

From the Headmaster – Neil Tomlin OBE

The start of advent this Sunday marks the start of a period of anticipation and excitement. We have a lot to look forward to during our final three weeks of term.

Before I look forward, I must reflect again on the fabulous 'Night at the Movies' Dance Showcase by Years 5 and 6. It was hugely uplifting and, for over 100 children, it was the culmination of weeks of hard work. It was particularly rewarding to watch the bond and friendship within forms, within year groups and across the two year groupings. My favourite part of the show was listening to the Year 5 choir, whilst watching the positive and enthusiastic support from the Year 6 group off stage with waving arms and beaming supportive smiles. Our thanks to the Performing Arts team led by Miss Post, and particular thanks to our dance teacher, Miss Lucy Erridge, for her professionalism and skill to mastermind the whole event.

Staying with Performing Arts, please could Year 3 and 4 parents pay particular attention to their Section News. Miss Post has provided a link to a summary of your children's instrumental try-out sessions, with clear recommendations for which instrument your children might wish to start learning on a more permanent basis. I was lucky enough to present certificates to some of our children this week, some of whom were celebrating distinction at grade 4 and 5 level. The track record of music teaching at Hall Grove is a good one!

Years 5-8 Parents have the opportunity to attend parents' evenings over the next two weeks. We will all be focused on ensuring timeliness and, with a large circulation of people moving through the school, please can I remind you all to complete an LFD before coming to school events. Doors and windows in the New Hall will be open so please wrap up warm and we will insist on a suitable gap between parent and teacher during the meetings. Advent is full of anticipation but we don't want that anticipation to be of a cold or worse!

And finally, [at this link](#) is a template for a SWOT to help us develop our strategy for Hall Grove. We will be asking parents, staff and children to complete the SWOT. Please could all parents complete the analysis to answer the following questions:

S – What do you think are the strengths of Hall Grove that must be sustained or improved?

W – What do you think are the weaknesses of Hall Grove that must be improved or deleted?

O – What opportunities (external and internal) would you like Hall Grove to exploit over the next 5-10 years?

T – What threat (external and internal) do you believe Hall Grove must be aware of so that we can determine a course of action to deal with the threat?

Whole School Messages

Staying Safe Online – Parent Talk – Monday 13th December at 1700

We would like to invite all parents to listen to an important and useful talk about keeping your children safe online.

The talk will help parents to identify vulnerabilities; understand online activity (including gaming) and be aware of social media and other apps. With Christmas fast approaching and consoles and devices being a popular gift, you will also be shown how to set up parental controls and privacy settings.

Our guest speaker, Sharon Girling, is a former police officer. She was at the forefront of developing the processes that led to the creation of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre. Sharon has been awarded an OBE for her services to policing the internet.

The talk will last approximately 1 hour. If you wish to attend, please complete the form [via this link](#). If you require after school care please email Mr Cottrell, by Monday 6 December. j.cottrell@hallgrove.co.uk

Parents attending Parent Interviews and other events in School

We would ask all parents coming into school for events, concerts, parent interviews and the like to please take an LFD test before arriving. Key symptoms of Covid – a temperature of 38 degrees or higher, a new persistent cough or the loss of or change in the sense of taste or smell. Staff and Senior pupils continue to do twice-weekly LFD tests and we would be grateful for your cooperation in this.

The School Drive

As nights have drawn in and collections are now in the fading light or in darkness, we must ask parents to be patient on the drive at pick up. In particular, please drive slowly and wait for traffic to move around the turning circle. Please do not carry out three-point turns or similar manoeuvres on the zebra crossing or turning circle. Safety of the children is our priority.

Second-Hand Uniform Sale – Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th January

New Hall will be open during the 8th and 9th January 10am to 1300 for any second-hand uniform requirements.

Donations of used, good condition uniform and school shoes welcome as well as any outgrown sports kit (tennis racquets, cricket bats, hockey sticks, footballs etc). Please leave outside the Lighthouse on Friday morning 7th January.

Suzie Greenhalgh suzanne.greenhalgh@oracle.com

After School Clubs

Any parents collecting their children from AFC between 1630 - 1730, please continue beyond the turning circle towards the main house where you will be able to collect your child(ren) and turn around.

