

Hall Grove School Newsletter



www.hallgrove.co.uk

6th November 2015

Edition No: 522

We are all set to receive a party of Inspectors from Tuesday to Friday next week; we very much hope they will like what they find at Hall Grove. We believe we are in good shape. Unfortunately, Mr and Mrs Graham will be away on a long arranged business trip until Tuesday evening; however the school will be in very good hands during their absence. An exciting opportunity has arisen which might lead to Hall Grove acting as a partner to a new school to be set up overseas. This is very much a preliminary fact finding mission to meet potential investors and educationalists, but it could lead to a most interesting project for our school. Watch this space!

Please note that once again we will be exhibiting at the excellent Independent Schools Fair in Battersea this year, alongside some famous prep and senior schools. An electronic invitation is attached for November 14/15. Do come and support if you can, and visit the stands of some of the other schools if you would like to discuss senior school options post Hall Grove. More details below.

The week closed with two exciting football matches played in front of big crowds of spectators this afternoon. The Under 11 team won their quarter final Surrey Cup Plate match 2 – 1 against Rokeby, and the 1st XI won their semi final Surrey Cup match beating Aldro 4 – 0. Well done both teams!

Message to Parents from the Inspectors

The Inspection Team is grateful for the large number of comments received from parents and pupils on the questionnaire returns. These will help inform the judgements they make on the school. The Inspectors are willing to listen in person to any other views next week.

Independent Schools' Fair 2015 – Saturday 14th & 15th November

Hall Grove will again be exhibiting at this year's Independent Schools Show on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th November at Battersea Park. As the UK's largest open day, the Independent Schools Show welcomes 200 of the country's leading schools.

There is no better place for you to get a complete understanding of the choices and opportunities that are available for your child; to meet key admissions teams; speak with heads; enquire about entry requirements at all stages and explore scholarships and bursaries.

The attached ticket will allow two adults plus children free entry to the event.

Twilight

At the beginning of this week an email regarding changes to Twilight *should* have been received by all Middle and Upper School parents. We have discovered that, due to a technical problem with our email system, not all parents received this. Mr Tyrer is in discussion with our email service provider to resolve the matter and ensure it does not happen again. Below is the essence of the information:

With Winter hours now here, and the darkening days, we are keen to see children do not have too long a school day, and do have sufficient time for relaxation and other pursuits.

Our supervised Twilight sessions, chiefly for working on prep and reading, will finish each day at 1745. After this time any children still here will be taken to the Front Office initially and a Boarding charge will need to be applied. If you know that your child will need to stay beyond this time we would recommend booking in for Supper (1830 Monday - Thursday), so that we can plan appropriate activities after the end of their school day.

If you have any queries please contact the Front Office for further information and to make bookings.

Our apologies for any inconvenience caused due to our technical difficulties.

Reminder: 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.

11+ Common Entrance exams

Please could you contact Mr Lewis at t.lewis@hallgrove.co.uk if your child will be sitting the Spring 2016 11+ Common Entrance examination as children need to be registered by **1st December**. This applies to any pupil in Year 6 who is considering a school which does not operate its own form of assessment, but instead prefers entrants to sit this exam. Some schools involved are Benenden, Cheltenham College, Cheltenham Ladies' College, Downe House, Godolphin, Headington, Heathfield, Queen Anne's Caversham, Queenswood, Roedean, Rye St Antony, Seaford, Sherborne Girls, St Mary's (Calne), St Swithun's, Tudor Hall, Westonbirt and Wycombe Abbey.

Footsteps Tap examinations - Saturday 7th November

On Saturday 7th November many of the Footsteps pupils will be taking their I.S.T.D Tap Dance examinations. This is very exciting as it is the first year Hall Grove will be hosting the Tap exams here as an I.S.T.D approved exam centre. Pupils involved have been informed and received their letters with arrival procedure and exam times. Please will parents ensure children have the correct dance uniform and their tap shoes, along with a hair brush and plenty of hair grips and hairspray. All children are to be brought to the Admiral Room to register on arrival.

We wish everyone a successful examination day!

Miss Stein

Reminder - Remembrance Service – Wednesday 11th November

This special Assembly is always much enjoyed by parents. It begins at 1030 in New Hall. There will be a retiring collection for the Royal British Legion.

Assemblies

The children of 3VB and 6DS 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.

3VB Assembly Tuesday 17th November

6DS Assembly Thursday 19th November

On Thursday 12th November we have a Sports Tours Assembly which will have brief reviews of the recent tours to Sherborne and Barbados.

Reminder: Pre-Prep Parent Workshop – Tuesday 17th November

The Pre-Prep teachers would like to invite you to the Pre-Prep (Pre-School to Year 2) workshop on Tuesday November 17th. It will start in New Hall at 1830 and last for approximately an hour. The three themes this year will be Behaviour for Learning, Developing a Growth Mindset and Problem Solving. We look forward to seeing you there.

Music

Practice Club

Our supervised practice sessions are proving very popular, both as an aid to frequent practice and as a useful warm-up for exams. Aural test practice is very difficult to do at home and we are very happy to offer our support in this area. If you know that your booked-in child will not be coming to one of their regular practice slots, it is very valuable if you

are able to let us know as we may then be able to offer the slot to somebody else on that day. Please contact Miss Post (l.post@hallgrove.co.uk) if you have any questions.

Remembrance Service - Wednesday 11th November

Concert Band and Choristers are both performing at what should be a powerful and moving occasion. Please can we remind Concert Band children to bring in their instruments, leaving them in New Hall by 0830 in readiness for the service at 1030. Parents are very welcome to join us for our Remembrance Service, there will be a retiring collection for the Royal British Legion (Poppy Appeal).

