

Hall Grove School Newsletter



www.hallgrove.co.uk

11th January 2013

Edition No: 426

A very Happy New Year to all our readers. The children have returned in good spirit and we have made an excellent start to the new term.

We are grateful for the many compliments received about the recent edition of our own Hall Grove Review. Do please share this magazine with your children, and if you wish to pick up another copy for family or friends there are some available in the School Office.

Ski Trip

The Ski Trip to Claviere, Italy was a great success. The children must be complimented on their behaviour and the effort they made to improve their skiing. The instructors were delighted with the progress of all three groups. Not only were the children enjoying five hours of skiing a day on beautiful quiet runs in the Italian and French Alps, but during the evenings they had a quiz night, walked to France at night over a mountain pass, ice-skated and went on a skidoo ride up the mountain for pancakes and hot chocolate on the last night. There will be a Ski Trip Assembly on Thursday 17th January which parents are welcome to attend. We will be returning to Claviere for next year's Ski Trip and details will be published shortly.

After School Clubs - Spring Term 2013

After School Clubs start from Monday 14th January and run until Friday 23rd March. There are still some places available in Bushcraft for senior pupils on Thursday evenings. If your child would like to participate, please contact the School Office.

Weather Alerts on the School Website

As we could be approaching some difficult weather, we would like to remind parents that the website will always have the most up to date information regarding any changes to the school day and we would encourage them to visit the website first rather than calling the School Office.

Sports Information on the School Website

We have just launched our new Sports Section on the Hall Grove website. It can also be accessed at www.hallgrovesport.co.uk. and you might want to save the link in your favourites and send it to your family and friends. We hope you find this update beneficial and that it helps to keep you well informed.

To see at a glance what's on, where and when, you have a number of choices:

- You can either navigate to our Sports Calendar via the main menu then select the day you are interested in and click the Details link. This shows the venue and, if we are playing away, will have a link to the location map of our opponent's school. You can also see the team selected for the fixture wherever you see this blue image. Normally we announce team selections at least the day before and in some cases 48 hours before.
- From the Sports Calendar you can also click directly through to a team's fixtures and results listing by clicking the team's name, e.g. click on the '1st XV Rugby'.
- If you are following a particular team you can select Sports and Teams - Fixtures and Results from the main menu. Then select a particular sport and your team to see past results and upcoming fixtures.
- From any team's Fixtures and Results listings you can download the entire fixture list to your personal calendar on your PC or mobile device (such as an iPhone or iPad). Any changes we make to our fixtures will be synchronised with your personal calendar whenever you connect your PC or mobile device to the Internet.
- If you need to find an away venue for one of our opponents you can either choose the map link directly from a fixture, available via the Details button as described above, or you can select Opponent Maps and Links from the main menu.

Music Department

New Staff

This term we welcome two new instrumental staff: Mike Briggs who joins us as a piano teacher and Catherine Jennaway who will be teaching recorder and singing. This brings the total number of weekly instrumental lessons at Hall Grove to over 250, showing that we are beginning 2013 in fine musical health.

Soloists' Concert

An example of wonderful musicianship will be displayed on Tuesday 15th January at 1900 in our first Soloists' Concert. This concert is specifically aimed at those currently of Grade VI standard or above, or those undergoing preparation for Music Scholarship examinations. Unlike our Informal Concerts held at lunchtime, this particular concert will be a more formal affair in order to increase their breadth of performing experience.

Informal Concerts

We have two Informal Concerts coming up in the near future. If you wish your child to participate, do please let either Mrs Salmond Smith (l.salmondsmith@hallgrove.co.uk) or their instrumental teacher know. The Pre-Prep concert is Wednesday 23rd January and the Upper School concert is Thursday 24th January, both at 1245 in New Hall.

Choirs

We have three choirs at Hall Grove. Choristers rehearse four mornings per week and children are invited to join by audition only; however, currently there are no spaces available. If your child is interested in joining should places become free, they should see Mrs Salmond Smith for an informal vocal assessment so that she can let them know when a place becomes available. The repertoire tends to be formal, although the occasional lighter number does sneak in! Hall Grove Choir rehearses on Wednesday mornings at 0800 and is open to anyone from Year 3 upwards. The repertoire is very wide-ranging, but always lots of fun. Girls' Choir takes place on Thursdays at 1245 and, as the name suggests, is available to girls from Year 3 upwards. Numbers for both Hall Grove Choir and Girls' Choir are very healthy this year, but there are a few spaces available. As for all our ensembles, children must commit to attending regular rehearsals.

Brass Academy

To take advantage of the early booking discount for The Brass Academy's Easter Course, a booking needs to be made before Tuesday 15th January. The Easter Course runs from 8th - 12th April at Purcell School near Bushey, Hertfordshire, and provides specialist brass tuition for brass players aged 8 - 18 of Grade 1 to Grade 8 ability. The course can be attended on a day or residential basis. They are also running 'The Workshop' for brass players who have passed their Grade 8; and 'The Percussion Studio', a parallel course for percussionists. For further details, please contact Mrs Salmond Smith.

Sports News

Netball

What a start for the Year 5 girls with two fixtures in the first two days back. Outstanding performances by both teams in the match against Coworth-Flexlands and an impressive performance at the invitational Luckley-Oakfield Tournament where we took 3rd place, despite a strong desire to reach the final. There were exceptional performances on both days from Ella King, Antonia Gathy and Tabitha Norrey.

