

Hall Grove School Newsletter



www.hallgrove.co.uk

22nd July 2011

Edition No: 377

The end of term events and activities all went off really well and we were lucky with the weather. Particular highlights were Sports Day, Groove at the Grove, the Summer Concert, the Evensong Service, the Leavers' Cricket & Rounders Evening and Prize Giving. Our thanks to all parents for excellent support throughout this year and for the many kind messages at the end of term.

We wish all our families a very good Summer break.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Mrs Smith (Year 4 teacher) and her husband on the birth of their son, Rupert, and to Mr and Mrs Lewis (Years 8 and 7 teachers) on the birth of their daughter, Annabel.

National Prep Schools Athletics Champion

Congratulations to Lianne Laffreniere (Year 8) for winning the 800m at the National Prep Schools Athletics Finals in Birmingham on Monday 4th July. Not only did Lianne win, but she also beat her own Personal Best and set a new record time of 2:20:43.

Key Staff Posts for September

The Senior Management Team (SMT)

Headmaster: Alastair Graham - in post since 1981. Trained originally as a surveyor. Manages the school estate and is responsible for strategic planning, all major educational issues, staff and pupil recruitment, health and safety, child protection.

Deputy Headmaster: Ian Adams - joined the staff as Second Deputy in 2005. Special responsibilities - pupil discipline, co-ordinating Maths and Science, monitoring teaching and learning through the school.

Director of Studies: John Waltho - joined the staff in January 2004. Writes the timetable, organises staff cover, runs the Diary Committee, oversees curriculum, exams and assessments, manages academic systems, co-ordinates language teaching.

Head of Lower School: Gilly Harris - joined the staff in September 2006. Oversees Years 3 - 5 and Pre-Prep.

The Wider Management Team (WMT)

All the above plus:

Head of Pastoral Care and Head of Girls - Mrs Vernon-Smith

Director of Sport and Outdoor Pursuits - Mr Tullett

Head of Upper School - Mr Lewis

Pre-Prep Administration - Mrs Leech

Pre-Prep Curriculum - Miss Gent

IT Network Manager - Mr Tyrer

Subject Area Co-ordinators

Language: Mr Waltho

Maths and Science: Mr Adams

Humanities: Mr Heanley

Visual Arts and Technology: Miss Dowse

Performing Arts: Mr Slape

(Director of Music: Mrs Salmond Smith+)

Outdoor Pursuits: Mr Tullett

SEN and LDD: Mrs Symons

Form Teachers

Reception: Miss Gent and Mrs Tomlinson

Year 1: Mrs Easeman and Miss Hitchcox+

Year 2: Mrs Leech and Mr Honey

Year 3: Miss Marchesi (Team Leader - Years 3 and 4),
Mrs Begg and Mrs Doherty/Mrs Frame

Year 4: Miss Bangert, Miss Furness* and Mrs Langley*

Year 5: Mrs Harris, Mr Tomlinson and Mr Marland*

Year 6: Mr Heanley (Team Leader - Years 5 and 6), Mrs Vernon-Smith and Mr Thorne

Year 7: Mr Slape and Mr Tullett*

Year 8: Mr Lewis and Mrs Brice*

Child Protection

Mr Graham and Mrs Vernon-Smith

Matrons

Mrs Jackson and Mrs White

* New to Post + New to School

New Staff Appointments

Mrs Louise Salmond Smith – Director of Music. Mrs Salmond Smith (MBA Educ, Keele University, PG QTS, University of Gloucester, MMus, University of Hull, BA Hons Music, University of East Anglia) joins us from Brant Broughton CE Primary School in Lincolnshire where she was a class teacher, subject leader for Literacy and ECAW co-ordinator and tutor. Mrs Salmond Smith has been a professional soloist (recorder) for fourteen years. She has also been a member of many choirs, currently singing with Voces Petrensius (ex Peterhouse, Cambridge), and has extensive experience of conducting.

