

Hall Grove School Newsletter



www.hallgrove.co.uk

1st October 2010

Edition No: 349

"Our thanks to the 35 parents and staff who attended the Forum last night. There was an open and good humoured exchange of ideas and opinions and I was very pleased I could run various ideas past you and gain your immediate response. The scores and your input will genuinely help us as we fine-tune the school's development plan; the next few years will be difficult for everyone and it is good to know how you think we should approach the short and medium term future - and also how you think we shouldn't!

Topics discussed included: sport, extra-curricular provision, investment in additional school infrastructure, extending the academic curriculum, class sizes, fees affordability, the school drive. I hugely appreciated the two comments from parents who suggested additional Unique Selling Points (USPs) of the school that they thought we should make more of. These were the family atmosphere and the sense of really happy community among parents; perhaps we do take these too much for granted (or maybe we are just too modest!) and I will reflect on how we can build these features more visibly into our marketing of the school.

Finally, I was very touched by the personal support you voiced for me and Catriona, and I am so glad you also appreciate the wonderful work that Sandra does for us all in the School Office. She is a true treasure and another of the school's USPs that we should not take for granted!"

Alastair Graham

Hall Grove Website

We are delighted to say that our new website went live yesterday (www.hallgrove.co.uk) and we have already had some very positive feedback. Our thanks and congratulations to Paddy Tyrer, the head of ICT. It is amazing to think how much we now depend on IT, both for attracting new parents and for communicating news and events to existing families. Please take the time to explore it - we hope you will find it informative and easy to use, and there will be more exciting things added over the coming weeks and months. Also, of course, please tell your friends and encourage them to see what a busy and happy school we have.

We will be updating the site on a daily basis, so it is a good place to check for changes to schedules, fixtures etc. From now on, we will be using the website in conjunction with ClarionCall to keep parents informed. An increasing number of parents are now happy for the weekly newsletter to be sent by email, a development we are working towards which should save considerably on office time and the expense and use of paper and printing. Email newsletters also reach you quicker and - on occasions - more reliably!

Hall Grove Jubilee Fund

Hall Grove celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 2007 and a group of parents volunteered to raise some money to commemorate the event. At the time it was decided that the cricket pavilion should be renovated as it had been given to the school by the parents for its 30th Anniversary. Over the past few years much time and hard work has been put into the fundraising and to date over £20,000 has been raised - from the wonderful school calendars to the Spring Ball and Groove at the Grove and from the 100 Club to the Parents' Directory. A heartfelt thank you to those who have worked so hard on these and many other projects. A great deal of time and energy has been spent investigating potential projects and another huge thank you to those who have invested their time and energy into this. The projects have ranged from the over enthusiastic to the more practical. Over time, those involved have met with planning constraints, health and safety and insurance concerns, but the project now has universal approval and starting next week, the cricket pavilion will begin its facelift. Including a new kitchen and toilet facilities, it is believed that this will keep the existing pavilion going until Hall Grove's 75th Anniversary!

Attain Magazine

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of the latest edition of 'Attain', the leading magazine of the independent schools' sector and official magazine of IAPS (the Prep Schools' Association), which we send home to parents of pupils in Year 5 and above. As there is an article written by Mr Graham in this issue, we have photocopied his piece and enclosed it for parents with children in the rest of the school. Unfortunately, 'Attain' have been experiencing distribution problems so we have been unable to secure enough copies to send out to all year groups, but there are some spare copies in the School Office if you would like one.

School Council

The School Council representatives elected for Years 3 to 8 are as follows:

Year 3	Ethan Gunning, Tabitha Norrey and Katie Walker
Year 4	Charles Deane and Hayden Reed
Year 5	Thomas Brooke and Thomas Hazell
Year 6	Skylla Campbell and Morgan Hammans
Year 7	Calvin Hung and Marcus Norrey
Year 8	Matthew Cook and Jack Wilcocke
Boarders' Rep:	Alex Good

The first School Council meeting took place today and will meet again in a couple of weeks to discuss suggestions and charity ideas for Christmas.

Music Masterclass

We were delighted to have been visited by Mr Simon Wright, an international conductor, who has recently worked with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. Mr Wright is an outstanding musician who has recorded with EMI, Nimbus and Naxos and has worked with numerous international soloists. Yesterday, selected pupils were fortunate to benefit from his expertise in a day of masterclasses. Mr Wright's inspirational tuition helped to develop fantastic performances from the 14 young musicians. We very much look forward to welcoming Mr Wright again next term.

Watches

Please note that only children in Years 7 and 8, together with those in Years 3 - 6 who have an individual music lesson with a peripatetic teacher on that day, may wear a clearly named watch in school. As children change for games daily, this measure is to prevent the upset of loss. Pre-Prep children are not expected to have watches in school.

Pre-Prep Dance Festival - Saturday 16th October

We are delighted to promote a new performance opportunity for Pre-Prep, celebrating a culmination of work undertaken by class teachers in dance and drama lessons and at a number of dance clubs. Rehearsals are well underway and it is wonderful to see many children so excited at the thought of performing. Whilst we were not able to include it formally in the school calendar on this occasion, we thank parents for their support and for freeing up time on a Saturday. This is an optional event and if you or your child are not available simply inform the class teacher via your child's diary. May we remind you that children should be dropped off in their classrooms by 1240 before parents make their way to New Hall, a lively audience would be very much appreciated. The performance will start at 1300 and should last for approximately 40 minutes after which refreshments will be available.

