*What a wonderful sunny day to finish the week! Whilst we know there is plenty of winter weather still to come, we can all enjoy the sunshine when it makes an appearance, and we know that the more time we can spend outside, in all weathers, the healthier we will be.*

*Joanne Buckler, our gardener and teacher of horticulture, has prepared a special film to go with her report below. Please also look out for the House Race, a special challenge set by the sports staff.*

**Remote Learning Statement**

We have received numerous positive comments from parents about our programmes which the teaching staff have all appreciated. We know it is really hard on family life when children cannot come to school but we can see that huge efforts are being made at home to keep the daily classes going. Please let us know if you need support or guidance.

In accordance with government guidelines, we have added a Remote Learning Statement to the school website under Key School Policies. This document outlines our approach to remote learning in every section of the school. It can be viewed [here.](https://www.hallgrove.co.uk/docs/policies/Remote_Learning_Statement.pdf)

**Kickstart the Gardening Year!**

Now, if you’re thinking that January is a cold, dark and wet month and that being out in the garden is the last place you’d like to be, think again! Here at Hall Grove the signs of spring are with us already; clumps of snowdrops can be spotted in various sites around the grounds and daffodils are already developing their buds along the entrance drive into school.

Deep into the woodland we can find Witch Hazel with its spidery blooms and spicy scent along with the very rich scent of the yellow Mahonia, which is a magnet for bees as long as the weather is fine and dry. If we catch a whiff of something quite strong just by the main gates to the walled garden, then we might have found the evergreen Sarcococca shrub which is again loved by bees. Even though the white flowers are tiny they certainly pack a punch with their scent.

So remember, it may be winter, but if you use your nose as well as your eyes you will be rewarded for your efforts at home as well as at school. My ‘Jobs in January’ video will give you some ideas if you would like to get your gardening year off to a fantastic start.

To watch Mrs Buckler’s gardening film, [please click here.](https://vimeo.com/user5714765/review/503442180/da8908ad5c)

**Music**

**Choirs**

It was fantastic to see so many children join the online choirs this week. Here is a reminder of times of rehearsals and how to find the Zoom links for those who didn’t make it last week.

Go to Frog, search for the ‘Music & Performing Arts Hub’, then click on the ‘Zoom Links’ tab, then click on ‘Choir Rehearsals’. **Don’t click on ‘Lower Juniors’ or ‘Upper Juniors’** for example (that is where resources are stored not where the zoom link is).

Monday

0745-0815 Lower Juniors Choir

1330-1400 Seniors Choir

Wednesday

1500 Upper Juniors Choir

# **Join the House Race from Big Ben in London to Times Square in New York (5567 KM)!**

# This special challenge for Years 3 – 8 will begin on Monday 25th January to see which House can make it across the Atlantic first. There are further details and messages from the House Captains on the House Competition page on Frog.

**How does it work?**

* Each day you run, walk, cycle, row or swim (if you have your own pool) and record the distance you have achieved in **KILOMETRES**
* **Indoor bicycles, rowing machines, cross trainers and treadmills all count**
* When you have completed your chosen exercise, you will need to post a message on your House page with your name, year group and the distance you have travelled. The Captains will submit the results which will then be posted on the race chart for all to see
* Don't forget every metre counts so make sure you submit your distance
* When we return to school there will be a prize for the winning House and special mentions for those individuals who excelled at the challenge
* There will be a staff team competing against the Houses. **Beat the teachers if you can!**

**Sport**

Well done to all the boys and girls for their efforts in the games and PE lessons. The live lessons are going extremely well with all the pupils working incredibly hard during the circuits. The teachers are certainly getting fitter, and we hope the boys and girls are too. It is important the children keep up the good work, exercise is so important especially during the current situation. Please do encourage the children to get outdoors and take regular exercise in the fresh air.

**This week's** [**Wellington College Virtual Fireside Talk**](https://www.hallgrove.co.uk/docs/Newsletter_Attachments/SPR_2021/Fireside_Talks_Poster_Lent_2021_at_Wellington_College.pdf)

Monday 25th January – 5pm: [Fireside Talk with Will Carling](https://u9153159.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=JrbkozLSaRzLjjEdiQhyRXNXJAe0FV6sO-2B-2FZ8d7N6R25IdB2IAByVWkqZugDgZjyPzseIdEkdfWIVnvqZWrvRuImX3W5i8ovjE-2BWd2h-2Be-2B-2FaH-2Fz1fi-2F4ggHgix1XwYwfefNFT2fNLxPHSGY9l4BcvF3fwnMiFxRlvLnXNxLhvgu-2Fdi7wye8otryXcF9psCQ-2B-2FOxeVpuyu-2F05zgXa0lWRhbG9wTWsTOXpJzRKOtWXAOICZGMBRw3sD5UplrggS4KnDzhfuxyYjHtA97zSUe2U0zVh-2FDrklm2URoNiP0ojAr0gea31zCWEX6An4vzIjmYe9my4CScZuUK0aWCPisrJrA-3D-3DH-O8_XxC-2BNP9MeDv-2B3jAHlgsH8E3cq13jjxdtEgR3rVTXxMvXJlnwoczEin-2Bv20j0obEGgHWAVcUVF5xHGN-2B2-2BwzTrsy7g6BocWQI537kcGOdgnloshlnZsKG2Rss7SEkJvcM4-2BcGEqfu-2B-2FcERZd5Qu83AR-2FM-2BV7W-2BHs2D4LAs38ieLIafQzSMVdMogFGL880FANkdpyDkXKLTcX35nbbMufH1ueJzTLRkfh2DraFgGWnDj8-3D)

\*\*\*\*\*

The following documents can be found on the school website, under the parent information tab:

* Senior Schools Open Mornings Information