

Hall Grove School Newsletter



www.hallgrove.co.uk

22nd January 2016

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We are now approaching the end of January, and after a mixture of weather patterns we are beginning to see the very earliest signs of Spring. At least the days are now getting a little longer!

Our thanks to the parents who attended the Year 6 briefing this morning. We hope they found the meeting helpful and informative. A letter with some additional information will follow early next week.

Reminder: Mountain Bike Open Morning – Saturday 23rd January, Years 5, 6, 7 and 8

Hall Grove Mountain Bike Open Morning for Years 5 – 8 will be held on Saturday 23rd January. As outlined in the school calendar, there are two free taster sessions planned on our new bike trail: Years 5 and 6 cyclists are due to ride from 0900 to 1030 and our Years 7 and 8 mountain bikers can enjoy the trail between 1030 and 1200. The drop-off point will be by Little Grove. The children will be given a chance to ride off-road and hone their bike skills at their own pace under the guidance of Mr Allams and Mr Tullett.

Please make sure your child is warmly dressed in kit that will get muddy. Gloves and a well-fitting helmet are essential. The idea is for your child to gain confidence in handling their bike on trails by practising on their own bike, **but we will have bikes available for those who don't have their own.** Please bring a snack and drink for your children to have during the session (all litter taken home please!). Tea and coffee will be available in the Pavilion for parents.

Could those interested in attending let Mr Allams know (p.allams@hallgrove.co.uk).

Reminder: 2016 Sports Day

Pre-Prep Sports Day Friday 24th June
Sports Day (Years 3 – 8) Saturday 25th June

Reminder: 2017 Term Dates

Spring 2017

Monday, 9th January – Wednesday, 29th March
Half Term: Saturday, 11th February – Sunday, 19th February (inclusive)

Summer 2017

Monday, 24th April – Wednesday, 12th July
Half Term: Saturday, 27th May – Sunday, 4th June (inclusive)

Class Assemblies

All parents are welcome to attend their child's Class Assembly. We look forward to seeing you in New Hall at 0830.

- 3JD Assembly Tuesday 26th January
- 7LS Assembly Thursday 28th January
- 4SS Assembly Tuesday 2nd February

Scenes from Matilda

Year 5 children are excited to invite their parents and family to 'Scenes from Matilda' on Monday 8th February. This is not a complete production, but rather a culmination of work (some of which you may see repeated by different children) developed in Drama, Dance and Music lessons. All of the children are fully involved and they are thoroughly enjoying exploring sections of the script and a few of the songs. A simple costume or accessory would enhance the characters (and children should be prepared to share items if necessary). Narrators and school children should wear school uniform. On the evening of the performance it is expected that Year 5 pupils will remain in school prior to performing and will receive a hot snack and refreshments. Parents should take their seats in New Hall from 1815 and the performance will start at 1830. We hope you enjoy it!

FOHG

FOHG Ball - Saturday 19th March 2016

Classic Cars and Fabulous Frocks will be held at Mercedes-Benz World on Saturday 19th March. Tickets are now on sale. An on-line booking form with instructions was sent last week through ClarionCall. If you wish to download the booking form including instructions to complete manually, this can be found on the school website under Parents / Newsletter / Form/Downloads. This is a wonderful venue and promises to be a spectacular night! If you need any further details please email fohgball@gmail.com

Reminder: Application for Authorised Absence - update

With the long school holidays we do not advocate taking children out of school during term time. However, we do recognise that there are sometimes exceptional circumstances which necessitate this. All applications for authorised absence must be in writing and with as much notice as possible, using a form now available on the website (under the 'Parents' tab), or from the School Office. The Headmaster will consider all applications, bearing in mind the child's school attendance throughout the year, as well as the reason for the request. If the Headmaster does not authorise the request a reason will be given. We are obliged to inform the Local Education Authority of any concerning levels of absence.

Absence forms are not required for medical and dental appointments, senior school visits / exams / appointments, external music or dance examinations, however please ensure you have informed the School Office of these absences in addition to writing in your child's diary or informing their teachers.

The School Grounds Reminder

The school grounds are not available for parents and families to use for exercise or recreation other than by arrangement. Dogs are not permitted on the fields and should be on the lead at all times. We would encourage parents and visitors **not** to bring dogs to school.

Music

Associated Board Exams - Spring Term

This term we will be hosting Associated Board exams here at school for many of our children. This means that children do not need to be taken out of lessons, collected and driven to Woking, Reading and other exam centres. It also means that we will be able to more easily provide accompaniments where needed (usually Miss Post, Mr Waltho or Mr Heffer). In order to provide the appropriate exam conditions, and to give maximum preparation time, we have booked Saturday 19th March. If your child learns with one of our teachers they will have already given us all necessary information (booking closes today). On future occasions we *might* be able to accommodate some external entries.

