



Newsletter 659 6th December 2019

Another week of excellent sporting results as the Netball season gets underway and Rugby continues well at all ages. Good luck to the girls' football team who are competing in their first tournament on Saturday.

The General Election is less than a week away now; there is a growing sense of excitement amongst the more senior pupils as they discuss possible outcomes. Years 5, 6, 7 & 8 listened to manifesto pledges from the main political parties this morning, well put by several senior students. They also heard from three teachers who described their own experiences assisting in election campaigns. We will especially watch the fortunes of Gloucester MP, Mr Richard Graham and of Winchester MP, Mr Stephen Brine.

Roadworks - Advance Notice - Monday 9th December

Works will be carried out on the bridge on the A30 London Road **overnight from 1930 until 0600** for 4 nights from Monday 9th December. The bridge will be closed in both directions, and the slip road from the A322 onto the bridge will also be closed whilst the work is being carried out.

If approaching Hall Grove from Camberley direction or from the M3 roundabout during these hours, take the A322 in the direction of Bracknell, come around the big roundabout then return on the A322 under the A30 bridge and take the road past the Windlesham Golf Club to the Longacres roundabout.

After Schools Clubs Fair - Tuesday 10th December

We are hosting an After Schools Clubs Fair on Tuesday 10th December in the Lighthouse from 1500 through to 1730. This is an opportunity to meet the team who co-ordinate the ASC programme and ask questions about what is available next term prior to the booking system going live on **Wednesday 11th December at 1100.**

Clubs will commence on Monday 13th January and conclude week ending Friday 27th March.

Ian Tullett - Head of Co-Curricular

War Torn - Camberley Theatre, Friday 24th and Saturday 25th January 2020

Tickets are now on sale for the Year 8 production of War Torn. Please follow [the link here](#) to book tickets. It will be an excellent show that has already attracted a great deal of positive comment.

Some parents questioned the suitability of the play for Year 5 children. The Director writes as follows:

DIARY REMINDERS

DECEMBER

Monday 9th

1800 Seniors Parents' Meetings

Tuesday 10th

0835 6HQ Assembly
1500 After School Clubs Fair
1830 Pre-Prep Nativity

Wednesday 11th

1100 After School Clubs bookings go live
1700 Street Elite performance Years 3 & 4
1800 Street Elite performance Years 5-8
1800 Seniors Parents' Meetings

1801 Thursday 12th

0835 5BG Assembly
1100 Pre-School Nativity
1730 RST Nativity
1800 RLB Nativity

Friday 13th

1330 Pre-Prep Christmas Crafts
After School Clubs Finish

Monday 16th

1900 Year 3 Production

Tuesday 17th

0835 6AK Assembly

Wednesday 18th

1900 Year 4 Production
Last boarding night

Thursday 19th

1200 Early Years & Pre-Prep Xmas Lunch
1700 Carol Service at Windlesham Church
(Years 7 & 8 only)

Friday 20th December

End of Term Arrangements

1200 Early Years and Pre-Prep
1330 Lower Juniors
1400 Carols in the Courtyard
1400 Upper Juniors
1430 Seniors

“Whilst the topic is of a serious nature, the focus of the show is very much based on the difficulties faced by refugees when caught up in a war scenario. The main theme of the show is about the futility of war rather than the violence. The script has been proof read by the English Department and discussed by the Senior Management Team; it is judged to be suitable for Years 5 and up. Several children from Years 4 and 5 are playing small parts in it too. The play is also being supported by UNICEF and the Red Cross and has an educational theme throughout. When I originally directed this piece professionally it was associated and endorsed by the charity, ‘Children On The Edge’.

When you compare the show with ‘Les Miserables’, ‘Oliver’, ‘Annie’ and even shows like, ‘Treasure Island’, all of which have very dark and often violent themes, this piece is quite moderate.

We will be discussing the story and play with the children before they go to see it, and the Year 8s will be talking about their roles and experiences too.

I do hope this helps to address any possible concerns.”

Hazel Hiles

Interestingly enough, in today’s Telegraph, Michael Morpurgo writes that ‘children must not be shielded from our dark past’. He calls for more stories about war and says that ‘children need to learn empathy’. War Torn will certainly develop that.

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.

