

# Hall Grove School Newsletter



[www.hallgrove.co.uk](http://www.hallgrove.co.uk)

11<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Edition No: 516

*The school has started happily with 443 children on roll, a record number. We are now in the difficult but fortunate position of needing to turn down additional entries in most year groups. Some good weather this week has certainly helped get us off to a good start. We were delighted to fly the Union Jack in recognition of the Queen's historic milestone.*

*Over the Summer holidays we have made some significant improvements to a number of school rooms, notably the Wessex rooms, the Art Room, the Science Lab and the Boarding House. As many parents have remarked, the Summer's rain has been helpful for the sports pitches which are in top condition.*

*We have employed specialist staff to assist with traffic control on the drive at busy times, but we hope to be able to reduce this as parents become better accustomed to the system. Do please take note of the frequent reminders about the safe use of the drive and follow the clear instructions repeated below in this Newsletter.*

*Parents should find an envelope given to their children to take home with a calendar and a copy of the magazine Attain. The term is full of events, beginning with a former pupil reunion this evening. We are hosting two big sporting festivals this weekend, football on Saturday and cricket on Sunday. Spectators are very welcome. Please note the dates and timings of the parents meetings which start next week.*

## **Staff News**

Congratulations to Mr Slape on the birth of a little boy delivered safely yesterday afternoon weighing 7lbs 1oz. Both mother and child doing well.

## **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 evening briefings will take place as follows:

Years 1, 2 and 6  
Pre-School and Reception  
Years 7 and 8

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September

Years 3, 4 and 5

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September

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

### **Class Assemblies**

The children of 8TL and 6HT would like to invite their parents to their Class Assembly. If you are able to attend, please be in New Hall by 0830. We look forward to seeing you there.

8TL Assembly Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September

6HT Assembly Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September

### **Macmillan Coffee Morning – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September**

Please join us in the Pavilion for a lovely social gathering over tea, coffee and cakes. Home-grown produce and home-made cakes are welcome for sale.

*Catriona Graham*

### **The Drive - Reminder**

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'.
- If you need to park, please use the tennis court area (available until 0855 only).
- 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!

### **TASC / Twilight / After School Clubs - Reminder**

We have reviewed our system of after-school provision to ensure we are providing a balanced, efficient and fair number of options. We believe we offer a full and varied range of clubs, but we do also know just how popular many of our clubs are and just how quickly they are booked up, resulting in inevitable disappointment and frustration. Consequently we are proposing to alter the after-school options to address these concerns.

The After School Care (TASC) will operate for pupils in Pre-School to Year 2 from the first day of term, running from 1510 to 1730. This offers children a programme of play-based activities and serves a snack tea. TASC sessions can be booked, in advance, through the School Office. Pre-booking takes place on a half termly basis. The charge for TASC is £4 per half hour and the cost is added to your school bill. You need to cancel any pre-booked TASC sessions at least 24 hours before hand or you will be charged for that session. Additional charges will be added to your bill if you are late to pick up your child on a regular basis. As the children are younger, there is a limit to the number of places we can offer, particularly for those children in the Early Years.

### **Twilight – Update & Reminder**

Twilight is available to children in Years 3 to 8 from the end of their school day until 1800. This is primarily for supervised prep, rather than play activities, and is also there for those parents who need some occasional after-school care. The charge for Twilight, like TASC, will be £4 per half-hour. Where there will be a regular booking, or when advance notice can be given, children should be booked in for sessions through the School Office. Twilight is for children wanting to work on prep and for quiet reading – it is not intended as a long-term childcare solution and those in Year 5 or below who want supervised play or 'winding-down' time should be booked into our clubs programme.

### **After School Clubs**

We will be using an Online Booking system which will go live at 1900 on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September – after the end of a normal working day, thereby enabling the majority of children an equal chance of being able to select some of

our most popular clubs in Pre-Prep and Upper School. There is a link on the school website, under Parents / After School Clubs Online Booking. From there you can easily book children in to each of the applicable clubs.

