

Hall Grove School Newsletter



www.hallgrove.co.uk

18th October 2013

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Today witnessed another splendid occasion in the best tradition of Hall Grove; energetic, good humoured, eccentric and in the broadest sense educational! Our Country Fair is a celebration of British farming and country life and it is always a highlight for the children and for our many visitors. Our thanks to everyone for joining in and for working hard to make it so successful.

We wish all our families a happy Autumn holiday.

Grade Sheets and CATs Results

Grade Sheets (Years 3 - 8) and CATs results (Years 4 - 7) were sent home with the children yesterday. As a guide, a grade of C3 for a subject should be taken as a child who is doing well generally, although there is room for improvement from time to time. Study tutors and form teachers have explained the descriptors to children and it may be a valuable exercise to go through these with your child. If you have any queries, please get in touch with your child's form teacher, study tutor or Mr Waltho, Director of Studies (j.waltho@hallgrove.co.uk). A letter accompanying the CATs results gives information on the principles and purposes of these.

Potential Scholarship Candidates

Year 8 parents in particular are asked to be aware of the looming scholarship deadlines at various senior schools. Anyone considering entering their child for an award is asked to discuss this with Mr Lewis (01276 470007) if they have not already done so. The general practice is for parents to complete the relevant forms and leave them with Mr Lewis who will collate the various references and information before passing them on to senior schools.

Open Morning

The Autumn Open Morning was very well attended with lots of families visiting the school eager to register their children on our waiting list. The feedback from the visitors was entirely positive and Hall Grove gave a very good account of itself. Our thanks to all the boys and girls of Years 7 and 8 who acted as guides.

The School Council

The Hall Grove School Council 'tree' now has two branches! The Wednesday Council meets every Wednesday with Mrs Vernon-Smith from 1630 - 1730 to discuss a number of topical issues, prepare for assemblies and co-ordinate ideas. Although not all representatives can make it every week, we have enough for decision-making and children are always enthusiastic to take on a new rôle and help out where needed. The new Food Council will meet at regular times during the term, in school hours, and, as the name suggests, will be solely concerned with issues around lunchtime and school food. As I'm sure you can imagine, the children always have plenty to say about their food likes and dislikes!

Charities News

The council reps have put several charity ideas to the vote and each class has sent in their choices. These will be supported by money raised during events in the Autumn term and the run-up to Christmas. The charities that received the most votes this year were:

- The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity (National)
- Surrey Wildlife Trust (Local)
- Save the Children (Worldwide)

Don't be disappointed if your favourite is not on the list; we may well be able to support it at another charity event later in the year.

A Good Council Member?

The reps have thought long and hard about what makes a good council member and here is a list of some of their own ideas. A good school council rep should:

- Be sensible, kind and polite; helpful and focused
- Have their 'brain switched on', be a good listener and a good thinker

- Have a good memory
- Be mature enough to consider what things cost money
- Be punctual
- Have a clear voice, be brave and have an open mind to ideas

I think you will agree, they have come up with some super ideas!

Jenny Vernon-Smith

3CH Assembly - Tuesday 5th November

The children of 3CH would like to invite their parents to their Class Assembly on Tuesday 5th November. If you are able to attend, please be in New Hall by 0830. We look forward to seeing you there.

Literacy Workshop - Thursday 7th November

Lower School teachers would like to invite you to a Literacy Workshop on Thursday 7th November at 1815 in New Hall. They will take you on a journey from Reception to Year 5 to explore the different forms of writing your child tackles at school; what a Big Write session involves as well as how to support your child's reading comprehension. There will be an opportunity to rotate around three interactive sessions with time to ask questions and gather tips for how you can help. We look forward to seeing you there.

Remembrance Service - Friday 8th November

This special Assembly is always much enjoyed by parents. It begins at 1030 in New Hall.

Music Department

Gloucester Cathedral Evensong

On Monday 7th October, our Choristers spent the day at Gloucester Cathedral learning about its history and then singing Evensong. What a super day out we had, and what delightful comments we received from the general public about both our behaviour and our music. Well done everyone!

Wellington Orchestral Day

Yesterday saw eleven of our instrumentalists go to Wellington College to participate in a day's music making. Deftly conducted by Hilary Davan Wetton, our musicians performed a varied programme including Match of the Day and a selection from Vivaldi's Four Seasons.

Upper School Informal Concert

The first of these will take place on Thursday 7th November. If your child has lessons outside school and wishes to participate, please email Mrs Salmond Smith (l.salmondsmith@hallgrove.co.uk).

Netball Tour to Jersey

Good luck to the girls off to Jersey tomorrow for the Netball Tour during the half term break. They are to meet at Southampton Airport at 1100. Dress code for the journey is Hall Grove games kit please.

