

Hall Grove School Newsletter



www.hallgrove.co.uk

10th January 2014

Edition No: 460

A happy New Year to all our readers, and welcome back to the Spring Term! We trust everyone enjoyed a good break and survived the flooding and gales. We hope now for a quieter spell of weather, though there are indications that we may yet be in for a wintry blast. Please see the note below about weather warnings. As a general principle we do aim to keep the school open under all but exceptional circumstances.

Years 5 and 6 parents may well be giving careful thought to future school choices, there are two important evenings arranged to assist them. The first is on Monday (13th January) when we present the options for Years 7 and 8 at Hall Grove and discuss the preparation given for senior school entry at Year 9. We hope for a good attendance. Drinks will be served in New Hall from 1845 and the meeting will begin shortly after 1900 and finish at about 2000 (please do not bring children). The second evening is our popular Senior Schools' Fair on Tuesday 4th February which will be attended by a number of senior schools: boys, girls, co-educational, day and boarding. More details will follow.

We wish all pupils and their families a happy and successful term.

Ski Trip

Thirty-three boys and girls enjoyed a fabulous ski trip to Claviere, Italy during the Christmas break. The trip was blessed with warm sunny conditions and lots of snow making ski conditions perfect. Everyone had five hours of instructor-led skiing each day, making huge improvements as the week progressed. The six beginners did very well and are now all competent skiers able to take on red runs. Piers Nicholls and Felix Stewart (both Year 8) achieved a gold one star award in their assessment, an award the Director of Skiing from the Ski School has never given to an English school. As part of their evening activities, the children enjoyed a movie night, a night time walk to France along a mountain pass, ice skating, team building games and a skiddo run up the mountain for hot chocolate and pancakes. There was a wonderful family feel on the trip and all the boys and girls from across all the year groups mixed happily. A special thank you to all the Year 8 pupils who showed great maturity in looking after the younger boys and girls whether on the slopes, back at the hotel playing games or out on evening activities.

We would like to invite parents and anyone else who is interested in next year's trip to the Ski Trip Assembly on Thursday 16th January to get a flavour of what it is like. The school will be going to the same resort in Italy next year. There are already boys and girls booked for the 2015 trip, the exact dates will be confirmed early next week and the price of the trip will be in the region of £980. Please email Mr Tullett (i.tullett@hallgrove.co.uk) if you would like to reserve a place for your son or daughter.

After School Clubs - Spring Term 2014

After School Clubs start on Monday and run until Friday 21st March.

Twilight

Our Twilight sessions continue to be available, running from 1620-1800. These are always in either the Archway Room or the Science Lab, and are for children in Years 4 - 8. The purpose of these sessions is to provide an opportunity for supervised work or quiet reading, and not merely after-school childcare; if you need after-school childcare for children in Years 4 and 5, please book them into TASC in the usual way.

Weather Alerts on the School Website

We would like to remind parents that, should we experience difficult weather during this term, the website will always have the most up to date information regarding any changes to the school day and we would encourage you to visit the website first rather than call the School Office. We will also communicate messages via text using the ClarionCall service.

Pre-Prep Big Talk/Big Write Sessions

As a follow up to the workshop, Pre-Prep teachers would like to invite Pre-Prep parents to come and observe a Big Talk/Big Write session. You will see how the children's talk and subsequent writing is extended through using 'WOW' words, punctuation 'Splats' and connectives.

If you would like to attend, please sign up on the board outside your child's classroom to come to one of the following sessions:

Friday 31st January: Reception 1030-1100 Years 1 and 2 1100-1145

Friday 7th February: Reception 1030-1100 Years 1 and 2 1100-1145

An email will follow next week with more details about what Big Talk/Big Write is and hopefully put all the words your child may be using at home into context.

Headlice

There has been a case of headlice reported in Pre-Prep. We would ask you to check all members of your family this weekend and, if lice are found, treat as soon as possible with the lotion recommended by your chemist. Regular checks at home are important. Lice spread rapidly and, if we are going to keep the problem at bay, we do need your co-operation.

IAPS Philippines Appeal

Hall Grove has raised the magnificent sum of £6,500 for the 'Save the Children' Philippines Appeal in the devastating wake of Typhoon Haiyan. IAPS schools have now collectively raised well over £21,000.