The clubs start on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September and run until Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December inclusive. Club times are 1530 to 1630 for Reception to Year 2, 1630 to 1730 for Years 3 to 5 and 1730 to 1830 for Years 6 to 8. Our externally-provided clubs will continue to be booked a term at a time.

This term, by way of trial, we are proposing for Middle School children (where there is inevitably most demand) the clubs that we provide will, largely, be offered within a block that will give a range of activities, i.e. children will be booked in for a Monday / Tuesday etc club and will have a number of options to explore during the term. This should prevent us having to cancel clubs due to staff absence. Pre-Prep and Upper School clubs will, at this time, continue to operate with booked activities for the term.

## **Judo Club**

Judo Club will start on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September and run until Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December inclusive. Information is attached to this newsletter. Please complete your child's name and year group on the booking slip and return this with payment to the School Office before Friday.

## **Pony Grove**

Pony Grove is a 'Think Like a Pony' approved centre. As well as teaching children to ride and care for ponies whilst having fun in a safe environment, we also teach children to try to understand how a pony feels and communicates. Trying to see the world through their eyes. Teaching the 'Think Like a Pony' approach helps children learn about empathy, communication, trust, leadership and much much more.

We have a few spaces on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Please contact Caroline if you would like more information or would like to enquire about lessons:

[carolinehaddenwright@me.com](mailto:carolinehaddenwright@me.com) / 07734 049837

We also run a Mums session for Mums who would like to know a bit more about horses, be able to help their child with a pony or simply improve life skills. No previous horse experience is required nor is there a need to ride.

Caroline is available for private lessons and can come to your horse/pony if you need some help.

## **General Notes - Reminder**

### **Girls' Earrings, other Jewellery, Makeup and Hair**

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 without the express permission of the Headmaster. No makeup or nail varnish should be worn at any time. Hair should be tied back if it reaches the shoulder using hairbands from the school uniform shop.

### **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 Office by telephone on 01276 473059 or by email to [office@hallgrove.co.uk](mailto:office@hallgrove.co.uk) on the morning of the absence. This is a legal requirement. Prior written notice of absence due to medical appointments, music exams etc, should be sent to the School Office. School absence for family events and holidays will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances and must be a written request addressed to Mr Graham.

### **Late Arrival**

If your child arrives at school after registration at 0830, 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 48 hours to elapse before you send him/her back to school.

### **Medical Details and Medication**

Please remember to inform the School of any changes to the medical information we currently hold for your child. 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 on the School website ('Parents / Medical / Parental Consent for Prescribed Medication'), from the School Office or the Matrons 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.

### **Head Lice**

Please check your child's hair for head lice before he/she returns to school 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 secondhand, please remember to remove the old name tapes and replace with your child's own name.

## **Music**

### **Choristers**

Over 40 children came to the Chorister auditions this morning for those in Years 3 - 5. Unfortunately Mr Goodwin was unable to audition them all in half an hour and, as such, we will be putting on an extra audition session for **Years 3 - 5 at 0800 on Tuesday**. For anyone that can't make this time please contact Miss Post ([l.post@hallgrove.co.uk](mailto:l.post@hallgrove.co.uk)) who will be able to arrange an alternative time. Once we have heard all auditionees a final list will be posted either Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning on the Music Notice Board. For those not selected for Choristers at this point, we would still strongly urge them (and anybody else in Years 3 - 8) to join Hall Grove Choir (rehearsals on Wednesdays 0800 - 0830 on the New Hall stage). Choristers rehearse 0800 - 0830 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursday and Fridays on the New Hall stage.

### **Ensembles**

All of our ensembles will be on next week and a full schedule of ensemble rehearsals is attached to this newsletter. If your child is unable to be at a rehearsal (including Choristers and Hall Grove Choir), or is running late, we would appreciate notice as soon as possible (01276 470008). We do expect children to attend all rehearsals (unless unable to) to enable them to prepare for concerts and performances throughout the school year. Failure to attend regularly without a valid reason may mean your child is unable to perform in an event.

