

Hall Grove School Newsletter



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13th January 2012

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Our very best wishes to everyone at the start of this new term, and a very happy New Year to you all.

New Staff Member

We have been joined this term by a young graduate from Durham University who is filling in time before taking up a training post with KPMG. Richard Österdahl is an old boy of Hall Grove and of RGS Guildford. He will assist with staff cover and with games coaching; he is a talented hockey player and golfer. We are delighted to have him in the school for the next two terms.

Engagement Announcement

Congratulations to Miss Kate Black (Reception part-time teaching assistant) on her recent engagement to Mr David Pearce. We are delighted for them both.

Christmas Collection

We raised the magnificent sum of £3,226.56 at the end of last term for three worthwhile charities – Home Start Surrey Heath (supporting local families going through difficult times), the Meningitis Research Foundation (supporting people affected by this terrible disease) and Over the Wall (providing short holidays for severely disabled children). Our thanks to everyone who contributed.

Christmas Food Hampers

A huge thank you to all who donated produce for the Christmas food hampers that were made up for Age Concern in Bracknell. I worked a couple of shifts before Christmas and felt real pride when our boxes came to be sorted. Every little helps!
Miss Douse

Ski Trip

For the second year running, the Hall Grove ski party went to Saas Grund in Switzerland during the Christmas holiday. All the pupils made good progress and had an exciting time in the Swiss Alps. The weather was challenging, the skiing exhilarating and many are already looking forward to next year's trip.

Spring Term 2012 School Calendar

Calendars have been sent home via the children this week. Please note the weekend commitments. Parents are reminded that all boys and girls are expected to be available for weekend fixtures and House Matches.

Please note the following calendar amendments/additions since publication:

Thursday 8th March Year 4 Assembly (NOT Year 5)

Tuesday 13th March Year 6 Poetry Evening at 1800

Thursday 15th March Year 5 Assembly (NOT Year 4)

Under the Key Dates heading, Spring Term 2013 should read Wednesday 9th January – Wednesday 28th March.

After School Clubs - Spring Term 2012

After School Clubs start from Monday 16th January (with the exception of Chelsea Football and Judo which start on week commencing Monday 23rd January) and run until Friday 23rd March. There is space still in Bushcraft for senior pupils on Thursday evenings.

Year 8 Geography Trip - Monday 16th January

On Monday 16th January, the Year 8 children, with the exception of the Remove pupils, will be visiting Didcot Power Station during the morning. They will be travelling by school minibus and return to school in time for lunch. Mr Graham will be leading the trip and he will be accompanied by Mr Österdahl and Mr Poppa. It should prove to be a very interesting visit.

Year 7 Pantomime - Friday 20th January

Parents and children are invited to join us for Year 7's production of Cinderella next Friday. The performance will start at 1900 in New Hall and should conclude within the hour. There is no need to book tickets – please take your seats on a first come first served basis. This is our one and only performance and we hope you enjoy a relaxed and highly spirited show!

On the evening of the performance, it is expected that Year 7 pupils will stay at school following the end of their normal school day, where they will be given supper prior to the performance. If you would prefer to collect your child after school please inform the School Office by Tuesday 17th January. If you collect your child, please ensure he/she is returned to school no later than 1830.

We would like to remind Year 7 parents that all pupils are required for the rehearsal this Saturday in New Hall between 1300 and 1700. We recommend that pupils attending the pre-season hockey training in the morning bring a change of clothes and a packed lunch in order to remain at school for the rehearsal. Pupils will be supervised throughout and will also be given a snack and regular breaks. If you have any queries please contact Mr Slape via email (d.slape@hallgrove.co.uk).

Pre-Prep Parent Workshop - Tuesday 24th January

The workshop will be taking place on Tuesday 24th January at 1900 in New Hall. It is aimed at all Pre-Prep parents as it covers our approach to reading for all levels. There will be a series of interactive activities for you to take part in as well as top tips to use at home. Please let your child's class teacher know if you are planning to attend so that we can prepare resources to use. We look forward to seeing you there.