Sherborne Rugby Tour

Good luck to the boys taking part in the Sherborne Rugby Tour during half term.

Sports News

Girls' Hockey

This week's girls' hockey results are as follows:+

2 nd VII v Holme Grange	drew	2 - 2
U11 A v Hoe Bridge	lost	7 - 0
U11 B v Hoe Bridge	won	4 - 1
U10 A v Hoe Bridge	won	4 - 2
U10 B v Hoe Bridge	won	2 - 1
U9 A v Hoe Bridge	lost	3 - 2
U9 B v Hoe Bridge	lost	3 - 2

Girls' Hockey Calendar Reminders

IAPS Hockey - the IAPS Girls' Hockey fixtures on Tuesday 5th November (U11) and Thursday 7th November (U13) are in Hatfield and those selected to play will need to meet at Hall Grove at 0700.

Hall Grove Hockey Tournament on Saturday 9th November - those selected to play should arrive at 0845 for a prompt start at 0900. U11 and U10 A and B teams will be participating.

Netball Calendar Addition and Amendment - Wednesday 20th November

1st VII will be competing in an U13 Netball Tournament at Highfield School starting at 1400 and, as a result, the 2nd VII will now be playing against Bishopsgate at 1500.

Football

House Matches took place for the Year 3 boys on Saturday 12th October and the results were 1st place Falcons, 2nd place Eagles, 3rd place Hawks, 4th place Kestrels.

This week's football results are as follows:

1 st XI v Parkside (Surrey Cup)	lost	3 - 2
1 st XI v Ludgrove	lost	3 - 2
2 nd XI v Ludgrove	lost	2 - 0
3 rd IX v Ludgrove	lost	4 - 0
4 th IX v Ludgrove	lost	5 - 3
5 th IX v Ludgrove	lost	10 - 0
Colts A v Downsend (Surrey Cup)	lost	3 - 0
Colts A v Ludgrove	won	4 - 3
Colts B v Ludgrove	lost	3 - 1
Colts C v Ludgrove	lost	8 - 1
Colts D v Ludgrove	lost	7 - 4
U10 A v Ludgrove	drew	2 - 2
U10 B v Ludgrove	won	3 - 2
U10 C v Ludgrove	lost	1 - 0
U10 D v Ludgrove	lost	3 - 0
U9 A v Parkside	won	4 - 1
U9 A v Cranleigh	won	5 - 0
U9 B v Parkside	won	8 - 0
U9 B v Cranleigh	won	5 - 0
U9 C v Parkside	won	2 - 1
U9 C v Cranleigh	won	4 - 0
U9 D v Parkside	won	6 - 0
U9 D v Cranleigh	won	5 - 0
U8 A v Rokeby	lost	3 - 2
U8 B v Rokeby	won	3 - 2
U8 C v Rokeby	lost	2 - 1
U8 D v Rokeby	lost	4 - 0
U8 E v Rokeby	lost	2 - 1
U8 F v Rokeby	lost	9 - 1

Rugby House Matches - Saturday 9th November

Years 5, 6, 7, and 8 Rugby House Matches will take place on Saturday 9th November - please arrive promptly.

0900 Years 5 and 6

1030 Years 7 and 8

Boys' Calendar Amendment

Wednesday 20th November - please be advised that the Rugby Tournament at Highfield will now start at 1400 and should finish by 1600.

London Irish Rugby Camp - 28th to 30th October at Hall Grove

There are still places available, please see attached flyer for booking information.

Boys' Games from Half Term

After half term, Years 4-8 are switching to Rugby. They will all be required to have mouthguards from the first day to ensure they can train properly. We would like to remind you that House Matches will be taking place on the first weekend back for Years 5-8 and they will be required to wear their house t-shirt. Years 2 and 3 will continue playing football for the first few weeks.

FOHG Greensome Competition

To set the scene... everyone awoke last Saturday morning with their rain jackets prepared, wellies at the back door and a spare umbrella in case the first one exploded due to the fierce weather conditions - of course, it must be the annual Hall Grove Greensomes Competition and the weather is always a little temperamental. Except, to make a pleasant change, the twenty six teams were greeted with a calm, sunny, warm Autumn day! With this being the case, the motivation levels were at a maximum, especially with cakes and cookies awaiting at the finish line. The course set-up was tough as always, with the additional challenge of dodging all the football posts, but there were a select few who were able to weave their way around all the obstacles to post some winning scores:

Reception and Year 1	1 st Place - Indiana Leech Runner up - Abby Parker
Years 2 and 3	1 st Place - James Brash Runner up - Oliver Sleight
Years 4 and 5	1 st Place - Shrey Rawal Runner up - Freddie Brennan

Years 6, 7 and 8

1st Place - Margaux Gathy
Runner up - Charlie Brennan

Congratulations to all the winners and runners up - a wonderful turnout once again and thank you for your continued support in this event. Special mention and a huge thank you to Rachel Bray and Leslie Gathy for the wonderful tasty treats that were laid out in the pavilion.

