

Hall Grove School Newsletter



www.hallgrove.co.uk

23rd March 2012

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The fine weather of the last two weeks has given the school a most welcome lift. The children have enjoyed playing outdoors on grass, with cricket, tennis, basketball and rounders all much in evidence. Whilst we are very mindful that the approaching Summer may be difficult, with water restrictions now confirmed, it is good to see that the playing fields and gardens are all looking in good heart at the moment.

Congratulations to the boys and girls of the Pre-Prep for their delightful Spring Celebration today, it was much enjoyed by all the parents and visitors. In the afternoon the children of Years 3 - 8 enjoyed running a mile for Sports Relief.

We wish all our families a wonderful Spring break and we look forward to seeing you all again at the end of April for an action-packed Summer term.

Easter Eggs

The children are not to bring in sweets, chocolate or other food at the end of term please. The time to exchange these gifts is in the holidays not at school.

New Staff Member

Next term we will be joined by Mr Henry Toulson, a talented graduate teacher (Masters in History at Edinburgh, PGCE at Birmingham) who has recently returned from overseas. Mr Toulson is an Old Boy of Ripley Court and of Charterhouse, and he is a very able games player. We are delighted by his appointment.

Farewell to Staff

We wish Mr Thorne all the best for his walk from John O'Groats to Land's End in early May. We will miss him very much indeed and hope that he will return later in the year to share some of his experiences with us. He has been a wonderful English teacher for Years 5 and 6 for the last five years,

We also say goodbye to Mrs Smith who has decided not to return after the birth of Rupert last year. We feel sure we shall keep in close contact and we wish her all the best.

SATIPS General Knowledge

We have recently received the results for the competition held last half-term for all Years 5 - 8. The top-scoring Senior Challenge pupils were Oscar McKittrick, Fraser Graham, Andrew Condron, Josh Behr and Aaron Goss. The top-scoring Junior Challenge pupils were Thomas Hazell, Thomas Brooke, Matthew Lees, Fergus Reilly and Rosie Freeman. We narrowly missed out on a top five placing as a school in the Senior Challenge, but Oscar McKittrick did tremendously well, coming joint 13th nationally (out of over 1200 pupils from 66 schools). Well done to all!

Staff Training Day - Parents Welcome!

On Monday 23rd April we are lucky enough to have an exceptional speaker coming to talk to the staff. Sue Palmer is famous for her books Toxic Childhood and 21st Century Boys. If you wonder what your children's teenage years might hold in store for you, or if you are battling with trying to keep your eight year-old off the games machine, you may well find her wise words helpful. Please note that we cannot provide any childcare on that day so do not bring children with you. In the morning (1000 - 1130) Sue will be talking about Toxic Childhood. The final two sessions (1145 - 1300 and 1345 - 1530) are more specific: the nature and purpose of language, especially its changing faces, and literacy. If you would like to attend any of these sessions, please let the School Office know so that we have some idea of numbers.

After School Clubs and TASC

Please note that the final clubs of this term are today. TASC will operate as usual until Tuesday 27th March, inclusive. Please remember to book any TASC requirements as places are limited and it is likely to be busy.

After School Clubs - Summer Term 2012

Next term's club information was sent out with the newsletter last Friday and the deadline for returning forms was today. If you have missed the deadline but still wish to enrol your child/children for a club, please return your form to the School Office on Monday morning. Please be aware that the following clubs are already full: Pre-Prep - Fun Food; Middle School - Fun Food (Mondays) and Ceramics.

'La Petite Ecole' After School French Club - Summer Term

In addition to the club on a Wednesday, we are pleased to be able to offer an extra after school French Club session for Pre-Prep children on Tuesdays from 1530 - 1625. Please contact Bev Worthington at bev.worthington@btinternet.com or on 07909 730406 for further information.

Year 6 Poetry Evening - Monday 26th March

Parents are warmly invited to support the Year 6 Poetry evening on Monday 26th March in New Hall at 1800. All of Year 6 will be involved. The children will stay on at school for a snack and to practise beforehand.

