

Hall Grove School Newsletter



www.hallgrove.co.uk

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The first half of this long Autumn term closes with our special afternoon hosting the Grandparents. These ladies and gentlemen are the unsung heroes of many families, supporting their grandchildren and providing equal measures of wise advice and practical help. We hope they enjoyed the events laid on for the day including the teas, music, harvest fair and the French activities. It was good to see so many here.

Grades Sheets & CATs Results

The children will be bringing home their Grades Sheets (Years 3 – 8) and CATs results (Years 4 – 7) today. We have taken the new school year as an opportunity to look again at our awarding of grades and have amended the descriptors. This means that it should be even clearer where the children are doing well and where there are things to celebrate or to work on. In particular, this means that a grade of C3 for a subject SHOULD be taken as a child who is doing well generally, although there is room for improvement from time to time. Study tutors and form teachers have explained the descriptors to children and it may be a valuable exercise to go through these with your child. If there remain any queries, please get in touch with your child's form teacher, study tutor or Mr Waltho, Director of Studies (j.waltho@hallgrove.co.uk). A letter accompanying the CATs results gives information on the principles and purposes of these.

The Oarsman's Supper

This was a most enjoyable evening with a good meal and excellent speeches from World Champion Toby Hessien and Olympic Rower Annabel Eyres. Thanks to some very generous gifts and some competitive bidding; over £20,000 was raised to buy Bryanston School a new boat.

Open Morning

We held a most successful Open Morning on Thursday with a record number of visitors; over fifty families came to look round the school. Hall Grove looked at its best in fine Autumn sunshine. Our thanks to the boys and girls of Years 7 and 8 who were excellent guides.

Independent Schools Exhibition - Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th November

Hall Grove will be exhibiting at the Battersea Park Exhibition on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th November. If you are in west London on either of those days, do call in and visit our stand.

Senior Schools' Fair - Thursday 10th November

We shall be hosting a senior schools information evening on Thursday 10th November. The evening will especially be of interest to Years 5 and 6 parents, but all parents are welcome. More details after half term.

Remembrance Service - Friday 11th November

This special Assembly is always much enjoyed by parents. It begins at 1030 in New Hall.

School Dates for 2012-2013

Autumn Term 2012

Tuesday 4th September – Wednesday 19th December

Half Term: Saturday 20th October – Sunday 4th November (inclusive)

Spring Term 2013

Wednesday 9th January – Thursday 28th March

Half Term: Saturday 16th February – Sunday 24th February (inclusive)

Music Department

Last week's Orchestral Day at Wellington College certainly gave some of our more experienced musicians an excellent opportunity to perform in a large group. The orchestra numbered more than 120, and it was very rewarding to hear such positive feedback about Hall Grove children from the staff leading the sectional rehearsals. Our children are most fortunate to have such a variety of musical opportunities available to them and the benefits were clear to see. Our very own Marcus Norrey had the role of Leader of the Orchestra, a task he fulfilled most impressively with immense poise and confidence.

It is good to see that we have a new generation of performers preparing to fill the shoes of those mentioned above; on Thursday we were treated to an Informal Concert by Middle School pupils. It can be a daunting prospect playing a solo to friends and family, particularly for the first time, yet the children made it look so easy. Whether you are a seasoned professional like Henry Coop, or if it is your first ever public performance, the Informal Concerts are an ideal opportunity for musicians to gain confidence in their own abilities in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. Well done to all who participated.

Louise Salmond Smith

Girls' Games

Please can we remind parents that when the girls are participating in games they really must have their hair tied back and any loose tendrils that are in their eyes should be clipped or a hairband used. As the colder weather comes they should have their school base layer and tracksuit readily available. Mouthguards and shin pads will be needed after half-term for hockey. We would like to recommend that, particularly for netball, the girls wear training shoes that will protect their ankles. Netball UK (www.netballuk.co.uk) is an internet site that has an excellent offer on girls' training shoes.

