



Easter is almost here!

Amazingly, we are getting towards the end of the spring term which of course has been slightly interrupted by heavy snow! (See below). While this had some effect on our book week, we still went ahead with most of our planned activities the following week, including our book swaps, reading cafes and classroom door book cover competition (hopefully you'll have seen the photos in the EDP/EN and on our Twitter page). The snow also led to the postponement of the Norfolk Cross-country finals at Holkham Hall, but these went ahead on March 7th, with some excellent performances by the team. Special mentions and congratulations go to Logan W., for winning the Year 5 event and to Dylan G., runner-up in the Y3 event. The last cross-country event was on March 9th, with the boys' team finishing the season as runners-up and Millie A. the second fastest runner in the whole Norwich area—well done!

There have been a number of football matches for the girls, Year 6 and Year 5 (including a tournament on March 16th). The next newsletter will feature an end of season report for each.

Last week was particularly busy: on March 14th, we were delighted to receive a visit from Norwich City first team players Angus Gunn and Josh Murphy. Angus and Josh met Year 3 and later joined in with their games session, as well as meeting members of our sports council and answering their questions. There's a nice story and pictures here: <https://www.communitysportsfoundation.org.uk/news/city-duo-surprise-pupils/>

On March 15th, Year 3 enjoyed Ancient Egypt day, where they learned more about life in Ancient Egypt, spending the day in role as Ancient Egyptians and making lots of Ancient Egyptian artefacts to take home. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped out on the day. The following day twelve Year 5 pupils along with Mr Hollidge and Mr Henman, visited Cambridge University (Gonville and Caius College) for the launch of the latest 'Scholars' Programme'. Also last week we had the 'soiree' or 'cake concert', showcasing our very talented musicians and much appreciated by a large audience of parents and family members, suitably fuelled with tea and cake. There were nearly 60 instrumentalists involved, from near-beginners to some more experienced pupils, playing to an impressive standard. Thank you to the PTFA for serving tea, coffee and cakes, to everyone who donated cakes and of course to Mrs Penwill, for coordinating the whole excellent event and to other staff members who helped out, including Mrs Bird and Miss Comfort.

The School Council have been busy: they went to the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital to interview candidates for the school nurse course on February 27th and met the school cook to discuss the current menus and ideas for lunches on March 12th. Also on their agenda over the next few weeks are school uniform and the anti-bullying policy. The Eco Council are busy planning a waste audit, with help from Mrs Clark and a couple of our parents, Mrs Skillings and Mrs Myers—thank you to all of them. This will be a big step towards achieving Silver Eco Schools status.

The Year 6 children (and staff!:) are looking forward to this week's Caythorpe Court residential trip. Also this week, the Year 5 classes are visiting Taverham Mill and on Friday it is Sport Relief day, with the Easter discos (details below) to look forward to in the last week of term.

Paul Stanley

Headteacher

School Closure Due To Snow



As parents are aware, the school was closed on February 28th (along with 424 others) March 1st (437 closed) and, after much agonising and personal heartache (!) also on Friday 2nd March, despite me, Mr

Hall and Rev Seabrook clearing paths and the car park the previous day. In the end, I felt I had no choice but to join the other 430+ schools that decided to close on the Friday, particularly once police travel advice had been issued and it emerged that some staff were going to struggle to get into work.

I understand that, whatever the decision, some people won't be happy, but I appreciate the many understanding parents/carers who got in touch at the time or have spoken to me since, thanking me for at least trying to open on March 2nd. The decision to close (or not) is obviously very difficult and informed by weather forecasts, conditions at the school and nearby roads and pavements, police/Met office advice, discussions with other cluster headteachers and factoring in the distances and journeys some staff face in order to get to work. I hope that parents/carers feel that we communicated information effectively and that you weren't too inconvenienced by the closures; I apologise if this was the case.