School Assembly - Tuesday 27th March

Pre-Prep children will be joining the Middle and Upper Schools for Assembly on Tuesday 27th March. Please bring them to school by 0830 that day if at all possible. The Assembly is not for parents. Reception will not need PE kit that day.

Poetry Competition Final - Tuesday 27th March

The final of our Poetry Competition this year will be held on Tuesday 27th March at 1000 in New Hall. Parents are most welcome to attend.

Spring Concert - Tuesday 27th March

On Tuesday 27th March all of our instrumental ensembles, the Girls' Choir and the Hall Grove Choir will be performing at the Spring Concert in New Hall. The concert begins at 1900 and should finish by approximately 2020. All participating children should be returned to Hall Grove by 1840, and should be in New Hall with their instruments. If you wish your child to remain at school, please book them into supper in the usual way. All pupils, parents and friends are warmly invited to attend the concert.

Easter Service - Wednesday 28th March

Our Easter Service will be taking place in New Hall on Wednesday 28th March at 1030. This is always a lovely occasion with beautiful music; all parents are warmly invited to attend.

Exhibition Hockey Match - Wednesday 28th March

Hall Grove's annual exhibition hockey match between an Invitation Team and the Hall Grove Old Boys will be played on Wednesday 28th March at 1145. It is a great opportunity for the pupils to watch senior hockey played at a very high standard. We would encourage parents to come and watch.

Exhibition Netball Match - Wednesday 28th March

An exhibition netball match between the 1st VII and the Hall Grove Old Girls will be played on Wednesday 28th March at 1145. Parents are invited to come and watch.

End of Term Arrangements - Wednesday 28th March

1145 Exhibition Hockey Match
1145 Exhibition Netball Match
1200 Pre-Prep collection time
1215 Years 3 and 4 collection time
1230 Years 5 and 6 collection time
1245 Years 7 and 8 collection time

Middle and Upper School year groups will be dismissed pitch-side. Bags etc will be stacked outside the school buildings. Please park before the barrier as directed.

End of Term Car Parking

If the weather is fine there will be parking on the fields.

Rock School

A reminder of the Rock School course being run at Hall Grove in the Easter holidays. Information is available on the Instrumentally website (<http://www.instrumentally.co.uk>).

Reception Assembly - Wednesday 2nd May

The children in Reception would like to invite their parents to their Class Assembly next term on Wednesday 2nd May. If you are able to attend, please be in New Hall by 0915. We look forward to seeing you there.

School Uniform Shop

The School Uniform Shop will be open at the following times over the Easter holidays:

Tuesday 10 th April	1000 - 1200
Thursday 19 th April	1500 - 1700

Summer Uniform

Summer uniform is to be worn from the start of next term.

Sports News

Netball

21st March v Holme Grange: U11 A won

21st March v Crosfields: U11 A won

Girls' Hockey

21st March v Bishopsgate: U11 B won

22nd March - Feltonfleet Tournament: U9 A won 2, lost 2, drew 1 and finished in 4th place. U8 A drew 1, lost 2 (but were down to six players due to illness).

Boys' Hockey

17th March v Lambrook: 1st XI, 2nd XI and Colts A lost, U10 A won,

21st March v Crosfields: 1st XI won, 2nd XI won, 3rd XI won, 4th XI won, 5th XI drew, Colts B won, Colts C won, U10 A won, U10 B won, U10 C lost

Wellington U11 Boys' Hockey Tournament

The Colts A spent a fantastic afternoon on Wednesday in the sunshine at Wellington College, in a tournament with twelve schools. After an exhilarating run of matches, they had scored twenty-five goals without conceding and had made it to the final. Unfortunately, the opposition were very strong and they narrowly lost 1-0. Well done to all the boys involved.

House Hockey Matches - Saturday 24th March

Year 3 Boys' Hockey House Matches: Year 3 boys should arrive at 0855 for house matches starting at 0900.

Year 4 Boys' Hockey House Matches: Year 4 boys should arrive at 1020 for house matches starting at 1030.

Cricket Kit

Years 4 to 8 may bring cricket bats into school next term (please make sure bats are clearly named). They will be stored as directed by the games staff. **Children are allowed to bring in cricket bags on match days only.** Please be aware that the school supplies all necessary cricket equipment so there is nothing that a child will need that is not provided; however, they may use their own kit on match days if they wish. Years 2 and 3 will not be required to bring bats or kit at any point during the term.

