

Hall Grove School Newsletter



www.hallgrove.co.uk

2nd December 2016

Edition No: 561

Now that the end of term exams are behind us, the school can turn its attention to the many events that lead up to the end of term. These are all detailed in this Newsletter with information on timings. Please take careful note of the arrangements.

As we begin the approach to the Christmas holidays we will shortly be making up lists for out of school clubs for next term. This follows a full review of the Club programme and we hope that some changes will enable us to offer a more reliable service. At the fore of our thinking is the safeguarding of children to ensure they have a happy end to a long school day.

More details of Spring Term Clubs will be sent to parents at the beginning of next week.

A Special Gift for Hall Grove Parents

This year we have arranged for an external company to film each of the Christmas performances, creating a professional DVD. Footage and sound will be of good quality and draw on a number of camera angles and zooms. We hope that this service will be welcomed by parents and allow them to enjoy each show without distraction. You are particularly asked not to film or take photos of any kind during the performances as it is off-putting for the performers and other members of the audience and may spoil the professional recording. May we also ask that very small children are not brought to the shows so as not to interfere with the sound recordings.

The footage will take time to edit and produce. Your copy will be sent home in the Spring Term. There will be no charge for the film but we do ask that you give generously to support our Christmas charity collections.

Christmas Gifts

The practice of bringing gifts in at the end of term can get out of hand, and you are reminded that school is not the place for children to exchange presents with one another, nor may they bring in sweets and food. We encourage boys and girls to use the Christmas Post collection and delivery system for any cards they may write for friends and staff in the last week of term, it is a way for them to contribute from their own pocket money to our Christmas Charity. Amongst the charities we are supporting this year are Sebastian's Action Trust and Ronan's Trust.

As for gifting teachers, of course this is not necessary; however messages of thanks are always very much appreciated.

Spring Term Invoices

School bills will be emailed to parents next week. We very much appreciate prompt payment, and accounts should be settled no later than January 9th.

Reminder: Class Assemblies

The children of 5CG and 5PW 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.

5CG Assembly Thursday 8th December
5PW Assembly Tuesday 13th December

Scarlet Fever

There has been a case of Scarlet Fever reported in Middle School. Scarlet Fever often follows a sore throat. Further symptoms include a red flushed face, feeling generally unwell, swollen glands and a rash which may be itchy. Although it is very contagious, cases are usually mild and can be treated with antibiotics. Children should be kept off school until they have had their first 24 hours of antibiotics.

Christmas Event Reminders

Date	Time	Event
December:		
Monday 5 th	1830	Years 1 & 2 Nativity – ‘Michaelmas Mouse’
Wednesday 7 th	1000	Pre-School Christmas Celebration – ‘Nursery Rhyme Nativity’
	1730	Reception Nativity performance 1 for RST parents – ‘The Really Noisy Nativity’
	1815	Reception Nativity performance 2 for RAE parents – ‘The Really Noisy Nativity’
Thursday 8 th	0900 – 1030	Year 1 Christmas Craft Day in their classroom
	1330 – 1500	Year 2 Christmas Craft Day in their classroom
Friday 9 th	1900	Year 3 Production ‘Roald Dahl’s Pantomime Rhymes’
Monday 12 th	1900	Year 4 Production ‘Gold to Bethlehem’
Wednesday 14 th	1630	Carol Service at Windlesham Parish Church

There will be a retiring collection for the Hall Grove Christmas Charity Fund which every year raises money for several worthwhile charities. We hope you will give generously.

Years 1 and 2 present 'Michaelmas Mouse' – Monday 5th December

The Years 1 and 2 Christmas Play is taking place on Monday 5th 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 Celebration ‘Nursery Rhyme Nativity’ – Wednesday 7th December

The Pre-School Christmas Nativity is taking place on Wednesday 7th December at 1000 at The Barn. It should last approximately thirty minutes. Parents and grandparents of the pupils performing are most welcome to come along. This performance will not be professionally filmed so parents may take photographs.

Reception presents ‘The Really Noisy Nativity’ – Wednesday 7th December

This year we are putting on two performances of our Christmas play, one for parents of each class. Grandparents and other family members are also most welcome. All Reception children will be required for both performances, each lasting approximately 30 minutes. Please check the specific arrangements for your child's class carefully. Space in The Barn is limited and we hope that by offering two performances, all parents will enjoy a comfortable viewing experience. Please only attend the performance designated to your child's class.

All children will need to be back at The Barn between 1700 – 1715 to be helped into their costume by staff. If you would like your child to remain at school until then, we are offering an optional supervision and tea session. Please let Mrs Tomlinson know if you intend for your child to stay for this by Thursday 1st December so that we can arrange catering.