Miss Katie Hitchcox – Year 1 Teacher. Miss Hitchcox (BA Hons in Primary Education with QTA from University College, Northampton) joins us having spent five years at The British International School of Hong Kong where she has been a class teacher and heavily involved in extra-curricular sports activities. She has coached football and netball teams to victory in several tournaments.

Mrs Natalie Carmichael – part-time Girls' Games. Mrs Carmichael joins the Sports Department to assist Mrs Lomas and Mrs Maxfield. She is a qualified netball coach and Regional Welfare Officer for England Netball South Region.

Miss Katherine Black – part-time Reception Teaching Assistant. Miss Black (BA Hons in Primary Teaching Early Years with QTS from the University of the West of England) joins us for one day a week. She is also a qualified Chiltern Nanny.

Arrangements for the First Day of Term: Tuesday 6th September

The beginning of term can be rather hectic on the drive and turning circle, with a lot of new parents who do not know the routine of 'turn and drop'. We are also aware that it can be a confusing and anxious time for new pupils in particular. With this in mind, please study these arrangements carefully.

All children for the Pre-Prep should, if possible, arrive between 0900 and 0930. Reception parents will wish to park their cars on the playing fields and walk their children into school, but other parents are asked to turn and drop in the normal way. Children who come earlier (shared lifts etc) may go directly to their classrooms, but parents should not park on the drive. There will be staff on hand at the archway to offer directions for the classrooms.

Middle School (Years 3 – 5) and Upper School (Years 6 – 8) children should be dropped off, if possible, between 0830 and 0900 and they should make their way directly to changing rooms and then on to classrooms. Assembly will be at 1000 so there will be plenty of time to arrive and settle without distress.

Parents of new children in Years 3 – 8 may, if they so wish, return to school for the first Assembly of the term at 1000 in New Hall. Please enter by the main doorway beyond the Coach House. There will be coffee with some of the staff afterwards.

School Uniform

Winter uniform is to be worn from the start of next term. If it is warm weather children will be advised not to wear ties or pullovers. Uniform must be smart in appearance at all times and please be aware that you will be asked to replace items if this is not the case. All school uniform and kit must be clearly named.

The School Day

Normal Starting Times

Breakfast (0730 – 0800) must be booked through the Boarding House via email (l.tilley@hallgrove.co.uk), or by phoning the School Office.

Choristers and other music groups (selected by audition) start at 0800. Early morning group music sessions will begin no earlier than the second week of term.

Pre-Prep children may arrive from 0815 to 0845. Years 3 – 8 may be dropped at school from 0815 and must be in time for 0830 registration.

Before 0830 we operate a 'turn and drop' system and there is very limited car parking available. Younger children in the Pre-Prep who may need walking into school should therefore be brought in after 0830 until they are confident enough to go to their classes unaided.

Going Home Times (*Please note minor changes from last year, designed to assist smooth collection of children on the drive.*)

Reception: 1510	Year 3: 1600	Year 6: 1700
Year 1: 1520	Year 4: 1610	Year 7: 1710
Year 2: 1530	Year 5: 1620	Year 8: 1720

Clubs finish at 1630 (Reception – Year 2), 1730 (Years 3 – 5) and 1800 (Years 6 – 8) with the exception of Upper School Judo on Fridays which finishes at 1830.

Early arrival for collection should be avoided because it blocks the pick-up area for everyone else. If you are collecting two or more children within any of the above sections (i.e. Reception – Year 2, Years 3 – 5, Years 6 – 8), you may find it easier to collect at the later time. The younger child will be supervised by a teacher at no cost.

TASC

After School Care (TASC) will operate for pupils in Reception to Year 5 from the first day of term, running from 1510 to 1730. Children must first be registered, after which TASC sessions can be booked, in advance, through the School Office. TASC registration forms are enclosed for all new children and are available at the School Office if current parents have not previously registered their children and now wish to do so. Please note that TASC is only available to those who are registered.

