

Hall Grove School Newsletter



www.hallgrove.co.uk

27th November 2015

Edition No: 525

As December rapidly approaches we are now beginning to prepare for all the Christmas activities that always mark the end of the Autumn term. Please note the calendar of events given below. The older children will have a busy time with exams next week and plenty of school matches to be played, however the atmosphere in the school remains very positive and there is plenty of energy still running through all the classes.

Hall Grove All-Rounder Senior Scholarships

As we continue to pick up some additional children into Year 7, we hope for a number of strong external candidates for our All-Rounder Scholarships which are designed to help boys and girls complete Years 7 and 8 at Hall Grove. This year up to four of these awards are available, worth up to 25% of school fees each term for which the award is held, subject to continuing good conduct of the candidate. Criteria: pupils are required to demonstrate that they are able to make a strong all-round contribution to the school's cultural, sporting and academic life; qualities of good citizenship and leadership are essential. Holding such an award will be evidence to a senior school that the pupil is very highly regarded. Internal applications are to be received by Monday 1st February 2016. All applications must be supported by an **independent reference** and a letter of recommendation. Forms will be available from the school office next week.

Presentation

In keeping with the high standards of presentation we expect at Hall Grove, parents are reminded that children require regular haircuts. Boys hair should be short and off the collar and especially out of their eyes. Girls hair should be kept off their face and tied up if it is longer than shoulder length, using plain red hair accessories available from the uniform shop (black accessories for Upper School if they prefer).

Christmas Event Reminders

Date	Time	Event
Wednesday 2 nd	0900	Pre-School and Reception Christmas Craft Making (The Barn)
Tuesday 8 th	1830	Years 1 and 2 present 'The Magical Christmas Box'
Thursday 10 th	1100	The Pre-School Christmas Nativity (The Barn)
	1315	Years 1 and 2 Christmas Activity Afternoon
	1830	Reception Nativity 'Starlight' (The Barn)
Friday 11 th	1900	Year 3 present 'The Little Shepherd'
Tuesday 15 th	1900	Year 4 present 'Christmas is Forever'
Wednesday 16 th	1630	Carol Service at Windlesham Parish Church

Pre-School and Reception Christmas Activity Morning – Wednesday 2nd December

The children of Pre-School and Reception would like to invite any enthusiastic parents to help the children to make Christmas decorations in The Barn at 0900 on Wednesday 2nd December.

Years 1 and 2 present 'The Magical Christmas Box' – Tuesday 8th December

The Years 1 and 2 Christmas Play is taking place on Tuesday 8th December at 1830 in New Hall. It should last approximately forty minutes. Parents and grandparents of the pupils performing are most welcome to come along. The children should return to school at 1800 and be dropped off at their classrooms, where staff will help them change into their costumes. Parents are then invited to take their seats in New Hall. After the performance, the children will be taken back to their classrooms for collection. Please do not take them directly from the hall.

Pre-School Christmas Nativity – Thursday 10th December

The Pre-School Christmas Nativity is taking place on Thursday 10th December at 1100 at The Barn. It should last approximately thirty minutes. Parents and grandparents of the pupils performing are most welcome to come along.

Years 1 and 2 Christmas Activity Afternoon – Thursday 10th December

The children of Years 1 & 2 would like to invite any parent who would like to participate in a Christmas activity to come to the classrooms at 1315 on Thursday 10th December.

Reception present their Christmas Nativity 'Starlight' - Thursday 10th December

The Reception Nativity is taking place on Thursday 10th December at 1830 at The Barn. It should last approximately thirty minutes. Parents and grandparents of the pupils performing are most welcome to come along. We will be serving winter warming drinks. The children should return to school at 1800 where staff will help them change into their costumes.

Year 3 present 'The Little Shepherd' – Friday 11th December

The children in Year 3 are looking forward to giving a festive performance of 'The Little Shepherd' on Friday 11th December in New Hall starting at 1900.

Please note that we will have a dress rehearsal during the school day on Friday 11th. Form staff will ensure costumes return home safely, ready for the evening. All props are to remain at school. Please collect children at their normal pick up time, to be returned to their form rooms in costume at 1830. Parents are then invited to take their seats in New Hall. At the end of the performance the children will return to their classrooms for collection.

Costumes: We are very grateful for the fantastic support parents give in helping with their child's costume. As always, we ask that you do not go to too much expense or trouble. A simple jacket or blouse can often be accessorised to great effect and we can also add additional items from our costume store. A note on costumes can be found in your child's diary but please feel free to contact the form teacher for any further information. Pupils should bring their costumes in as soon as possible, and no later than Monday 7th December.

Due to the absence of Mrs Laws and their preparation for a wonderful assembly on Thursday, we are aware that 3TL are a little behind. We hope to have their parts cast early next week.

