

Hall Grove School Newsletter



www.hallgrove.co.uk

20th January 2012

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This week saw the felling of one of Hall Grove's finest trees, an enormous London Plane at the far end of the garden that had succumbed to fungus attack and reached a dangerous state of decay. The team of woodmen were assisted by an enormous crane as the giant was taken down limb by limb. The tree was almost certainly planted in 1769 when the house was built; what history it has seen in the years that have followed. Whilst there is now a huge gap in the skyline, space has been opened up for new horticultural opportunities.

Year 8 Geography Trip - Monday 23rd January

On Monday 23rd January, the Year 8 children will be visiting the offices of Microsoft at the Thames Valley Business Park 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 Mrs Graham and Mr Österdahl. It should prove to be a very interesting visit.

Pre-Prep Parent Workshop - Tuesday 24th January

The workshop will be taking place on Tuesday 24th January at 1900 in New Hall. Refreshments will be available from 1845 and the workshop will start promptly at 1900. 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. We look forward to seeing you there.

Music Department

Informal Concert - Thursday 26th January

In preparation for their tour to Manchester later this month, the Choristers will be performing some of the pieces at an informal concert in New Hall on Thursday 26th January at 1730, to which you are warmly invited.

Middle and Upper School Informal Concerts

The Middle School Informal Concert will be taking place at 1245 on Thursday 2nd February, followed by the Upper School Informal Concert at 1315 on Thursday 9th February. We encourage those who have lessons outside school to perform as well as those who learn in school, so if your child has an exam coming up soon this is the perfect opportunity to practise playing in front of an audience. Do please get in touch with Mrs Salmond Smith (l.salmondsmith@hallgrove.co.uk or 01276 470008) if your child is interested in performing.

Music Competition

The Music Competition will be taking place during the week of 5th March. The competition will be divided into sections, taking place over four different mornings. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to perform in a friendly environment and receive constructive feedback from external adjudicators. We would encourage all pupils who have instrumental or singing lessons to take part, even if they have not yet completed their preparation and are only able to play a portion or, in the case of pianists, just with one hand. Entry forms for pupils who have lessons outside school are available from the Music Department and should be returned by Monday 20th February at the latest. If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Salmond Smith (l.salmondsmith@hallgrove.co.uk or 01276 470008).

Concert at Queen Anne's School, Caversham - Tuesday 7th February

The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields will be performing at Queen Anne's School in Caversham on Tuesday 7th February at 1930 in their main school hall to which Hall Grove parents and pupils are invited. This internationally famous orchestra will be playing a variety of music during the evening which will be followed by a champagne reception. The performers will be playing a selection of music from Baroque to Modern. Please contact Jane Gallie at admissions@qas.org.uk if you would like to attend. Queen Anne's School, 6 Henley Road, Caversham, RG4 6DX.

Year 4 Battsborough Boarding Nights

Year 4 Boys

Boys' boarding nights have been arranged for Tuesday 28th February and Tuesday 6th March as a taster in preparation for the Battsborough trip next term. Spaces are limited to one night per boy and early booking is advised. Please book via the School Office, Mrs Tilley (Head of Boarding - l.tilley@hallgrove.co.uk) or Miss Furness (k.furness@hallgrove.co.uk). This is a great opportunity to experience a night away from home before the week in Devon.

Year 4 Girls

A girls' boarding night has been arranged for Tuesday 13th March as a taster night in preparation for the Battsborough trip next term. Early booking is advised. Please book via the School Office, Mrs Tilley (Head of Boarding - l.tilley@hallgrove.co.uk) or Miss Furness (k.furness@hallgrove.co.uk). This is a great opportunity to experience a night away from home before the week in Devon.

Sports News

Girls' Hockey House Matches - Saturday 14th January

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

Girls' Hockey

18th January v Edgeborough: 1st VII lost, U11 A won, U11 B lost, U10 A won

19th January v Hoe Bridge: U9 A lost, U9 B won

Girls' Hockey Calendar Amendment - Thursday 2nd February

The U9 A and B fixtures noted in the Calendar for Thursday 2nd February have been cancelled by Yateley Manor and, instead, the U9 A and B teams will now be playing away matches against Hoe Bridge starting at 1400.