After School Clubs

After School Clubs information for the Autumn Term will be sent out via email at the beginning of next term. Clubs will run from Monday 19th September until Friday 9th December, inclusive. Club times are 1530 to 1630 for Reception to Year 2, 1630 to 1730 for Years 3 to 5 and 1700 to 1800 for Years 6 to 8. Upper School Judo on Fridays will continue to be from 1730 to 1830.

Judo Club

Judo Club information from ProCoach Judo will be sent out via email at the beginning of next term. Please return the completed joining slips to the School Office.

Boarding

There are a limited number of places available for flexi-boarders and, where possible, we prefer children to have a minimum of two consecutive boarding nights a week booked on a regular basis. Boarding at Hall Grove gives a good introduction to senior school life and is very popular. For bookings and enquiries please contact Lynn Tilley (l.tilley@hallgrove.co.uk).

Weekly Newsletters

From September, we will send out the weekly newsletter by email to all parents via the ClarionCall service rather than it being printed and sent home in envelopes with the children. Any additional documents or letters will also be attached to the newsletter email. A few copies of the most current newsletters will be held in the School Office for collection should you require a paper copy. In addition, on Fridays, that week's newsletter will be posted on the school website home page.

Reports and Invoices

Reports and invoices are enclosed with this newsletter. We ask that bills are settled promptly, and no later than Tuesday 6th September please.

Medical Information Sheets

Enclosed with this newsletter are yellow Medical Information sheets for all new pupils which should be completed and sent in to the School Office by the first day of term. We would ask all parents, new and current, to remember to inform the School Office promptly of any changes to their contact numbers or the medical needs of their children. It is most important that we hold correct information on every pupil.

Pupil Information Forms

Please find enclosed Pupil Information forms for all new pupils which we would ask you to complete and send in to the School Office by the first day of term.

Autumn Term 2011 School Calendar

A provisional copy of the calendar is available on the school website. The finalised printed copy will be sent home at the beginning of next term. Please note the weekend commitments. Parents are reminded that all boys and girls are expected to be available for whole year group training sessions and weekend matches if they are regular team players.

Battisborough Field Trips

Please note the dates for the Year 7 and Year 8 trips to Devon early in the term. The Year 7 Battisborough trip will be from Monday 12th September to Friday 16th September. Year 8 are having a short additional Geography field trip to Battisborough from Saturday 17th September (departing in the afternoon) to Tuesday 20th September.

Parents' Briefings

It is our custom to host Parents' Briefings early in the Autumn Term when the staff are introduced and an outline of the year's work is given. Parents should not bring children to school for these meetings.

The briefings will take place as follows:

Years 7 and 8:	Wednesday 7 th September at 1900
Reception:	Monday 12 th September at 1900
Years 3, 4 and 5:	Monday 12 th September at 1900
Years 1 and 2:	Tuesday 13 th September at 1900
Year 6:	Tuesday 13 th September at 1900

Individual parent-teacher consultations have been arranged for later in the Autumn Term.

School Uniform Shop

During the Summer holidays the Uniform Shop will be open at the following times:

Tuesday 9 th August	0900-1200	Thursday 11 th August	1400-1700
Tuesday 30 th August	0900-1200	Thursday 1 st September	1400-1700
Monday 5 th September	0900-1200		

Parents purchasing uniform for new children starting in September are asked to telephone the Uniform Shop on 01276 471039 to make an appointment to visit. During term-time, the Uniform Shop is open on Tuesdays from 0815 to 0915 and on Thursdays from 1530 to 1730.

School Uniform Exchange

The School Exchange holds a small stock of good quality secondhand uniform given to the school for re-sale. It operates from the Events and Lettings Office adjacent to the Uniform Shop. Appointments to visit may be made by contacting Sarah D'Silva on 01276 451942. Uniform for sale must be handed over personally to Sarah D'Silva and she reserves the right to refuse items that are not suitable.

Parents' Forum

The Headmaster will be hosting an open discussion to canvas parental opinion on a range of school issues. All are welcome. More details, including the date and time, will follow.

