

Hall Grove School Newsletter



www.hallgrove.co.uk

12th November 2010

Edition No: 353

We have had a good week following our half-term, but what a wild bit of Autumn weather we experienced on Thursday! We are now truly into the Autumn season.

The works to the drive and the various maintenance jobs around the school went well over half-term. Many people have commented favourably on the new pathway up the drive, and there is much excitement about the lights on the Astro. The new extension is well underway and the contractors have made an excellent start. We are also very pleased with the newly fitted pavilion and we are very grateful for the excellent work of the Jubilee Committee led by Tanya Thompson and Vicki Millar. There will be a brief 'Opening Ceremony' on Saturday morning at 0945 before the Rugby Tournament. All are welcome.

Our thanks to the parents who supported the Senior School Fair. It was well attended and there were many positive comments. The eleven schools attending gave informative talks and had attractive stands. All visiting schools commented at the end of the evening "what nice parents Hall Grove has". We agree!

School Inspection

The enclosed letter gives details of the ISI Inspection next week. It should go very smoothly and we do not anticipate a great deal of disruption to lessons. The pupils are welcome to assist the inspectors by contributing their own comments, younger children may need some supervision, but Years 6 - 8 should be capable of doing this in a sensible way. The pupils have to email on their own email address (not the one used by their parents). The questionnaire is available at <http://surveys.isi.net> and the unique code for the school's inspection is NOUA-MMOH-AASA.

Sir Linkalot

Today's entertaining speaker gave useful tips for revision and learning. We intend to build on these over the weeks to come to help all the pupils improve their memories.

Year 6 Parent Interview Schedules

Year 6 parents will find enclosed schedules for the Parent Interviews taking place on Monday and Wednesday of next week.

5ST Assembly - Thursday 18th November

The children in 5ST would like to invite their parents to their Class Assembly on Thursday 18th November. If you are able to attend, please be in New Hall by 0830. We look forward to seeing you there.

School Photographs - Van Cols

Enclosed with this Newsletter are proof 'Photo-Pax' copies of the recently taken individual school photographs and, where applicable, family group photographs. Instructions are on the front of the 'Photo-Pax'. Orders must be returned to school by Wednesday 24th November for collection by Van Cols. Please be aware that if you miss the collection date you will have to pay a surcharge of £3.50 per late order. For those parents who do not wish to order, there is no need to return the proof cards.

Hallmark Catering

Our school caterers have appointed Jeremy Ray to join the team and he started this week. Jeremy has worked in schools and residential homes and is a well-qualified and very experienced chef. We shall continue to see Simon Batchelor from time to time in a support role. We thank Simon for all he has done for Hall Grove.

Matrons' Notes

There has been a case of chickenpox reported in Pre-Prep. A child remains infectious until all the spots have crusted over and must be absent from school during this time. Chickenpox is highly contagious and the incubation period is ten to twenty-one days.

At this time of year, it is especially important that the parents of children who are asthmatic or use an inhaler ensure that inhalers are brought into school.

Now that the weather is getting colder, we would ask that you please send your child into school with his/her Winter coat so that it can be left at school during the week to be worn at breaktimes.

Boarders' Halloween Fireworks Party

A great time was had by all at our annual fireworks party. After a supper of hot dogs and toffee apples we watched some splendid fireworks beside a roaring fire. After the fireworks, some traditional indoor games were played involving getting wet, getting sticky or rapidly getting dressed in hat, gloves and scarf then trying to cut your way into a huge bar of chocolate with a knife and fork - all great fun! Thank you to Mrs Tilley for organising the event.

Operation Christmas Child

Our thanks to all those who have donated Christmas boxes under the Samaritan's Purse scheme. We have a small number in the entrance lobby awaiting collection and would be delighted to receive more by Tuesday 16th November. Please ensure that each box has a payment envelope inside, as directed in the leaflet sent home before half-term.

Christmas Scholastic Book Club Offer

Every pupil has received a Scholastic Christmas Book leaflet this week. There are some wonderful offers for all ages. Do have a look and return your order form, together with a cheque made payable to Hall Grove School Limited, either to Mrs Bennett in the Library or to your child's form teacher. Due to the building work, our usual pre-Christmas Book Fair is not being held, so stock up from our Scholastic Book Club instead.

Netball Tour Photograph Competition

The photograph entries for the Durrell Zoo Photograph Competition must be in by Monday 15th November. Photographs need to have been taken at the Durrell Zoo during our tour visit. First prize is a cuddly orangutang! Please give a print out of your photo or a file of it on your USB stick to Mrs Tilley.