Christmas Charities

For the second year running, we are delighted to be supporting the Valley End Cricket Club initiative to provide a Hamper and Christmas Presents to local families in need at Christmas. Last year was the first year that they ran the event, and they managed to raise £5.5K and received over four hundred presents for children. They were able to support 36 families and their children plus the local charity, Children with Special Needs. This year, the intention is to deliver a hamper and gifts, together with a Christmas card, to even more children and parents, with an aim of 50 families.

It is a great opportunity for all children and parents of Hall Grove to get involved. We are welcoming any toys (preferably in working condition), books, chocolates etc. to donate to Valley End. These can be for all ages and stages as there is a wide range of families to support. There is also an opportunity to donate financially too, and all donations large and small are very much appreciated.

If you have presents to donate, please bring them in to Mr Neville's classroom. If you would like to donate financially, please contact Mr Neville at g.neville@hallgrove.co.uk.

Hall Grove Howlers!

Advance warning - I am very excited to announce that the Hall Grove staff and parents' choir will start on Tuesday 30th November from 1930 - 2030 in the Performance Studio. No auditions necessary! As long as you can vaguely hold a note and are up for a laugh, please join us. There will be refreshments from 1915 each week. Ideally, we're hoping for Tenor and Bass parts as well as Soprano and Alto - so MEN please come along too! Repertoire will be mainly pop / rock / musicals for upbeat, feel-good or emotional impact.

Please email Gigi e.tomlin@hallgrove.co.uk if you'd like to join us so we have an idea of numbers / voice parts and how many pots of tea to brew.

Senior Parents - Mr McLeod

Year 8 Extension Sessions

During exam week there will be no extension sessions. They will recommence on Monday 6th December.

Parent Interviews

Parent interviews for Seniors will take place in person on the following dates and times in December:

- Monday 6th December between 1800 - 2130 in New Hall
- Wednesday 8th December between 1800 - 2130 in New Hall
- Thursday 9th December between 1800 - 2000 in the Admiral Room

The booking system will open on Tuesday 30th November. A guide on how to book your appointments can be found [here](#). We would like to remind parents that pupils should not be attending these meetings.

Required Equipment

With exam week starting on Monday 29th November, please could all pupils bring in a blue pen, a pencil, a ruler, a set square, a protractor, a pair of compasses and a scientific calculator.

Pupils also require a pair of wired headphones or earphones in school at all times.

Social Media and Instant Messaging

We hope to see as many parents as possible at the Staying Safe Online talk (13th December). In the meantime, we ask that parents continue to monitor their child's devices especially group chats.

Year 7 Introduction to Boarding

Year 7 have an optional 'Introduction to Boarding' night on Friday 3rd December. This will be an overnight stay at school, allowing the children to get a taste of boarding life at Hall Grove and a feel for boarding in general. This may be helpful to open the options of future senior schools that offer full, weekly or flexi boarding.

The evening will include an evening activity, followed by pizza, and a film on our return to school. The children will stay at school at the end of the day and should be collected at 0900 on Saturday morning.

The cost is £20 per child. This will include an evening activity, supper, and breakfast on Saturday morning before collection. Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. If you would like your child to take part, [please click here](#).

Upper Juniors Parents - Mr Wheeler

Parent Meetings

We will be holding Parents' Meetings (in person) for Years 5 and 6 on Tuesday 30th November (1800 - 2115), Wednesday 1st December (1800 - 2115) and Thursday 2nd December (1800 - 2015) in New Hall.

If you have not already booked, please follow the link below.

Appointments can only be made using our online booking system which went live on Tuesday 23rd November at 1100. The system allows you to choose your own appointment times with teachers, after which you will receive an email confirming your interview times.

Appointments can be made until 1600 on Monday 29th November.

The online booking system can be found at the following web address:

<https://hallgrove.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

It is essential to use your child's full name (the name we have on roll) and date of birth when logging onto the system. We strongly recommend that you test logging into the system prior to it going live.

We would like to remind parents that pupils should not be attending these meetings.

