

From the Headmaster – Neil Tomlin OBE

I must dedicate my opening message to the coordination around the Carol Service for which you must indicate your desire to attend by no later than Tuesday 14 December (see below). I am sorry if it appears very restrictive but needs must in the current climate.

We are grateful to Wellington College who have done everything they can to enable our Carol Service on Thursday 16 December. You will appreciate there are some restrictions we must adhere to.

The Services are restricted to a total attendance in the Chapel of 400 people. As a result of this, we have adjusted the Services so that the first Service at 1030 will be for Reception to Year 4. The second Service at 1700 is for Years 5 to 8. We are sorry for any inconvenience caused because of the imposition of these restrictions.

We would like you to register your desire to attend at the attached link [Microsoft form link](#). Please complete this before Tuesday 14 December. Should our numbers climb above the 400 ceiling, we will prioritise and will inform via a subsequent message:

1030 service

- Priority 1: Parent(s) of Year 4 lesson readers and all choir members
- Priority 2: Those not in priority 1

1700 service

- Priority 1: Parent(s) of Year 8 children
- Priority 2: Parent(s) of choristers and readers
- Priority 3: Those not in priority 1 or 2

Please would all attending parents complete an LFD before attending. Please note that masks must be worn throughout both services for parents and those in Years 7 and 8. Choristers and Lesson Readers are not required to wear masks whilst performing.

Please arrive no earlier than 1015 for the Reception to Year 4 Service and 1645 for the Year 5 to Year 8 Service.

Parents are asked to arrive via the front entrance to Wellington (off Duke's Ride) where there will then be clear signage towards the Chapel. Mr Tullett and Mr White will be on hand to direct parents.

Children attending the Reception to Year 4 Service will return to school until the end of the normal school day.

We anticipate all parents who are attending the later Carol Service at 1700 will pick up their child from Wellington. Those parents are asked to exit the Chapel first, before the children, and they will then be guided to a collection area. All other children will be returned to Hall Grove for collection at 1840 (Upper Juniors from the netball courts and Seniors from the turning circle).

Siblings. Please would younger siblings be left with After School Care instead of coming to the Service to allow more parents to attend. ASC will be free of charge for those children.

Thank you for your support

Whole School Messages

Travelling Abroad over the Christmas Holidays

We hope that everyone's plans are able to go ahead this Christmas. We would like to remind parents that, if travelling abroad, they should be mindful of the Government's guidance applicable at the time in relation to testing, self-isolation and quarantine, and that this may change at short notice, even whilst you are away. It would be helpful if you do have travel plans involving you returning on or after Friday 7 January to let the school office know so that school is aware that your child may be delayed in returning to school at the start of term.

Natterhub - Keeping Children Safe Online Over the Festive Period

At Natterhub, we pride ourselves in teaching primary aged children everything they need to be able to safely navigate the digital space.

Please find link to a blog regarding how to keep children safe online over the festive period:

<https://natterhub.com/blog/new-device-for-christmas-how-to-keep-your-child-safe-online>

Staying Safe Online – Parent Talk – Monday 13th December at 5pm

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 1hr. 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

Regular boarding night offer

As parents look to prepare their child for future schools or are still looking to see if a boarding school option may be best for their child, we are offering a regular booking discount of £25 per night rather than £40 when booked on an occasional basis. Bookings will need to be made for the same night/nights each week across the Spring Term. To book or if you have any questions, please contact Mr Cottrell j.cottrell@hallgrove.co.uk

After School Clubs

We are delighted to present the plan for after school clubs and care for the Spring Term. You will find some new clubs as well as some old favourites.

See attachment for full details.

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. Thank you in advance.

Christmas Jumper Day

We are once again going to have a Christmas Jumper Day, in aid of Save the Children. On the final day of term (Friday 17th), we encourage children to come into school in the most outrageous and garish Christmas jumpers they have. Instead of asking children to bring in cash, we will instead be adding £2 to your school bill, but it is entirely voluntary, so if you would rather not contribute, please do let Mr Neville know by the end of next week, and we will know not to charge. g.neville@hallgrove.co.uk.

Christmas Presents Between Pupils

Please can we ask that children do not exchange Christmas presents in school. This can prove upsetting for pupils who are not involved.

Senior School Insight

At the recent Independent Schools Show in London, Hall Grove were approached by the 'Education Independent'. The details of the service they offer is set out below.

Education independent offers prospective parents and their children an insiders insight to help inform their future schools choice in the form of 45-minute consultations. Our ambassadors are recent alumni of the top UK Schools who we match by school and interests to families looking to identify the school where their child will flourish best. By their nature, the schools' admissions processes do not provide the opportunity for a fully honest and unbiased "off-site" conversation. We are able to fill this gap by answering the wide range of questions that arise to best inform the choice of school. Discussion points often relate to house choice, sporting opportunities, highlights in the school year, and policies on sensitive issues. Furthermore, we are aware that families may not wish to ask the schools certain questions for fear of negatively influencing their chances in the competition for places – obviously, there is no such risk in discussing these issues with one of our ambassadors in a confidential space.