Pampered Chef Party - Thursday 25th November

A fundraising Pampered Chef Party will be held in the Food Science Cabin on Thursday 25th November in aid of the next Girls' Sports Tour. Come along for coffee, nibbles and gorgeous potential Christmas shopping from 0945 - all parents welcome!

Sports News

Netball

10th November v Edgeborough 1st VII and 2nd VII lost, U11 VII drew, U10 A VII won, U10 B VII won
11th November v Edgeborough U9 A and B VII lost

U11 Bradfield Netball Tournament - Saturday 13th November

The team is to meet Miss Dowse at Bradfield College by 0935. The tournament should be finished by 1235.

Calendar Amendment

Please be aware that the timings of the netball matches v Lyndhurst on Thursday 18th November are now 1430 for the U9s and 1450 for the U8s. Both are home fixtures.

Rugby

The rugby season is now upon us and so are the wet conditions! It is very important that the children have the correct equipment for the season. They are required to have a fitted mouthguard and boots with the correct studs. They are not required to have gloves, shoulder pads, thermals or scrum caps although they may be worn should the children so wish. Please ensure that the children have a towel for after the matches so they can shower.

10th November v Eagle House 1st XV won, 2nd XV drew, 3rd XII lost, Colts A XII won, Colts B XII won, Colts C XII won

Rugby House Matches - Saturday 13th November

Years 5, 6, 7 and 8 boys should arrive at school by 0940 for matches that start at 1000 to ensure that they have a good warm-up. Children should wear their house t-shirts over their rugby tops. The matches should finish by 1100. Years 5 and 6 girls are welcome to participate. Teams will be arranged at the pitch side and all will get a game.

Football: Surrey Cup Semi-Final - Friday 19th November

The Colts A XI are competing in the Surrey Cup at Hall Grove on Friday 19th November against Aberdour. The kick-off will be at 1500. If we are successful, we will be playing in the final which is due to take place on the afternoon of Saturday 27th November at the Chelsea Training Ground, Cobham.

Fundraising Family Cake Competition - Thank You

A huge thank you goes out to all the cake chefs who contributed to our fundraising competition on Grandparents' Afternoon. Miss Dowse and Mrs Lewis were overwhelmed by the response and tremendously impressed with the standard of decoration as well as flavours and textures! This made judging extremely tasty, but also very difficult. After much deliberation, the winners were as follows:

Thomas Pheasey (most innovative cake), Tom Chessun-Lawrence (best lemon drizzle cake), the Rofé Family (best organic and homemade cake), Alice Myers (best decorated cupcakes), Eden Bray (best chocolate cake), the Butler Family (best themed cakes) and Jamie Grant (best chocolate brownie).

Thank you again for helping to raise the sum of £175.00 towards a future Girls' Sports Tour. Please come to collect your cake tins and containers from the Food Science Cabin.

Farmers' Harvest Market

This was the first Hall Grove Farmers' Market, timed to coincide with the Harvest Festival and with the Grandparents' Afternoon, and it was a wonderful event. We were blessed with a warm Indian Summer afternoon and grandparents and parents supported in their droves. Not only was there a Pre-Prep dance display with the Concert Band entertaining everyone during tea, but a live farm too. This proved popular with the children and adults alike – the pig and the chicks the most chuckled over!

A big thank you to all those who lent their support on the day including Leo and Waldek who cut and pressed the apples, Longacres for donating pumpkins and plants, the Chattertons for their honey, Debra Sims and Catherine Drummond for their home-reared lamb and pork, Lawrence the farmer with lamb from South Battisborough, Mrs Lavery for Suzie Marsh Sculptures, Riverford Home Delivery, Hansens Deli in Sunninghill for a selection of their delicious offerings and to everyone who joined in the great bake-off either in the competition or in donating goodies to the cake stall. Thank you everyone who came along on the day and supported the event which raised £1,500 for Sebastian's Action Trust. *Meirion Shaw*

Golf 'Greensomes' Competition

Congratulations to all those who played in the Greensomes Competition over half-term. The results are as following:

Reception to Year 2	1 st place: Rhett Wooldridge (2PL) and Charlie Wooldridge
	2 nd place: Alexander Uphill (2SH) and Keith Uphill
	3 rd place: Archie Graham (2PL) and Alastair Graham
Years 3 and 4	1 st place: George Freeman (3JD) and David Freeman
	2 nd place: Karl Hayes (4JS) and Declan Hayes
	3 rd place: Oliver Bergstedt (3VB) and Chris Brown
Years 5 and 6	1 st place: Xavier Schwarz (5ST) and Constantin Schwarz
	2 nd place: Adam Ewens (5ST) and Scott Ewens
	3 rd place: Ben Soanes (6JH) and Paul Soanes
Years 7 and 8	1 st place: Jamie Grant (7DS) and Chris Grant
	2 nd place: Will Griffin ((7DS) and Andrew Griffin
	3 rd place: Alex Good (8IT) and William Good

Winners' trophies will be awarded in Assembly next week.