RST Parents

1700 Drop off at The Barn and take your seats
1730 Performance starts for RST parents
1800 Make your way along the winding path to New Hall for Winter warming drinks
1850 Collect your child from The Barn after they have been changed

RAE Parents

1715 Drop off at The Barn and make your way to New Hall for Winter warming drinks
1800 Take your seats in The Barn

1815 Performance starts for RAE parents

1850 Collect your child from The Barn after they have been changed

Years 1 and 2 Christmas Craft Day – Thursday 8th December

The children of Years 1 and 2 would like to invite a parent to participate in a Christmas Craft activity in their classroom on Thursday 8th December. Year 1: 0900 – 1030; Year 2: 1330 – 1500

Year 3 Present ‘Roald Dahl’s Pantomime Rhymes’ – Friday 9th December

The children in Year 3 are looking forward to giving a festive performance of 'Roald Dahl's Pantomime Rhymes' on Friday 9th December in New Hall starting at 1900. Please note that we will have a dress rehearsal earlier that day. 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.

Year 4 Present ‘Gold to Bethlehem’ – Monday 12th December

All children in Year 4 are looking forward to a festive performance of 'Gold to Bethlehem' on Monday 12th December in New Hall, starting at 1900. Please note that we will have a dress rehearsal during the school day on Monday 12th. 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 for Christmas Productions

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 costume or tunic can often be accessorised to great effect and we can also add additional items from our costume store. Please avoid masks or anything that might obstruct your child's face. Costumes should be ready and in school a week prior to your child's performance. If you have any problems or need clarity as to what is required please contact your child's form teacher.

Carol Service – Wednesday 14th December

Our annual Carol Service will be held at Windlesham Church on Wednesday 14th December (and NOT Thursday 15th December, as mistakenly printed in the School Calendar) 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.

Reminder: Year 5 Show – Date for your diary

Pupils are working on an exciting production of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'. This will be performed in the Summer Term on the evening of Wednesday 17th May 2017.

Hall Grove's Got Talent (HGGT) – Thursday 15th December

Now their exams are over we are sure the children will enjoy preparations for our annual talent show!

In the past, acts have consisted of gymnastic and circus displays, street dance or Bollywood routines, magic shows, pop songs and comedy sketches. It is not a show for individual music recitals or monologues (which are better suited to our Informal Concerts and Drama Recitals). Music plays a big part in the show and it is the ideal opportunity for musicians to collaborate and perhaps accompany a vocal act or even form a band!

This is a show produced 'by the children, for the children' and not for a wider audience. We are sorry to say that parents are not invited on this occasion, however the more successful acts will have an opportunity to perform to their parents early next term.

The Drive

- A parent has called to express her concerns regarding the level of car fumes (more noticeable in the dark and cold) in the air whilst parents are on the turning circle during collection time with their engines running and that children are inhaling these fumes. She suggests that where possible it is advisable to turn the engine off.
- Please note that for safety reasons parents collecting their children should **not** walk on the left-hand side of the drive and across the grass outside the Walled Garden Cottage, but must cross at the pedestrian crossing and walk along the path back to their cars. Thank you.

Reminder: Judo, After School Clubs and Twilight

The last club session for Judo was today, Friday 2nd December. Final clubs of this term are on Friday 9th December. Twilight will operate as usual up to and including Thursday 15th December with the exception of Wednesday 14th December due to the Carol Service. TASC will operate as usual until Thursday 15th December.

Judo Club Notice

After several years running our Judo Club, Oliver Fricker has left the employment of Pro Coach to set up his own company. We thank him for his excellent coaching and wish him well for his new venture. We have decided to suspend the club for a term whilst we consider options for the future, however Judo will be brought into our Sports and PE programme from January giving many children the chance to try the sport out. Keen Judoka will still have some regular coaching within the normal school day, and we will arrange training for the inter-school tournaments. There will be no charge passed on to parents. We will look carefully at the reintroduction of a specialist Judo Club for the Summer or the Autumn term.

Reminder: 360 TASC Newcomer - Free 1 hour trial

360 sports education would like to give your child the opportunity to try out the great activities on offer after school at the 360 TASC Club by offering a free one hour trial to all NEW 360 TASC children. There's something for everyone at 360 TASC with lots of fun indoor and outdoor activities for children from Pre-School through to Year 4 - <https://360sportseducation.com/hallgrove>

This trial can be used any time before Friday 16th December 2016. If you would like your child to try 360 TASC then please email adam.weech@360sportseducation.com
We hope to see you at the 360 TASC Club soon.