Year 4 present 'Christmas is Forever' – Tuesday 15th December

All children in Year 4 are looking forward to a festive performance of 'Christmas is Forever' on Tuesday 15th December in New Hall, starting at 1900. Please note that we will have a dress rehearsal during the school day on Tuesday 15th. Form staff will ensure costumes return home safely, ready for the evening. All props are to remain at school. Please collect children at their normal pick up time, to be returned to their form rooms in costume at 1830. Parents are then invited to take their seats in New Hall. At the end of the performance the children will return to their classrooms for collection.

Costumes: We are very grateful for the fantastic support parents give in helping with their child's costume. As always, we ask that you do not go to too much expense or trouble. A simple jacket or blouse can often be accessorised to great effect and we can also add additional items from our costume store. A note on costumes can be found in your child's diary but please feel free to contact the form teacher for any further information. Pupils should bring their costumes in as soon as possible, and no later than Wednesday 9th December.

Year 5 Show – Date for your diary

Pupils are working on an exciting show which will be performed in the Spring Term on the evening of Monday 8th February.

Reminder: Carol Service – Wednesday 16th December

Our annual Carol Service will be held at Windlesham Church on Wednesday 16th December at 1630. Parents are most welcome to attend. Years 7 and 8 will be taken by school minibus together with those who are in the Choir. Other children in Years 3 – 6 will be available to go home at **1530** unless parents request school supervision until normal collection time, however, please note that neither clubs nor Twilight will be happening.

If you are unable to collect your child at 1530 and wish him or her to stay at school until normal collection time, please email the school office by Friday 4th December at the very latest.

Members of the Choir, together with pupils in Years 7 and 8, may be collected by their parents from the Church at about 1730, and those not collected will be taken back to school in a minibus.

Judo and After School Clubs, TASC and Twilight

The last club session for Judo will be on Friday 4th December 2015. Final clubs of this term are on Friday 11th December. Twilight will operate as usual up to and including Tuesday 15th December only. TASC will operate as usual until Wednesday 16th inclusive, however, please note that TASC is already full on Monday 14th and Wednesday 16th December.

End of Term Arrangements – Thursday 17th December

Term ends on Thursday 17th December. The collection times are as follows, although older pupils may leave with their younger siblings:

1100	Reception
1115	Years 1 and 2
1130	Years 3, 4 and 5
1145	Years 6, 7 and 8

Please ensure that the children have all been collected by 1200; there is a staff meeting then so we are unable to look after stragglers.

Parents are invited to attend the informal musical gathering of ‘Carols in the Courtyard’ which starts at 1100. This is a nice way to support the school’s chosen charities, to say farewells before the Christmas break, eat a mince pie and have a cup of mulled wine; there is always a very jolly atmosphere. The drive will be closed and parking will be on the playing fields. In the event of very wet weather we would have to cancel.

Music

Informal Vocal and Percussion Concert

Today we heard from 11 musicians, either singing or playing the drums. It was splendid to hear such a range of pieces and musical styles and the concert was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

Informal Brass and Woodwind Concert

Although not in the calendar we have managed to squeeze in an Informal Brass & Woodwind lunchtime concert next Friday for our budding musicians! If your child learns outside school and would like to take part, please contact Miss Post (l.post@hallgrove.co.uk). As ever, it will be at 1245 on New Hall stage – all are most welcome.

Carol Service 16th December

Last call for adult singers! If there are any parents (soprano, alto, tenor or bass) who would like to sing as part of the choir, please contact Lizzie Post (l.post@hallgrove.co.uk) as soon as possible. All the relevant music is now available to take home and practice from the Music Office, so do please pop in and collect whenever is convenient for you. There will be a rehearsal on the day (details to follow), and you are more than welcome to attend the morning rehearsals on both Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th December at 0800 in New Hall with Mr Goodwin.

Music Exams

Congratulations to Mr Goodwin’s piano pupils who have recently passed the following music exams: Grade 1: Shrey Tharoor; Grade 2: Henry Lawson and James Brash; Grade 3: Freddie Coughlin; Prep Test: Nina van Eeden, William Barr, Douglas Barr and Rishya Rawal.

For any upcoming music exams, please could parents make sure the School Office are aware in advance when their child will be absent from school. In the meantime, keep practising and good luck!

Sports News

After matches on Wednesdays (Years 5 - 8) and Thursdays (Years 3 & 4) children may be collected to go home by parents who have been watching their match. Please make sure that your child's coach is aware of this and that your child has been 'signed out' by the teacher in charge and dismissed off the drive. If you have not been watching your child play in a match please note that you should collect your child at the normal pick-up time.

A polite notice

Please note that the boys and girls changing rooms are strictly out of bounds to parents and school visitors. Even if collecting belongings, please find a member of staff to search for you. For obvious reasons, it is inappropriate for non-authorised visitors to enter these areas.