Golf and Tennis Christmas Social - Friday 26th November

The Golf and Tennis Association would like to invite their members to the Christmas Social on Friday 26th November at 1930 for drinks and canapés in the Library followed by supper in the Dining Hall. An email invitation has also been sent to members of the Association. RSVP to Sarah McKechnie (sarah_mckechnie@yahoo.co.uk or 07545 307033) by Monday 22nd November (please advise if a vegetarian option is required).

* * * * *

Woking Symphony Orchestra Concert - Saturday 20th November

There will be a Woking Symphony Orchestra Concert taking place at 1930 on Saturday 20th November at HG Wells, Church Street East, Woking, with a pre-concert talk from 1845. Price: £10 for adults and £5 for children. Tickets are available from the Box Office (01483 712710), from Lucy Wessely (07946 869519) or on the door. Programme highlights include Shostakovich's Cello Concerto and music by Dvorak and Rachmaninov.

Charity Single - 'Light a Candle'

Mrs Graham sings with the Bracknell Glee Club who have recently recorded a single called 'Light a Candle' in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support and Cancer Care. The single can be downloaded from iTunes for 79p.

Festive Gifts and Ideas - Tuesday 23rd November

If you are looking for gifts and inspiration for Christmas then come to Virginia Water on Tuesday 23rd November and be inspired. Save the date - more details to follow in next week's newsletter.

Have Yourself A Homemade Little Christmas - Wednesday 24th November

Learn how to prepare traditional German cookies, Zimsterne and Vanille Kipferl and to create cracking crackers containing luxury Temple Spa goodies - perfect for your Christmas table or as a unique gift. The event is taking place on Wednesday 24th November from 1000 to 1400 at 6 Oriental Road, Sunninghill, SL5 7AY. Tickets can be booked online at www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk/homemadexmas at a cost of £5 per person. For further information, please contact Julia Hart on 01276 453878.

Calling all Santas!

Why not get into the festive spirit early by joining the very first Sebastian's Action Trust Santa Fun Run. It will be lots of fun and you will be helping the Trust continue their work supporting seriously-ill children and their families.

Where: Round the lake at Virginia Water
Time: 1000

When: Sunday 28th November
Distance: 7km

Entry fee is £15 for adults which includes your very own Santa suit to run in and keep and, if you make it round, there will be a medal and goody bag at the end! The run is open to everyone, so Santa's little helpers are welcome too! Their £5 entry fee will get them a set of reindeer antlers or a flashing Santa hat and the all important medal and goody bag. The Trust would love to see you there. Visit their website www.sebastiansactiontrust.org for more information and to register online.

Registered Childminder - Vacancies

Mrs Dawn Shearer, a registered childminder, currently has vacancies on Mondays to Thursdays from 0730 to 1730 for children from birth to eight years old. For more information, please contact Dawn at dawn.shearer@ntlworld.com or on 01276 20544 or 07769 787390.

London to Paris in 24 Hours - Thank You

George Langley (husband of Mrs Langley - 1DL) took part in the team cycling challenge for 2010. The concept is that two-man teams in a field of 200 riders cycle 300 miles from London to Paris in 24 hours. It is not a race, but rather a supported endurance relay. The route is broken down into 35 mile/2 hour stages, with one rider on and one off. Each team member cycles at least 200 miles each in 24 hours!

Unfortunately, George's team mate was injured and unable to cycle his portion of the stages. This left George with only one option which was to cycle the entire event by himself. The Challenge started at 0800 on Friday 23rd July in Blackheath and he was under the Eiffel Tower 23 hours 23 minutes later! George and everyone at Scope would like to thank all the Hall Grove parents and staff who made donations or sponsored him through the Scope or Virginmoneygiving websites. He was personally able to raise £1,175 and Scope raised a total of £140,000 from the event!
