerbread man and have also written speech bubbles for them.



## French rhymes and puppets

This term has been very busy in Pre-Prep MFL. Reception have been learning fun finger puppet rhyme "Deux Petits Oiseaux" and they made their own little bird puppets as well as learning the rhyme and song. Year 1 have been learning another finger rhyme about the story of "Deux Escargots" and they made some wonderful and colourful snails. Finally in Year 2, the children have been learning simple conversations introducing themselves and asking and answering questions. They drew their own face on a paper plate and then did a role play to practise conversations in French. Fantastique everyone!



## U11 Hockey through to regionals

Pictured are the U11 hockey team who have qualified for regional rounds and the U10 hockey team at the TPS Tournaments.



## U13 hockey reach next round

Well done to the girls beating Millfield 8-1 in their recent county fixture. This qualifies them for the regional finals to be held next term.





**Christmas Hockey Camp**

- 20th-21st December
- Taunton School
- 10am-3pm
- £70pp



For more information and bookings contact:  
[will@wacoaching.co.uk](mailto:will@wacoaching.co.uk)



 @wa\_coaching  WA Sports Coaching



Here are some photos of the U12 and U13 hockey teams during their house matches.

# England Schools Cross Country Cup

On Saturday 13th November the junior boys' team, and girls' team took the short trip to King's College for the South West Regional Qualifiers. 12 schools had previously qualified through to this stage by finishing top two or three (depending on number of school entries) in their area rounds held in October. Schools enter six runners into each race. The top four runners then score towards their team total. The lowest team score is the best, so a runner finishing 1st scores a single point, 15th scores 15 and so on. The four scores are then added together to make a team total. As can be seen from the scores below, Taunton School have once again had amazing success with both the boys' and the girls' teams qualifying through to the national finals by both finishing in the top three. The finals will be held in Newquay on Saturday 4th December.

Congratulations to all the runners in the squads below. We wish them every success in the finals representing the school and the South West.

## Teams:

Tom Barnett, Harvey Coleman, Nic Du Toit, Brodie Davidson, Lewis Orchard, Theo Winsor

Alice Boyce, Lily Blackwell, Rosie Joynes, Samia Johnson, Emily Miller, Zoe Trembath.



## Junior Boys

### Competition 1

Posn	Points	School
1	46	Taunton School, Taunton
2	62	Reading Blue Coat School, Reading
3	70	Hardenhuish School, Chippenham
4	74	Bishop Wordsworth's Grammar School, Salisbury
5	80	Penryn College, Penryn
6	105	Kingsbridge Academy, Kingsbridge
7	105	Bournemouth School, Bournemouth
8	111	King's Hall School, Taunton
9	121	Torpoint Community College, Torpoint
10	163	Clayesmore Preparatory School, Blandford Forum
11	172	Eagle House School, Sandhurst
12	224	Charters School, Ascot

## Junior Girls

### Competition 1

Posn	Points	School
1	36	South Wilts Grammar School for Girls, Salisbury
2	38	Millfield Preparatory School, Glastonbury
3	45	Taunton School, Taunton
4	67	Leweston School, Sherborne
5	98	The Abbey School Reading, Reading
6	120	Eagle House School, Sandhurst
7	123	Parkstone Grammar School, Poole
8	125	Exmouth Community College, Exmouth
9	152	Bodmin College, Bodmin
10	152	Downe House, Thatcham
11	169	Newquay Tretherras, Newquay

## ESA Swim Finals – Saturday 20th November

Good luck to both the boys' and girls' swim relay teams as they head up to the London Aquatic Centre for the 63rd Secondary Schools Championship. Open to all schools in the country, and with over 170 schools entering each category, only the top 20 make the finals. Taunton Prep School has teams who have qualified for the both the freestyle and medley relays. Look out for the results on Twitter and in the next edition of the Courier.

## Medals for Triathlon and tetrathlon Duo

Emily and Jess Miller competed at the 2021 British Modern Triathlon & Tetrathlon Championship run by PentathlonGB at Bath University. Both girls had a fantastic swim and both achieved a three-second PB in the 50 and 100m races and both had a brilliant laser run. Jess finished 2nd in the U11 and Emily 3rd in U13. Both won team gold.



## Triathlon and tetrathlon



Taunton School pupils competed in the Area Run Triathlon and Tetrathlon at Pontispool on 31st October. A large number of pupils gathered for the event, each taking part in up to four disciplines, with riding, swimming, running and shooting making up the tetrathlon, and the riding dropped for the triathlon. Both Olivia and Sophie Day were competing at their first tri and tet respectively. Sophie had a great ride and shoot and Olivia came away with 'best class swim' and an overall win in her class. In the same class, Florence Legg also had a fantastic day, winning the run. Emily and Jess both had a tough competition but with sound shoots and best swims in class for each, Jess came in 1st in her class with Emily 3rd in hers. Laura Trembath won the shooting her class and had a good swim. Zoe Trembath was the only rider to go clear without time penalties in the ride, which, combined with good results across all the disciplines, gave her a 2nd place in class. A tough event against a strong field with up to 30 competitors in a class, it was great to see so many TPS pupils walking away with discipline wins and class placings.

# South West Schools Biathlon – Sunday 14th November

35 pupils represented Taunton School at the Biathlon South West qualifiers in Yeovil on Sunday. Every pupil competed brilliantly, with many competing in their first competition. The below are our medallists from the day – an incredible set of results across the board:

**U9 Girls** = 2nd team (Bella Notaro, Erin Walters and Kayra Jordan)

**U9 Boys** = 2nd team (Oscar Sanderson, Cameron White and Rory Foad)

2nd Individual, Oscar Sanderson

**U10 girls** = 1st Individual, Alba Davidson

**U10 boys** = 1st team (JJ Wells, James Sercombe and William South)

1st individual, JJ Wells

3rd individual, James Sercombe

**U11 girls** = 1st team (Elsbeth Craik, Jessica Miller and Bella Vile)

2nd individual, Elspeth Craik

**U11 boys** = 2nd individual, Lewis Walters

**U12 boys** = 1st team (Tom Barnett, Harry Adams and Lucas Baker) and 3rd team (William Thomas, Oli Hallett and Fergus Hay)

1st individual, Tom Barnett

**U13 girls** = 1st team (Emily Miller, Katie Sercombe and Galice Prud'homme)

1st individual, Emily Miller

**U13 boys** = 3rd individual, Reuben Thomas

**U15 boys** = 1st individual, Jack White



# Remembrance Day in photos

32 Old Tauntonians attended a Remembrance service and reunion held at Taunton School on 13th November.

Veteran Phillip Speed brought a plaque to present to the Headmaster with photos of two otters which were taken in by the school. These otters were the feature of a BBC documentary and were written about in a book by a Taunton schoolmaster which featured Phillip's dad, an OT, who was schoolboy at the time.