Equestrian Congratulations - Hall Grove Equestrian Team

Congratulations to the Hall Grove team comprising Scarlett Creasey, Madeleine Berenson and Helen Vranken (now an ex-pupil) who qualified for the National Schools Equestrian Association Grass Roots Championship which took place last Sunday. There were in excess of 200 riders, all of whom had qualified at various qualifying rounds across the country.

The Hall Grove team rode superbly to go on and win their first class and become regional champions. An incredible achievement and one that Hall Grove should be very proud of. All three children have shown commitment, hard work, kindness and empathy with their ponies (especially for Madeleine who had only known her pony for the week) and real team spirit.

In addition to this, Madeleine Berenson also won the Junior Dressage Cup at the Bisley and Sandown Chase Pony Club Awards 2015. She was also fourth out of a group of over 60 riders in her arena at the Mini Champs South East in dressage.

Girls' Games

This week saw tournament success for two squads. The 1st VII participated in the U13 St Marys Ascot Netball tournament on Saturday and had an outstanding morning of netball winning 6 out of 7 matches and being placed 3rd overall. All the girls played with speed and vigour; prominent performances were from both Tabitha Norrey (Captain) and Ella King. The U11A team were invited to play in The Bradfield Prep School Netball Tournament and excelled themselves by bringing home the trophy! Carmen Schellekens and Yasmin van der Zijl were outstanding in defence and Gabriella Brinn-Johnson displayed nerves of steel scoring the winning goal in the final. It is a testament to the commitment of the many girls involved in playing netball outside of school that both teams played with a self-assurance needed to out play such strong opposition. Well done girls.

Movement between teams to ensure everyone is involved in matches meant we were able to field ten netball teams on Wednesday afternoon. All the girls were involved in fixtures, with St Andrews bringing U10's to play in their U11 teams this meant we tried to match as best we could, this valuable match experience means we are able to consider developing younger players who we think are able to "play up" an age group.

We won all four fixtures at Hall Grove against St Andrews Woking, with Minnie Anderson showing great leadership skills as a motivational captain of the 2nd VII. In the U11 fixtures, Clara Finn, who was playing a year above her age group, proved to be a superstar, scoring all the team's goals and Jasmine Wyles continues to prove to be a reliable goal keeper. The U10A's should be commended on their sound win, with Emily Wolfe having an outstanding match.

The U9's and U8's continue to develop their netballing skills and learn match tactics and we took three teams to St Andrews Woking. The girls thrived in the competitive match environment, realising the more they spread out the faster the ball moves through the court! With this in mind we have arranged to take the U8's (who have to date not had a competitive fixture) to play a "closed" coaching match (no parents at the request of the hosts) at Crosfield next Thursday during games afternoon.

Girls' Games Notices

Wednesday 2nd December - 1st and 2nd VII is a 1630 start time, collection will be from 1730.

Thursday 3rd December U9A – additional fixture v Cranleigh (h) 1400.

Saturday 5th December – 1st and 2nd VII to meet Mrs Maxfield at Hall Grove for an 0800 departure. Estimated return time will be 1300.

Boys' Games

U13 Football – Surrey Cup

On Saturday, the 1st XI finished an extremely impressive football season with their most important match, the Surrey Cup Final against Downsends at Cumnor House School. It was a repeat of last year's final, and it was a fitting finale to the season for the boys to be involved once again.

The weather was absolutely appalling but after a good warm up, the boys lined up to shake hands full of confidence. Downsends had a better start and we struggled to get a foothold for the first 10 minutes. The remainder of the half was far more even and the boys were unlucky on a couple of occasions not to go in ahead at the break.

The opening goal was scored by Downsends shortly into the second half and they doubled their lead with about 15 minutes to go. The boys showed great resolve by getting a goal back through a George Freeman free kick and despite a couple of half chances, our opponents held on to win the game 2-1.

The boys deserve huge credit both for their efforts on Saturday and for the season as a whole. They have been brilliant, winning 13 out of their 16 games; their cup run was one that won't be forgotten on the prep school circuit for some while. Cumnor House, who came 2nd at the national finals on Sunday, were defeated 4-3 in the 1st round. An incredible performance saw Hall Grove beat Danes Hill 2-1 away and then probably the best performance of all to defeat a previously unbeaten Aldro side 4-0 in the semi-final in front of a large home partisan crowd.

A brilliant effort by the squad and another massive achievement for Hall Grove with the school playing in their 3rd final in 4 years. Very well done boys!

Wellington Prep Schools Rugby tournament

The U13 and U11 rugby teams travelled over to Wellington College for their annual Prep Schools Rugby tournament. In what is always a very tough tournament, with some schools with greater numbers taking part; the boys performed well and made good progress throughout the day. The U13 team were knocked out of the bowl at the second phase of group games and the Under 11's reached the plate quarter final.

