

From the Headmaster – Neil Tomlin OBE

This has been a hugely successful first week back and our children are settling in well. Some will still be finding their feet, I know how they feel, but please reassure your children that we have time to get completely comfortable.

I hope that our Prep School children have remembered that the sight of the headmaster waving a sword around at Monday's assembly was not to strike fear into them but was to add illustration to the quote "The pen is mightier than the sword". I am also hopeful that the Early Years and Pre-Prep children remembered that we have talked about the importance of being kind to each other.

Kindness leads me to our school values. Our 6 values lie at the core of everything we do at Hall Grove. We realise that our children's lives will be enhanced if they understand our values and live by them. Each week this term, we will focus on one of our values at a time to ensure that our children have solid foundations to their total learning experience. Next week we will be focusing on being kind and gentle.

With drama, dance, cookery, music, bleep tests, swimming, outdoor learning, forest skills, sports and much more taking place this week, I hope that your children have all found something, over and above their core academic studies, to get their teeth into. Our girls hockey teams are training hard for their first matches next week and tomorrow's (12 Sep) training will be important for their preparation. It was good to see football matches taking place on Wednesday with 8 wins and 4 losses against Hoe Bridge. Some of the victories were emphatic and we will always remind ourselves to win with humility and lose gracefully.

Next week's highlights include parents' briefings for Pre-Prep and Upper Juniors, the start of music lessons, matches against Eagle House, Hoe Bridge and King's House, and a boarding taster for Year 4. As part of our 'Hall Grove Journey' Programme, our Seniors have their first in a series of lectures. The lecture on Thursday 16 September will be delivered by Alastair Bruce, the Sky News Royal Correspondent, to which Seniors' Parents are most welcome to join us at 6pm in the New Hall.

I will also be looking to compliment children on their smart haircuts and good all-round general appearance next week.

School Business

Autumn Term 2021 School Calendar

A copy of the Autumn Term 2021 School Calendar is currently available on the school website. Please note the weekend commitments. Parents are reminded that all boys and girls from Year 3 upwards are expected to be available on some Saturdays for whole year group sports training sessions, house matches and weekend fixtures—further details can be found on the school website.

School Security – Visitors

Please note that all visitors to the school, outside normal drop-off and collection times, are required to report to the School Office – this includes all parents. If for any reason your child needs to be collected before the end of the school day, please come to the School Office where he/she will be brought to meet you and will be signed out.

Appointments and Holiday Authorisation

Should your child(ren) have an appointment during the school day, please add a note to their diary or email details to their form tutor with a copy to the School Office (office@hallgrove.co.uk). All children should be collected and dropped off at the School Office to sign out / in.

For all holiday requests an Authorised Absence Application Form should be completed and returned to the School Office for authorisation.

Boarding

Children in Years 4 to 8 can be booked into board on Mondays to Thursdays inclusive. There are a limited number of places available for boarders and, where possible, we prefer children to have a minimum of two consecutive boarding nights a week, booked on a regular basis. Boarding at Hall Grove gives a good introduction to senior school life and is very popular. For enquiries, please contact Mr Cottrell (j.cottrell@hallgrove.co.uk) and book via the school website online booking form (Parents / Boarding Request Form). £40.00 per night.

After School Care

We have adjusted our After School Programme to better suit the needs of some of our parents – thank you for your suggestions and communication. The revised programme is attached. Please contact the front office to book in for After School Care.

Hall Grove Open Morning – Thursday 30th September

There will be an Open Morning taking place on Thursday 30th September from 0900 to 1100. It is intended for prospective parents so we would be grateful if you would inform friends and work colleagues who may be interested in sending a child to Hall Grove one day.

Performing Arts

For all information regarding Music, Dance or Drama including details on choirs, ensembles, instrumental lessons, Chorister auditions and Trinity Speech & Drama exams, please see the attachment titled 'Performing Arts 2021-2022'.

Parents keen for their children to start individual music lessons should write to the Director of Music, Miss Post (music@hallgrove.co.uk). We will be delighted to advise and arrange lessons for any pupils wishing to take advantage of this opportunity. We currently offer lessons in voice, recorders, flute, clarinet, saxophone, piano, organ, trumpet, cornet, trombone, tuba, violin, viola, 'cello, ukulele, guitar (classical and electric), drums and percussion, with 12 visiting instrumental teachers.