Schools are under pressure from the Local Authority and Department of Education to keep schools open if at all possible. In the Department's view, *'essential travel includes pupils going to school to keep learning, and school staff going to work.'* While learning is vital, of course, I would argue that when local police are telling people not to travel, the potential risk of injury or worse is a more significant factor. While we try and communicate a decision as early as possible, I am also wary of making a decision too early; weather forecasts are not totally reliable and in the past, some schools have made the decision to close the day before, only to wake up the next morning to sunshine, thawing snow and clear roads. This time in our case, the original decision to open, communicated on the Thursday evening, was quickly overtaken by events, reinforcing the difficulty of making the right call at an early stage.

Cake Sale

We will be holding a cake sale on **Tuesday 27th March** to raise funds for the Nature Club to create a Wild Garden at school.



If you are able to donate cakes please do so on the morning of the cake sale.

Many Thanks

PTFA Quiz and Chips Night Friday 27th April – 7.15pm



The PTFA will be holding one of their very popular "Quiz and Chips" nights on Friday 27th April. This will be held in the school hall. Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.45pm start. There will be 60 questions with an additional cash prize game at half time and a raffle. Fish and chips will be served at half time.

You can enter a team of up to 8 people and the cost is £8.00 per person, which includes your quiz entry as well as your fish and chips.

Please bring your own drinks (alcohol allowed!) and snacks (cutlery, ketchup, salt and vinegar will be provided) Please note the school operates a "no nuts" policy.

To enter a team:

Choose a team captain and get them to email the PTFA - PTFA@taverhamjunior.norfolk.sch.uk Please provide the names of all of your team members, a contact telephone number, any special dietary requirements and the number of people in your team. Payment is via the SchoolMoney system and the payment option can be found in the "school shop" section. You can either pay for your whole team or team members can pay individually. Just select the appropriate number of players when you pay.

This event is for adults only.

Please can all payments be in by Monday 23rd April so that we can confirm numbers with the fish and chip shop.

Hope to see lots of you there!

School Uniform

Unlike some schools that feature in the media for their strict (and some would argue, Draconian) uniform rules, I would never send a child home for wearing incorrect uniform or having the wrong kind of haircut etc. We have a very clear uniform policy (see below) which is understood and adhered to by the vast majority of pupils and parents and essentially we rely on everyone respecting this policy, rather than spending time and energy on policing uniform and imposing sanctions when uniform policy is breached; we have more important things to do.

I feel that our approach to school uniform is sensible and reasonable and I'm sure that most parents appreciate the fact that we focus our energies on teaching and learning and are not constantly in contact with them about small, infrequent breaches of the policy by their children. It is therefore disappointing when there are occasionally flagrant breaches of school uniform policy by some pupils and parents, who seem to be trying to take advantage of our flexibility and relatively relaxed approach. I don't think it's too much to expect everyone to respect our uniform policy and we appreciate the vast majority of pupils and parents who do so-thank you for your cooperation.

Look out for a survey on school uniform early next term.

Paul Stanley
Headteacher



Uniform guidance:

BOYS

- Mulberry sweatshirt with school logo
- Mulberry polo shirt with school logo
- Mid/dark grey or black trousers (Smart, tailored knee-length shorts as a summer alternative)
- Flat, black **shoes**
- Plain white/grey/black socks

GIRLS

- Mulberry sweatshirt (or cardigan) with school logo
- Mulberry polo shirt with school logo
- Mid/dark grey or black trousers or mid/dark grey or black knee-length skirt (Smart, tailored knee-length shorts or red/white striped or checked dress as a summer alternative.)
- Flat, black **shoes**
- Plain white/grey/black socks or plain white/grey/black tights

All pupils should wear a baseball cap, or similar, outside to protect them during hot and sunny weather.

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT ALLOWED:

*Denim, cords, leggings or track suit bottoms
Short or long skirts or shorts
Boots (of any kind)
Jewellery (other than small, plain studs)*
Extreme hair cuts or dyed hair
Nail varnish or make up
Cardigans
Tattoos*

**Studs must be removed for Games and P.E. lessons.*

Support for Nightingales

Nightingales are one of the choices in the Drayton Tesco Bags of Help scheme. They would appreciate you and your families popping your blue tokens in their slot. They are hoping to raise funds for their KS1 outdoor environment.