Music Department

Supervised Practice

Playing a musical instrument is tremendously beneficial, not only for musical development and engagement with our cultural inheritance, but also for developing self-reliance, confidence and intrinsic motivation. I'm sure we all recognise the demands of our busy lifestyles and the pressures that many of our children face to fit in all of their various activities; with this in mind, we are proposing to offer an after-school opportunity of supervised practice time for Years 3 - 8 children. This will start from Monday 20th January, with the purpose of giving the children the chance to practise at school, under the direct musical supervision of our Music Administrator, Lizzie Post, who is herself an accomplished musician in a number of fields.

This will run, initially on a trial basis, until July 2014. Pupils who have lessons inside or outside school are welcome, and those who have Music exams this term should find this a particularly valuable opportunity. The sessions will run from 1630 - 1830 Mondays to Thursdays (Years 3 - 5 to have priority 1630 - 1730 and Years 6 - 8 to have priority 1730 - 1830), with each child allocated a half hour slot in one of our practice rooms. Children can then be picked up directly from the Music Department or carry on into Twilight where appropriate. Slots will be available on a first come, first served basis and should be booked directly through the Music Department. To be of real benefit this needs to be a regular commitment and we will expect this booking to be the same for each week this term. Please email Lizzie Post at l.post@hallgrove.co.uk if you would like your child to participate, indicating day and time preferences. If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact Mr Waltho, acting Director of Music, (j.waltho@hallgrove.co.uk) or Lizzie.

Soloists' Concert

An example of wonderful musicianship will be displayed on Tuesday 14th January at 1900 in our 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. The parents of those children performing have already been contacted. This will be a splendid opportunity to hear some of our senior pupils, and all are welcome.

Informal Concerts

We have three Informal Concerts coming up in the near future. If you wish your child to participate, particularly if they learn outside school, do please let Mr Waltho and Lizzie Post know. Our instrumental teachers will also of course put forward children who they feel are ready. The Upper School concert is Thursday 23rd January, the Middle School concert is Thursday 30th January and the Pre-Prep concert is Thursday 6th February, all at 1245. Last term we experimented with using the Headmaster's Drawing Room, and found this to be a very agreeable, non-threatening environment in which to perform; depending on numbers, we hope to use the Drawing Room again this term.

Music Competition

The Music Competition is later this term and we have a prestigious panel of judges from some of the senior schools to which we regularly send children. The competition is open to all instrumentalists, regardless of ability, and all children are strongly encouraged to participate. If your child learns their instrument in school, their teacher will submit an entry on their behalf if they wish to enter. For those who have lessons outside school, the entry form will be sent out with next week's newsletter and must be submitted to Lizzie Post by Friday 14th February. Hopefully this amount of time will allow for discussion with your child's instrumental teacher and the selection of an appropriate piece of music with which your child feels comfortable. Late entries shall not be accepted because multiple changes to the schedules are unfair on parents taking time off work to see their

children perform; please respect this and ensure that any entries arrive by the deadline. Many thanks for your understanding in this matter.

Sports News

Skipping Workshop

Lizzie Cox, the GB national skipping coach, joined our PE lessons yesterday to teach the children some skipping skills and tricks. This was a great success and the children thoroughly enjoyed learning new skills. Skipping is a great way to have fun and keep fit. The skipping workshop for Years 3 and 8 will take place on Thursday 6th March. Skipping ropes are available to order at a cost of £4 for basic and £6 for new colour-change solar ropes. To order or for further information, please email Mrs Maxfield (k.maxfield@hallgrove.co.uk).

After School Hockey Training for Boys and Girls

Please be advised that the after school hockey on Thursday evenings for girls and boys in Years 6, 7 and 8 has now been moved to Friday evenings from 1730-1830 (17th, 24th, 31st January).

Hockey Equipment

Please can all pupils in Years 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 make sure they have shinpads and mouthguards at school. We will be running hockey in PE lessons for the first half of term.

Netball Tour to Liddington Hall - November 2014

We have a residential Netball Tour to Liddington Hall in Wiltshire on 7th – 9th November 2014 for girls in Years 7 and 8. We have found from experience that an early season training weekend helps with the bonding, team spirit and forging of the cross-year friendships between Years 7 and 8 girls. Information has already been sent out and we have asked for replies by Friday 31st January. Please email Mrs Maxfield (k.maxfield@hallgrove.co.uk) if you require further information.

