

Hall Grove School Newsletter



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19th November 2010

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On Tuesday and Wednesday we hosted a team of three inspectors who will shortly be reporting on a wide variety of aspects of the school and of our Early Years Foundation Stage (the two Reception classes). We were given just one week's notice of the visit! Whilst we must now wait several weeks for the full written report and we are not yet at liberty to comment on the conclusions, we can say that we are quite delighted with the verbal feed-back and we feel that the school community really was seen at its very best.

The Inspection covered all key areas including health and safety, pastoral, administrative, financial and managerial, the premises, sporting, teaching and learning. There were a very large number of detailed regulations to check. The pupils deserve much credit for the way that they conducted themselves; all of the Inspectors said how impressed they were with their intelligence, good manners and general interest. We are also very grateful that a large number of parents wrote in and gave their views. Our congratulations to all the staff and pupils for coming through the process so well.

Ian Wooldridge

The school records with great sadness the death three weeks ago of Year 2 parent Ian Wooldridge in a tragic flying accident. The funeral took place today. We offer the family our sincere condolences at this very sad time. The Wooldridge family have been closely connected with the school since its foundation in 1957, and through his business Ian did a great deal to assist us and the local community in a number of ways. We are grateful to the staff and parents of Year 2 for showing such concern whilst allowing the family time and space to come to terms with their loss.

Ernest Worthy

Some of our staff and parents may remember Ernest Worthy who worked on the school grounds for a number of years after retiring from his professional work as a hydrological engineer. He sadly died earlier this week. Ernest was a wonderful man with a huge heart. He helped develop the school golf course and took enormous interest in the fortunes of various cricket teams.

Carol Service - Change of Date

Please note that, to fit in with the Church's plans, the Carol Service has been rearranged to Thursday 16th December at 1630. All of Years 6, 7 and 8 will be taken to Windlesham Church from school. Parents and other guests are invited to attend.

Winter Nights

May we remind you that at collection time children should only wait for cars at the designated pick-up area where there is staff supervision. Following suggestions made at the Parents' Forum, we have increased the amount of lighting on the drive at the crossings. Too many cars are driving too fast; extreme caution is essential.

Stranger-Danger

Whilst we are always anxious to ensure that children are at all times safe, we must periodically remind parents of the ever present possibility, however remote, of a stranger attempting to take a child. Some local schools have recently sent out warnings following an incident in the Thorpe area. There is no specific threat here, but vigilance is advisable.

Years 7 and 8 Parent Interview Schedules

Years 7 and 8 parents will find enclosed schedules for the Parent Interviews taking place on Monday 29th November and Wednesday 1st December.

School Photographs - Van Cols

Photograph 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.

Girls Only Boarding Night - Thursday 2nd December

The next 'Girls Only' night will be on Thursday 2nd December for Years 4 and 5 only. The theme will be Christmas baking and decorations. Book early to avoid disappointment - email Mrs Tilley on (l.tilley@hallgrove.surrey.sch.uk) or telephone the School Office.

Sports News

Netball

17 th November v Hurst Lodge	U11 VII won, U10 A VII won
17 th November v Crosfields	U10 B VII lost
18 th November v Lyndhurst	U9 and U8 VII lost

Junior Girls' Netball House Matches

Years 3 and 4 Netball House Matches are taking place on Monday and Tuesday next week. They will start at 1410 and should finish around 1440. Parents are very welcome to come and watch.

Rugby

17 th November v Hoe Bridge	1 st XV won, 2 nd XV won, 3 rd XII won, Colts A XII won, Colts B XII won U10 A and B IX lost
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Hall Grove U13 10-a-side Rugby Tournament - Saturday 20th November

We are hosting an exciting Rugby Tens Tournament at Hall Grove on Saturday morning. Do come along and support. Matches commence at 0930 and the final should be at 1230.

King's House Rugby Tournament, Richmond - Saturday 27th November

U10 (Year 5) and U9 (Year 4) parents please be aware that there is a tournament on Saturday 27th November for the A teams. We will be selecting thirteen boys from the year groups. Selections will be completed mid-week to ensure you have plenty of time to make arrangements. Further details will follow about transport and timings.

