

Hall Grove School Newsletter



www.hallgrove.co.uk

20th July 2012

Edition No: 411

The events at the end of term went well, with a most enjoyable Italian Day and a wonderful send off for the school handyman, Leo Poppa. He was very touched by the generosity of the parents in presenting him with tokens, as well as the carpenter's apron signed by all the pupils and a 'no parking' sign. His new car left him quite choked for words. The Evensong Service was beautifully arranged with some magnificent singing by the Choristers, and there was an enjoyable farewell party for Year 8 boys and girls afterwards. Then, on the last day of term, Mrs Goss made an excellent speech at Prize Giving, and all too soon it was over.

So another school year comes to an end. We have said our goodbyes to those pupils, parents and staff who are leaving, and we begin to prepare for another school year.

We wish all our families a very good Summer (when it eventually arrives!) and we look forward to seeing many of you back again in the Autumn.

Key Staff Posts for September

The Senior Management Team (SMT)

Headmaster: Alastair Graham - since 1981. Six years of training and practical work in the field of surveying, land management and agriculture prior to teacher qualification in 1978. His main duties as Head are: managing the school estate; leading the staff; all the associated responsibilities of strategic planning, staff and pupil recruitment, health and safety and child protection.

Deputy Headmaster: Ian Adams - joined the staff as Second Deputy in 2005. Special responsibilities - deputising for the Headmaster in his absence; pupil discipline; co-ordinating the Maths and Science Faculty; monitoring teaching and learning through the school.

Director of Studies: John Waltho - joined the staff in January 2004. Writes the timetable; chairs the Diary Committee; oversees the curriculum, exams and assessments; co-ordinates the Language and Communication Faculty.

Head of Lower School: Gilly Harris - joined the staff in September 2006. Oversees Lower School (Years 3 - 5 and Pre-Prep); leading the staff in this section; form teacher in Year 5.

The Leadership Team (SLT):

All the above plus:

Head of Pastoral Care and Head of Girls: Mrs Vernon-Smith

Director of Sport and Outdoor Pursuits: Mr Tullett

Head of Upper School: Mr Lewis

Pre-Prep Administration: Mrs Leech

Pre-Prep Curriculum: Miss Gent

IT Network Manager: Mr Tyrer

Performing Arts Co-ordinator: Mr Slape

Form Teachers

Reception: Miss Gent and Mrs Tomlinson

Year 1: Miss Hitchcox and Mr Honey*

Year 2: Mrs Leech and Mrs Easeman*

Year 3: Mrs Hale (Team Leader for Years 3 and 4), Mrs Begg and Mrs Doherty

Year 4: Miss Bangert, Miss Furness and Mrs Langley

Year 5: Mrs Harris, Mr Tomlinson and Mrs Cowell*

Year 6: Mr Toulson, Mrs Vernon-Smith and Mr Marland*

Year 7: Mr Slape and Mr Tullett

Year 8: Mr Lewis and Mrs Brice

Faculty and Departmental Co-ordinators

Language and Communication: Mr Waltho

Maths and Science: Mr Adams

Humanities: Mr Toulson*

Visual Arts and Technology: Miss Dowse

Performing Arts: Mr Slape

Director of Music and Team Leader for

Years 5 and 6: Mrs Salmond Smith

Outdoor Pursuits Co-ordinator: Mr Tullett

Child Protection

Mr Graham and Mrs Vernon-Smith

Matrons

Mrs Jackson and Mrs White

SEN and LDD

Mrs Symons

* New to Post

New Staff Appointments

Former Hall Grove teacher Mrs Emma Swanson had hoped to re-join the staff part-time to teach in the Humanities Faculty. We are sorry that she is now unable to start this September. A late appointment is that of Mr Andrew Salmund Smith, who recently resigned from the Headship of St. George's School, Windsor. Mr Salmund Smith joins us on a temporary contract to teach senior RS and English. He is a very talented teacher and we are delighted to have him on our staff.

New Building

This Summer and Autumn we begin work on a new double classroom unit to house Biology and Environmental Studies.

Arrangements for the First Day of Term: Tuesday 4th September

The beginning of term can be rather hectic on the drive and turning circle, with a lot of new parents who do not know the routine of 'turn and drop'. We are also aware that it can be a confusing and anxious time for new pupils in particular. With this in mind, please study these arrangements carefully.