Exam Results

Well done to some more of our children for their successes in recent Associated Board exams:

George Freeman - Grade 4 Alto Sax (Merit)

Oscar Fry - Grade 1 Viola (Distinction)

Pierre Gathy - Grade 2 Alto Sax (Merit)

Grace Harvie - Grade 2 flute (Distinction)

Indiana Leech - Grade 1 Violin (Distinction)

Informal Lunchtime Concerts

Today we had the first of our Informal Lunchtime Concerts, Piano Concert I, and it was lovely to hear the range of pieces performed. As ever, we thank parents, instrumental teachers and the children themselves for all of the hard work that goes into making this happen. Over the next few weeks we have more Informal Concerts coming up:

Friday 29th January Piano Concert II

Friday 5th February Strings

Friday 12th February Brass and Woodwind

If your children learn in school our instrumental teachers will put forward your children if they feel there is a piece ready (or perhaps one that still needs a little work but will be a useful experience to perform). Please contact Miss Post (L.post@hallgrove.co.uk) if your child learns outside school and has a piece - we are always delighted to hear our children play, whoever they may learn with.

Reminder: Instrumental Competition Week, 14th – 18th March

Our Instrumental 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 an instrument in school, their teacher will submit an entry on their behalf. For those who have lessons outside school, the entry form is available to download from the school website (Parents / Newsletter/Form Downloads) and must be submitted to Lizzie Post (L.post@hallgrove.co.uk) by Friday 12th 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.

Ski Trip 2017

There has been a very positive response to next year's ski trip, but there are still a few places available. We will be closing bookings next Wednesday (27th January). We will be departing on January 2nd and returning on January 8th. Please email Mr Tullett (i.tullett@hallgrove.co.uk) if you would like to reserve a place for your son or daughter. Further details will follow at the end of the month for confirmed bookings.

Sports News

Girls' Games

The girls had an exceptionally busy week with 17 fixtures, allowing over 100 girls to represent Hall Grove. The week started last Saturday with the 1st VII competing in a netball tournament at Danes Hill, Surrey. This tournament is always highly competitive and a great indicator of the level we need to aspire to in order to compete in National competitions. The squad of 9, including 3 Year 7 girls, played exceptionally well; they were unbeaten throughout the morning scoring over 50 goals and conceding fewer than 10. They returned to school feeling very jubilant Gold medallists. Following on from this success, the girls competed in The Surrey Cup Competition. All schools in the county, including many large prestigious senior schools, were in attendance and the girls had to perform above and beyond to get the result they hoped for. The U12 team played with courage and conviction and won 4 of their 6 matches. The 1st VII again proved themselves to be a well-oiled machine and won their first 4 matches. They then came across the previous year's runner-up and winner - they lost to Tormead by just 2 goals and their final must-win match against St Katherine's, Bramley remained level throughout, going goal for goal until in the very last moments the opposition took possession and threw the ball to their very tall shooter who didn't miss! 3rd for both teams - a great effort girls, well done!

On Wednesday the U11 and U10 teams had very challenging matches against St Piran's a school with a strong reputation for netball. We won 4 of the 5 tightly contested matches. Yasmin van der Zijl and Victoria Fearnhead had exceptional games in defence for the U11A team, Camilla Lawson proved herself to be an able player and Libby Lomas (an U10 B team player) was complimented by the opposition's coach as a player who impressed for the U10 B team.

The U8 and U9 teams had extremely competitive fixtures against St George's Weybridge. The U9 A team had a fiercely contested match where they were incredibly unlucky to lose by 1 goal. Anna Camp and Amelie Smith both impressed Mrs Maxfield for the A team, Isabel Harvie was commended upon how much she listened throughout the afternoon and Lara Kenefick worked hard during her match - she came off the court with very pink cheeks (a joy to behold).

The Year 3 girls had their House competition:

1st Hawks, 2nd Eagles, 3rd Falcons

Important Fixture changes

Wednesday 27th January - Please refer to the website for updated fixture information.

Girls' Games Notices

Saturday 23rd January – Please note ALL Year 6 girls will be expected to attend this tournament (from 0930 – 1200) to either play or help with the running of the event.

Saturday 23rd January – U11 Danes Hill netball tournament – Please meet at Hall Grove for an 0800 departure, the expected return time is 1230.

Saturday 30th January – U11 Hawthorns netball tournament – Please meet at Hall Grove for an 0800 departure, the expected return time is 1230.