Upper Juniors Exam Week

With exam week starting on Monday 29th November, please could all pupils bring in a blue pen, a pencil, a ruler, a protractor and eraser.

No Need To Worry

Exams can be an anxious time for some children, so I'd like to send a message of reassurance. All the information the children need to be successful has been covered in lessons. The teachers have also helped them revise and guided them through the expectations. I have also minimised the exams on each day to help all children achieve their best.

Lower Junior Parents - Miss Furness

Musical Instrument Scheme

It was wonderful to speak to so many of you at the parent evenings before half term. The children have now tried all of the different orchestral instruments on offer at Hall Grove, and I am delighted to share their scores with you [here](#). (Password required is HGMUSIC34).

Please bear in mind these scores are not how musical your child is, they are simply how well suited your child is to a particular instrument. A score of 1= high aptitude, 2= good aptitude, whilst 3 would suggest that they would find that particular instrument difficult, and would make slower progress. All of the music staff are happy to offer a further 1-1 lesson free of charge, so do please contact me if your child would like to start any of the instruments they have been trying out. The benefits of learning a musical instrument are endless, right from helping them with speech and language at an early age, to helping them with maths, improving social skills by talking to an adult, and learning about perseverance and hard work. Above all else it helps them express themselves and build their own identity, as well as it being lots of fun!

Please contact me at music@hallgrove.co.uk if you would like your child to have another taster or start lessons straight away. An information sheet on music lessons is available [here](#).

Reindeer Run

For the second year running we are taking part in a Reindeer Run on Monday 6th December in aid of Woking & Sam Beare Hospice and Wellbeing Care. Last year we managed to raise a terrific £1,200! We will be walking and running around the school grounds during the morning. Before taking part, we will be asking every child to design and create their very own reindeer antlers to showcase during their challenge. We have included a template should you wish to use it and ask that the antlers are brought into school no later than Friday 3rd December. We hope parents will feel able to support by making donations, and we suggest a donation of £5 for those who wish to participate. Rather than handle money, we suggest that we put the £5 charge on the term's bill of those children taking part. If you would like to donate more than £5, please email h.solomon@hallgrove.co.uk with the amount and this will be added to the school bill.

Please note that the £5 charge will be added to your Spring Term 2021 invoice unless you opt out by Friday 27th November via [this online form](#).

Pre-Prep Parents - Miss Hitchcox

Pre-Prep Morning Session

Please can we remind you that our daily spelling lesson begins at 0845, so it would be extremely beneficial for your child to be in school by 0830. It gives them the opportunity to organise their belongings, change their reading book, and complete their daily spelling challenge.

Nativity: The First Christmas Day

Preparations are well underway for our exciting nativity which, for the first time ever, will be performed as a promenade. The performance is on Tuesday 7th December at 1430 and pre-performance drinks will be hosted by Mr and Mrs Tomlin from 1400. We strongly suggest you wrap up warm and wear your wellies, for this wonderful occasion, as Pre-Prep bring the Christmas story to life in our beautiful Hall Grove grounds.

We have provided the costumes for your child, however we would request that you send in layers to wear underneath their costumes, e.g. skins, thermals or a long sleeved top, full length leggings and warm socks. Please could these be sent into school by Friday 3rd December in a named bag.

Year 1 are learning their lines in their classes, but as Year 2 have slightly more to say, we have sent their lines home. Please can you support your child with learning their lines so they can feel confident in their delivery of them.

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Before taking part, we will be asking every child to design and create their very own reindeer antlers at home to showcase during their challenge. We have included a template should you wish to use it and ask that the antlers are brought into school no later than Friday 3rd December. We hope parents will feel able to support by making donations, and we suggest a donation of £5 for those who wish to participate. Rather than handle money, we suggest that we put the £5 charge on the term's bill of those children taking part. If you would like to donate more than £5, please email h.solomon@hallgrove.co.uk with the amount and this will be added to the school bill.

