

Hall Grove School Newsletter



www.hallgrove.co.uk

27th April 2012

Edition No: 401

We hope all our families enjoyed the long Spring holiday and had a lovely Easter. School has started back happily, with everyone remaining cheerful in spite of the downpours! The grounds have greened up well - some warm weather would be helpful now. We welcomed ten new children into the school and very much hope that they have all enjoyed their first week. We are much looking forward to an action-packed term.

Staff News

Congratulations to Mr Slape and his wife Louisa on the birth of their son, Stanley. Also to Mrs Frame and her husband Chris on the birth of their second daughter, Sophie. We congratulate Catherine Marchesi on her recent marriage to Mr Gavin Hale and we congratulate Tessa Bangert on completing the London Marathon.

We have been joined by Mr Henry Toulson, a talented graduate teacher (Masters in History at Edinburgh, PGCE at Birmingham) who has recently returned from working in Africa. Mr Toulson is an Old Boy of Ripley Court and of Charterhouse, and he is a very keen games player. This term he has taken on Mr Thorne's English teaching.

News from Last Term

IAPS Boys' Over 10s National Judo Championships

On Saturday 17th March an intrepid team of three senior boys competed in the IAPS Boys' National Judo Championships. This is an individual competition fought in weight groups in two age bands, Band A 10–11 years and Band B 12–13 years. Elliot Cook was first to fight in the Band A Under 42kgs group - he showed some excellent skills and great fighting spirit and was very unlucky to just miss out on a medal. His coach, Oliver Fricker, thought that one of Elliot's fight winning throws was the best in the competition. Both Fraser Graham and Matthew Burford were in Band B, Fraser competed in the Under 46kgs group and Matthew in the Under 50kgs group. Fraser has been a very dedicated member of the judo club since Year 2 and Matthew was a relatively recent recruit to judo in Year 6. Both boys fought hard in their respective weight groups and were rewarded for their efforts and dedication with a national gold medal each. This was a great achievement for both boys, they were presented with their medals in assembly and in recognition Mr Graham invited them to ring the Jubilee Bell. Many congratulations to Fraser and Matthew on their success and to Elliot for his efforts. This now means that the Hall Grove Judo Club has four National IAPS Champions amongst its members.

Poetry Evening

Year 6 boys and girls recited poetry to their parents at the end of last term. Highlights included 220 lines from Lord Macaulay's *Horatius*, W H Auden's *Night Mail*, Hilaire Belloc's *Tarantella* and Alfred Noyes' *The Highwayman*, all of which were declaimed confidently to the great enjoyment of the audience. Very well done Year 6.

Poetry Competition

At the very end of last term Years 2 - 8 were delighted to listen to the finalists of this year's Poetry Competition reciting their poems. Our visiting judge, Mr Turner, was most impressed by the very high standard on show and the range of poems learnt. After much deliberation, the results were:

Junior Runner-up - Danny Wessely (*My Shadow* by Robert Louis Stevenson), Junior Winner - Harriet Chappell (*Kenneth* by Wendy Cope), Senior Runner-up - Rosie Freeman (*The Needle* by Rosie Freeman!) and Senior Winner - Alex Wessely (the 'Agincourt' speech from Shakespeare's *Henry V*). Many congratulations to the winners, and to all those who took part - learning a poem can be challenging, but it is tremendously worthwhile.

Spring Concert

This was a superb occasion with some outstanding group performances ranging from classical music to South American drumming. All groups were strong (strings, brass, woodwind, choral) and it was good to hear the recently formed Ukelele Band. Our congratulations to all the performers and to Mrs Salmond Smith and the music teachers. It really was a lovely evening.

Townsend-Warner History Prize 2012

The Townsend-Warner is the prep school system's oldest competition, dating back 127 years. Hall Grove performed particularly strongly this year, with six boys making it through the rigours of Paper One, which tests factual knowledge on a vast area of history, onto Paper Two, which tests essay writing skills. Over 700 pupils nationwide entered the competition and our boys all finished in the top 150, a very commendable effort which saw Hall Grove placed fourth, above many leading academic prep schools. Many congratulations to Josh Behr (135), Yousuf Mirza (113), Morgan Hammans (111), Andrew Condron (79), Oscar McKittrick (65) and Fraser Graham, who finished inside the top 50 in 48th place. We look forward to the challenges of next year's competition!