Reminder: Please note Mrs Maxfield will be running netball camps over half term:

Years 3 – 5 – Monday 15th February

Years 5 – 8 – Tuesday 16th & Wednesday 17th February

All are at Lightwater Leisure Centre. Please e-mail to reserve a place (k.maxfield@hallgrove.co.uk).

Boys' Games

A reminder that all boys need mouthguards and shin pads at school as they play hockey in PE lessons. Due to wet weather conditions, a towel should be included in games bags for showering after games. If they have their own stick they may bring this in too, providing it is clearly labelled. The school will provide hockey sticks if boys do not own their own.

Apologies to the Under 9 D team who weren't mentioned in last week's newsletter, they had a resounding win against Yateley Manor (11 – 4) and delighted Mr Heffer with some strong running and resolute defending.

Unfortunately, due to pitch conditions, all fixtures against Crosfields were cancelled on Wednesday. On Thursday the Under 9s played Lambrook and Under 8s played Staines Prep. The Under 9s played well and are showing continued signs of improvement, with both the Under 9 C team and D team playing in hard-fought losses, 11 – 13 and 6 – 8 respectively. The Under 8s had a successful afternoon, winning three of their matches and losing one match by 1 try.

Boys' Games Notices

Wednesday 27th January – Rugby

Please note that Edgeborough are now unable to play on Wednesday. The 2nd XV and 1st XV will play Papplewick. The 1st XV are at Papplewick, the 2nd XV at Hall Grove.

Saturday 30th January – U10 Cumnor House Rugby Tournament

Boys selected to play in the Under 10 Cumnor House Rugby Tournament are to meet at Hall Grove at 0815. Estimated return time is 1330.

Reminder: Golf Course

Unfortunately the school golf course is too wet to play at the moment and the Saturday morning lessons have been cancelled.

Hall Grove School Uniform Shop Vacancy

Are you interested in working with us in the Uniform Shop? We are looking for an assistant to join our team at the Hall Grove school uniform shop, to help us out during our busy periods. We are looking for someone who is both reliable and flexible and who is happy to work in a customer-centred environment with good communication skills. It is also important that any applicant is willing to work as part of a team.

The vacancy will be subject to the following employment checks: Enhanced DBS, right to work checks and references from previous employers. We would be grateful if anyone who is interested could also provide a short resumé.

For any further information please contact Helyna and Kirsty at the school uniform shop or use email – helynaq@hotmail.co.uk. Responses by half term please.

Senior School Open Mornings

- Leighton Park School, Reading
23rd February, 8th March, 10th May, 7th June – 0118 987 9600
- Luckley House School
15th March, 0900 – 0118 974 3221
- Farnborough Hill (afternoons)
29th January, 29th April, 1330 – 01252 529811

- Reed's School, Cobham
5th March, 7th May, 10th September, 12th November - 01932 869001

2nd Reminder: February Half Term Camps

London Irish Rugby Camp

Venue: Hall Grove School

Date: 15th and 16th February

Time: 0930 - 1530

Cost: £60

To book please call 01932 750 132 or visit <http://www.london-irish.com/community/rugby-camps/92/>

SuperCamps

Activities for ages 3 - 14.

Venue: Hurst Lodge School, Ascot.

Date: Course dates vary between venues. Please check the website. Monday - Friday, 0800 - 1800.

Cost: From £28 per day.

To book please call 01235 467300 or visit www.supercamps.co.uk

Surrey Heath Museum Children's Activities

Fun and crafts around the museum.

Venue:

Surrey Heath Museum, Knoll Road, Camberley

Dates:

9th Feb - Toddler Tuesday: Be My Valentine

19th Feb - Fun Fridays: Fun With Photos

27th Feb - Toddlers' Saturday Spin-Offs: Daffodil Derby

For more information please call 01276 707 284, email: museum@surreyheath.gov.uk or visit

www.surreyheath.gov.uk/museum

Newsletter Attachments

The following information is available on the school website:

- Instrumental Competition External Entry Form
- Weekly Music Rehearsal Schedule 2015 - 2016
- FOHG Ball Booking Form

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

We are collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids 2016 vouchers which are currently being issued for every £10 spent in stores, online and at fuel stations. We would be grateful if you would send in any vouchers that you receive, there is a collection box in the school office.

Operation Christmas Child Update - Celebrating 895,000 Shoebox Gifts

We are delighted to be able to share that our school contributed to being able to send over 895,000 shoebox gifts from the UK in 2015. Globally, Samaritans Purse delivered over 11.2 million shoeboxes, including many thousands that were delivered to children living in refugee camps.