SATIPS General Knowledge Challenge - Thursday 2nd February

On Thursday 2nd February all children in Years 5 – 8 will take the SATIPS General Knowledge Challenge – one hundred questions covering a range of topics. This is a very successful competition open to all Prep Schools and we hope that the children will enjoy the experience. In the run-up to this we will be giving the children general knowledge practice over the next few weeks, so don't be too surprised if your child comes home with a seemingly random fact!

Luckley-Oakfield Entrance Exam

Luckley-Oakfield's examination date for Year 9 entry in 2012 is Wednesday 18th January 2012. Any parents who are interested and who have not yet registered their daughter for the examination should contact Mrs Mary Cope, Registrar, by email at registrar@luckley.wokingham.sch.uk or telephone her on 01189 784175.

Sports News

Girls' Hockey

11th January v Holme Grange: 1st VII, U11 A, U10 A and U10 B lost

12th January v Edgeborough: U9 A drew

Rugby

11th January v Edgeborough: 1st XV lost, 2nd XV won, 3rd XV won, Colts A lost, Colts B won, U10 A won, U10 B won

Girls' and Boys' House Matches and Hockey Training – Saturday 14th January

Years 5 to 8 girls should arrive no earlier than 0850 for House Hockey which starts at 0900. All girls are expected to attend and they should wear their house t-shirts. It should be finished by 1000.

Years 3 and 4 boys should arrive no earlier than 0920 for Rugby House Matches starting at 0930. They should wear their house t-shirts. The matches should be finished by 1030. *Please note the slightly later start time from that published in the Calendar.*

Years 5 and 6 children should arrive by 1045 for Hockey training. It is suitable for boys and girls and although not compulsory it is strongly recommended.

Years 7 and 8 children should arrive by 1145 for Hockey training. It is suitable for boys and girls and although not compulsory it is strongly recommended.

Saturday Golf and Tennis Lessons

Golf and tennis lessons for the children begin this Saturday. Email confirmations have been sent out to those who have already booked. There are still a few places available so please contact Caroline Grant (caroline.windsor@tfigroup.com or 01276 858348/07770 755584) if you are interested.

Adult Ceramics Evening Classes

Adult Ceramics Evening Classes will start next week at 1930 on Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th January in the Coach House for those who have signed up. For further details or information, please contact Miranda Dowse on 07951 572560.

Adult Partner Dance Classes

Adult Partner Dance Classes will be up and running again this term on Thursday evenings in New Hall. Lessons are lots of fun, goals are achievable and complete beginners are very welcome. If you would like more details or would like to sign up for the Spring term course please contact Dan Slape via email (jiveschool@hotmail.com).

2012 Burns Night - Friday 3rd February - 8.00 pm

This will be a light-hearted informal supper and ceilidh, coupled with just a little song, dance and poetry, to celebrate the life of Scotland's famous bard. To reserve places please send cheques (made payable to Hall Grove School Limited) to the School Office. The cost will be £20 per head. Enjoy a great night out, tables of eight can be reserved, otherwise mix up and meet new friends.

Curry Night - Friday 24th February

We would like to invite all parents, past and present, to join us for a fun-filled evening which will include a delicious meal, music provided by a professional DJ and dancing. There will be a cash bar available. Tickets are a steal at £20 per person and go on sale from Monday. Please send payment in via the School Office in a named envelope marked Curry Night. Cheques should be made payable to Hall Grove School Limited.

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Woking Symphony Orchestra Family Concert - Saturday 14th January at 1530

This annual Family Concert is taking place tomorrow from 1530 at the HG Wells, Church Street East, Woking. All tickets are £5 and are available from the Box Office (01483 712710), from wso2011@hotmail.co.uk or on the door. The concert lasts approximately one hour and there is the chance to 'meet the orchestra' and try out different instruments. The programme includes Strauss: Overture Die Fledermaus, Mozart: Oboe Concerto (with soloist Barney Couch) and Britten: The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra. Last year's concert sold out very quickly so please book early to avoid disappointment.