Hockey

From next week, the children in Year 2 upwards will be starting hockey in their PE lessons. They will need shinpads and a gum shield, but there is no need for the children to bring their own sticks, as school sticks will be used. However, if a child wishes to use his/her own stick, the stick may be brought in on the day of the PE lesson and left in one of the buckets outside the Sports Office. The sticks must be clearly named.

Surrey Team Gymnastics Competition

Sunday 14th November saw the Surrey Team Gymnastics Competition being held in Guildford. This is an annual competition where the gymnastics clubs from across Surrey bring their competition gymnasts together to compete for an overall club trophy. Competitors are required to do both floor and vault routines and their combined scores determine their team placings. Rosie Freeman (5GH), Ryan Thompson (5GH) and Margaux Gathy (5ST) all represented their respective clubs and were all placed, with Margaux and Ryan both being awarded a gold. Very well done to them all.

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to all the parents, pupils and staff who contributed to the Shoebox Appeal. The total number of boxes collected from Hall Grove was fifty six.

Christmas Scholastic Book Club Offer

We would like to remind you to take advantage of ordering your books for Christmas from our Scholastic Book Club. All orders must be in by Wednesday 24th November to ensure delivery for the end of term.

Pampered Chef Christmas Shopping - Thursday 25th November

Come for coffee, nibbles and Christmas shopping in the Food Science Cabin on Thursday 25th November at 0945. All proceeds will go towards the next Girls' Sport Tour for Upper School girls. Catalogues are available from Miranda Dowse for those unable to attend, but wishing to place an order.

Christmas Craft Fair - Saturday 4th December - 1100 to 1500

The Christmas Craft Fair is on Saturday 4th December in aid of Sebastian's Action Trust. There will be masses of good stalls as well as lots of fun activities for children. Food and drink will be available. It is taking place on the same day as the Hall Grove Judo Competition and many of the stalls are outdoors so stall holders, helpers and visitors will need to dress warmly.

Christmas Fair Activities

Thank you to all the year groups who have volunteered to do various activities and games at the Christmas Fair on Saturday 4th December. I still do not have any volunteers from Year 3 and Year 7. If anyone would kindly step forward to help out that would be brilliant. It is always a fun time for the children and a good way to support a very worthwhile charity. Please contact me at n.pheasey@btopenworld.com or on 01276 474276 if you are able to get involved. *Mrs Pheasey (Year 8 mother)*

Year 4 Bottle Tombola for the Christmas Fair

Year 4 will once again be holding a Bottle Tombola and I would be very grateful for donations of bottles of champagne, wine, lemonade, bubble bath, ketchup or anything in bottles! A collection box will be in the School Office from Monday. Thank you in advance for your generosity. *Mrs Chappell (Year 4 mother)*

Woking Symphony Orchestra Concert - Saturday 20th November

There will be a Woking Symphony Orchestra Concert taking place at 1930 tomorrow 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 No. 1 and music by Dvorak and Rachmaninov.

Wentworth Christmas Fair - Monday 22nd November

The fair is being held in the Ballroom at Wentworth Golf Club on Monday 22nd November from 1000 to 1600. There will be lots of stalls selling a wonderful variety of goods - an opportunity to do your Christmas shopping under one roof! This year, the fair is supporting the Woking and Sam Beare Hospices. Entrance £5 - children free. Ample parking. No jeans please.

Festive Gifts and Ideas - Tuesday 23rd November

If you are looking for gifts and festive ideas for Christmas please come to Virginia Water on Tuesday 23rd November between 0900-2100. Hall Grove mothers Tanya Thompson and Karen Seeberg will be showcasing their new ventures and you will be able to purchase a variety of Christmas gifts and decorations - Going to Pot and Hansen's Deli will also be there. Please come and support us at The Thatched Cottage, Knowle Hill, Virginia Water, Surrey GU25 4HZ. There is parking, but please do not park on the verges. We look forward to seeing you all there.