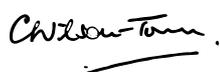


Message from the Governors

I hope that many of you will respond to the parent and pupil questionnaires sent out at the end of last week. As a large school, these questionnaires remain one of the most effective ways of ensuring that all parents / carers and children have the chance to express their views about the school. We are asking that responses are returned by the end of this term, 28th March. The answers are genuinely helpful, especially if comments are added, and the outcome will be discussed at the governing board's meeting early in the summer term. This year, we have added a question about school uniform. Governors are very aware that the current school colour is difficult to buy. We felt that rather than just pick a colour to replace it, we should find out whether parents / carers and children think a uniform is important. Discussions are taking place with the school council and I know that all classes will be involved, as will staff and governors. There may be further discussion next term.

I thought it would be helpful to say something about our school budget. You will have heard or read in the media a great deal about the financial pressures on schools. This is correct. Whilst the amount of money given directly to schools has increased, it has not kept up with the additional costs which all schools are facing. Later this month, governors will be setting and agreeing the school's budget with Paul Stanley and the school leadership. I am pleased to say that, partly because our numbers on roll are stable, the coming financial year's allocation is positive. We can be confident that current staff numbers will be maintained and we can continue to offer a broad and exciting curriculum. As governors, it is our responsibility to ensure that our costs can be managed over the next three years and we do not go into deficit. I will provide an update about our budget in the next newsletter.

Finally, there is still the chance for a parent to join Neil Dyas and Tom Mitchell as one of our three parent governors. We hold two governing board meetings and usually two committee meetings per term. All governors have access to training via Educator Solutions or the Diocese. If anyone is interested in becoming a parent governor, please speak to Paul Stanley or contact me via the school office.



Chris Wilson-Town
Chair of Governors

Sport Relief

We will be holding a fun run on Friday 23rd March at Taverham Hall.

Children have been asked to create a funny hat or wig to run in and to gain as many sponsors as possible.

Prizes will be awarded to the children with the best designs and to who can raise the most money.

Parents are welcome to come and watch, all we ask is that spectators make a small donation on arrival.

Races start at 10.45am.



Parent Reminder

Could all parents/carers please make sure their contact details are up to date. There is a blue form located by the office to be filled out if any phone numbers etc. change.

Could you please make sure your child(ren) are aware of their home time instructions at the start of the day. We have recently had a large amount of calls in the afternoon regarding this and whilst we understand there may be the odd occasion where plans change at the last minute, many of the calls have been messages that could have been given in the morning.

Many Thanks

PTFA Easter Discos- Monday 26th March (Year 3/4: 6pm-7pm; Year 5/6: 7.15pm-8.30pm)



The school discos are very popular with the children, as well as being an important fundraiser for the PTFA.

For the Y3/4 disco, please bring your child into the school building through the Taverham Road pedestrian entrance only. Entry to the disco will be made by queuing along the main, sloping corridor. Please could Y5/6 pupils be brought into school for their disco via the St. Edmunds Rise gate and the outside door to the Y4 block. The children will have the tickets checked and go into the hall via the library. All children should still be collected from the hall and leave via the Taverham Road gate.

It will be possible to gain entry to the discos by paying £2.50 on the night. For safety reasons, parents should not leave the school site until they are sure that their child has been left in the care of a member of the school staff or a PTFA/parent helper. Please do not just drop your children off outside the school.

This event is for pupils only. However, if you would like to offer your help, please contact a member of the PTFA committee, via the school office.

It is essential that parents can be contacted throughout the duration of the disco, in case their child becomes unwell.