Sports News

Netball

19th October v Bishopsgate: 1st VII won, U11 A won, U11 B lost, U10 A lost

19th October v Bearwood College: 1st VII won

20th October v Oakfield: U9 A lost (against U10s), U9 B won

Football House Matches - Saturday 15th October

Year 3: 1st Eagles, =2nd Hawks/Kestrels, 4th Falcons

Year 4: 1st Hawks, 2nd Kestrels, =3rd Falcons/Eagles

Year 5: 1st Hawks, 2nd Kestrels, 3rd Falcons, 4th Eagles

Year 6: 1st Falcons, 2nd Kestrels, 3rd Hawks, 4th Eagles

Years 7/8: 1st Eagles, 2nd Falcons, 3rd Hawkes, 4th Kestrels

Overall result: 1st Hawks, 2nd Kestrels, =3rd Eagles/Falcons

Football

19th October v Ludgrove: 1st XI won, 2nd XI drew, 3rd XI lost, 4th XI lost, Colts A won, Colts B won, Colts C won, U10 A won, U10 B won, U10 C won, U10 D lost

20th October v Parkside and Cranleigh: U9 A lost against Parkside and drew against Cranleigh, U9 B lost against Parkside and won against Cranleigh, U9 C lost against Parkside and won against Cranleigh and U9 D lost against Parkside and won against Cranleigh

Operation Christmas Child

We are taking part in the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal again this year. This is a project of Samaritan's Purse and each shoe box provides a Christmas gift for a girl or boy who is a victim of war, poverty, famine, disease or natural disaster. Leaflets were sent home with the children last week containing details of how to fill the shoe boxes. Please include a donation (recommended donation is £2.50 per box) which covers shipping, transportation, distribution and promotion. If you would like to donate more, any extra will go towards supporting disadvantaged families. Cheques should be made out to Samaritan's Purse. Alternatively, you can pay online. Giving online makes the processing easier and cheaper, leaving more money to go directly to helping children. Visit www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk to make your donation. If you would like to take part in this worthwhile project, please bring your filled shoe boxes to the School Office by Friday 11th November.

Groove at the Grove 2011 raised £5000 for Help For Heroes

Yet another sensational evening and not just the weather. Hundreds of families and their friends swarmed onto the Hall Grove fields and proceeded to set up one of the smartest travellers' camps in Surrey. With muslin curtained gazebos, linen tablecloths, candelabras and Ascotesque picnics, the adults settled quickly to sip champagne, Rebellion Beer and Pimm's and started their socialising. The children on the other hand evaporated and, if looked for, could be spotted in the distance playing football, rugby, kiss chase and climbing on the adventure playground. In fact the only reason the parents knew their children were at the same party as them was when they ran out of money to spend on Domino's Pizza, ice cream or plastic souvenirs from the merchandise stall.

Following on from High School Party was Tom Jones and his dancers. Their routine for 'Sex Bomb' was an education in itself drawing the dads away from the beer tent for a brief moment and his 'groove' caught the eye of the odd mother. Then as dusk fell, Fake That took centre stage guaranteeing to 'Let (Us) Entertain You'. For those who had been to Wembley or Cardiff to see the real thing, this was not a disappointment. Voted as the best act we've had so far at Groove, their enthusiasm, dance routines and ability to sing certainly 'Relit Fires', 'Shined' and turned the evening into the 'Greatest Day'. Seventy minutes of non-stop hits had old and young bouncing to the beat.

Keeping the whole event under control and to time, James Cannon was the most brilliant compère – his mega dance session at the end of the evening meant no-one was in a hurry to leave and it could have gone into the small hours. A huge thank you to everyone who came, to all our volunteers and especially to our sponsors – Hampton International, MSG Group and Wooldridge. The event was in aid of Help For Heroes and we are delighted to announce it raised £5000 for them.

