

Hall Grove School Newsletter



www.hallgrove.co.uk

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Over the last two weeks the wail of chain saws has echoed around the grounds as some of Hall Grove's finest oak trees have been given major surgery. This work has been carried out following a detailed arboricultural survey and should ensure that they live for many more years to come. In addition to problems of old age and decay, a series of dry winters has put the trees under stress and it seems that this year will be particularly difficult as ground water levels continue to fall. Our thanks to the tree surgeons for their careful work, and for some interesting logs for the children to play on.

Staff Changes

Mr Thorne will leave us at the end of this term as he prepares to take on the challenge of walking from John O'Groats to Land's End in May. We very much hope that he will return to us later in the year in a part-time capacity and we wish him well for his training and for the walk.

Scholarship News

Many congratulations to Suzie Clark on winning one of the Academic Scholarships to Bradfield College.

Curry Night

A most enjoyable evening was held last Friday for staff and parents to mix and mingle. Our thanks to all those who organised it.

Year 5 Battsborough Trip

The boys and girls of Year 5 have had an action-packed week in Devon, exploring underground caves, visiting the farm, participating in adventure activities and even following the Modbury Harriers! They returned today looking happy and exhausted.

4KF Assembly - Thursday 8th March

The children in 4KF would like to invite their parents to their Class Assembly on Thursday 8th March. If you are able to attend, please be in New Hall by 0830. We look forward to seeing you there.

Mathletics - are you playing it?

Put down those games machines and join in this exciting international competition that will improve your Maths! The school has invested in this fun project and we want to encourage all the pupils to join in. Mathletics can be accessed by visiting www.mathletics.co.uk or by selecting the link from the school homepage under the 'Pupils' tab; Years 1 - 8 know their individual logins. It is used in over 10,000 schools by over 3.5 million students worldwide. It covers all aspects of mathematics, and contains more than 1,000 activities for students aged 5 to 18. The children instantly know if they are on the right track and can improve at their own pace. Animated support on topics is available should they require additional help whilst at home, making it a valuable revision tool. Included is 'Live Mathletics', which allows students to compete against children from all over the world in real-time games of speed and skill. Year 5 are still leading the way - let's see if the rest of the school can boost our scores!

World Book Day

Every child has been given a £1 World Book Day token that can be used against purchases at participating book shops. World Book Day was celebrated by the boys and girls of Pre-Prep, Year 3 and Year 4 at school on Thursday when they were invited to dress as their favourite characters.

Years 7 and 8 Parent Interview Schedules

The Years 7 and 8 schedules for the Parent Interviews taking place on Monday 12th March and Wednesday 14th March have been sent home today with the children.

Chickenpox

There has been a case of chickenpox reported in Pre-Prep. A child remains infectious until all the spots have crusted over, and must be absent from school during this time. Chickenpox is highly contagious and the incubation period is ten to twenty-one days.

Internet Sponsorship for Hall Grove

Over the past few years, reliance on the internet has grown extensively. Many of the software applications used by both pupils and staff require direct access to the internet to work effectively. However, this reliance is now stretching our existing internet services to the limit. We are currently reviewing the latest technologies to 'future proof' the school, and allow it to deliver a more efficient and productive service. This will be achieved by installing a dedicated data link to the school. Such an upgrade is expensive and we would welcome any sponsors to help with the project. It may be that you work for a telecommunications company or your organisation are looking to sponsor schools with their IT infrastructure. If you think you may be able to help with sponsorship then please let us know.

Music Department

The Children's Trust Concert

Last Sunday, the Concert Band performed at Epsom Playhouse for the Children's Trust Surrey Schools' Concert. The Children's Trust includes the UK's largest paediatric brain injury rehabilitation centre and provides support in the community for children and young people with acquired brain injury. The specialist services they provide come at a cost which is not fully met by statutory sources, so there is a reliance on voluntary donations. The Concert Band was very pleased to help support this worthy cause and we are delighted to have been invited to perform at next year's concert at St. John's, Smith Square. Many thanks to Mr Ledger for all his hard work.

Choral Evensong - Saturday 3rd March

The Choristers will be singing Choral Evensong tomorrow at Eton College Chapel. The service begins at 1615, so do please come along to support them as they sing in this most magnificent setting. This is an excellent opportunity for children who may wish to join Choristers, and their parents, to come and see more of what it involves, and to see one of the most famous schools in the world.

Music Competition

The Music Department has been alive with the sound of frantic practising! The schedules are available on the Music Department noticeboard and also on the school website. Do please come and support our instrumentalists. Please note one important last-minute change: Tuesday's String Section has moved from the morning to the afternoon, due to an inspection taking place at our adjudicator's school. If your child's piece requires accompaniment, please ensure your child gives it to Mrs Salmond Smith as soon as possible, but at the very latest on the day before their sectional. The competition will run as follows:-

Tuesday: 1230 - 1500 String Sectional

Wednesday: 0900 - 1200 Keyboard Classes A and B, Woodwind Sectional and Voice Sectional

Thursday: 0900 - 1230 Keyboard Classes C - I

Friday: 0915 - 1115 Brass Sectional and Percussion Sectional

Hampton Music Workshop Day

On Sunday 29th April, Hampton School is hosting its 16th annual Music Workshop for local junior schools. As in previous years, they will be running courses for string, wind, singers and (subject to demand) electric and bass guitar. The workshop will start at 1000 and there will be a concert of music prepared in the morning classes at 1430. The workshop offers an excellent opportunity to work with experienced musicians, and allows pupils the chance to work in a large ensemble. The day will be suitable for woodwind and string players of at least Grade One standard, and for singers of all standards. The course, including lunch and refreshments, is free of charge. Please contact Mrs Salmond Smith (l.salmondsmith@hallgrove.co.uk) for a form which should then be sent directly to Hampton School.