At the end of both discos, children **MUST** be collected from **INSIDE** the school hall, by entering through the double doors adjacent to the school's main entrance. To ease congestion and ensure a quick and smooth exit, please could parents and collected children leave via the door at the back of the hall, and go round the back of the kitchen, through the gate into the car park. We are not able to allow children to wander outside to find their parents, for obvious reasons. If parents are unable to collect their child, or to arrange for another adult/older brother or sister to collect them, their child should not attend the disco.

Any children absent from school on the day of the disco will not be admitted.

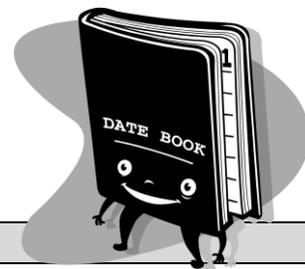


Staff and parent helpers have voluntarily given up their time to organise this event so please make sure that you arrive on time to collect your child! There are unfortunately always two or three children left behind 10 or 15 minutes after the other children have gone!



Clearly, there will be a lot of traffic around the school on the evening of the disco. At the last disco, we asked that Y5/6 parents and pupils use the St. Edmunds Rise gate to enter the school for the Y5/6 disco and this did seem to help solve some of the traffic problems, so we will be using the same arrangement for next week's discos, as outlined above. It may be a good idea to park at the village hall and walk to the school. The overflow car park will hopefully be open; however, if at all possible, please could parents walk or car-share to reduce congestion and car-parking problems.

DIARY DATES



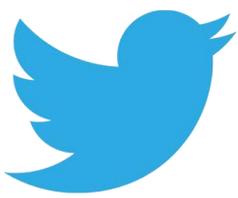
March	
Mon 19th - Fri 23rd	Sport Relief
Weds 21st - Fri 23rd	Yr 6 Caythorpe Residential Trip
Weds 28th	End of Spring Term for children
Thurs 29th	INSET day
April	
Mon 16th	Summer Term starts for staff and children
May	
Mon 7th	School Closed (May Day Bank Holiday)
Weds 9th	Learning reviews and Yr 6 open evening (3-6pm)
w/b Mon 14th	SATs week
Thurs 17th	Learning reviews (4-8pm)
Thurs 24th	PTFA BBQ
Fri 25th	End of half-term
June	
Mon 4th	Start of half-term for staff and children
Weds 13th	Summer concert (6pm)
Thurs 15th	Summer concert (9am)
Thurs 21st	Multi-sports run-through
Tues 26th	Yr 2/Yr 3 multi-sports event
Weds 27th	New Yr 3 parents meeting (6-8pm)
Thurs 28th	Yr 3/Yr 4 sports day
Fri 29th	Yr 5/Yr 6 sports day

July	
Fri 6th	Transfer Day (provisional date)
Mon 16th	End of year reports sent out to parents
Tues 17th	Yr 6 show (6pm)
Weds 18th	Yr 6 show (9am)
Mon 23rd	Yr 6 awards assembly (9am) PTFA disco and leaver's BBQ
Tues 24th	Leavers' breakfast Leavers' service End of Summer Term

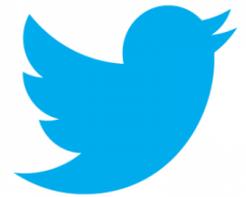
*Dates are correct at time of publication.
Please go to our website to check for
updates and new events*

Follow Us on Twitter!

@taverhamjunior



twitter



SCHOOL MONEY

If you have any queries with regards to the school money website please look at the Parents' Guide or contact the school office.

Job Vacancies

MSA

We are looking for another MSA (Midday Supervisory Assistant) to join our lunchtime team as soon as possible. The successful applicant will be working with children in every year group for five lunchtimes a week (5 hours 25 mins a week). Pay is £8.43 a session.

CLEANER

We are looking for a cleaner. No previous experience is necessary and training will be provided. Working hours would be 3pm-6pm. Pay is £7.5230 an hour (Scale A, Point 6)

For more information and an application form, please ask at the school office.

The school is committed to the principles of equal opportunities, safe recruitment practices and to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. We expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An enhanced DBS (formerly called CRB) will be necessary

For more information and an application form, please ask at the school office