

Hall Grove School Newsletter



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4th May 2012

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The weather remains dull and wet, so we have decided not to run the House Cricket just yet, it will be more enjoyable on a fine day. Years 7 and 8 have been invited in for some cricket training and we hope many will be able to come. On Saturday afternoon (not Sunday as shown in the calendar) there is an Open Golf Tournament. This will be run as a singles competition (Stableford scoring). Contestants should arrive between 1400 and 1500, they will be paired in matches and given cards and an explanation on scoring. All are welcome.

Next week invitations will go home for the Hall Grove Garden Party which takes place on Saturday 12th May. All are very welcome, and do bring friends and family (details below). We are also much looking forward to all the activities of Science Week that start on Tuesday.

Hall Grove Open Golf Tournament - Saturday 5th May

See above. We will use the results to select the team for the Bradfield College Prep Schools Golf Tournament on Sunday 13th May starting at 1300.

Outings

This week Year 4 have been enjoying the best of the country's weather in Devon, Year 1 went to the zoo and Year 8 toured Windsor Castle and St. George's Chapel. We also had a big expedition to the Olympic Park (see below).

Olympic Park - Hockey Matches

Yesterday, seventy Hall Grove pupils from Years 6 to 8 and some staff and parents made the journey to East London to watch an afternoon of hockey at the Olympic Park. It was part of the 'London Prepares' series and a chance for the London 2012 Organising Committee to test operations ahead of the Olympics this Summer. It was the perfect opportunity for the pupils to go and watch some international hockey and see the Olympic Park first hand. The first game featured current world champions Australia against Germany, who are ranked number two in the world. It was a thrilling game and Germany ended up winning 3-2. After a short break and a chance to buy some souvenirs, the children saw Great Britain take on India in a highly entertaining game which Great Britain won 4-2. All the children should be congratulated not only on their excellent behaviour, but also for some incredibly enthusiastic support from the stands! It was a wonderful and unforgettable experience and many thanks go to Mr Marland for organising the trip.

Garden Party - Saturday 12th May

This is an event on behalf of the National Garden Scheme, a charity that supports several good causes. The school grounds and gardens will be open for viewing from 1400 to 1700 as well as some private areas within the school estate. There are a variety of trails and walks, including the historic ice house in the garden of Field House, a woodland walk recently created by the Bushcraft Club and the newly restored boating lake. Year 3 gardeners will have a chance to plant up their gardens with parental (or grandparental) help. Bedding plants and vegetables may be brought in from home or purchased at the plant stall. The entry charge is £5 per adult, children free. Teas and a selection of plants will be on sale. Live music will be played during the afternoon with members of a professional brass group (the Hall Grove Concert Band should arrive at 1345 and the players can be collected from 1530). This is always a lovely event, do please support it.

Scarlet Fever

There has been a suspected case of Scarlet Fever in Pre-Prep. Scarlet Fever often follows a sore throat. Further symptoms include a red flushed face, feeling generally unwell, swollen glands and a rash which may be itchy. Although it is very contagious, cases are usually mild and can be treated with antibiotics. Children should be kept off school until they have had their first 24 hours of antibiotics.

Assembly Talk

Saxon Walker (Year 8), assisted by his brother Troy (Year 6), spoke very well at Assembly presenting photographs of game seen on a recent trip to southern Africa. Well done.

Science Week Speakers

Mr Adams writes:

"As well as a number of parent speakers talking to the pupils during next week's assemblies, we are very lucky to have two external speakers coming to talk.

The first is Dr Ellen Stefan, a NASA scientist, who is at the absolute cutting edge of space exploration and doing very exciting things in her field. This is a truly rare opportunity to have someone of her calibre come and speak at Hall Grove and we would encourage parents to come and hear about her work. She is coming in on Tuesday 8th May and is speaking in New Hall to the Upper School from 0900-1000, then to the Middle School from 1010-1055 and then to the Pre-Prep from 1110-1140. Please come to whichever session you would like.

Our second speaker is David Fettes, a professional wildlife photographer with a highly infectious enthusiasm for his work which takes him all over the world. I have been fortunate enough to see some of his photos myself – they are of the highest quality and I am really looking forward to seeing them projected on our big screen in the New Hall. He will be bringing a scientific slant to his talk and will touch on everything from biodiversity and endangered species to the physical science behind the photographic process. His talk is from 1400-1530 on Friday 11th May in New Hall to Middle School and Upper School. Please try to come along – I can assure you of an entertaining afternoon."

Ski Trip 2013 - 2nd to 8th January 2013

We are pleased to announce that places are now available to book for children who will be in Years 4 to 8 from September 2012. The school ski trip to Claviere, Italy will take place from 2nd to 8th January. The skiing should be superb and we will be running three groups - novice, intermediate and advanced. The children will have five hours of instructor-led lessons a day. The cost of the trip will be in the region of £930. Please contact Mr Tullett on i.tullett@hallgrove.co.uk if you require further details or would like to reserve a place. Please be aware that places are limited.

Wellington College

Wellington has celebrated its 150th anniversary with a remarkable extravaganza (there is no other word!) in the Royal Albert Hall this week. It was good to see plenty of our former pupils taking part, two of them (Callum Woodcock and Tom Bateman) in lead parts.