Reminder: End of Term Arrangements – Friday 16th December

Term ends before lunch on Friday 16th 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.

Spring Term 2017

Term starts on Monday 9th January and normal drop off and collection times apply. Breakfast will be available for those who have pre-booked it. TASC, Twilight and After School Clubs commence on the first day of term, with the **exception of fencing** which starts in the week beginning Monday 16th January.

2nd Reminder: Hall Grove Staff and Parents Social Road Ride – Saturday 10th December

Following the great success of the social road ride earlier this term, a second one is planned for staff, parents and other friends of the school. If you are a cyclist with reasonable experience of riding on the road then do join us on Saturday 10th December, meeting at Hall Grove at 0900. We intend to follow a similar route to the first ride, head out towards Henley, following a relatively flat route with one or two minor inclines along the way. The route will definitely include a stop for coffee and we will be back at Hall Grove by 1300. We expect to average 16-17mph along the way. Please email i.tullett@hallgrove.co.uk or t.lewis@hallgrove.co.uk if you are interested to give us an idea of numbers.

MUSIC

This has been a very full week for many of our musicians; not only have there been school exams, but we've also been rehearsing frantically for Christmas shows, concerts, a carol service, music exams and auditions. Just today we had some very busy children performing on an instrument for the lunchtime concert, auditioning for the National Children's Choir of Great Britain and having a final lesson on a different instrument before Associated Board exams tomorrow here in school! We also now have a parents and staff jazz band, rehearsing for their debut performance at an end of term staff social event – if any parents would like to be involved in future (any instrument considered), please feel free to get in touch with Mr Waltho (j.waltho@hallgrove.co.uk).

SPORTS

Reminder: Cricket Tour to Dubai

The boys going on the Dubai Cricket Tour have decided to continue to challenge themselves with some more fund raising to help get some tour kit. They have already shown their commitment to helping raise funds to go to Dubai with the BBQ, car wash and sale of bags. They are now going to take on the challenge that a number of staff achieved last year by cycling from London to Brighton. This is going to be a team effort with the boys taking it in turn to ride for a specific time, trying to complete the task in the time set by Mr Toulson in last year's race. The event will take place in New Hall on Wednesday 14th December in the last week of term, and the boys would be extremely grateful for any sponsorship.

Hall Grove Rugby Camp January 5th and 6th 1000 - 1500

A ClarionCall email has been sent with details of the January training camp. If you have any further questions please email Mr Cottrell (j.cottrell@hallgrove.co.uk).

Girls' Games

The girls played in bright sunshine and freezing temperatures on Wednesday afternoon and we had some very competitive fixtures. The U12 A team continued their 100% win ratio with a tough match against a physical Farnborough Hill team; Olivia Llewelyn-Jones had a great match, Rosie Millar took to the court after weeks of injury and India Underwood was deservedly voted player of the match.

We had a block fixture against St George's Windsor, a school with an excellent netball pedigree. Now we are fully into the swing of netball training the girls have really stepped up to the challenge of fighting for a place in the top squads and this week, with some additions to the U11 A squad, the team had a terrific match. The girls played exceptionally well. Well done to Lily-Mae Turner and Emily Wolfe for working very hard for their team in attack; despite losing by just 2 goals they all should be proud of their effort. The B team had a really good match and both Tabitha Tonkin and Libby Lomas were relentless in their work in defence. The C team had a tough match against Halstead and showed a marked improvement winning convincingly – congratulations to Clara Finn for having a super game.

With new combinations for the U10 A team including the very welcome return of Amelie Smith (after foot surgery), the team had a tough match. They show great promise and the attacking combination of Isabella Birkett Eyles and Amelie Smith will, once bonded, be a force to be reckoned with. Congratulations to the B team for a terrific win – Sunheri Gadhoke continued to score a handful of goals for her team and Hana Evason was voted coaches' player. It is wonderful that we are able to develop the love of sport for all of the girls at Hall Grove as enjoyment and participation are key and the C team continue to show lots of promise. They are all keen to learn and develop – congratulations to Nerys Tullett and Sophia Badosz who were both recognised by their coaches as stand out players of the match.