After School Clubs

Clubs commence on Monday 30th April and run until Friday 6th July.

'La Petite Ecole' After School French Club

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 7 Geography

The Year 7 pupils are doing quite a lot of outdoor Geography fieldwork this term and they will need a pair of named wellington boots at school.

Year 8 Trip to Windsor Castle - Tuesday 1st May

On Tuesday Year 8 will be visiting Windsor Castle, accompanied by Mr Lewis, Mr Graham, Mrs Salmond Smith and Mr Parkinson. It will be an excellent opportunity to glean some valuable information for revision as well as enjoy nearly one thousand years of history through visiting a castle which has been home to thirty-nine monarchs. Since the visit is within the school day we have not sent home consent slips. We will leave Hall Grove in minibuses immediately after lunch and return before collection time. The group will walk through the town of Windsor and up to the castle before spending the afternoon focusing on the state apartments and St. George's Chapel. If any parent has a query regarding any aspect of the trip, please contact Mr Lewis (t.lewis@hallgrove.co.uk).

Reception Assembly - Wednesday 2nd May

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

Salters' Chemistry Festival

Four boys from Year 7 – Harry Francis, Yousuf Mirza, Adam Wills and Charlie Longford – went to the University of Surrey this week to compete against twenty other schools in a Chemistry competition. The boys spent the whole day in the university laboratories testing chemicals, solving crime scenes, watching spectacular chemistry demonstrations, creating nylon and making bouncy balls. They all had a super day and did exceptionally well, finishing fourth against largely Year 8 opposition.

Science Week - Tuesday 8th May - Friday 11th May

We have a lot going on during Science Week and, among a range of events and activities, there are three trips away from school:

Tuesday 8th May – Year 4 to InTech Science Centre, Winchester.

Tuesday 8th May – Year 7 Remove to the Science Museum.

Thursday 10th May – Year 5 and some of Year 6 to Wellington College Chemistry Extravaganza (does not include the Year 6 children who attended the same event in the Autumn Term).

These are all straightforward excursions happening within normal school hours. School uniform is to be worn and the school will provide packed lunches and refreshments. We are expecting all children to attend these trips, however if any parent needs further information or wishes to discuss specific trip arrangements with the school, please contact Mr Adams by email (i.adams@hallgrove.co.uk).

Photography Competition

You may well have seen posters around the school advertising the Photography Competition or your child may have brought home a flyer! This competition is linked with Science Week and will be professionally judged on Friday 11th May. It is not too late to enter so do please encourage all children of any age (Reception to Year 8) or ability to have a go. Rules are explained on the posters/flyers.

Swimming

The weather is not yet suitable for open air swimming, but we hope it may commence Tuesday 8th May. Children in all year groups should wear a Hall Grove swimming costume available from the Uniform Shop.

Sports News

Cricket

Friday 27th April v King's House (Surrey Cup): Colts A won

House Cricket – Saturday 28th April

The House Cricket has been postponed from tomorrow to next Saturday (5th May) due to the unpredictable weather conditions.

Calendar Amendment

The girls' tennis fixture on Saturday 16th June against St. George's, Ascot has been cancelled by St. George's.

Cricket Matches

Please be aware that weekday cricket matches will frequently finish after the end of the school day. Because of the nature of the game it is never possible to predict with accuracy the length of a match.

Cricket Kit

Years 4 to 8 may bring cricket bats into school this 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 bats 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.

Please make sure that boys wear appropriate underwear to hold a cricket box in place. Boxer shorts do not work.