Senior School Fair

Once again we will hold the popular Senior Schools Transfer Evening for Years 4, 5 and 6 parents (though others are also welcome). A number of senior school representatives will attend. We aim to showcase the diversity and quality of senior schools, day and boarding, with whom we maintain close contact. Details, including the date and time, to follow next term.

Sports Team Information

After teams have been selected, team sheets are posted on the fixtures noticeboard under the archway. The sheets for Wednesday and Thursday fixtures will be put up by the end of the school day on Mondays/Tuesdays and Saturday fixture information will be available from the end of the school day on Thursdays. Team sheets also include departure times for weekend matches. Parents are welcome to attend all matches to support their children. Team sheets can be found on the school website the day before the fixture. The School Calendar informs you of forthcoming fixtures for the term ahead. Please be aware that Year 3 matches are listed as U8, Year 4 as U9, Year 5 as U10, Year 6 as U11 or Colts and Years 7 and 8 as U12 and U13 or 1st - 4th teams. For all U8 and U9 football matches every Year 3 and Year 4 boy will play.

Sports Travel Policy - Away Matches

Please note that, whenever possible, we like players to travel with their teams to and from away fixtures. We are aware that there may be occasions when a parent would wish to take their child directly home after the match. We would ask that, for weekday matches, prior permission is obtained from the School Office. If there are timetable commitments at school following the match the players must return with their teams.

Mouthguards

Mouthguards are a requirement for all children in Years 3 to 8. Please find enclosed with this newsletter information from OPRO, the dental organisation that specialises in mouthguards, who will be visiting the school on Tuesday 20th September and Tuesday 27th September for mouthguard fittings.

Music Lessons

Parents keen for their children to start individual music lessons should email or write to the Director of Music, Mrs Salmond Smith (l.salmondsmith@hallgrove.co.uk) from 1st September. She will be delighted to advise and arrange lessons for any pupils wishing to take advantage of this opportunity. If parents have queries on this, or wish to explore the possibility of their children learning other instruments, please contact Mrs Salmond Smith.

Watches

Please note that only children in Years 7 and 8 may wear a watch, together with those in Years 3 - 6 who have an individual music lesson with a peripatetic teacher on that day. 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.

Girls' Earrings and Other Jewellery

Girls with pierced ears are only allowed to wear small gold/silver studs to school and they must be able to take them out for Games and PE. No bracelets or wrist bands should be worn unless they are worn for religious reasons and permission has been sought from the Headmaster. Thank you for your co-operation.

General Notes

Absence

It is important to notify the School Office if your child is absent from school. In the event of illness, parents should notify the school by telephone on 01276 473059 or by email to office@hallgrove.surrey.sch.uk on the morning of the absence. This is a legal requirement. Prior written notice of absence due to medical appointments should be sent to the School Office.

Late Arrival

If your child arrives at school after registration, please ensure that he/she goes straight to the School Office to be registered as present.

Sickness

If your child is unwell during the night, i.e. sickness, diarrhoea etc, please allow 24 hours to elapse before you send him/her back to school.

Medication

Medication from home (e.g. antibiotics) may only be administered if requested by the parent/guardian in writing with instructions. All medication should be clearly labelled. If full written instructions are not provided then a Medication Form should be completed which is available from the School Office or the medical room. Please note that decanted medicines will not be accepted. Asthma inhalers should be brought to school at the start of term and given to the School Office together with written instructions for use. Please ensure that inhalers are named and are in date.

Headlice

Please check your child's hair for headlice before he/she returns to school in September and continue to check on a regular basis. If it becomes necessary to treat your child during term-time, please notify the school. Advice regarding treatment can be obtained from your local pharmacist.

Lost Property

Please ensure all your child's possessions are named clearly and securely, including all footwear. There is a huge amount of lost property which cannot be returned as it is unnamed. If items of uniform are purchased from the School Exchange, please remember to remove the old name tapes and replace with your child's own name.