Girls' Games Kit

Girls are reminded to have full games kit in school at all times - this includes their house t-shirt, shinpads, mouthguards and a pair of both indoor and outdoor trainers. Separate indoor trainers are required because of the increasingly wet conditions.

Ear piercing: girls are reminded that England Netball rules state that earrings cannot be taped and must be removed before play when in matches and tournaments - this is for the safety of the player and the other athletes involved. We ask for your support by avoiding piercing during the term time when there is not a six week break from sport.

Hair: please can parents remind girls that hair is to be tied up and clipped away from the face during games lessons.

Rugby Training - Saturday 11th January

We are delighted that former staff member Mr Joll will be coming in to lead the sessions this Saturday and we look forward to seeing a good turnout.

0900-1000 Years 5 and 6

1000-1100 Years 7 and 8

Queen Anne's Netball Tournament (Caversham) - Saturday 11th January

Please arrive at the main entrance of Queen Anne's at 0920. Parents are welcome to stay and watch. The girls will be ready for collection from Queen Anne's by approximately 1230. We are advised by the school that both Sonning and Pangbourne bridges are closed, but all other roads and bridges remain open.

Boys' Calendar Amendments

Wednesday 15th January - Rugby v Yateley Manor: 1st XV, 3rd X and Colts B will be playing at home and Colts A, U10 A and U10 B will be playing away. Matches start at 1430.

Thursday 16th January - Rugby v Yateley Manor: U9 A and B matches will now be played at home and there will be no U9 C fixture.

Girls' Calendar Addition

Year 8 girls are invited to meet Mrs Maxfield for additional IAPS Netball training in New Hall on Wednesday mornings from 0745-0815 starting next week (15th January).

FOHG Quiz Night - Friday 7th February

Round up your friends and drag your husbands along for a fun-filled, social evening. Why? It's the Hall Grove Quiz Night.

Date: 7th February 2014

Where: Hall Grove School

Who: Parents, teachers and friends (adults only please)

Why: We all can do with some fun and laughter, and just because we can!

Please see attached flyer for details or contact Tanya Thompson by email at tanya@tanyas-touch.com or on 07540 885458.

Ceramics Adult Evening Classes

Ceramics Adult Evening Classes start again next week. Mondays are fully booked; however, there are two places available on Wednesday evenings if anyone is feeling creative or interested in throwing on the wheel. Classes are from 1930 to 2130 and run for 10 weeks at a cost of £140 per term. If you are interested or would like further information, please contact Miranda Dowse on 07951 572560.

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 3 to 8. If your child would like to participate, please return the completed form to Mrs Lomas as soon as possible.

Chelsea Football Club - Easter Training Camp

After the success of the October Chelsea Football camp we are pleased to announce that we will be hosting another camp during the Easter Holidays from 7th to 11th April. Further details and application forms will be available in due course.

Newsletter Attachments

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

- FOHG Quiz Night Information
- Hockey Camp Information

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For Sale

10ft trampoline for sale without netting. Bought three years ago new from John Lewis. Looking for £75 ono as moving house. Please contact Fiona Fox on 07869 231441.

New Year... New Body!

Following the excesses of Christmas and the New Year resolutions to keep fit and healthy, Kensington Pilates is offering new clients a free one to one basic assessment and lesson to help kick start their new fitness regime. Taking private Pilates lessons in the comfort of your own home will help you tone and strengthen, improve your posture and flexibility and reduce or even eliminate back pain. Lucie Murray (mother of Becky and Josh - Years 7 and 3 respectively) is fully qualified to teach Pilates for all levels and also to ante/post natal mums and people with orthopaedic problems such as back, shoulders, knee or hip problems, osteoporosis and arthritis. Lucie works closely with her clients to produce focused training programmes that address individual goals and to complement training for a specific sport. For more information, please contact Lucie on 07920 483277 or lucie@kensingtonpilates.com. References and testimonials can be provided on request.

Windlesham United U8s

Windlesham United U8s (Year 3 pupils) are seeking more players of all standards to bolster their football squad. Training takes place on Saturday morning at Charters School Astro from 0915 to 1030. Our objective is for the players to have a fun, enjoyable experience whilst making new friends and developing their physical, social and technical skills. Please contact the club via email at Tmw0004@aol.com or by telephone on 07803 923148 if you would like further information on the U8s or any other age group.