All children for the Pre-Prep should, if possible, arrive between 0900 and 0930. Reception parents will wish to park their cars on the playing fields and walk their children into school, but other parents are asked to turn and drop in the normal way. Children who come earlier (shared lifts etc) may go directly to their classrooms, but parents should not park on the drive. There will be staff on hand at the archway to offer directions for the classrooms.

Middle School (Years 3 – 5) and Upper School (Years 6 – 8) children should be dropped off, if possible, between 0830 and 0900 and they should make their way directly to classrooms. Assembly will be at 1000 so there will be plenty of time to arrive and settle without distress.

Parents of new children in Years 3 – 8 may, if they so wish, return to school for the first Assembly of the term at 1000 in New Hall. Please enter by the main doorway beyond the Coach House. There will be coffee with some of the staff afterwards.

School Uniform

Winter uniform is to be worn from the start of next term. If it is warm weather children will be advised not to wear ties or jumpers. Uniform must be smart in appearance at all times and please be aware that you will be asked to replace items if this is not the case. All school uniform and kit must be clearly named.

The School Day

Normal Starting Times

Breakfast (0730 – 0800) must be booked through the Boarding House via email (l.tilley@hallgrove.co.uk), or by phoning or emailing the School Office (office@hallgrove.co.uk). The charge for breakfast is £3 and will be added to your school bill.

Choristers and other music groups (selected by audition) start at 0800. Early morning group music sessions will begin no earlier than the second week of term.

Pre-Prep children may arrive from 0815 to 0845. Years 3 – 8 may be dropped at school from 0815 and must be in time for 0830 registration.

Before 0830 we operate a 'turn and drop' system and there is very limited car parking available. Younger children in the Pre-Prep who may need walking into school should therefore be brought in after 0830 until they are confident enough to go to their classes unaided.

Going Home Times

Reception: 1510	Year 3: 1600	Year 6: 1700
Year 1: 1520	Year 4: 1610	Year 7: 1710
Year 2: 1530	Year 5: 1620	Year 8: 1720

Clubs generally finish at 1630 (Reception – Year 2), 1730 (Years 3 – 5) and 1800 (Years 6 – 8) with a few exceptions.

Early arrival for collection should be avoided because it blocks the pick-up area for everyone else. If you are collecting two or more children within any of the above sections (i.e. Reception – Year 2, Years 3 – 5, Years 6 – 8), you may find it easier to collect at the later time. The younger child will be supervised by a teacher at no cost.

TASC

After School Care (TASC) will operate for pupils in Reception to Year 5 from the first day of term, running from 1510 to 1730. TASC sessions can be booked, in advance, through the School Office. The charge for TASC is £3 per half hour and the cost is added to your school bill.

Twilight

Middle School Twilight sessions for supervised prep are available for children in Years 4 and 5 from the end of their school day until 1730. There will be no additional charge and children can be booked in for sessions through the School Office.

Upper School Twilight sessions are available for Years 6, 7 and 8 at the end of the school day to give more flexibility to parents. The children can stay on for a supervised prep or for some outdoor play with the boarders up until 1800. There will be no additional charge and children can be booked in for sessions through the School Office.

After School Clubs

After School Clubs information for the Autumn Term will be sent out via email at the beginning of next term. Clubs will run from Monday 17th September until Friday 14th December, inclusive. Club times are 1530 to 1630 for Reception to Year 2, 1630 to 1730 for Years 3 to 5 and 1700 to 1800 for most Years 6 to 8 clubs although one or two Upper School clubs will finish at a later time. Upper School Judo on Fridays will continue to be from 1730 to 1830.

Supper and Boarding

Supper is available to children in Years 3 to 8 on Monday to Thursday, inclusive, and is served from 1810 to 1840. Places can be booked through the School Office (office@hallgrove.co.uk) or Mrs Tilley (l.tilley@hallgrove.co.uk). Children will need to be booked in for TASC or Twilight beforehand. The charge for supper is £5 and will be added to your school bill.