Music Department

M:Tech

Last term's 'Project Soundscape' was a great success, with children developing their compositional and keyboard skills to create their own music. Billy Easeman (Year 3) and Leo Goosen (Year 4) have had their compositions selected as 'Track of the Term', so many congratulations to them for their excellent work. This term's project is to compose an Olympic theme tune, just in time for London 2012.

Choristers' Evensong

On 13th June, the Choristers will be singing Evensong in the splendid St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. If any musical parents, relatives or friends wish to sing alto, tenor or bass on this occasion, please contact Mrs Salmond Smith (l.salmondsmith@hallgrove.co.uk). The ability to learn music independently and read psalm pointing is required, so do please take this into consideration.

Swimming

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

Sports News

Our matches have all been close and we have been very pleased with the standard of tennis and cricket.

Girls' Tennis

2nd May v St. George's School, Windsor: U11 lost

Tennis

1st May v Papplewick: U13 lost, U11 won

Cricket

2nd May v Feltonfleet: 1st XI lost, 2nd XI lost, 3rd XI won, 4th XI drew

Cricket House Matches – Saturday 5th May

The house matches have been postponed until further notice due to pitch conditions, but there will be a voluntary training session for Years 7 and 8 taking place from 0900 to 1100 tomorrow morning instead.

U11 Surrey Cup Cricket

Congratulations to the Colts team for a fine win in the first round of the competition. Tomorrow they play against Rokeby at Hall Grove on the artificial wicket starting at 0900. The team should arrive at least half an hour beforehand to warm up. We anticipate a cold morning so teams must wear sweaters, undergarments and tracksuit tops. If conditions are very poor, a ClarionCall will go out first thing in the morning cancelling the match.

Pony Grove Success

Caroline Hadden-Wight writes:

"Last weekend the Pony Grove team attended the Cranleigh School Interschools Showjumping competition at Berkshire College of Agriculture. Jamie Grant, Oliver Hadden-Wight, Fraser Graham, Megan Vandenberg and Caitlin Pawinski rode brilliantly against eight teams, mostly senior schools such as Wellington College, Cranleigh and St. George's, and, with a superb final score of just four faults, they came 3rd overall. I was very proud of all of them."

Songs of Praise

Our congratulations to St. George's College, Weybridge for winning the prestigious Songs of Praise Schools' Choir of the Year. The final was shown on BBC 1 last week and may be viewed on iPlayer. Lucy Burford (Hall Grove Old Girl and St. George's Music Scholar) is a member of the choir. The event took place at the Lowry Theatre, Salford, visited by our own choristers earlier in the year.

The Rotary Club 'Youth Speaks' National Final

Former Hall Grove pupil Sangeeta Rijal (sister of Tara Rijal, Year 1) and her team from Farnborough Hill were crowned winners of the Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland's (RIBI) 'Youth Speaks' National Final at Glyndwr University, North Wales on Saturday 28th April. This competition offers young people, aged 11-17, the experience of speaking on a public platform as members of a team. Each year, more than a thousand young people take part in the local and regional events that culminate in the RIBI National Final. Sangeeta (Year 9) was the main speaker in her talk entitled 'Mind Over Matter' which gave a very poignant and heartfelt account of her grandfather's dementia, and an insight into Alzheimer's disease. She had also received the 'Best Speaker Trophy' in the District Final. The team, under the guidance of their teacher Mrs Winch-Johnson, were commended on their extremely professional and complementary approach. Sangeeta delivered a very well-structured and appropriately balanced speech about a very difficult subject matter. Her parents have written: "Sangeeta's experience at Hall Grove has significantly contributed to her recent success. We are delighted with her achievement in this prestigious event."

Welcome Home!

Last Summer a pair of swallows nested successfully in the stables, the first for many years. It was good to see them return again this week after their long journey home from South Africa.

Groove at the Grove 2012 - Saturday 7th July, gates open at 1700

Michael Jackson - Take That - Blues Brothers - well as close as we can get - Navi - Fake That - The Blues Brothers Experience. This is the last year that the existing committee is running Groove at the Grove so it may be the last one for a while. If you haven't been before, please don't miss out; and if you have then please bring all your friends. Tickets can now be purchased using the attached application form with cash/cheque via the School Office - hard copies of more informative leaflets will be sent out next week via the children. It will be possible to buy tickets online with a credit card but, unfortunately, there have been issues this year with authorisation as we are an ad hoc fundraising body rather than a company or charity. We hope to have these issues resolved next week and will email everyone the website details for buying them this way. However, please don't let that stop you buying your tickets now! A huge thank you to our sponsors - Hamptons International, The MSG Group and Domino's Pizza, S4 Mortgages and The Wooldridge Group. All proceeds from the event will go to Surrey and Berkshire Air Ambulance Charities.

Meirion Shaw

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For Sale

A set of Dunlop MXII junior golf club and bag (5, 7, 9 irons, putter and 15 driver) for ages 9 - 12 with head cover. Excellent condition. £80. If interested, please contact Karen Hurt on 07986 779634.

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