A Farewell Message from Symon O'Keeffe, School Golf Professional

"As I am sure most of you are aware, I will be leaving the Berkshire Golf Club to take up a new position at Sand Martins Golf Club in Wokingham. During my time at the Berkshire I have had the pleasure of coaching many of the children and the parents at the school. Over the years, with the help of various parents and volunteers, I have been able to provide regular tuition and competitions for the children, some of whom have gone on to become very accomplished players and members of surrounding golf clubs. This has given me enormous pleasure. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents for their huge support and to express how much fun I have had coaching the children and being part of the school." *Symon O'Keeffe*

A presentation has been made to Symon in recognition of his tremendous contribution to the school golf programme over the past eight years. Thank you to the parents of children who take lessons with Symon for their generous donations. *Caroline Grant*

Netball Tour Raffle Tickets

Raffle tickets at a cost of £1 each are on sale at school to raise money for the upcoming girls' netball tour. Please help by purchasing tickets from Mrs Lomas or Mrs Maxfield. There are fantastic prizes to be won such as tickets to see the England v Barbados netball match on Saturday 14th April at 1500 at Surrey Sports Park, a signed netball t-shirt etc. The draw will take place next Thursday at the Netball Social Evening.

Sports News

Eagle House U8 High Fives Tournament - Saturday 25th February

The U8s played some very good netball and, as the morning went on, they got better and better, realising the trick was to get into a space and pass the ball accurately and fast! Claudia Platts, Lily Wallace and Chloe Hill were the star shooters of the morning scoring the majority of the eighteen goal tally scored by the team, Elea Tulloch, Pippa Dixon and Emily Myers made lots of space in the mid court and, in defence, Scarlett Creasey was outstanding. Mrs Maxfield, the supporting parents and particularly the team had a very nice morning in the Spring sunshine. The results were as follows: Yateley Manor - won; Oratory - won; Marlston House - lost; The Abbey - won; Hawley Place - won; Bishopsgate - won. Very well done to all the girls.

U11 A and B Hall Grove Netball Tournament - Wednesday 29th February

All the Year 6 girls took part in the U11 tournament hosted by Hall Grove on Wednesday. Both teams displayed some very proficient netball skills and all the girls worked hard for their teams. Hall Grove A results were as follows: Coworth-Flexlands - won; St. Andrew's - won; The Marist - won; Hall Grove B - won; Hawley Place - won. Hall Grove B results were as follows: Coworth-Flexlands - won; St. Andrew's - won; Hawley Place - won; The Marist - lost (just!); Hall Grove A - lost. The overall tournament results were Hall Grove A - 1st place; The Marist - 2nd place; Hall Grove B - 3rd place. Well done to all involved and a special thank you to Mrs Graham for running the results table.

IAPS Regional Netball Tournament - Thursday 1st March

On Thursday the U11 team competed in the IAPS Regional Netball Tournament at High Wycombe. This was the first time Hall Grove had entered a team into this very competitive independent schools tournament and the girls were excited to have the opportunity to play netball against many schools they knew little about. There were forty-eight schools battling for just eight places in the National Finals being held at Roedean tomorrow. The girls had worked very hard preparing for this tournament and for a first attempt they displayed some great attacking skills, always working as a team and supporting one another throughout the day. The results were as follows: Devonshire House - won; Downsland - drew; Kew - drew; Bute House - lost (Bute House were the eventual tournament winners); Maltmans Green - lost; Holme Grange - won; Berkhamsted - lost. The team finished in a very creditable 16th place. Well done to all concerned and thank you to all the parental support over a very tiring, but beautiful Spring day.

Lacrosse

25th February v St. Catherine's, Bramley: 1st XII drew

Netball

29th February - Hall Grove Tournament: U11 A won, U11 B finished in 3rd place

Girls' Hockey

1st March v Edgeborough: U9 A won, U9 B won, U8 A lost

Boys' Hockey

29th February v St. Andrew's: 1st XI drew, 2nd XI won, Colts A drew, Colts B lost

29th February v Parkside: 3rd XI won

29th February v Lambrook: 4th XI drew

1st March v St. Andrew's: U9 A won, U9 B drew, U9 C won, U9 D won

Weekend Fixtures - Saturday 3rd March

Boys' Hockey v Parkside: 1st XI to meet at Hall Grove at 0830 for a home match starting at 0900. Colts A and B to meet at Hall Grove at 0940 for home matches starting at 1010. 2nd XI to meet at Hall Grove at 1020 for a home match starting 1040.

Calendar Additions and Amendments

Monday 5th March: Girls' Hockey - U11 Surrey Tournament at Cranleigh starting at 1000

Wednesday 7th March: Boys' Hockey v Cranleigh - U10 A and B starting at 1400 (h) - *please note the change of time*

Sunday 11th March: Boys' and Girls' Hockey - U11 Bradfield Tournament starting at 1000 and finishing at approximately 1645

Monday 12th March: Girls' Hockey - U13 Surrey Tournament at Cranleigh starting at 1000

Tuesday 13th March: Boys' Hockey - U9 Parkside Tournament at Surbiton Hockey Club starting at 1345