Rugby v Aldro

A tough Wednesday afternoon for the rest of the school, with all the boys being involved in a block fixture v Aldro. The stand out team was undoubtedly the Colts C, who held out for a highly entertaining 40-40 draw.

Boys' Games Notices

Year 3 and 4 house matches take place on Saturday morning. Boys should arrive at Hall Grove at 0845. Matches start at 0900 and will be finished at 1000.

Boys selected to play in the Bryanston Prep Schools 7's tournament on Wednesday 2nd December need to meet at Hall Grove at 0730 for departure. They should arrive at school in tracksuits.

Open Mornings

Leighton Park School
King Edward's, Witley

Tuesday 8th December
Saturday 21st November

0118 987 9600
01428 686735

Newsletter Attachments

The following information is available on the school website:

- Weekly Music Rehearsal Schedule 2015 - 2016
- Bagshot Football Club
- Bradfield Hockey Camps
- Big Game 8 Harlequins v Gloucester Rugby
- ACTion and Adventure at The Royal School

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Sebastian's Action Trust Santa Fun Run – Sunday 13th December

Get into the festive spirit and join Sebastian's Action Trust for their sixth Santa Fun Run on Sunday 13th December at Virginia Water in Berkshire. The 7km picturesque run, which starts at 1030, is open to runners of all ages and everyone who takes part, whether they choose to dash, prance or dance around the lake, will receive a complimentary Santa Suit and a medal. Entrance to the event is £15 for adults; £10 for children and free for under 5s, or a family ticket (two adults and two children) can be purchased for £40. Simply call 01344 622500 or visit www.sebastiansactiontrust.org to ditch your sleigh and register for this fun, family event.

The Studio Chobham

The Studio opens in Chobham on Monday 30th November. It's a beautiful space to move, sweat and breathe every day with a positive feel-good approach to fitness. Classes in Yoga, Barre, Boxing as well as one-to-one training and reformer Pilates. Contact: 07760 161517 www.TheStudioChobham.co.uk

The Christmas Fair at Ascot – Thursday 3rd – Sunday 6th December

There will be an indoor festive fair in the Pavilion building at Ascot Racecourse featuring 145 exclusive companies you won't find on the high street, selling everything you could want to thrill family and friends at Christmas. Fabulous food hall; licensed restaurant; free parking. Tickets £9 on the door. Mrs Wall (mother of Patrik, Year 7 and Nicholas, Year 6) will be running a stall, Fourwalls Lifestyle – stand 123a, offering beautiful images on greeting cards, table linen and homewares showing how entertaining can be festooned in flowers and plants bringing the garden indoors. Mrs Wall has kindly given Hall Grove several complimentary tickets which can be collected from the Front Office (www.fourwallslifestyle.com).

Chelsea Foundation Christmas Soccer School – Monday 21st December to Wednesday 23rd December

Chelsea is running a Christmas Soccer School at LVS Ascot. Please see flyer on the website for contact details and more information.

ACTion and Adventure at The Royal School

Christmas ACTion Camp: Monday 14th – Friday 18th December 2015

Open to all girls and boys in Reception to Year 8.

Booking is now open! Please see the attached flyer and book and pay online via www.royal-school.org/action-camps.

Big Game 8 Harlequins v Gloucester Rugby 27th December at Twickenham Stadium

Big Game 8 is for the whole family with entertainment for all. It's a great way to enjoy world class rugby on our door step and support the Harlequins team in the process – see flyer on the website.

Stagecoach, Ascot

Stagecoach, Ascot are launching a new class in singing, drama & dance next January which will take place on Saturday afternoons 1430 – 1730 at Holy Trinity School, Church Road, Sunningdale, SL5 ONJ.

Children build confidence, friendships, teamwork skills, explore their love of the performing arts and hone their performing talents in a creative, inspirational and welcoming environment. Join us next term to perform an original show inspired by 'The Wizard of Oz'!

To enrol your child please contact Principal Emily: ascot@stagecoach.co.uk, tel: 01344 206466/07951724276 www.stagecoach.co.uk/ascot

Hall Grove's own novelist Mr Sutton (Classics)

Mr Sutton's first novel, Lawless and the Devil of Euston Square, is re-published by Titan Books on 27th November. Not for children, this is the first of a series of Victorian thrillers featuring Sergeant Campbell Lawless. Arriving in London, 1859, Lawless stumbles onto the trail of a revolutionary determined to bring London to its knees through devilish acts of terrorism. "Extravagant and thoroughly enjoyable" Allan Massie, The Scotsman. "Engaging, smart and witty" Paul Johnston. The sequel, Lawless and the Flowers of Sin, will follow in July.