Open Morning - Thursday 21st October

There will be an Open Morning taking place on Thursday 21st October from 0930 to 1230. It is intended for prospective parents so we would be grateful if you could inform friends and work colleagues who may be interested in sending a child to Hall Grove one day.

Harvest Fair and Farmers' Market - Friday 22nd October from 1400 to 1730

On the Friday afternoon before half term, we are holding Hall Grove's inaugural Farmers' Market – celebrating home-reared, home-produced and home-made foods and crafts. Confirmed so far are organic meat and vegetables from the farm in South Battsborough and stress-free lamb also from Devon; and closer to home - pork from Bisley, honey from Camberley, Mr Graham's pressed apple juice, relishes, homemade cakes, quiches, plants, pumpkins etc. It is going to be quite an event and we still have space for a few more stalls so if you are interested in running a stall please let Mrs Bath in the School Office know. If you are not up to a whole stall, we still need your help – not only in supporting it, but also in providing any home-made jams, marmalades, relishes, ready meals, cakes, biscuits etc and home-grown apples (for pressing), plant cuttings, vegetables, fruit etc, for sale. More information about how to donate your items will be in the newsletter the week before the sale. All monies made from donated goods will go to charity.

Grandparents' Afternoon - Friday 22nd October

On the same afternoon as the Harvest Fair, we would like to warmly invite all grandparents to visit the school. They will be met by their grandchildren who will show them around. Refreshments will be served throughout the afternoon and there will be 'open lessons' and activities which the visitors are welcome to observe, as well as shopping at the Farmers' Market.

Photographs - Year 7 Battisborough Trip

The Year 7 Battisborough Trip photographs are now available to view on the school website. They can be found in the Photo Gallery in the 'Parents' section.

School Photographs - A Reminder

Van Cols, the school photographers, will visit on the morning of Friday 22nd October to take individual and sibling group photographs of the children and not on Thursday 7th October as provisionally noted in the School Calendar.

Sports News

Netball

Although we have had a tough week playing against schools who play netball for two terms per year, enthusiasm remains high particularly with the Years 5 and 6 girls off on tour to Jersey next Thursday. Mrs Gluckstein has kindly organised an extra coaching session for the touring squad on Saturday morning from 1000-1200. This will supplement the work in lessons and the extra session being run by Mrs Maxfield on Thursday.

29 th September v Yateley Manor	U11 A VII, U10 A VII and U10 B VII lost
29 th September v Danes Hill	1 st VII and 2 nd VII lost
30 th September v Lambrook	U9 A VII and U8 VII lost

Football

29 th September v Eagle House	1 st XI won, 2 nd XI lost, 3 rd XI won, 4 th XI lost, Colts A XI won, Colts B XI won, Colts C XI drew, U10 A VII won, U10 C VII won, U10 D VII won
30 th September v Hoe Bridge	U9 A VI won, U9 B VI won, U9 C VI drew, U9 D VI lost

Weekend Fixtures - Saturday 2nd October

Football v Lambrook	2 nd XI and Colts A XI to meet at Hall Grove at 1330 for home matches starting at 1400 1 st XI and U10 A IX to meet at Hall Grove at 1300 for away matches starting at 1400 <i>(Please note that the venues for the above matches have switched from those detailed in the Calendar)</i>
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Hall Grove Ski Trip - Proposed Dates: 2nd - 8th January

Thank you to those who have expressed an interest in the Ski Trip already. If anyone else would like to join the party, please contact Mr Tullett (i.tullett@hallgrove.surrey.sch.uk).

Pony Grove 'Riding for the Disabled' - Sunday 10th October

We are holding our annual sponsored ride to raise money for 'Riding for the Disabled' on Sunday 10th October. As part of the day, we are running a raffle and would be very grateful for anything anyone would like to donate as a raffle prize, however small. To donate, please contact Caroline Hadden-Wight (07734 049837 or email caroline@hadden-wight.com). If anyone would like to take part or knows someone that would we still have places. There is a 12 mile ride, 5 mile ride and a tiny tots 2 mile ride. For more information, please email Caroline Grant (caroline.windsor@tfigroup.com).

The money raised goes directly to Quest RDA group in Chobham and helps to maintain their ponies (including vets bills, farrier, livery) and enables them to buy specialist equipment. It is a marvellous charity and brings a lot of joy to a lot of children and adults with a wide range of disabilities. Visit www.questrda.co.uk for more information.

Hall Grove Golf Greensomes Competition - Saturday 23rd October

The Golf and Tennis Association are holding this term's Golf Competition in a Greensomes format, i.e. teams of two made up of a child and an adult. Each player drives and then the team decides which ball to play in alternate strokes for the remainder of the hole. The competition will take place around the 9 hole course at school. The Greensomes Competition was very popular last year and it is a lovely opportunity for your child to play the course with a parent, grandparent, godparent or friend!

There will be four categories: Reception to Year 2; Years 3 and 4; Years 5 and 6; Years 7 and 8. Everyone is welcome so come along and enjoy a round of golf to kick off the half term holiday! Full information and booking form will be included with next week's newsletter or please contact Caroline Grant (caroline.windsor@tfigroup.com or 01276 858348/07770 755584).

Macmillan Coffee Morning

A big thank you to everyone who baked, drank, harvested and helped in contributing a fantastic £709.07 (and still counting) to the World's Biggest Coffee Morning in support of Macmillan Cancer Care.