Children in Years 3 to 8 can be booked in to board on Mondays to Thursdays, inclusive, during term-time. There are a limited number of places available for flexi-boarders and, where possible, we prefer children to have a minimum of two consecutive boarding nights a week booked on a regular basis. Boarding at Hall Grove gives a good introduction to senior school life and is very popular. For bookings and enquiries please contact Mrs Tilley.

Meeting the Standards

A short boarding and welfare inspection was carried out early this term and the report has been sent to parents by email. Please note that because it is an interim report there are no qualitative judgements. The inspection confirms that we continue to meet national boarding standards.

Every bit helps...

From September, parents can redeem the value of childcare vouchers against the cost of flexi-boarding, TASC and school clubs.

Weekly Newsletters

The weekly newsletter is sent out by email to all parents via the ClarionCall service. Any additional documents or letters will be attached to the newsletter email or will be sent out separately by email. A few copies of the most current newsletters are held in the School Office for collection should you require a paper copy. In addition, on Fridays, that week's newsletter will be posted on the school website home page.

Autumn Term 2012 School Calendar

A copy of the Autumn Term 2012 School Calendar is enclosed with this newsletter (it is also available on the school website). Please note the weekend commitments. Parents are reminded that all boys and girls are expected to be available for whole year group training sessions and weekend matches if they are regular team players.

Reports and Invoices

Reports and invoices are enclosed with this newsletter. We ask that bills are settled promptly, and no later than Tuesday 4th September please.

Pupil and Medical Information Sheets

Enclosed with this newsletter are Pupil and Medical Information sheets for all new pupils which should be completed and sent in to the School Office by the first day of term. We would ask all parents, new and current, to remember to inform the School Office promptly of any changes to their contact numbers or the medical needs of their children. It is most important that we hold correct information on every pupil.

School Policies

Policies are available on the school website. Paper copies can be obtained from the School Office.

Parents' Briefings

It is our custom to host Parents' Briefings early in the Autumn Term when the staff are introduced and an outline of the year's work is given. Parents should not bring children to school for these meetings.

The briefings will take place as follows:

Years 3, 4 and 5:	Monday 10 th September at 1900
Years 1 and 2:	Tuesday 11 th September at 1800
Year 6:	Tuesday 11 th September at 1900
Years 7 and 8:	Thursday 13 th September at 1900
Reception:	Monday 17 th September at 1900

Individual parent-teacher consultations have been arranged for later in the Autumn Term.

Year 7 Battisborough Trip

The Year 7 Battisborough trip which takes place early in the Autumn Term will be from Monday 17th September to Friday 21st September.

Wellington College Assessment Dates

The dates originally offered by Wellington for Year 7 pupil assessments clashed with our Year 7 field trip. They have kindly offered us Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th September as alternative dates. We will notify parents at the beginning of next term which day is for their son or daughter, and a member of our own staff will take the pupils over.

School Uniform Shop

During the Summer holiday the Uniform Shop will be open at the following times:

Wednesday 25 th July	0900 - 1200
Tuesday 7 th August	0900 - 1200
Thursday 9 th August	1400 - 1700
Monday 3 rd September	0900 - 1200

Parents purchasing uniform for new children starting in September are asked to telephone the Uniform Shop on 01276 471039 to make an appointment to visit. During term-time, the Uniform Shop is open on Tuesdays from 0800 to 0915 and on Thursdays from 1500 to 1730.

School Uniform Exchange

The School Exchange holds a small stock of good quality secondhand uniform given to the school for re-sale. It operates from the Events and Lettings Office adjacent to the Uniform Shop. Appointments to visit may be made by contacting Sarah D'Silva on 01276 451942 (available only on Tuesday mornings). Uniform for sale must be handed over personally to Sarah D'Silva and she reserves the right to refuse items that are not suitable. Another point of contact is Mrs Tilley in the Boarding House.

Senior Schools' Evenings

There will be a Girls' Schools Information Evening taking place on Thursday 27th September at 1900 in New Hall.

We will be holding the popular Senior Schools Transfer Evening for Years 4, 5 and 6 parents (though others are also welcome) on the evening of Thursday 15th November. A number of senior school representatives will attend. We aim to showcase the diversity and quality of senior schools, day and boarding, with whom we maintain close contact. Further details to follow next term.