We provide the service all through the admissions process, whether that be years in advance with advice around which school will most suit your son or daughter to advice from those who have been through the admissions process and pre-tests right up to days prior to starting. Parents have

loved having chats about the first couple of hours and days to calm the inevitable nerves of starting their next step in their school career.

We have offered all parents of Hall Grove 20% off our consultations, including the trio consultation package. If you would like to learn more about our service, head to our website www.educationindependent.com and feel free to book a consultation through www.educationindependent.com/request-consultation and use the code "HALLGROVE20" for 20% off your consultation. We very much look forward to hearing from you talking to you.

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

New Hall will be open on 8th and 9th January (10am to 1pm) 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

Senior Parents - Mr McLeod

Parent Interviews and Report Cards

Thank you to all parents who attended the Senior parent interviews this week. Your child's report card at the end of term will contain effort, attainment and conduct grades as usual. There will also be, where relevant, exam scores. The average provided next to these scores represents the mean for all children who took the same level of paper; Year 7s sat differentiated papers in Classics, whereas Year 8s took levelled papers in Classics, French and Maths. Academic scholarship candidates took almost entirely separate papers. Averages are not provided when only a very small number of pupils sat a paper.

Social Media and Instant Messaging

We hope to see as many parents as possible at the Staying Safe Online talk (13th December).

Year 8 Extension Sessions

The last session this term will be Science at 0730 on Wednesday 15th December.

Covid Vaccination Catch Up Sessions

The School Aged Immunisation Service Surrey has asked us to provide the following information:

If your child missed their Covid-19 vaccination in school, we would like them to attend a catch-up clinic in your area.

Collingwood College, GU15 4AE, Sunday 12th December, 9am – 4:30pm

George Abbot School, GU1 1XX, Sunday 12th December, 9am – 5pm

In order to be eligible your child must not have tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 12 weeks. You must book their appointment via the link below at your preferred clinic location:

<https://calendly.com/surrey-12-15-year-old-covid-pop-up-clinics>

Further appointments can be booked as follows:

Appointments at Ashford, Leatherhead and Walton: <https://calendly.com/surrey-12-15-year-old-covid-pop-up-clinics>

Appointments at Emberbrook, Thames Ditton via National Booking System: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

For information on all Covid-19 vaccination sites in Surrey please visit <https://surreyheartlandscg.nhs.uk/covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-centres>

Upper Juniors Parents - Mr Wheeler

Social Media and Instant Messaging

We hope to see as many parents as possible at the Staying Safe Online talk (13th December).

Christmas Lunch

Upper Juniors will be enjoying the annual festive lunch on Wednesday 15th December.

Christmas Jumper Day

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Friday 17th December Collection

Collection time for Upper Juniors is 1400 on the last day of term, after lunch. This will be from the normal collection points. If you have a child in another year group, you may collect them at the same time as your youngest child if you wish.

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We have offered all parents of Hall Grove 20% off our consultations, including the trio consultation package. If you would like to learn more about our service, head to our website www.educationindependent.com and feel free to book a consultation through www.educationindependent.com/request-consultation and use the code "HALLGROVE20" for 20% off your consultation. We very much look forward to hearing from you talking to you.

Lower Junior Parents - Miss Furness

Huge congratulations to the Year 3 children for a superb production. They were absolute stars and clearly loved every minute. Thank you also to Matilda Howard who, although poorly, created a wonderful picture for the programme! We hope you are well and truly on the mend Matilda.

Congratulations to Garrett Dullea for coming 4th in the U9 David Lloyd National Tennis Championship. We are very proud of you!

Christmas Productions

Year 4 - 'Superstar!' - Tuesday 14th December 1830. We ask that the children return to school for 1800 in costume. Class teachers will meet the children in their classrooms. Parents are then invited to Mr and Mrs Tomlin's house for an aperitif ahead of the show.

Carol Service

Due to new restrictions, detailed in the main bulk of this newsletter, the Lower Juniors will now join the Pre-Prep for their Carol Service at 1030. If you are able to attend, please do follow the safety guidelines.

The Lower Junior Choir will be singing, and all the Year 4 children will give a reading.

The children will be taken to Wellington via coach and will be returned to school for lunch and afternoon lessons.

Social Media, Instant Messaging and Gaming

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 what their children are playing and viewing online. Age restrictions are carefully considered by the creators and should therefore be adhered to.

Games Bags

Games bags are not required in school next week. The children will only need to bring in a pair of trainers, which can be stored in their cubby holes with their wellies. We will send black coats, wellies and trainers home on Friday.

Christmas Jumper Day

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Christmas Lunch

We will all be enjoying the annual festive lunch on Wednesday 15th December.

Friday 17th December Collection

Collection time for Lower Juniors is 1330 after lunch on the last day of term. If you have a child in another year group, you may collect them at the same time as your youngest child if you wish.