As for gifting teachers, of course this is not necessary; while simple messages of thanks are always very much appreciated, extravagant presents cannot be accepted.

Christmas Event Reminder

December	Time	Event	Venue
Tuesday 10th	1830	Pre-Prep Nativity ‘I’m Gonna Shine’	New Hall
Thursday 12th	1100	Pre-School Nativity ‘Old Uncle Sam’	Performance Studio
	1730	RST Nativity ‘Higgledy Piggledy’;	Performance Studio
	1800	RLB Nativity ‘Higgledy Piggledy’	Performance Studio
Friday 13th	1330	Pre-Prep Christmas Crafts	Yrs1& 2 Classrooms
Monday 16th	1900	Year 3 Production ‘The Little Shepherd’	New Hall
Wednesday 18th	1900	Year 4 Production ‘A Pudding for a Chimney Sweep’	New Hall
Thursday 19th	1200	Early Years & Pre-Prep Christmas Lunch	
	1700	Year 7 & 8 Carol Service at Windlesham Church. Choristers parents welcome.	

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

Years 1 and 2 Nativity ‘I’m Gonna Shine!’ – Tuesday 10th December

The Year 1 and 2 Christmas production will be performed at 1830 in New Hall. It should last approximately forty-five minutes. Parents and other relatives of the pupils are most welcome to come along. The children should return to school by 1810 and be dropped off in 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 cast will be taken back to their classrooms to change, and parents are invited to the Lighthouse for some seasonal refreshments. The children will be dismissed by their form teacher from the turning circle, please do not bring them into the Lighthouse.

Pre-School Nativity ‘Old Uncle Sam’ – Thursday 12th December

The Pre-School Christmas Nativity is taking place at 1100 in the Performance Studio. It should last approximately thirty minutes. Parents are invited for refreshments in the Lighthouse from 1030 before the children’s performance at 1100.

Reception Nativity ‘Higgledy Piggledy’ - Thursday 12th December

This year we are putting on two performances of our Christmas play, one for parents of

KEY & TERM DATES

Key Dates

5th March - Senior Schools Fair
 5th June - Early Years & Pre-Prep Sports Day
 6th June - Sports Day (Years 3-8)

Battisborough Trips 2020

Year 5 27th April - 1st May
 Year 4 4th - 7th May
 Year 6 18th - 22nd May
 Year 8 29th June - 3rd July

Autumn Term 2019

9th September - 20th December
 Half Term:
 26th October - 10th November

Spring Term 2020

13th January - 27th March
 Half Term:
 15th - 23rd February (incl)

Summer Term 2020

22nd April - 10th July
 Half Term:
 23rd - 31st May (incl)

Autumn Term 2020

7th September - 18th December
 Half Term:
 24th October - 8th November

Spring Term 2021

11th January - 26th March
 Half Term:
 13th - 21st February

Summer Term 2021

19th April - 9th July
 Half Term:
 29th May - 6th June

Autumn Term 2021

6th September - 17th December
 Half Term:
 23rd October - 7th November

School Uniform Shop Term

Time Opening Times
 Mondays & Tuesdays 0800 - 0915
 Thursdays 1500 - 1730

NEWSLETTER ATTACHMENTS

EXTERNAL CHRISTMAS EVENTS

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 Performance Studio is limited and we hope that by offering separate times for each class all will enjoy a comfortable viewing experience. Please only attend the performance designated for your child's class.

All children will need to be back at The Barn between 1700 - 1715 to be helped into their costumes 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 by **Thursday 5th December** if you intend for your child to stay so that we can arrange catering.

RST Parents

1700 Drop off at The Barn. Adults make your way to the Performance Studio
1730 Performance starts for RST parents
1800 Make your way to the Lighthouse for mulled wine and mince pies
1845 Collect your child from The Barn after they have been changed

RLB Parents

1715 Drop off at The Barn and make your way to the Lighthouse for refreshments
1800 Take your seats in the Performance Studio
1810 Performance starts for RLB parents
1845 Collect your child from The Barn after they have been changed

Christmas Craft Afternoons – Friday 13th December - 1330–1515

The children of Years 1 and 2 would each like to invite one adult to participate in Christmas Craft activities in their classroom. On arrival, please sign in with Mrs Clubb or Mrs Parsons who will be based outside the Year 1 classrooms.

