

Dear Parents, Staff, Governors and friends,



A HAPPY AND RESTFUL CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY TO ALL

School finishes at 2.00 p.m. on Friday and restarts on Thursday 4 th January.



AULD LANG SYNE

Sadly, when the new term starts it will be without three long-standing members of staff who have made a fantastic contribution to the school and to generations of children over many years:

Mr D. Stokoe, Head of Science
Mrs H. Cowen, Head of Music
and Ms S. Butler, English

A great teacher's legacy is the spark of interest and enthusiasm that they ignite in a student and the support and encouragement that they give to take this from kindling to a consuming passion that changes lives. All three have achieved this over and over again. Mrs Cowen's testament is more demonstrable through the national profile that Tapton's music has achieved under her stewardship and through events such as Monday night's Carol Concert which filled St John's Ranmoor with superb music and musicians who came back to see her and to play with her in her last farewell (at Tapton). But Mr Stokoe's and Ms Butler's is no less real and their achievements in the English classroom or the Biology lab no less tangible. It was Mr Stokoe's drive and sheer hard work that achieved Specialist School status in Science for Tapton – the only such school in the city. Ms Butler's influence has spread beyond Tapton to Sheffield Hallam University where, alongside her work in our English department, she has helped train teachers and pass on her skills to new entrants to our profession.

We will miss all three greatly, but they leave us healthier and more vibrant, through all they have given, and we will regenerate and grow stronger.



TAPTON GAINS 'HEALTHY SCHOOL' STATUS

It's official - Tapton is a healthy School. Tapton has been audited by Healthy Schools and has a clean bill of health! Tapton has officially received Healthy School status for the work that is done in Food, PSHE, P.E and with Emotional Health and Well-being. We are not resting on our laurels, however, and intend to continue the excellent provision on offer to all students at Tapton and to improve it where we can! A big congratulations to all staff, students, governors and parents involved in this process.



THE SPONSORED WALK HAS NOW RAISED NEARLY £9000

The money raised will make a real difference to the young people here and in Africa , long term. Many thanks to so many of you for the organisation and effort you put into getting sponsors. But if you haven't got all your money in yet, don't think it doesn't matter. It does! Every last penny.

Keep it coming.



CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE INVOLVED WITH 'BUGSY MALONE'

It was an outstanding show – full of wit and invention in the direction and tremendous engagement in the acting and music. It said so much about the young people in Y8 – Y10 who took part, that it was every bit as good as any of the productions in the past that have centred on 6 th formers. The audiences loved it!



BOOK A DATE FOR THE PTA BIG BAND NIGHT

Sat 27 th January ... 7.30 p.m. ... School Hall

Enjoy listening to the sounds of the Big Band or gliding across the floor to the Langsett Dance Orchestra. There's excellent food (included in the ticket price), a licensed bar, and a great atmosphere to dance the night away .. or, if you're not Mark

Ramprakash or Emma Bunton , merely to relax and enjoy the food and the music. It's one of the best events of the year. Come with some friends. Tickets are available early next term.



TAPTON CHESS TOURNAMENT 2007

Don't forget this tournament starts on Friday 5 th January and has 3 categories – Lower school, Upper school and 6 th Form. Anyone wishing to participate please give your name and form to Mrs Everitt (English Dept) or visit Chess Club on Friday lunchtimes to enter. We particularly welcome players from Y7, Y10 and Y12. The three winners will receive fabulous prizes, with a certificate being awarded to the best player in Y7!



CHRISTIAN PRAYER GROUP

The next prayer meeting date is Wed 17 Jan at 8.00 p.m. at 6 Hagg Lane . All staff and parents welcome. If anyone has anything for which they would like prayer please contact Wendy on 2630328.



SPORTS REPORT

Badminton

Many congratulations to Y8 students on their achievements in Badminton. Playing at the English Institute of Sport, in the North of England Badminton U13 Bronze Tournament. An excellent achievement and all credit to their commitment and dedication.

Primary School Sports News

Year 5 and Y6 pupils from our feeder schools have been learning the game of Basketball in readiness for the Hotshots Primary Schools Competition at Tapton, with teams competing from Lydgate, Hallam and Netherthorpe. It was fantastic to see so many pupils involved in the training sessions and over 50 boys and girls competed in the finals. Congratulations to Netherthorpe and Lydgate who go through as winners and runners up. They now compete in the next stage, the Partnership Hotshots Competition, to be held on Tuesday 30 th January.

Any pupils who enjoyed the Basketball sessions are welcome to improve their play at our Tapton Saturday Morning Club. Coaching is between 11am-1pm every Saturday in the Sports Hall.

We also held a training session for Indoor Sports Hall Athletics. Eighty pupils from Lydgate and Hallam took part, leading to the Family Competition at Tapton on Tuesday 16 th January.

Many thanks to all our Tapton pupils who were such a great help, scoring and recording, on the night.