### **Practice Club**

From 1630 - 1800 Monday to Friday children are able to practise their instruments in one of our practice rooms with supervised specialist help (Mr Waltho, Mr Heffer or Miss Post). This is open to all children in Years 3 - 8, but is particularly for those preparing for an instrumental exam or looking to compete for a senior school award at some point with any musical component. We all know how hard it can be for a child to find the motivation at the end of a long school day, after tea, homework, a bit of down-time and so on, so we would like to support instrumental improvement here at school, before children come home. If you would like to book your child in for a half-hour slot (a maximum of two slots during the week due to high demand, all subject to availability) please contact Lizzie Post ([l.post@hallgrove.co.uk](mailto:l.post@hallgrove.co.uk)). Children will need to be collected from the Music area so that we are able to give our full attention to the next group of children. Due to the high demand we are also currently unable to offer this below Year 3.

### **Music Lessons**

During a week at Hall Grove over 200 instrumental lessons are taught by our team of 13 peripatetic staff, and it is therefore essential that pupils arrive on time to their lessons. As such children are allowed to wear a watch on days where they have a music lesson. For children in Year 4 or below the instrumental teacher will usually collect them from their class lesson and return to the right place. If you would like any more details about individual music lessons, or to request a taster session on an instrument, please contact Miss Post.

### **Exam Results**

We already have results coming through for music exams from peripatetic staff, but would like any other results from pupils that learn outside of school please. If you would like to bring certificates in and give them to Miss Post, she will ensure they are awarded by Mr Graham in assembly.

## **Sports News**

A reminder to parents that [www.hallgrovesport.co.uk](http://www.hallgrovesport.co.uk) is the site for all Hall Grove sports fixtures. It is kept up to date. If there are any last minute changes to fixtures, a ClarionCall message will be sent out.

If your child receives any notable sporting achievements outside school please do let Mr Marland or Mrs Maxfield know.

### Golf

During the holidays James Brash played in a US Kids tournament at Woodhall Spa Golf Club. He played 3 rounds of golf and performed admirably by finishing 4<sup>th</sup> out of 22 competitors.

Ellie Monk has just returned from St. Andrews Golf Club where she finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in her age group. This has qualified her to represent the British Team at Pinehurst Golf Club in America next year. This really is brilliant news for Ellie and we wish her lots of luck in the US.

Hall Grove took part in The Stowe Putter where the team came 5<sup>th</sup>. This was a great effort considering we had a young team and it was excellent experience for them for the next few years. Danny Wessely came 4<sup>th</sup> in the individual competition which was an extremely good performance. Keep up the good work Danny. Three from our team played in the Junior Jigger (which is for Year 6 and below) and they played some excellent golf. Tano Parker came 7<sup>th</sup>, Adam Humpish 6<sup>th</sup> and Ellie Monk came 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Well done to all of these players and, on a personal note, it has been lovely to see so many children from Hall Grove playing golf at Sunningdale Ladies over the holidays.

*Mr Gold*

### Girls' Games

The senior girls had a baptism of fire with hockey matches on the first Wednesday of term; they had some very competitive matches against Pangbourne College and Mr Marland was particularly impressed with the girls' work ethic and, despite very tired legs, their determination to win the ball. The girls had two wins, 1 draw and 1 loss – a fabulous start to the hockey season. Well done.

The Year 5 girls enjoyed an afternoon of house hockey:

1<sup>st</sup> Hawks, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kestrels, 3<sup>rd</sup> Falcons, 4<sup>th</sup> Eagles

### Girls' Games Notices

The 1<sup>st</sup> VII girls' hockey team should meet Mrs Maxfield at 0800 on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September to participate in the Daneshill U13 annual hockey tournament.

### Boys' Games

The Year 7 and 8 boys enjoyed a successful afternoon of house matches on Wednesday. It was a great opportunity for the boys to demonstrate their skills. Mr Tomlinson was especially impressed with Kestrels who played some composed football, looking to move the ball around.