Prep Schools Tennis Tournament

A team of four senior boys performed admirably at the recent IAPS tennis tournament. Henry Gadd and George Janes won their doubles group, winning all four of their matches before falling in the last 16 of the main doubles tournament. Aaron Goss and Jamie Grant reached the quarter final of the plate competition before narrowly losing. Henry Gadd came second in his group to reach the knockout stages of the U14 boys singles before manfully losing to one of the highest ranked players in the tournament. All four boys played some excellent tennis and we hope to send another strong team of boys and girls next year at both U14 and U12 level to this prestigious tournament. Please note the dates: 15th, 16th and 17th July 2013.

Prep Schools Golf Tournament

At the end of the holiday three of our best golfers will be competing for the Stowe Putter in the beautiful grounds of Stowe School. Good luck to Zac Jenkins, Alex Wessely and Xavier Schwarz.

Sports Team Information

After teams have been selected, team sheets are posted on the fixtures noticeboard under the archway. The sheets for Wednesday and Thursday fixtures will be put up by the end of the school day on Mondays/Tuesdays and Saturday fixture information will be available from the end of the school day on Thursdays. Team sheets also include departure times for weekend matches. Parents are welcome to attend all matches to support their children. Team sheets can be found on the school website the day before the fixture. The School Calendar informs you of forthcoming fixtures for the term ahead. Please be aware that Year 3 matches are listed as U8, Year 4 as U9, Year 5 as U10, Year 6 as U11 or Colts and Years 7 and 8 as U12 and U13 or 1st - 5th teams.

Sports Travel Policy - Away Matches

Please note that, whenever possible, we like players to travel with their teams to and from away fixtures. We are aware that there may be occasions when a parent would wish to take their child directly home after the match. We would ask that, for weekday matches, prior permission is obtained from the School Office. If there are timetable commitments at school following the match the players must return with their teams.

Mouthguards

Please find enclosed with this newsletter information from OPRO, the dental organisation that specialises in mouthguards, who will be visiting the school on Tuesday 18th September and Tuesday 25th September for mouthguard fittings. Please be aware that every child from Year 3 upwards must have a mouthguard in school, whether it be one purchased from a sports shop, one supplied and fitted by their own dentist or one supplied and fitted by OPRO.

Music Lessons

Parents keen for their children to start individual music lessons should email or write to the Director of Music, Mrs Salmond Smith (l.salmondsmith@hallgrove.co.uk). She will be delighted to advise and arrange lessons for any pupils wishing to take advantage of this opportunity. If parents have queries on this, or wish to explore the possibility of their children learning other instruments, please contact Mrs Salmond Smith.

School Service Books

At the beginning of term, all new children in Years 3 – 8 will be issued with a Service Book, which has its own individual bookplate – it is something to treasure and keep beyond Hall Grove. Please name it neatly.

Watches

Please note that only children in Years 7 and 8 may wear a watch, together with those in Years 3 – 6 who have an individual music lesson with a peripatetic teacher on that day. As children change for games daily, this measure is to prevent the upset of loss. Pre-Prep children are not expected to have watches in school.

Girls' Earrings and Other Jewellery

Girls with pierced ears are only allowed to wear small gold/silver studs to school and they must be able to take them out for Games and PE. No bracelets or wrist bands should be worn unless they are worn for religious reasons and permission has been sought from the Headmaster. Thank you for your co-operation.

General Notes

Absence

It is important to notify the School Office if your child is absent from school. In the event of illness, parents should notify the school by telephone on 01276 473059 or by email to office@hallgrove.co.uk on the morning of the absence. This is a legal requirement. Prior written notice of absence due to medical appointments should be sent to the School Office.

Late Arrival

If your child arrives at school after registration, please ensure that he/she goes straight to the School Office to be registered as present.

Sickness

If your child is unwell during the night, i.e. sickness, diarrhoea etc, please allow 24 hours to elapse before you send him/her back to school.

Medication

Medication from home (e.g. antibiotics) may only be administered if requested by the parent/guardian in writing with instructions. All medication should be clearly labelled. If full written instructions are not provided then a Medication Form should be completed which is available from the School Office or the medical room. Please note that decanted medicines will not be accepted. Asthma inhalers should be brought to school at the start of term and given to the School Office together with written instructions for use. Please ensure that inhalers are named and are in date.