Meirion Shaw

Groove at the Grove 2012 - Saturday 7th July

So do we do it again? Well, the general consensus is YES PLEASE... So Groove at the Grove 2012 will be on the last Saturday of the Summer term, which is Saturday 7th July. This year it is in aid of the Air Ambulance. As sponsors and acts are confirmed, further information will be available, but for now put the date in your diaries and don't go organising any parties for that night! After 2012 the decision to keep Groove at the Grove as an annual event or an ad hoc one will be taken by the Friends of Hall Grove.

Two of the current organisers have children in their final year at Hall Grove so additional volunteers will be needed if Groove is to continue beyond 2012. If anyone is interested in helping to organise the event this year or in future years, please come along to the Friends of Hall Grove meeting on Wednesday 9th November at 1830. Or if you can't make the meeting but are keen to be involved in Groove or in other Hall Grove social events please let Paula Leech know.

Meirion Shaw

Friends of Hall Grove - Wednesday 9th November

There will be a brainstorming get-together on Wednesday 9th November in the Admiral Room from 1830 and all parents are welcome to attend. Please bring along your ideas and enthusiasm so we can discuss events, plan dates for the diary and allocate responsibilities. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Mrs Leech

Strictly Come Jiving!

Enjoying Strictly? Why not join Hall Grove's very own Dan Slape and learn how to dance with your partner? A fast track course of six lessons will start on Tuesday after half term which is ideal for complete beginners as well as those who have some previous dance experience. Please complete and return the attached form to the School Office as soon as possible to book your place.

AWBS Christmas Fayre at Ascot Racecourse - Friday 4th November

The American Women of Berkshire and Surrey are holding their Charity Holiday Craft and Gift Fayre on Friday 4th November 0930 to 1500. This is a great chance to get a head start on your Christmas shopping and avoid the London crush at Berkshire's leading fundraising Fayre. With over ninety designers, artists and exhibitors carefully chosen from London and the South East, the American Women of Berkshire and Surrey invite you to their 28th Holiday Craft and Gift Fayre. Find fabulous fashion, hand-picked jewellery, vintage and homewares (including Tanya's Touch) and the very best art and craft in the historic Pavilion Ballroom at Ascot Racecourse. Enjoy the home-baked treats, gourmet food from speciality vendors, tea and coffee, entertainment and demonstrations. 100% of the Fayre's profits and a percentage of the purchases will support nine charities from Berkshire and Surrey including Sebastian's Action Trust. Cost: Admission £2, children under 17 free. Where: The Pavilion, Ascot Racecourse, A329 High Street, Ascot Racecourse, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 7JX. For further information, please visit the website (<http://www.awbs.org.uk/philanthropy/craft-fayre/632-vendor-invitation>).

Ascot Drama Club

Ascot Drama Club has been running at the CMI in Sunningdale for five years under experienced practitioner, Nicky Ridley. If you are looking for drama classes that inspire children to express themselves, help develop confidence and communication skills, then email Nicky at nicky@ascotdramaclub.co.uk or give her a call on 01344 843072. Lessons are available as follows: Wednesdays - Class 1 (3 - 5 year-olds) 1345 - 1430, Class 2 (5 - 8 year-olds) 1535 - 1635, Class 3 (8 - 11 year-olds) 1635 - 1735 and Thursdays - Class 4 (11 - 14 year-olds) 1730 - 1830.

Rainbow Play

Rainbow Play is now offering the fantastic new Wishmaker Playhouse that is designed to grow with your family. When your tots turn to teens, these spectacular bespoke playhouses can become a teenage pad then turned into an office or summer house as they leave home, and back into a playhouse when the grandchildren arrive. All mod cons included such as lights, underfloor heating, running water - your wish is our command. If you would like us to email you a brochure, please ask at nick.marlow@rainbowplaysystems.co.uk or come have a look at Hillier Garden Centre, Windlesham (you can see it from the A30).