House Cricket for Years 5 to 8 – Saturday 5th May

House Cricket is now planned for Saturday 5th May (weather permitting). As per last year, I have offered to run a BBQ and cake stall throughout the day which I think was much appreciated and well used! If you are interested in helping please let me know by email (jill@stockfile.co.uk) or just turn up and sign up for a short slot. Contributions of cakes, muffins, biscuits etc (either bought or homemade) would be much appreciated and should be brought in on the Saturday. Many thanks. *Jill Behr*

Athletic Spikes

Children are permitted to wear spikes during athletics, but spikes must be kept in a separate shoe bag in school.

London Irish Rugby Tour to Dublin

Morgan Hammans (Year 7) participated in the U12 London Irish Tour to Dublin last month, one of the biggest events in the youth training calendar. They played several fixtures including a match at Black Rock College and also visited the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins.

Adult Ceramics Evening Classes

There are a couple of places available for the adult ceramics classes on Thursday nights with Miranda Dowse – please telephone 07951 572560 if you are feeling creative and wish to know more!

Groove at that Grove 2012 – Saturday 7th July from 1700 to 2300

TICKETS GO ON SALE NEXT WEEK in aid of Surrey and Berkshire Air Ambulance Funds.

This is the best of the best and the newest of the new. We have hand-picked the best bands from the last four years and brought them back to perform again for you. We have Navi as Michael Jackson who is as close tonally, physically and rhythmically as can be. We have Fake That, who proved last year that they entertained as well as their original counterparts did at Wembley, and the Blues Brothers Experience who previously performed as Utter Madness – this is their alter ego 'Shaking their Tail Feathers' and will have you dancing the night away. Put the date in your diary now!

This is an evening for the whole family and friends. For those who haven't been before we have a huge stage on the cricket pitch and everyone brings gazebos/picnic tables/rugs and picnics (or eats Domino's pizzas which will be on sale). The adults eat and drink whilst the children play. At dark all the children are reunited with their parents.

We have also opened up a slot at the beginning of the evening for new unsigned talent who have some connection to Hall Grove (can be as vague as the child of a friend). We are hoping for a selection who will perform a couple of songs each to open the evening's entertainment. If you know of an up and coming artist who you would like to nominate, please email meirionshaw@me.com with their details and we will put them forward. They can be solo artists or in a band – playing their own music or covers. Closing date for entrants is Friday 18th May.

If anyone wants to be involved in the organisation, setting up or especially the clearing up after the event please contact Meirion Shaw. There is a meeting on Monday morning (30th April) after drop off for anyone interested. For details of the meeting venue or for any other questions please email Meirion (meirionshaw@me.com).

Bootcamp

Starting on 1st May, every Tuesday and Thursday for five weeks at Windlesham Field of Remembrance at 0900. £5 per session or £40 for 10 sessions. Suitable for all ages and abilities, Contact Frin on 07544 465974 for more information.

Sebastian's Action Trust - Volunteering Opportunity

Sebastian's Action Trust are looking to establish a Community Fundraising Group in Ascot to help us build support across our local area. The group will work together as an independent committee to raise funds and meet regularly to plan initiatives, which could include representing the Trust at local fetes, or organising events such as quiz nights or balls. Being part of the group is very rewarding, it offers a chance to really make a difference, and allows you the chance to meet others, socialise, have fun and put your skills and creativity to great use! To explain more, they are holding a special Open Evening at DeVere Venues, Sunningdale Park, on Wednesday 9th May at 1930. Contact Claire Sugg on 01344 622500 / 07747 390241 or email claire@sebastiansactiontrust.org to book your place or for further information.

Sebastian's Action Trust - Crown and Tiara Walk 2012

When: Sunday 20th May 2012 at 1000.

Where: Windsor and The Crown Estate (starting and finishing at Trevelyan School in Windsor).

How: <http://www.2mevents.com/index.php/event/crown-and-tiara-jubilee-walk-2012>.

Details: Tickets cost £15 for adults, £10 for children and are free for children 5 and under. Participants can choose to walk seven or thirteen miles.

Over the years there has been terrific support for this event from Hall Grove mothers and children and this year it is hoped that the whole family will come and join in. It is a true family event so please get your friends and family together and come along and support the great work Sebastian's Action Trust does in helping families with seriously ill children. For more information please call Jess on 01344 622500.