Headlice

Please check your child's hair for headlice before he/she returns to school in September and continue to check on a regular basis. If it becomes necessary to treat your child during term-time, please notify the school. Advice regarding treatment can be obtained from your local pharmacist.

Lost Property

Please ensure all your child's possessions are named clearly and securely, including all footwear. There is a significant amount of lost property which cannot be returned as it is unnamed. If items of uniform are purchased from the School Exchange, please remember to remove the old name tapes and replace with your child's own name.

School Security - Visitors

Please note that all visitors to the school, outside normal drop-off and collection times, are required to report to the School Office – this includes all parents. Unless otherwise directed, all access to the buildings during the school day will be via the front door, where you must report to the School Office to be signed in. If for any reason your child needs to be collected before the end of the school day, please come to the School Office where he/she will be brought to meet you and will be signed out.

The school grounds are not available for parents and families to use for exercise or recreation other than by arrangement. Dogs are not permitted on the fields.

The Drive

To ensure a safe and efficient drop-off and pick-up, we require everyone to be considerate and remember that one person not complying with our procedure causes a large number of people considerable frustration. Please remember the following and inform anyone dropping off or collecting your child:-

- In the mornings, it is important to observe the 'turn and drop' system, and in the afternoon please 'turn and collect'.
- Use the crossings with your children – do not dash across the drive.
- Older children may be encouraged to walk down the drive in the mornings, using the pathway and crossings.
- Assist the flow of traffic by arriving at school no earlier than the designated pick-up times.
- Cars should never park on the yellow lines or roundabout.

We are aware that the afternoon and evening collections can cause a great deal of frustration. Parents are asked, please, to assist by arriving no earlier than the published collection time and to be patient. We are not alone as a school in having pressure points in traffic and our arrangements are very much better than many others!

Facebook

Facebook is only available to children aged 13 and over. Parents should be aware of what their children are writing and receiving on Facebook (or similar sites) as we have had some unpleasant comments written about various pupils in the past. We would ask parents to be extremely vigilant at home and to monitor usage carefully. Best of all, please do not allow your children to use these sites.

Friends of Hall Grove

Friends of Hall Grove is an initiative that came about following a Parent Forum held in Autumn 2011. It was felt that instead of having a set committee shouldering the responsibility for all events and fundraising at Hall Grove, all parents would be invited to take part and meet once a term to discuss possible future events and have the opportunity to lead or be a part of smaller groups which would be formed according to need. The very successful Curry Night, which was held in February, was led by Paula Leech with guidance and help from Tanya Thompson and support from Tim Lewis, Simon Honey, Katie Hitchcox and Philippa Gent. The 'Casino Royale' Ball was organised by a committee made up of Deborah Rhodes, Vana Parker, Rachel Bray, Jo Connor, Jackie Vandenberg, Tanya Thompson and Claire Wolfe. All meetings are advertised in the weekly newsletter and are held at school (in the Admiral Room) for convenience. Do please try to get involved in future functions; we look forward to welcoming you at the next open meeting.

Hamptons International Groove at the Grove 2012

And the sun came out and we all basked in its warmth – ladies wore floaty sundresses whilst sipping glasses of chilled champagne, sun-kissed children with bare feet ran around playing and dads in t-shirts and shorts celebrated the beginning of Summer... Well not quite! But we are Hall Grove and no-one was going to let a few drops of water spoil our fun. Raincoats and wellies were the order of the day and the tented village was as impressive as ever. There were times when the rain was torrential, but no-one seemed to notice. The children still hung out at the back and on the lower field and the parents socialised and danced the night away.

The evening started with up and coming ex-Hall Grove pupils performing. Harry Burlinson opened proceedings displaying awesome guitar talent followed by Katy Hurt accompanied by Marcus Norrey singing with voices of angels to an appreciative audience.

They were hard acts to follow and Navi did his best with costume changes, dance routines and all our favourite Michael Jackson hits. With the rain teeming down, the hard core Jackson fans held their ground whilst others ran for cover – sharing a Peroni with Leo in the beer tent or devouring Domino's pizza. However, when Fake That and The Blues Brothers Experience took to the stage, the rain could do nothing to dampen the fun. Piers Nicholls was plucked from the crowd to join them, James Winkworth won best dad dance for the second year running and, as darkness fell, all the children joined their parents to shake their tail feathers to end an excellent event.