James and Harry, The Berkshire Golf Pros

Operation Christmas Child

As many of you will be aware, we have in previous years taken part in the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal. This is a project of Samaritan's Purse and each shoe box provides a Christmas gift for a girl or boy who is a victim of war, poverty, famine, disease or natural disaster. Leaflets have been sent home this week containing details of how to fill the shoe boxes. Please include a donation (recommended donation is £2.50 per box) which covers shipping, transportation, distribution and promotion. If you would like to donate more, any extra will go towards supporting disadvantaged families. Cheques should be made out to Samaritan's Purse. Alternatively, you can pay online. Giving online makes the processing easier and cheaper, leaving more money to go directly to helping children. Please visit www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk to make your donation. If you would like to take part in this worthwhile project, please bring your filled shoe boxes to the School Office by Friday 8th November.

Gift Fair in aid of Sebastian's Action Trust - Saturday 9th November

Taking place from 1000 to 1300 (*please note the change of time from that printed in the School Calendar*).

Ready to shop? Why not watch some House Rugby and then come along to the annual Sebastian's Action Trust Gift Fair and start/continue/finish your Christmas shopping! There will be some terrific stalls - some you will recognise from previous years and some new ones, catering for the whole family. Every year group is hosting a fun game/tombola. New this year, try your hand at Tin Can Alley or the Nerf Gun Challenge. Year 3 are running a quality secondhand toy tombola and Year 5 a bottle tombola - all donations would very much be appreciated. Please leave them for the attention of Andy Wyatt (toys, books, jigsaws, games) and Sharon Wall (bottles) at the School Office. Year 7 will be selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts, if you wish to pre-order please email Jill Chappell (jillchappell@btinternet.com) - the cost is £5 for 6 or £8 for 12. Delicious refreshments will be on sale throughout the day, opening early for those needing sustenance during House Matches so come and find us, bring your friends and family and join the fun. To celebrate our 10th year, Pre-Prep will be participating in a sponsored fancy dress fun run around the school grounds with treats en route. Flyers were sent out this week in book bags (also attached with this newsletter). A separate note will be sent to Pre-Prep with further details. There will be secondhand uniform stall, please see flyer for full details.

For those who do not know Sebastian's Action Trust, below is a précis on Sebastian and why this charity is an important part of Hall Grove. Sebastian Gates was a pupil when in June 2001, at the age of 7, he was diagnosed with a Wilm's tumour - a rare form of childhood cancer. Over the next two-and-a-half years he endured many operations, a stem cell transplant, scores of chemotherapy courses and radiotherapy. Sadly, Sebastian died on Christmas Eve 2003 at the age of 9. Sebastian's Action Trust is an incorporated charity, based in Bagshot, developed from his vision and launched just twelve days before he died. Sebastian's aim was to provide a place where life-limited children and their families can holiday together away from the rigours of hospital appointments, gruelling treatment schedules and prying eyes. Importantly for very sick children the home needed to be clean, safe and adaptable to meet their often complex physical and emotional needs. Sebastian's vision was simple, yet vital for those facing the loss of a beloved child; he wanted to create a private place where memories could be made which would last a lifetime, even if that life was to be cruelly cut short. In 2011 Sebastian's vision was finally realised and The Bluebells, the UK's first purpose built respite holiday home was completed. Since opening in July 2011, The Bluebells has given over 200 families the opportunity to spend precious time together, safe in the knowledge that the home is close to the hospital and that trained staff are on hand to provide help and support should this be needed (www.sebastiansactiontrust.org).

Secondhand Uniform and Clothing Sale - Saturday 9th November

During the Gift Fair on Saturday 9th November there will be a secondhand uniform sale, so first dig out your unwanted uniform for resale and then come along and buy larger sizes to replace it or spares for when those shorts go missing - again! We are also happy to sell good quality clothes and other sporting equipment too like cricket and ski gear. Attached are lots of useful bits of information like how the sale works and what to do with your uniform, but if you have any questions please call me on 07769 655591 or email meirionshaw@me.com. And if you would be prepared to come along and help me, please call or email me - I could do with some help!

Mierion Shaw

Independent Schools' Fair 2013 - Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th November

Hall Grove is once again exhibiting at the show in Battersea Park. All families are welcome to attend. It is a good way to meet a number of the senior school Heads and learn about their schools' entry requirements.

Newsletter Attachments

The following documents are attached to this week's newsletter:

- London Irish Rugby Camp information
- Secondhand Uniform and Clothing Sale information
- Fun Run flyers