Informal Piano Concerts

Today we heard from 12 children, ranging from Year 1 to Year 7, offering beginner pieces through to some very accomplished Tchaikovsky and jazzy numbers. A big thank you to the parents and friends who turned out to support the children! We have so many children learning piano that next week will be our 3rd Informal Piano Concert of the term, again at 1245 in New Hall. All are very welcome to attend. The programme is usually finalised by the Tuesday before the concert, before being sent out to parents. If there are still any children who learn outside school to be put forward for this, please let us know as soon as possible (l.post@hallgrove.co.uk) - we already have 15 performers.

Sports News

Golf

On Monday Hall Grove took part in the ISGA Ladies Junior Open at Sunningdale Ladies Golf Club. The team consisted of Ellie Monk and Antonia Gathy. The plan was for a shot gun start at 0900 but due to the extremely heavy fog play was postponed until 1030. When play did eventually get under way the girls played admirably as conditions were not ideal with visibility down to 70 yards! Ellie Monk played superbly and defended the title (the best overall Nett prize) that she won last year. To put it into context, Ellie played 7 shots fewer than her handicap of 24 in fog! Well done to Antonia and Ellie for a great team effort.

Girls' Games

The girls have had a busy week of hockey with the U11s, U12s and U13s competing at the Regional competition hosted by Epsom College. All three teams should be commended for their hard work, enthusiasm and sportsmanship and congratulations to the U11 team who reached the quarter finals; they were unlucky to be beaten by Eagle House 1 - 2.

The final week of this term's hockey fixture saw every girl from Years 3 - 8 representing the school and every one of them played with gusto. On Wednesday afternoon, we had some very encouraging results against Yateley Manor (playing on grass) and Crosfield - six wins and one draw. Well done to everyone.

The junior girls had eight matches this week; with three wins, one draw and four losses they scored a remarkable amount of goals and should be very proud of themselves. Congratulations to Nerys Tullett for her first hat trick against Crosfield.

Girls' Games Notices

Saturday 7th November - U11 and U13 cross-country teams to meet Mrs Maxfield at St Mary's Ascot at 0900.

Thursday 12th November - an U9C netball team has been added to the away fixture at Claremont. This fixture will start at 1400 and estimated return time will be 1600. All year for girls will be involved in this fixture.

Saturday 14th November - 1st VII netball will depart from Hall Grove at 0815 to participate in the U13 Edgeborough Netball tournament. U10A hockey will depart from Hall Grove at 0815 to participate in the U10 St George's Weybridge Hockey tournament.

Boys' Games

A reminder that we move to rugby from Monday onwards. Please ensure that all boys have mouth guards and football boots at school throughout the week.

Football v Crosfields

The boys enjoyed a hugely successful block fixture against Crosfields. All the senior teams won with big wins for the 1st XI, including 4 goals for Elliot Sleep, and the 3rd XI. The Colts A team had a humdinger of a game, drawing 3 - 3. The Colts B were 5 - 1 down at half time and came back to 6 - 4, so credit to them for not giving up. There was also a good win for the Colts D. The Under 10s finished their season with 3 wins out of 4.

The U9s enjoyed their final football fixtures of the season v Staines Prep. All were entertaining matches and we have been impressed with the improvements the whole year group have made over the course of the season.

The Under 8s enjoyed a triangular set of fixtures v Crosfields and Yateley. Mr Tomlinson has mentioned how pleased he has been with the progress made so far this season. The Under 8 football season continues for a few more weeks where we feel sure they will continue to make excellent progress.

Boys' Games Notices

Years 7 and 8 boys' house matches start at 0900 on Saturday. Boys should meet at Hall Grove at 0845.

Please note that the Colts B away rugby match v Hoe Bridge will now start at 1510.

The Tonbridge Rugby Tournament for Colts A on Wednesday 18th November has been cancelled.

Friends of Hall Grove (FOHG)

REMINDER: FOHG Golf Competition – Saturday 7th November

Budding golfers please come along and join in the Texas Scramble competition on Saturday 7th November from 1300 at Hall Grove. Open to all children at Hall Grove.

Categories:

Reception and Year 1

Year 2 & Year 3

Year 4 and above

Cost: £15.00 (includes golf goody bag and drink)

Email us immediately on fohgtennisgolf@gmail.com to reserve your space along with your name and age group then our golf coaches, Harry & Sam, can sort out our teams.

FOHG Spring Ball - Saturday 19th March 2016

The countdown has begun. Get into gear, FOHG School Ball details soon to be revealed!

Open Mornings

Leighton Park School	Tuesday 10 th November	0118 987 9600
Holme Grange (open evening)	Thursday 19 th November	0118 978 1566
Queen Anne's, Caversham	Friday 20 th November	0118 918 7300
Leighton Park School	Tuesday 8 th December	0118 987 9600

Newsletter Attachments

The following information is available on the school website:

- Weekly Music Rehearsal Schedule 2015 - 2016
- Bagshot Football Club
- Bradfield Hockey Camps
- Independent Schools' Fair Ticket

Final Reminder: Operation Christmas Child Samaritan's Purse

If you would like to take part in this worthwhile project, please bring your filled shoe boxes to the School office **as soon as possible**. Please include a donation (recommended donation is £3.00 per box), which covers shipping, transportation, distribution and promotion. Cheques should be made out to Samaritan's Purse. Alternatively, you can pay online which 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.