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About Woking & Sam Beare Hospice and Wellbeing Care – From the Community and Fundraising Team:

“Woking & Sam Beare Hospice and Wellbeing Care is a charity that cares for over 2,000 patients and their carers and families each year. We specialise in delivering holistic care for patients with progressive advanced conditions that are life limiting. The hospice's care is delivered in the community in patient homes, in care or nursing homes or through its in-patient ward in the hospice, as well as through the Bradbury Wellbeing Centre, which offers day care services to all its patients and carers. During the recent challenging months our wonderful team of highly trained, dedicated nurses have continued to look after our patients across Northwest Surrey, both at home and in our hospice. We also support families and carers, including children aged 5 and up, through our support services, including counselling and wellbeing groups. It costs £9 million each year to deliver our free vital care to more than 2,000 patients, and their families and carers. We receive some statutory funding, but we must raise the vast majority of our funds from the generous donations made by our supporters. Thank you in advance for your support; it really is very much appreciated.

Early Years Parents - Mrs Tomlinson

Now the weather is turning colder, please can Reception parents send in black PE trousers in your child's book bag on a Friday to put on for the Outdoor Classroom. All children need to be sent into school with a named hat, scarf/ snood and gloves. We are teaching the children to put their hats and scarves in the sleeve of their coats to help them keep track of their belongings. Please reinforce this at home, it would be most helpful and hopefully result in less lost hats!

Christmas Crafts Stay and Play - Wednesday 1st December

A reminder to come along and take part in our Christmas Craft themed Stay and Play. This is open to all children, even if it is not a usual session for your child. To keep the children and adults as safe as possible, we will be arranging this to take place within small groups spread out across The Barn. The session will be open from our usual drop off time until approximately 1015, depending on how long the children take to create their decorations. We hope you are able to join us.

A reminder to please complete a LFD before attending school events.

The Nativity

- Pre-School – 1100, Wednesday 8th December
- Reception – 1430, Wednesday 8th December

Refreshments will be hosted by Mr and Mrs Tomlin in their home from 1030 for Pre-School parents and from 1400 for Reception parents.

The children will be performing in our Performance Studio. We ask you to make your way there via the main school entrance by the School Office, walk through the courtyard, down the steps and bear right along the path towards The Barn.

We have provided the costumes for your child, but there are some children who will need parts of their PE kit. Please check your child's Communication Book for the particular items they will need. Please could these be sent into school by Monday 6th December in a named bag.

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For the second year running we are taking part in a Reindeer Run on Monday 6th December in aid of Woking & Sam Beare Hospice and Wellbeing Care. Last year we managed to raise a terrific £1,200! We will be walking and running around the school grounds during the morning.

Before taking part, we will be asking every child to design and create their very own reindeer antlers to showcase during their challenge. We have [included a template](#) should you wish to use it and ask that the antlers are brought into school no later than Friday 3rd December. We hope parents will feel able to support by making donations, and we suggest a donation of £5 for those who wish to participate. Rather than handle money, we suggest that we put the £5 charge on the term's bill of those children taking part. If you would like to donate more than £5, please email h.solomon@hallgrove.co.uk with the amount and this will be added to the school bill.

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dedicated nurses have continued to look after our patients across Northwest Surrey, both at home and in our hospice. We also support families and carers, including children aged 5 and up, through our support services, including counselling and wellbeing groups. It costs £9 million each year to deliver our free vital care to more than 2,000 patients, and their families and carers. We receive some statutory funding, but we must raise the vast majority of our funds from the generous donations made by our supporters. Thank you in advance for your support; it really is very much appreciated.

Performing Arts - Miss Post

This week's headlines include: Piano concert, and next week's Lower Juniors' concert (which is open to those who learn within and outside of school).

Well done to all of the pianists who performed so well on Tuesday this week. We had everything from 'Fuzzy-Wuzzy' all the way to Tchaikovsky!

Our last Informal Concert of the term is open to all Lower Juniors who play any instrument next Tuesday (30th November). We would also happily squeeze in any Year 5 pianists who were unable to perform last week due to the trip to HMS Victory. A list of those children who have been invited to perform can be found [here](#). If your child learns an instrument and would like to take part, but has lessons outside of school please email music@hallgrove.co.uk over the weekend with the title and composer of their piece. As ever family and friends are more than welcome to attend – we will start at 1305 in the Performance Studio.