Buying the Right Cricket Bat

Cricket bats can be expensive items and the wrong weight choice can actually mean that your child's batting regresses rather than improves over the season. If you are buying a bat over the holidays, please make sure that you are confident that any advice you are given is sound. As we all know, the quality of in-store advice from the larger sports chain stores can vary enormously. If in doubt, wait until the start of the season and consult one of several well-qualified cricket coaches that we are lucky to have on the staff here at Hall Grove.

Swimming

The children will be swimming as part of the sports programme in the Summer term. All children in Years 3 to 8 must have a Hall Grove swimming costume (see uniform list). Pre-Prep parents should already have received a letter regarding swimming lessons next term. Pre-Prep children should also wear a Hall Grove swimming costume available from the Uniform Shop.

Supermarket Vouchers

We are collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids 2012 vouchers and Tesco School Vouchers which are currently being issued for every £10 spent in stores, online and at petrol filling stations. We would be grateful if you would send in any vouchers that you receive.

Friends of Hall Grove - Saturday Golf and Tennis Lessons for Children

Golf and tennis lessons on Saturdays are open to ALL Hall Grove pupils. Make the most of the Summer and the fantastic school facilities by joining our Saturday morning golf and tennis lessons. Golf lessons are given on the nine hole course by James Warrington and his team from the Berkshire Golf Club. Tennis lessons are given on the school courts by Service Line tennis professionals. The lessons are excellent value for money at £75 for the term for hour long lessons (Year 2 upwards) or £45 for the term for half hour lessons (Reception and Year 1). Full details and a booking form are attached with this newsletter. Please return forms to the School Office before the end of term or by email to caroline.windsor@tfigroup.com by 20th April.

Adult Partner Dance Classes

Adult Partner Dance Classes are continuing next term on Thursday evenings. If you and your partner are interested in joining our enthusiastic and friendly group of dancers, or for more details, please email Dan Slape (jiveschool@hotmail.com). With several new couples already signed up, beginners will not be alone next term and all parents are most welcome.

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Flute Wanted

Flute wanted - if you have a Yamaha 311 or equivalent you are wanting to sell, please contact Sarah Freeman on 07886 002199.

The Sunningdale Indoor Cricket School

Please find attached information regarding cricket coaching sessions that will be available over the Easter holidays.

For Rent

Seaside house in Trevone, North Cornwall. Sleeps up to eleven. One hundred paces from a lovely surfing beach. Available June half-term and early July. For further information, please telephone 01963 220321 or 07899 925266.

Moonstruck Exhibition 2012 - 25th to 28th April

Visit a unique exhibition of pencil drawings and sculptures of moon bears and other Asian wildlife by acclaimed artists Richard Symonds and Suzie Marsh in aid of Animals Asia at the Menier Gallery (51 Southwark Street, London, SE1 1RU). The exhibition runs from 25th to 28th April 2012 and is open on Wednesday and Thursday from 1100 to 1800, on Friday from 1100 to 2000 and on Saturday from 1100 to 1500. On Friday there will be a presentation at 1800 by Dr Jill Robinson MBE, founder and CEO of Animals Asia, on the campaign to end bear farming in China and Vietnam.

Au Pair Available

Available to start immediately. Diana lived with the Watters family for over two years when their boys were little and is looking for an au pair position. Mrs Watters is happy to give a reference and recommends Diana as hardworking, loyal, endlessly cheerful and completely honest. Please call Mrs Watters on 07789 848488 for further information.

English Language Course for Au Pairs

Does your au pair wish to improve her English? A unique specially-designed course for au pairs is starting in Windlesham on 24th April and runs for ten weeks on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 0930 to 1130. The lessons will be in a group of maximum six, so your au pair will have the chance to make some new friends but still receive lots of individual attention. The teacher is fully qualified and experienced. We will run a pre-course language assessment to ensure that all au pairs are of a similar standard. For further information, or to book a place, please call 07941 936254 or email sara@mortonbusinessenglish.co.uk. Places are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

