

## **From the Headmaster – Neil Tomlin OBE**

It was my pleasure to start the week by announcing the House Captains who have started their roles with plenty of drive and enthusiasm. The 2021/22 House captains are:

Eagles: Rishya Rawal

Hawks: Serena Evans

Kestrels: Henry Wood

Falcons: Madeleine Klotz

The whole of the Year 8 group will now be given opportunities to lead throughout the year. We will do this using day-to-day events as well as by adding focus periods. We aim to ensure that our children have the skills to lead at Hall Grove and into the future.

As many have noticed in the calendar, we are also adding academic enrichment events for our Seniors, with the lecture series. Last night, we were joined by Dr Ruth Sullivan whose story of her life under the title: 'Be yourself, everyone else is taken', gave our audience the opportunity to think about how a positive attitude can deliver an amazingly colourful life.

Talk of colourful lives leads nicely to our Grandparents where there is great excitement amongst the children for Saturday. I know that many of our younger age groups have enjoyed writing letters to their Grandparents to invite them to what we hope will be a fantastic day. We might need to wrap up warm, but we hope the weather will be kind enough. Please encourage your children to tour the whole school. There will be plenty to see and there are plenty of activities for all to enjoy.

My duty requires me to remind us that Hall Grove is a non-smoking site, and please can we refrain from bringing alcohol on to the site unless the occasion specifically offers it as an option. All are important matters for the safety of our children.

Can I draw your attention to the notice about how we will support Black History Month which will start in school from Monday. You will also want to read about National walk to school day on Wednesday. For those Year 5 parents who missed the Senior Schools briefing last week, please come along to the briefing next Thursday and join Year 6 parents. Next week is also our chance to focus on our next value: 'Be Hard Working'. I intend to introduce a few hard-working role models for the children to think about and aspire to follow.

To send you into your weekends feeling very good about yourselves and your school, it was a very special moment when our U13 Girls Hockey team stood to applaud their defeated opponents during the medal presentation last week. Winning with humility is one thing Hall Grove teams will do. It is also important for our children to recognise when the time is right to show empathy. It was also lovely to hear the Butser Ancient Farm staff singing the praises of our Year 3 children following their visit on Wednesday.

## **Whole School Messages**

### **Hall Grove NGS Garden Opening and Grandparents' Afternoon - Saturday 2nd October**

This is the second time this year we are supporting the National Garden Scheme, a charity that supports several good causes and raises millions of pounds each year. The school grounds and gardens will be open for viewing from 1400 to 1700 as well as the beautiful walled garden where a range of flowers and garden produce will be on sale. There are a variety of trails and walks including the historic ice house in the garden of Field House, a woodland walk and the boating lake (for viewing only!). Entry is by way of donation, £5 per car, all entrance money going to the NGS charity. Teas will be on sale at The Lighthouse where Hall Grove lamb will also be available to buy in packs ready for the freezer.

Concurrently, our children will have the opportunity to welcome their Grandparents to Hall Grove. As well as being able to enjoy the NGS event, visitors will be able to watch a demonstration Polo and Hockey Match, enjoy a performing arts extravaganza, and a number of other activities. We hope that grandparents will see their grandchildren in action as well as look around their classrooms. Best to dress for the outdoors.

### **National Walk to School Day – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

On Wednesday 6th October the children will be walking a mile, during the school day to mark the national 'walk to school day' initiative. Led by some of our Year 8 children who are developing their leadership skills, the children will be walking around the perimeter of the grounds and the staff will talk to the children about the positive impact of exercise on their body and mind as well as a positive impact on the environment. Children must come to school in wellington boots or trainers and have their school shoes in a bag to put on after the event.

### **Macmillan Coffee Morning - From Mrs Tomlin**

Thank you everyone who participated in the Macmillan Coffee Morning last Friday. Whether you baked, donated or attended, we raised a fantastic £899.20 for the charity and had a jolly good time! Photos of the delicious goodies generously provided are on the Hall Grove School Instagram page.

### **School Council Representatives - From Mrs Randall**

We are pleased to announce our School Council Representatives. Their role is to provide important feedback from their class, for the Headmaster about the running of the school.

Falcons:	Tim & Zaara
Kestrels:	Edd & Indiana
Hawks:	Addison & Ria
Eagles:	Diya & Tom
6AK:	Daniel E
6HQ:	Arjan & Isabella

6HT: Ellie & Kaydan  
6FL: Josh  
5PW: Charlotte & Henry  
5JF: Iwan & Amelie  
5JT: Sophie & Kush

## **Dogs – from the Headmaster**

As a fellow Dog owner, I realise that the family ‘hound’ is often considered an essential supporter of matches and other activities. We therefore need to work together.

Please could you ensure that your dogs are kept on leads and any mess is picked up and disposed off-site. Please also respect the fact that many of our other friends in the Hall Grove and visiting community might not like dogs and/or have allergies to animals.