Kim Robson from 96.4 Eagle Radio braved the elements to host the evening for us and our wonderful sponsors were more evident than ever. Huge contingents came to join in the fun: The MSG Group with non-stop demand for their Domino's pizzas; the Wooldridge clan were in fine form (shame there wasn't a mum's dance competition for Thandi); the McKechnie's S4 Mortgages team showed they can party as well as juggle complicated financial transactions and the ever-loyal supporters from Hamptons International, whose support we value hugely, were there too.

Thank you to everyone who came and braved the elements, thank you to Leo Poppa as always for his help, thank you to the committee for organising the event, thank you to the volunteers in the pizza and merchandising tents and those who helped set up or clear up and a final thank you to Alastair Graham for letting the event go ahead – despite the dreadful conditions and the inevitable damage to his beautiful cricket pitch!

Monies are still to be confirmed and despite the weather we hope to have raised £4000 for the Surrey and Berkshire Air Ambulance Trusts. What a great evening!

Meirion Shaw

Grooving at the Grove!

Congratulations to the organisers for the outdoor concert. Hundreds braved the weather (and what weather!), but the evening was a resounding success and it was much enjoyed. The next morning there was a brilliant clean up with a great team of helpers, and in no time the playing fields were looking as if nothing had happened.

This is the last time for a year or two that this concert will take place, but we can expect some plans for a different style of end of year celebration in July 2013. In the meantime our thanks to the team who have worked so hard in putting this event together for the last five years: Meirion Shaw, Caroline Grant, Sarah McKechnie, Jill Goss and Charlotte Jackson; and to the others who have helped more recently: Sarah Rofe, Fiona Arnold and Kaajal Kotecha.

Pony Grove

What a fantastic finish to the year at Queen Anne's Inter-School Showjumping Competition at Wellington Riding School. We took two teams with three riders in each. There were nine other schools represented in our class along with the most local competition coming from Coworth-Flexlands and Lambrook. Both our teams went clear and ended up in joint first position. A fantastic result! Very well done to Fraser Graham, Jamie Grant, Oliver Hadden-Wight, Megan Vandenberg, Caitlin Pawinski and Harry Hadden-Wight. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Fraser and Jamie well at their new schools, and I hope they will continue to be a valued part of an equestrian team. We will now be looking for some younger members of Pony Grove to take part in the Inter-School competitions next year.

Caroline Hadden-Wight

Friends of Hall Grove - Golf and Tennis Lessons

Information and a booking form was sent out via email at the beginning of the week regarding Saturday morning golf and tennis lessons available next term.

Summer Holiday Camp 2012

The Summer Camp at Hall Grove offered by Sports Xtra runs until Friday 10th August. Please contact Sports Xtra at www.sports-xtra.com or on 07894 708444 to make bookings.

Save The Date - Friday 5th October

Wine and Cheese Tasting Evening at Hall Grove on Friday 5th October, from 2000 to 2300. A great opportunity to meet other parents, learn about wine and enjoy local cheeses. More information to follow in the new term.

2013 Ski Trip: 2nd - 8th January

The response has been excellent for January's ski trip to Claviere, Italy. There is still some space available. Please contact Mr Tullett (i.tullett@hallgrove.co.uk) if you require further details or would like to reserve a place. The cost of the trip is £930, inclusive of all skiing costs.

Hall Grove Success at the LABC Building Awards

On Friday 6th July, Parnell Contractors, the construction company responsible for building our new Library extension, attended the LABC awards ceremony along with Robert Blower of Stedman Blower, the school's architect. There were 32,000 projects considered and from this 92 finalists were selected within 12 categories. The Hall Grove Library Project was in the 'Best Education Development' category from which there were just six finalists. Whilst we did not win in the category (the award went to a large 'state of the art' glass building at Chichester University), the fact that our building was short listed is a notable achievement for the builder, the architect and the school. Stedman Blower were highly commended in the 'Best Partnership With A Local Authority' category and presented with a framed certificate.

Lost and Found

A sum of money was handed in on Sports Day - found on the ground near the Year 3 gardens. If you think it is yours please contact the School Office.

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