Sport

It was wonderful to see such a festival of sport taking place on Wednesday afternoon in the glorious weather we were blessed with. The girls had some intensive hockey training followed by a well-deserved dip in the

pool. Mrs Maxfield and Mr Quartermaine were delighted with the effort and desire shown in the sessions and look forward to seeing all the girls from years 5 to 8 at Saturdays training session starting at 0900

The boys had an excellent start to the football season against Hoe Bridge winning 9 of their 13 matches. There were some fine individual performances, but it was striking to see the team spirit that was evident across all of the squads and the way they showed humility in victory and grace in defeat. Good luck to the U13 and U11 A teams who are playing in the annual Hall Grove football tournament on Saturday. Selected players must arrive promptly at 0900

Sports Team Information

Once teams have been selected, team sheets are posted on the school website, where you can also find a map for directions. The teams for Wednesday/Friday fixtures will be published by the end of the school day on Mondays/Tuesdays. Saturday fixture information will be available from the end of the school day on Thursdays. Team sheets also include departure times for weekend matches. Parents are welcome to attend all matches to support their children. The school website informs parents about forthcoming fixtures for the term ahead. Please be aware that Year 3 matches are listed as U8, Year 4 as U9, Year 5 as U10, Year 6 as U11 or Colts and Years 7 and 8 as U12 and U13 or 1st – 5th teams. **Please call 01276 470009 if your child is unable to attend a match.**

Sports Bags

All pupils in years 3 to 8 may bring their games bags to school on Monday and place them in the areas allocated for their storage. Year 5, 6, 7 and 8 girls and boys store their bags by the appropriate changing room. Drop off on the tennis courts would make this more efficient.

Early morning athletics training

Mr Tullett will be running early morning training on Tuesdays and Fridays starting promptly at 0730. The emphasis will be on running technique and building their base fitness. The sessions are open to all boys and girls in Years 3 – 8 and there will be no charge. There will be a quick snack after the children have changed back into their uniform before heading to form time. We do ask that children **do not** bring any food to school but do remember a water bottle. Please contact Mr Tullett if you have any further questions.

Parents and staff social bike ride – Sunday 19th September

We are delighted to be offering a social bike ride to the well-known Velolife café, in Warren Row, near Maidenhead, on Sunday 19th September. We aim to meet at Hall Grove at 0900 for a prompt getaway by 0915. We will return by 1200. Please note that a road bike is required and the Hall Grove peleton will average around 15mph on the journey. We look forward to seeing many of you there. Please email either Mr Lewis (t.lewis@hallgrove.co.uk) or Mr Tullett (i.tullett@hallgrove.co.uk) with any questions.

School Service Books

All new children in Years 3 – 8 have been issued with a Service Book, which has its own individual bookplate – it is something to treasure and keep beyond Hall Grove. Please name it neatly, take care of it and keep in school.

Absence

It is important to notify the School Office if your child is absent from school. In the event of illness, parents should notify the School Office by telephone on 01276 473059 or by email to office@hallgrove.co.uk on the morning of the absence. This is a legal requirement. Prior written notice of absence due to medical appointments, music exams etc., should be sent to the School Office. School absence for family events and holidays will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances and must via a formal application for absence to Mr Tomlin.

Sickness

If your child is unwell during the night, i.e. sickness, diarrhoea etc., please allow 48 hours to elapse before you send him/her back to school.

Medical Details and Medication

Please remember to inform the School of any changes to the medical information we currently hold for your child. Medication from home (e.g. antibiotics) may only be administered if requested by the parent/guardian in writing with instructions using the 'Parent Consent for Prescribed Medication' form available on the School website ('Parents / Medical / Parental Consent for Prescribed Medication'). These are also available from the School Office or from the School Nurses. All medication should be clearly labelled, with the dispensing label if prescribed by a doctor. Please note that decanted medicines will not be accepted. Asthma inhalers and Adrenaline pens should be brought to school at the start of term and given to the School Office together with written instructions for use. Please ensure that all medication is named and in date.

Medical Room

We are delighted that Mrs Sarah Arnold has joined the staff at Hall Grove as a Healthcare Assistant. She has a degree and experience in Nursing, though has had a number of years out of the profession while bringing up her family. When communicating with either person, please use 'medical@hallgrove.co.uk' as the email address as this will be accessed by whoever is on duty. Their individual emails will remain in place.

Mrs Arnold – Mondays and Thursdays

Mrs Jackson – Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Head Lice

Please check your child's hair for head lice before he/she returns to school and continue to check on a regular basis. If it becomes necessary to treat your child during term-time, please notify the school. Advice regarding treatment can be obtained from your local pharmacist.

Lost Property

Please ensure all your child's possessions are named clearly and securely, including all footwear. There is a significant amount of lost property which cannot be returned as it is unnamed. If items of uniform are secondhand, please remember to remove the old name tapes and replace with your child's own name.