1<sup>st</sup> Kestrels, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hawks, 3<sup>rd</sup> Eagles, 4<sup>th</sup> Falcons.

Congratulations to Thomas Morley who took part in the Gothia World Youth Football Cup in Gothenburg in July. The opening ceremony was attended by over 52,000 people with Thomas and his teammates receiving top class coaching, with many of the staff handpicked from professional clubs across the country. Thomas was top scorer for the U11 South East team with nine goals. This featured a hat-trick v Blau-Weis 96 and all four goals in a 4 - 1 win v International Singapore. Thomas received plenty of plaudits on his good nature and hard work. Well done Thomas!

### Boys' Games Notices

The 1<sup>st</sup> XI and Colts A are to meet at 0830 for the Hall Grove Football Tournament on Saturday.

Those boys chosen to play in the 4 schools cricket on Sunday are to meet Mr Tomlinson at 0815 on Sunday for an 0900 start.

The Under 9 football matches on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September v Aldro and Feltonfleet will be played at Feltonfleet School.

## **Hall Grove Open Morning – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October**

There will be an Open Morning taking place on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October from 0930 to 1130. It is intended for prospective parents so we should be grateful if you would inform friends and work colleagues who may be interested in sending a child to Hall Grove one day.

## **Forthcoming Battsborough Trips**

Year 7	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> - Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2015
Year 5	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2016
Year 4	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2016
Year 6	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2016
Year 8	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> June - Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2016 (optional)

## **Mouthguards**

Children in Years 3 – 8 need a mouthguard for hockey and rugby. It is preferable that children return to school with a mouthguard, alternatively the OPRO service is available, but this will mean that mouthguards will not be available in time for the first girls' hockey matches which start right at the beginning of term.

OPRO, the dental organisation that specialises in mouthguards will be visiting the school on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September for boys' mouthguard fitting. Please visit Opro (<http://mouthguards.opro.com/custom/order>) to order your mouthguard.

It is not essential for boys in Year 3 to wear a mouthguard until hockey starts in February. They are welcome to wear one for tag rugby but it is not essential. Boys in Years 4 – 8 will need a mouthguard from the middle of September, once the OPRO mouthguards have arrived.

## **Friends of Hall Grove (FOHG)**

### **A Taste of Mexico! – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October, 1930 in New Hall**

Hall Grove invites you to come and join the fiesta! A special night of fun and food with a Mexican flavour! Tickets £20 per person which includes all food and entertainment. Please bring your own drinks. Dress code smart casual (sombreros are welcome!)

### **FOHG Saturday Morning Golf and Tennis Club**

#### **12<sup>th</sup> September - 10<sup>th</sup> October, 7<sup>th</sup> November – 5<sup>th</sup> December (10 sessions)**

Building on the growing success of our Middle and Upper School golf and tennis programmes, the FOHG Saturday Morning Golf and Tennis is a new club for children in Pre-Prep, Years 3 & 4. The Club is organised by volunteer parents continuing with golf pros from the Berkshire Golf Club and this year with new professional tennis coaches (see note below Jet Tennis). The aim is for children to gain the skills in these sports to be ready for the School programme in later years.

Information and a booking form have been posted on the school website regarding Saturday Morning Golf and Tennis lessons available for Reception – Year 5. Email: [FOHGtennisgolf@gmail.com](mailto:FOHGtennisgolf@gmail.com)

### **Welcome new Tennis Coaches**

FOHG Golf and Tennis Club are delighted to announce Bagshot Tennis Club's coaching team; Jet Tennis have been appointed to coach our Saturday morning tennis groups.

Since Jet Tennis' appointment at Bagshot Tennis Club in 2014, with great support from the committee, they have rejuvenated the coaching programme, increased participation threefold and achieved Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) "Tennismark" status for Bagshot Tennis Club.