Rugby

A challenging week of rugby fixtures, but amongst the disappointments there were some positive results. Well done to the 2nd XV for their convincing win and a special mention should go to the boys of Year 3 for their fantastic set of results against Aldro and Feltonfleet in their very first set of matches of the season. Commiserations must go to the 1st XV who had an exciting game against Yateley Manor. The match was incredibly close, but unfortunately Yateley snuck a try towards the end and managed to convert to win 26 – 24.

18th January v Yateley Manor: 2nd XV won, 1st XV, Colts A, Colts B, U10 A, B and C lost

19th January v Yateley Manor: U9 A, B C lost

19th January v Aldro and Feltonfleet (Triangular): Aldro - U8 A drew, U8 B won, U8 C drew, U8 D won. Feltonfleet - U8 A lost, U8 B won, U8 C drew, U8 D won

Weekend Fixtures - Saturday 21st January

Rugby v Moulsoford: 1st XV to meet at Hall Grove at 1000 for a home match starting at 1030. Colts A and U10 A to meet at Hall Grove at 0900 for away matches starting at 1030.

Hockey Training - Saturday 21st January

Years 7 and 8 children should arrive by 0845 for Hockey training starting at 0900. It is suitable for boys and girls and although not compulsory it is strongly recommended.

Years 5 and 6 children should arrive by 0945 for Hockey training starting at 1000. It is suitable for boys and girls and although not compulsory it is strongly recommended.

Netball News

The senior girls travelled with Mrs Maxfield and Mrs Tilley to Surrey Sports Park last Friday to watch four Super League teams compete in the inaugural Fast Net Tournament. Following some competitive matches Northern Thunder were crowned champions after beating Yorkshire Jets 35-21 in the final. The girls enjoyed their first time of watching a top level netball competition, with many of England's netball stars in action showing off their skills, with fast play, tactical passing and accurate shooting.

There is a two day netball camp at Surrey Sports Park, Guildford over half term led by Surrey Storm and England player Tamsin Greenway which Mrs Maxfield would highly recommend for Hall Grove girls. The camp is open to all level of players for girls aged 8-11 years and 12-14 years on Thursday 16th and Friday 17th February from 1030 to 1630. The cost is £80. Visit www.surreysportspark.co.uk/book or telephone 01483 689111 for more details.

Pony Grove

Congratulations to Fraser Graham, Oliver Hadden-Wight, Caitlin Pawinski and Megan Vandenberg who made up the Hall Grove team competing in the Inter-Schools Show Jumping Competition in Horsham and came 5th. The children had a very early start and icy conditions to contend with, but they all rode fantastically over a challenging, up-to-height course. Special mention should go to Oliver who won the class overall as an individual. Well done to the team and thank you yet again for representing Hall Grove and Pony Grove so well; I was proud to be your team manager.

Caroline Hadden-Wight

2012 Burns Night - Friday 3rd February at 2000

Please register any interest at the School Office. Enjoy a fun evening out.

Curry Night - Friday 24th February

You are warmly invited 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 available at the cost of £20 per person. Please send payment in via the School Office in a named envelope marked Curry Night. Cheques should be made payable to Hall Grove School Ltd.

We will be holding a raffle during the evening and would be grateful for any donations that can be used for prizes. If you are able to help, please hand in any contributions to the School Office.

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Offer of Help to a Local Charity

As part of his company's Corporate Social Responsibility programme, Alistair Hardie (father of Luke in Year 6) has a group of twenty executives available in early April to provide a half day of volunteer work to a local charity. The group meet every quarter from all over the world for a conference and include a half day of charity work each time. In April they are in the UK and looking for a good cause. As examples of previous projects they have helped build houses and have painted an orphanage. If you would like to take advantage of this offer please contact Alistair at alistair.hardie@cigna.com.

Holidays - Easter Getaways, Summer Holidays and October Half Term Breaks

January sales and early booking discounts for Easter getaways, Summer holidays and October half term breaks available now. For worldwide destinations and ski holidays please contact Helen at Bespoke Vacations by telephone on 01344 881026, by email at helen@bespokevacations.co.uk or visit www.bvluxuryholidays.co.uk. Alternatively, if you get a quote for your holiday from elsewhere, including the internet, we will endeavour to better it!