Prize Giving Cups and Awards

If your child was presented with a cup at Prize Giving, please could you have the cup engraved in the same format as the previous winner and return it to the School Office. Thank you.

School Clubs

Pony Grove

Pony Grove looks forward to the children returning from the summer break and after-school lessons will resume the week of 13th September. We still have spaces and welcome children of all ages.

Please contact Karen on 07702766423 or e mail Ponygrovelimited@gmail.com

Hall Grove Polo Club

Welcome to Hall Grove Polo Club now being run by Kirstie Otamendi and her team at Westcroft Park Polo Club in Chobham (10mins drive from the school) on Tuesday and Thursday evenings as an after-school club run independently to Hall Grove. Currently the slot is from 5:15pm to 6:15pm on both days with an option of a later group as well subject to demand from 6:15pm to 7:15pm. The sessions will commence from 14th of September. This club is open to riders of all abilities and indeed no prior riding experience is needed. All equipment including horses, sticks, helmets are provided including a certified coach. Riders will need to wear jeans (white polo jeans or jodhpurs) for the sessions along with weather appropriate tops and riding boots ideally. You can manage with jodhpur boots and optional chaps – all equipment available from Tally Ho Farm or the Chobham Rider locally.

Polo is one of the fastest growing sports at schools and universities in the UK and a polo handicap is seen as an additional feather in one's CV. We aim to prepare the children to participate in the Schools' Nationals (we are previous champions in the U13 age group!) and to play against other school teams on a regular basis. We aim to have non-riders able to play chukkas within the first term and be confident to ride by themselves.

In order to gauge your child's ability and suitability to polo lessons, next Thursday 16th September at 5:15pm will be the taster session for those who are new to the Club and have not done this before. If you are interested, please respond to me on rawal@gie.org.uk . For this session blue jeans are fine and in the absence of riding boots please wear shoes with a heel ideally.

We shall also be running Saturday morning sessions with children from other schools locally (many of whom we will be playing matches against). There is also a plan for a parents' group on Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 9 or 10am. This has proven very popular over the summer and is a fun and safe way to experience the sport of kings whilst riding for fun on safe ponies and meeting a whole new group of parents. Please do register your interest in this as well. Do email me with any queries and do book your slots as spaces are limited.

I look forward to welcoming your children and yourselves to Hall Grove Polo Club

School Adverts

Hall Grove Instagram Account

The Hall Grove Instagram account has come alive. Please follow **hallgroveschool** for beautiful photos of all things Hall Grove! Mrs Tomlin is running it.

Second-hand Uniform Sale - Saturday 11 September (10am – 12 midday)

An enormous thank you to parents Suzie Greenhalgh and Vicky West who tirelessly helped sort, set up and sell the uniform. We have raised just over £1500 for 'Sal's Shoes' and 'Play it Forward' charities. A wonderful 40 pairs of sports shoes and various sports kit were also donated. There is another quick sale to be held during match day Saturday 11th September 10am to 12pm. Please do contact Suzie if you would like to help. Donations of used but good condition sports and school shoes welcome as well as any outgrown sports kit (tennis racquets, cricket bats, hockey sticks, footballs etc). Please leave in the sports pavilion no later than Saturday morning as everything will be packed away until next term after this.

Mrs Greenhalgh 07901555080

School Uniform Shop Opening Times

Term Time Only Opening Times

Mondays & Tuesdays 0800 - 0900

Thursdays 1500 – 1700

To access the on-line Uniform Shop service please visit The Direct Clothing Company website and follow the link to Hall Grove School. There are also instructions on the school website.

The Uniform Shop email: uniformshop@hallgrove.co.uk

The Direct Clothing Company: <https://www.thedirectclothing.co.uk/school/hall-grove-school/>

Weekly Newsletters

The weekly newsletter is sent out by email to all parents via the ClarionCall service. Any additional documents or letters will be attached to the newsletter email, posted on the school website with links or will be sent out separately by email. In addition, on Fridays, a link to that week's newsletter will be posted on the school website home page.

Public Notices

Documents

The following documents can be found on the school website, under the parent information tab:

- Senior Schools Open Mornings Information

Styled Events by Miki – Children's Themed Parties

Styled Events by Miki offers luxury furnished igloos for hire, garden cinemas and children's sleepovers in tepees. Please contact Mrs Rossiter on 07771 641059 - Facebook / Instagram: styledeventsbymiki

Mis-sold Hockey Stick

Mr Quartermaine's hockey stick has accidentally been sold from the second-hand uniform shop sale for charity. If you are in possession of a 'young ones' orange stick please contact him directly.

Lost Property

An item of jewellery was found near the barrier on the drive. If you think it might be yours then please contact the office.