This week's netball results are as follows:

U10 A v Coworth-Flexlands	won	21 - 0
U10 B v Coworth-Flexlands	won	2 - 1
U10 A - Luckley-Oakfield Tournament	finished in	3 rd place

Football

Congratulations to the Colts A on qualifying for the National Finals at St. George's Park, the home of the FA, on Friday 26th April where they will be competing against sixteen other schools. This is a great reward for a wonderful football season.

Rugby

A great start to the second half of the rugby season with four convincing victories and two narrow losses.

This week's rugby results are as follows:

1 st XV v Bishopsgate	won	76 - 0
2 nd XV v Bishopsgate	won	38 - 12
Colts A v Bishopsgate	won	56 - 0
Colts B v Bishopsgate	won	52 - 10
U10 A v Bishopsgate	lost	10 - 5
U10 B v Bishopsgate	lost	25 - 30

Weekend Fixtures - Saturday 12th January

Rugby v Woodcote: 1st XV and Colts A to meet at Woodcote at 1320 for away matches starting at 1400. 2nd XV to meet at Hall Grove at 1330 for a home match starting at 1400.

Sports Equipment - Spring Term

Please note that children in Years 3 to 8 must have mouthguards and shinpads at school. Hockey sticks will be provided but, if children have their own, they can bring them into school as long as they are clearly named.

Hockey Training

Hockey training sessions begin next Saturday. These sessions are optional, but it is a great chance for children of any ability to improve their skills before the start of the season. Please note that although the calendar states Boys' Hockey Training, it is also open to girls. Advance notice of the training sessions is given below:

Saturday 19 th January	0900 - 1000 Years 4, 5 and 6
	1230 - 1330 Years 7 and 8
Saturday 26 th January	0830 - 0930 Years 5 and 6
	1130 - 1230 Years 7 and 8
Saturday 2 nd February	0900 - 1000 Years 5 and 6
	1000 - 1100 Years 3 and 4
	1115 - 1215 Years 7 and 8

National Talent League Netball Trip - Saturday 12th January

The Year 4 girls going to watch the Team South play a National Talent League match on Saturday are to meet Mrs Maxfield at Hall Grove for a prompt departure at 1200. They will return for collection at 1600.

Colts Boys' Sherborne Hockey Tour - 15th to 17th February

An email was sent to parents last term about the forthcoming Hockey Tour. It is a fantastic opportunity for the boys to receive top quality coaching and play some matches. If your child is interested, please complete the slip and return it to the school, together with payment. For further information, contact Mr Marland (e.marland@hallgrove.co.uk).

'Return to the Forbidden Planet'

We are excited to announce that this year's big musical production will be 'Return to the Forbidden Planet', an intergalactic tale of star-ships, romance, and a secret formula with monstrous consequences! The story is a modern version of Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' and inspired by the 1950s science fiction movie Forbidden Planet. The text is 'Shakespearian' and we feel it will provide a good challenge for the children. There are upbeat musical numbers including classics such as 'Good Vibrations' and 'Great Balls of Fire' which certainly promise to provide a lot of enjoyment.

Our preliminary round of auditions will take place next week and there will be a panel of adjudicators. We invite enthusiastic pupils from Year 7 to audition next Thursday afternoon and Year 6 next Friday morning. It will be necessary to do some recalls, but we will endeavour to issue a cast list to pupils by Monday 28th January. As you will appreciate, there is (as with any play or musical) only a small number of lead characters to be cast and it is inevitable that some children will be disappointed. That said, when we start to work through the many song and dance numbers in the show, we hope to involve more children as the opportunities arise. There will also be the chance to get involved in sound, lighting and back stage as the final performance evenings approach. Whilst the production will be a huge amount of fun and very rewarding, it is important that the children auditioning are aware of the high levels of commitment that will be required. There will certainly be rehearsals at break and lunch times, after school and on occasional Saturdays - it will be a demanding Spring Term for those involved. The script and language will also be challenging to learn and this is something we will have to take into consideration with casting the parts. We would like to thank parents in advance for their support and to warn them to be prepared for outbursts of 'Shake, Rattle and Roll' whilst your children shower!

Rehearsals will build through the Spring Term and the show will be performed early in the Summer Term. Please make a note of the following Saturday rehearsals (as per the Spring Term Calendar) when children in leading roles will be required. Saturday rehearsals for the leading cast are planned for 9th February (Drama), 2nd March (Drama) and 9th March (Music).

The Production Team

Saturday Morning Golf and Tennis

Lessons start again this Saturday. If you haven't signed your child/children up yet and are still interested, please contact Mrs Bray (rachel.bray@btinternet.com).

Friends of Hall Grove Comedy Night - Friday 8th March 2013

Save the date! For one night only New Hall becomes a Comedy Store. The evening starts with fish and chips (it's a Friday) or a vegetarian option and your compère will be introducing four established comedians from the comedy circuit. Bring your own drinks and banish those Winter blues with your friends. For only £20 per person - you'd be mad to miss it! More information and tickets on sale soon.

Hall Grove Hockey Camp

Please find attached information regarding the Hall Grove Hockey Camp that is taking place during the February half term for children from Years 4 to 8 (Years 4, 5 and 6: Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th February, Years 7 and 8: Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st February). If your child would like to participate, please return the completed form to Mrs Lomas as soon as possible.

Newsletter Attachments

The following document is attached to this week's newsletter:

- Hockey Camp Information

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Adult Bootcamp

A new year, a new you! Come and join Bootcamp every Tuesday and Thursday on the Astro at 0830. Classes are suitable for everyone - we have fun, laugh and get fit at the same time! Classes are £5 a session. Please call Frin Brum (mother to James in Year 7 and Olivia in Year 4) on 07544 465974 for more details. The first class starts on Tuesday 15th January.