The Jet Tennis coaching team are LTA licensed and this means all of our FOHG tennis lessons will adhere to LTA standards with appropriate equipment used for children's age and ability.

Jason Jokhoo and Megan Emmett are the head coaches at Jet Tennis. They have an enormous amount of experience delivering successful tennis programmes in clubs and schools, including some of the best juniors in the country and Megan herself has achieved a world ranking!

Either Jason or Megan will be coaching our tennis groups supported by one of their coaching assistants. Additionally we have appointed Charlie Butler (ex-Hall Grove, now in the Upper Sixth at Hampton) to assist the coaches by helping with the care of the children during the lessons.

Jason and Megan will ensure the coaching is focused on improving the children's co-ordination, movement, basic tactics and technique and ensure the children have fun while they are at it. There will be participation certificates, end of term competitions with prizes not just for winners but also for good conduct and progress during the term.

Mr Graham and FOHG are delighted to foster this great local connection for our tennis programme. We hope it will be a long, happy and successful association for our children.

## Open Mornings

Reed's School, Cobham	Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> September, 7 <sup>th</sup> November	01932 869001
Sir William Perkins's School	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	01932 574900
Old Swinford Hospital, Stourbridge	Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> September, 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> October	01384 817325
The Oratory School	Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	01491 683 500
Queen Anne's Caversham	Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	0118 918 7300
St John's School, Leatherhead	25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> September	01372 373000
Hampton School	Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	020 8979 5526
Tudor Hall, Banbury	Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	01295 756276
Clayesmore, Dorset	Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	01747 812122
Farnborough Hill	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	01252 529811
Leighton Park School, Reading	Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	0118 987 9600
St George's, Ascot	Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	01344 629900
Tonbridge School	Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	01732 304297
Lancing College, West Sussex	Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	01273 465805
RGS, Guildford	Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	01483 880600
Luckley House	Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	0118 974 3221
King Edward's, Witley	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	01428 686700
Luckley House Year 6 Taster Day	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	0118 973 3221
Farnborough Hill	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	01252 529811

## Newsletter Attachments

The following information is available on the school website:

- Weekly Music Rehearsal Schedule 2015 - 2016
- Bagshot Football Club
- FOHG Saturday Morning Golf and Tennis Club
- Judo Club Autumn 2015
- Camberley RFC Family Evening Invitation
- Luckley House Open Morning
- Luckley House Taster Day

\*\*\*\*\*

## Little Grove Pre-School

Little Grove has availability for children aged 2 to 5 years. Please call 01276 473434 and ask for Mrs Henderson-Williams or Mrs Stewart to enquire about the spaces available.

## Lost & Found

A set of keys including a Mercedes key fob in a designer key case was handed in on Thursday last week (INSET day). Please contact the School Office to reclaim.

## Northbrook Gift Wrap Brochure

Look out for the Northbrook gift wrap brochure that we will be sending home soon. We will all be buying wrapping paper for Christmas and of course we need birthday paper all year round. If everyone just bought one item through

Northbrook we could raise a significant amount of money as Hall Grove will receive 22% cash back on every item sold. Please return your completed order forms to The School Office with your cheque made payable to Hall Grove School Limited by **half term** latest.

### **Private Pilates Lessons**

One of the best ways to get fit, strong, supple and trim is with Pilates. Lucie Murray, mother of Josh (5LM) is offering parents of Hall Grove a free taster session to experience 1 on 1 private Pilates lessons.

For more information please contact Lucie on 07920 483277 or [lucie@kensingtonpilates.com](mailto:lucie@kensingtonpilates.com)

### **Rugby World Cup – Camberley RFC**

Camberley RFC is hosting a family evening on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September to mark the opening game of the Rugby World Cup 2015. Camberley RFC is a thriving local community club providing rugby for all ages from 5 upwards! On Friday the club will be buzzing with fun rugby games from 1800 until it gets dark (approx 1900), with a BBQ running and the bar open for the kick-off of the England vs Fiji game at 2000. Please see the pdf invitation attachment to the Newsletter.