The Drive

To ensure a safe and efficient drop-off and pick-up, we require everyone to be considerate and remember that one person not complying with our procedure causes a large number of people considerable frustration. Please remember the following and inform anyone dropping off or collecting your child:-

- In the mornings, it is important to observe the 'turn and drop' system, and in the afternoon please 'turn and collect'.
- Use the crossings with your children – do not dash across the drive.
- Older children may be encouraged to walk down the drive in the mornings, using the pathway and crossings.
- Assist the flow of traffic by arriving at school no earlier than the designated pick-up times.
- Cars should never park on the yellow lines or roundabout.

We are aware that the afternoon and evening collections can cause a great deal of frustration. Parents are asked, please, to assist by arriving no earlier than the published collection time and to be patient. We are not alone as a school in having pressure points in traffic and our arrangements are very much better than many others!

School Security - Visitors

Please note that all visitors to the school, outside of normal drop-off and collection times, are required to report to the School Office – this includes all parents. Unless otherwise directed, all access to the buildings during the school day will be via the front door, where you must report to the School Office to be signed in. If for any reason your child needs to be collected before the end of the school day, please come to the School Office where he/she will be brought to meet you and will be signed out.

The school grounds are not available for parents and families to use for exercise or recreation other than under the arrangements of the Golf and Tennis Association. Dogs are not permitted on the fields.

School Service Books

At the beginning of term, all new children in Years 3 – 8 will be issued with a Service Book, which has its own individual bookplate – it is something to treasure and keep beyond Hall Grove. Please name it neatly.

Facebook

Parents should be aware of what their children are writing and receiving on Facebook (or similar sites) as we have had some unpleasant comments written about various children in the past. We would ask parents to be extremely vigilant at home and to monitor usage carefully. Best of all, please do not allow your children to use these sites.

Golf and Tennis Association

Details of lessons and membership for 2011/12 are enclosed with this newsletter and are available on the school website.

Summer Holiday Camp 2011

The camp is now in full swing and is going well. Please contact Sports Xtra at www.sports-xtra.com or on 07894 708444 to make bookings. The camp runs until Friday 5th August.

2012 Ski Trip

Start thinking now about the school trip to Saas Fee in Switzerland early in January (provisional dates: 2nd – 8th January 2012). It is an economic way to give a child a fantastic Alpine experience. This is aimed at boys and girls in Years 5 to 8 though exceptionally we take younger children. It is enjoyable for all levels of ability including beginners, and is perfectly suited to Hall Grove pupils. The cost will be in the region of £950 and will include five hours of tuition a day. If you would like your child to join the trip, please contact Mr Tullett (i.tullett@hallgrove.co.uk). Further details will be available next term.

Sebastian's Action Trust Proudly Opens The Bluebells

In spite of the untimely rain more than 250 guests celebrated the official opening of The Bluebells on Tuesday 5th July in the Hampshire village of North Waltham. It has taken seven years to finally realise former Hall Grove pupil Sebastian Gates' last wish, launched just twelve days before he died on Christmas Eve 2003 following a long battle with cancer. We were delighted to welcome many Hall Grove families and staff from past and present to this occasion, giving them a chance to see the purpose-built holiday house that has been designed exclusively for seriously ill children and their families to enjoy precious time together. The Bluebells is the first of its kind in the UK; it will give 100 families each year the chance to have a holiday and a further 500 the opportunity to utilise its extensive leisure facilities on single day visits. The Bluebells is already much in demand; the first families arrive on the 10th July and it is fully booked until the end of October with countless applications still to process, which gives some indication of the huge demand from all over the UK for the measure of support this unique facility will offer.

We are truly indebted to the many pupils, families and staff from Hall Grove who, over the past seven and a half years, have so generously supported the actions of the Trust. Your support has played an enormous part in helping to turn Sebastian's vision into reality and we hope you will all share in the pride we feel in helping to make the lives of children with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions a little more bearable. We will be holding an Open Day at The Bluebells in September (provisionally the 17th) to which you are all most welcome and we hope you will take this opportunity to see what you have helped to achieve.

Sebastian's Action Trust