Year 3 Present ‘The Little Shepherd’ – Monday 16th December

The children in Year 3 are looking forward to giving a festive performance of ‘The Little Shepherd’ 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 and return them 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, parents are invited for mulled wine and mince pies in the Lighthouse. The children will return to their classrooms and then be available for collection from the turning circle.

Year 4 Present ‘A Pudding for a Chimney Sweep’ – Wednesday 18th December

All children in Year 4 are looking forward to a festive performance of ‘A Pudding for a Chimney Sweep’ in New Hall, starting at 1900. Please note that we will have a dress rehearsal during the school 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, and they are 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, parents are invited for mulled wine and mince pies in the Lighthouse. The children will return to their classrooms and then be available for collection from the turning circle.

Year 4 will also be going to Sunrise Care Home in Bagshot to sing some carols and spread some festive cheer on Thursday 19th December.

Music

Carol Service

Any adults wishing to join the choir for the Carol Service on Thursday 19th December, are asked to email music@hallgrove.co.uk. The rehearsal will be at 1430 in Windlesham Parish Church, with the service at 1700. The music will be sent out digitally beforehand so you can familiarise yourself with the six choir carols the choristers are singing.

Informal Concerts

Congratulations to all who took part in the Informal Ensembles Concert yesterday, it was fantastic to hear from so many children and see how much they enjoyed it!

ABRSM Exams

Well done to everyone who took a music exam today. Results will be published during the holiday and will be sent to you via email from the peripatetic teacher.

Music Practice Club

Practice Club will run from 1630-1800 on Monday and Tuesday next term. If you would like to book your child into a half-hour slot please email music@hallgrove.co.uk

Christmas Shows

Please note that none of the Christmas shows are being recorded professionally this year. Any parents wishing to record any part of any of the shows are asked to do so from the balcony, or the back of the Performance Studio.

Sport

Well done to all the boys and girls who contributed to a successful afternoon of sport on Wednesday. The girls' netball season got off to an excellent start against Edgeborough with the U10 girls being the stand out age group for their performances. The rugby against Eagle House also went very well with improved performances from the U13 squads, a reward for their hard work in training.

Congratulations to Fleur Gilbert on her selection for the Berkshire U13 Netball squad, Serena Evans who has qualified for the Berkshire Swimming Championships in freestyle as well as Lemar Abuchi and Adam Young on their selection for the Independent Schools Football Association Regional Squad. The school is very proud of their achievements.

Good luck to those who are representing the school on Saturday, especially the girls' football squad who are looking forward to their first fixture this weekend.

Further details are on the school website.

End of Term Arrangements - Friday 20th December

Collection and arrangements times are as follows:

1200 Early Years and Pre-Prep
1330 Lower Juniors
1400 Carols in the Courtyard
1400 Upper Juniors
1430 Seniors

Parents are invited to attend the informal musical gathering of 'Carols in the Courtyard', which starts at 1400. There is always a very jolly atmosphere, and this is a nice way to support the school's chosen charities as well as to say farewells before the Christmas break. Mince pies and mulled wine will be available. The drive will be closed, and parking will be on the playing fields. In the event of very wet weather, we will have to cancel.

Reminder: After School Clubs

All after school clubs will finish on **Friday 13th December**.

Boarding

The last boarding night this term will be on Wednesday 18th December. It is suggested that parents collect any boarders' belongings before the carol service on Thursday.

A reminder that any children who have boarded this term are welcome to sign up for the boarders' Christmas outing to Sunningdale Pizza Express on the evening of Thursday 12th December. Please use the [boarding form](#) on the school website.

Angus McChesney (Head of Boarding) Email: a.mcchesney@hallgrove.co.uk

Sebastian's Action Trust Christmas Market - Saturday 7th December - 1200 to 1600

Sebastian's Action Trust supports families of seriously-ill children from diagnosis, through treatment and beyond by listening and responding to their unmet needs.

For the first time ever they are holding a Christmas Market at The Woodlands, Crowthorne. They will have Santa's Grotto, face-painting, refreshments, a BBQ and stallholders who will be providing Christmas gifts, games and much more. Weather dependent they will also be offering pony rides. There will be something for the whole family. Entry by donation. Do come along. www.sebastiansactiontrust.org