Sport - Mr Tullett

This week's headlines include: Daneshill Girls' Hockey matches, Rugby v Daneshill & 1st XI Football.

It has been wonderful to see so much support on the touchlines this week despite the change in the weather. The staff and the children really appreciate and enjoy the support during fixtures. The hot match tea was received well by the children and has made the match day experience even more exciting for some! Last Friday the 1st XI football team had an emphatic win over Parkside in the Surrey Cup Plate semi-final. We wish them good luck for the final which will be an exciting conclusion to a solid season for the 1st team, highlights included winning the prestigious Charterhouse 6 a-side tournament. We also wish good luck to the U11 A boys football team at the National Finals played at Millfield on Sunday.

The boys' rugby v Daneshill went exceptionally well with wins for all the squads. Mr Cottrell was delighted with the performances, but there is still room for improvement and the boys will continue to work hard in training with many tough and challenging fixtures on the horizon.

The girls played some exciting games against Daneshill who proved a very strong opposition on this occasion. The 1st team ended their excellent season with another good performance, but this time narrowly lost 3-2 in a very tight and thrilling match. The senior girls have been excellent role models to the younger girls and have contributed hugely to the improvement and success this hockey season. The U11 Girls, who have made significant improvements throughout the season, met a high quality Daneshill opposition against whom they managed a 3-3 draw having led for

most of the game. Mr Quartermaine and the girls' coaching staff are delighted with the effort and passion shown and look forward to building on the progress made next season.

Year 3 and 4 Girls

The sport activity on Saturday 27 November at 0900 will be House Hockey and not Netball training. Please can girls wear the appropriate kit, including mouthguards and shinpads.

Papplewick rugby fixtures 1430 December 4th

The team sheets have been made available for these fixtures for players from Years 4 to 8.

School Adverts

Documents

The following documents can be found on the school website, under the parent information tab:
Senior Schools Open Mornings Information

Public Notices

Enjoy Christmas or New Year on the Devon Coast with your extended family!

Battisborough House is available for rent over the forthcoming Christmas period. There are four double rooms with bathrooms, two twin rooms and dormitory space for 12 children. Further information from info@battisborough.co.uk

Former Pupil - Izzy Norris

Izzy is a past pupil of HG (also a grad teacher) and has recently released her first album 'New Beginnings' which is available on all streaming platforms. All music and words written by Izzy. She would love everyone to have a listen!

Izzy has just finished a very successful UK tour as the support for Scouting for Girls. She will be playing at The Dog & Partridge in Sunninghill from 7pm on 9th, 15th and 22nd December and would welcome support from the HG community. She can also be followed on Instagram @izzynorrey.

West End Christmas Fair

Gordon's Parent Association have organised the West End Christmas fair at Gordon's school. Attached are a poster and the flyer. There will be stalls selling Christmas gifts, both inside and out under gazebos, childrens' activities, entertainment and various options for drinks and treats.

Sebastian's Action Trust Christmas Boxes & Festive Hamper Raffle

Christmas Boxes:

From inception, Sebastian's Action Trust has been a family-led charity, so when our beneficiaries' expressed concerns over the continuing threat of COVID, we decided not to hold our annual Christmas party or Santa Fun Run this year.

Instead, we have created Christmas Boxes, which will be tailored to each of our families and will contain a wonderful array of seasonal goodies, including sweet treats, festive games, keepsakes, decorations and activities to celebrate Christmas.

These very special Christmas Boxes will each cost £40, and we are inviting supporters to donate funds – whatever they can – to bring Christmas into the homes of our families. Please follow [this link](#).

Festive Hamper Raffle:

Win a fantastic Christmas hamper worth over £200 and support Sebastian's Action Trust.

The 2 runners up will win an amazing LEGO City kit.

£5 per ticket. Unlimited entries per person.

Prize winners to be drawn on Wednesday 15 December.

Click [here](#) to enter for your chance to win.

If you have any questions, please contact fundraising@sebastiansactiontrust.org.

Aldershot Development Centre – Football Coaching

Football coaching for U7 – U14's.

Wednesday evenings 6.30pm - 8 pm during term time.

Please see [attached flyer](#) for more information