On Thursday all of the U9s were very excited to be involved in a triangular fixture against Guildford High School and Portsmouth Grammar School. With nervous anticipation they stepped up to the challenge admirably and Mrs Maxfield was exceptionally proud of them all. The A team drew v PGS and beat GHS convincingly (no mean feat) – well done to Abby Parker, who was voted players' player, Indiana Leech and Chloe Townsend for both having impressive games for the A team, passing with power and speed. The Bs had two super wins with Emily Barnard making a valuable contribution to the team effort, Freya Taylor was voted players' player by Guildford High School and finally three super stars for the C and D teams – Emily Taylor, Amber Kelsall and Aimee Lagerweij are really showing all the signs of hard work and aptitude for their respective teams, looking for space when trying to get free and intercepting determinedly. Eagle House next week girls!!!

Girls' Games Notices

Amendment and Addition

Thursday 8th December

Please note all netball fixtures v Eagle House (home and away) – start at **1400** and NOT 1430 as published in the calendar

Wednesday 14th December (tbc)

1400 U11 - U13 House Hockey Matches

Boys' Games

Wednesday saw Hall Grove play in the annual block fixture against Crosfields, whilst our Colts A and U13 A 7s squads travelled to Bryanston School in Dorset. All boys continue to perform extremely well and are making very good progress as the season develops. Notable performances were from the U10 C and D teams, showing very good understanding of what's needed with attacking flair, scoring twenty-four tries in total. Another standout performance was the U12 A team, withstanding large periods of defensive pressure to turn the ball over and demonstrating how deadly they can be with the ball in hand. They went on to score ten tries in a match for the second time this season. Bryanston proved to be a worthwhile experience; all boys really grew into the event and played some brilliant attacking rugby. Thomas Morley picked up the most points for the day with 6 tries and Freddie Brennen scored a brilliant length of the pitch interception try against a very good Port Regis team. The Colts worked tirelessly throughout the day, playing six matches of very open, end to end rugby. Oli Goringe led the team exceptionally well, scoring some very well worked tries in decisive moments. Very well done to all boys who played on Wednesday. We now move into our final matches before Christmas with a block fixture against Eagle House next week.

Boys' Games Notices

Saturday 3rd December

Years 3 and 4 House Matches. Start time 0900 and finish by 1000.

Monday 5th December

Basketball against Yateley Manor has been cancelled.

Christmas Camps & Activities – further information on the school website

Reminder: 360 Sports Education / Hype Christmas Camps

360 Hype are offering both Multi Activity Camps and Football Camps over the Christmas period as follows:

- Bishopsgate School, Egham - 19th to 23rd December - Hype Camp plus swimming.
- The Marist School, Sunninghill - 19th to 22nd December - Hype and Football Camps plus swimming.
- Ravenscote School, Camberley - 22nd and 23rd December - Hype and Football Camp.

3rd Reminder: The Oratory School, Reading Cricket Christmas Camp – 19th to 23rd December

For boys and girls aged 7-13. Suitable for all abilities.

2nd Reminder: Surrey Heath Museum Christmas Painting Competition & Children's Activities

- Design a Victorian style Christmas tree. Prizes to be won. Closing date: 13th December 2016.
- Fun and crafts around the museum. Various dates available.

Senior School Open Mornings / Days

Stowe Lower School, (13+ Entry) – 14th January, 18th March 2017 – 01280 818205

Bede's Senior School, East Sussex – 18th March 2017 – 01323 843252

Newsletter Attachments

The following information is available on the school website:

- Weekly Music Rehearsal Timetable
- The Oratory School Cricket Christmas Camp
- Surrey Heath Museum Christmas Painting Competition

- Surrey Heath Museum Children's Activities
- Christmas Hype Camp
- Christmas Football Camp
- Sebastian's Action Trust Santa Fun Run

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Christmas Gift Idea!

Last chance to buy The Dubai cricket fundraising bags. The drawstring backpack makes a great stocking filler for the kids, whilst the jute shopper is ideal for filling with hamper items for grandparents! Very limited number remaining. Please contact piabrennen@sky.com if interested or drop in at the Front Office.

Clothing Collection

Mrs Gunning, mother of Jessica in Year 7, is helping a friend who is organising a collection of warm clothing and blankets which she plans to distribute to homeless people (mostly men) in Reading. She is collecting men's hats, gloves, scarves and winter coats as well as blankets and sleeping bags. Do you have anything spare just sitting in a cupboard? Can you donate anything? If so, please contact Mrs Gunning via email joannegunning121@btinternet.com or mobile 07900 232633 to arrange collection. Thank you.

Reminder: Sebastian's Action Trust Santa Fun Run – Sunday 11th December

Get into the festive spirit and join Sebastian's Action Trust for their Santa Fun Run on Sunday 11th 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/santafunrun16 to ditch your sleigh and register for this fun, family event. The children may like to join Mr Tullett's training sessions on Tuesday/Thursday mornings from 0730 – 0800.