Pre-Prep Parents - Miss Hitchcox

Christmas Production

Congratulations Pre-Prep! What an absolute triumph this afternoon was for our first ever Hall Grove Promenade Nativity of 'The First Christmas Day'. The children thrived on the challenge of this ambitious project, and as you can see from their outstanding performance, their hard work really paid off! From sheep manoeuvring to a guest appearance from Jaws the pony, this Nativity had it all. What a delightful afternoon of performance in our beautiful Hall Grove grounds. I hope it put you all in a festive mood.

Christmas Lunch

Pre-Prep will be enjoying their annual festive lunch on Wednesday 15th December.

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End of Term Arrangements

Next week, please can you send in a bag for the children to take home their belongings at the end term. On Friday, Year 2 pupils will not require their PE kit so they need to wear their school uniform with their Christmas jumper. Finally, a reminder that the collection time for Pre-Prep is 1200 on the last day of term. If you have a child in an older year group, you may collect them at the same time as your youngest child if you wish.

Thank you for your help and support this term. I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Early Years Parents - Mrs Tomlinson

We have had a wonderful week of Nativity performances and the children are all feeling very proud of their hard work. Thank you all for attending, and we hope that you thoroughly enjoyed listening to their songs and storytelling. The performances are available on a video, the link to which has been sent out separately to you all.

Christmas Lunch

Early Years will be enjoying their Christmas lunch on Wednesday 15th December.

Stay and Play

Stay and Play will resume in the New Year, and a sign-up sheet will be available next week. We will continue with the same set up as this term, whereby there will be 6 spaces for Pre-School and 6 for Reception parents. Please make sure you sign up to the correct year group to save disappointment for others.

Phonics Workshop – Wednesday 19th January

We will be holding a Phonics workshop on the evening of Wednesday 19th January for all Early Years parents. We will be exploring the world of Phonics in more detail, explaining what it is, how we approach it at Hall Grove, as well as sharing ideas of games and activities you can do at home with your child. We will also be theming our Stay and Play sessions after the event to show you some of the activities in practice.

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Friday 17th December Collection

Collection time for Early Years is 1200 on the last day of term. If you have a child in an older year group, you may collect them at the same time as your youngest child if you wish. Pre-School collection will be from the main Barn gate as usual and collection for Reception will be at the top of the path.

Performing Arts - Miss Post

Christmas Concert

We will be filming all of our music ensembles on Tuesday 14th December in the Performance Studio. Children will be told what time they need to arrive for their filming slot. We would ask that children, who would not normally have their instrument in school on that day, bring them in ready to film. The final video will be sent out to parents as a link with the final newsletter of term.

Choristers

Please could chorister parents click [here](#) to read a letter regarding the Battsborough trip in February 2022.

Music Exams

Very well done to everyone who took a music exam last weekend. We anticipate having the results early next week and will let children and parents know as soon as possible.

Music Practice Club

A reminder that due to Nativities and Carol Services requiring staff to be at rehearsals etc, we are unable to offer Music Practice Club next week. We will however restart in January. If you would like to book your child in for practice club after school next term (free of charge) please email music@hallgrove.co.uk before Week 1 of the Spring term.

Sport - Mr Tullett

The turn in the weather has made the sport more challenging for the boys and girls this week but they must be complimented on the way they have knuckled down and got on with their training. This has been most noticeable with the girls who are now starting to gain some momentum on the Netball courts. The senior girls went to Wellington College for a masterclass as part of their preparations for the forthcoming season, including the IAPS regionals in the New Year. Congratulations to the U10A and U11A Netball teams for their wins against Daneshill.

The boys had a tough couple of fixtures against Papplewick at the weekend and against Edgeborough on Wednesday. The team have certainly been the standout performers and deserve recognition in the newsletter. This week has been a reminder that sport often sets us challenges and it is time for the boys and the coaches to regroup before the New Year.

The way a team looks is vital to the way it performs. All boys and girls must have the correct kit for training and matches; failure to do so will result in non-participation. Please help your children by ensuring they pack and check their own kit.

House matches

Boys in Years 5 to 8 will be taking part in house matches next Wednesday. Parents are welcome to watch. The rugby will be touch to be inclusive for all.

For details of fixtures please check the Calendar on the website.

Swimming – squad training at The Marist

We are delighted to confirm that our preparation for a series of swimming galas and the IAPS competition will begin on Monday 10th January, the first day of next term, at The Marist school in Sunninghill. Training will take place after school every Monday and those selected will receive further details before the start of next term.

1-1 Tennis Lessons

Weekly 1-1 tennis coaching is available for Years 2 - 8 during the school day with Megan, our resident tennis professional, starting next term. Lessons will rotate on a weekly basis to ensure pupils do not miss the same academic lesson.

The cost will be £20 per lesson which will be added to your fee invoice.

If you would like to book 1-1 tennis lessons, please [email](#) the school office.

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

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.

OPRO (Custom-Fit Mouthguards):

OPRO are currently offering 20% off all purchases at www.opro.com and www.opromouthguards.com against any mouthguard of your choice for anyone. The code is oprotreat20.