Of greatest importance to me is to protect our children. Dog owners are fully responsible for the behaviour of their dogs whilst on the Hall Grove grounds.

## **Black History Month - Mr Toulson**

One of our aims at the school is to make our history curriculum as broad as possible and to encourage the children to consider historical events from many different perspectives. We also want the subject to flow across into neighbouring subjects. This October we are marking Black History month by looking at the suffering, struggles and triumphs of black peoples over the last 500 years. We will also be looking at the influence of black cultures; learning about the origin of jazz and hip-hop; experimenting with different artistic styles such as Tingatinga; and performing drama pieces connected to black heroes. This Monday, 6HT will be ‘launching’ the month in school assembly.

## **Senior Parents - Mr McLeod**

In a week that has contained Open Morning, a Senior Lecture, House Captain appointments and the Oscar charity football tournament, it has been wonderful to see so many Year 7 and 8 children involved in leadership and ambassadorial roles. As usual, they have excelled, with guests commenting on just how happy and welcoming they have been. Grandparents’ Day and the Garden Opening take place on Saturday, much of which will be run by they eldest pupils in the school, so please do come and support them.

On Thursday, Dr Ruth Sullivan (Headmistress of Sherborne Girls) spoke to the Seniors about the importance of being themselves. Thanks to her for such an impressive talk and giving the children a glimpse of the journey they could take using the skills they will pick up at Hall Grove and beyond.

## **Battisborough House**

We now look forward to Battisborough, with Eagles and Falcons flying out on Monday 4th October, followed by Hawks and Kestrels on Wednesday 6th. Please drop off at the Tennis Courts at 0745 on the day of their departure, with collection at 1630 on the day they return. Should you not be able to collect at 1630, children will be supervised until normal collection.

## **Covid Precautions**

We will continue in Devon to take all the sensible precautions we have in place to limit the spread of Covid. Although we have a very small number of cases in the Senior section, we

all have a part to play in remaining vigilant and we appreciate your continuing support in this.

In particular, we would ask that your child takes an LFD test within 12 hours of their planned departure to Battsborough. For Eagles and Falcons, this would be Sunday evening/Monday morning and, for Kestrels and Hawks, this would be Tuesday evening/Wednesday morning. The children will be provided with further test kits on Friday to facilitate this.

If your child has symptoms, please do not send them on the trip. We do not want to be in the position of having to ask a parent to collect their child from Devon.

Finally, government guidance requires that children of secondary school age wear face masks whilst on dedicated school transport. Please therefore ensure that your child has a face mask or other appropriate face covering for the coach journey.

By working together, we will ensure that the children have the best possible experience.

### **Packing List**

A reminder that the packing list was sent out on 14th September. A copy has been added to the noticeboard on Frog. In a change to the original list, pupils do not require sleeping bags.

Your child requires a packed lunch on the day they travel but should bring no other food. There are children on the trip with severe food allergies so please do not send any food with nuts or sesame seeds in your child's lunchbox.

### **Required Equipment**

When in school, please could children ensure they have a set of wired headphones or earphones in their bag.

### **Academic Scholarship Applications**

If you have not already done so, please could any Year 8 parents who are considering entering their child for an academic scholarship at their senior schools contact their child's study tutor.

### **Extension Classes Next Week (4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> October)**

There will be no Year 8 extension classes next week due to Battsborough. They will restart on the 11<sup>th</sup> October.

## **Upper Juniors Parents - Mr Wheeler**

### **To Year 6 Parents and HR professionals across the Parent body from the Headmaster**

The Head of the Upper Juniors Section, Mike Wheeler, and I, would like to build on the interview training being conducted next week at Battsborough House. As you will see in the Calendar, there is an entry during the week commencing 11 October titled 'Year 6 Interview Training'. Mike and I have discussed conducting a rather unique training session that I spotted taking place during the Summer when I visited many of the senior schools we send our children to.

I am conscious that we have many experienced professionals in our parent body, and we would like to invite interested Year 6 parents to join us and conduct the interviews. This will involve a couple of hours on two days during the week so that children can conduct a first interview on the Monday or Tuesday, receive feedback on the Wednesday, and then conduct a second interview on the Thursday or Friday (parents will therefore either join the Monday and Thursday 'shift' or the Tuesday and Friday 'shift'). Parent interviewers will capture their feedback on paper and it will be delivered by the Form Tutors. We will ensure that parents are not interviewing their own children. The training will involve children moving between a series of interview desks where each desk will focus on different areas, for example: academics, hobbies, and interests. The precise details and timings will be confirmed depending on your replies.

If you are keen to be involved, please could you send an email to me ([n.tomlin@hallgrove.co.uk](mailto:n.tomlin@hallgrove.co.uk)). We will operate a first come first served system so please reply early to avoid disappointment. Thank you

### **Common Pre-Test - Mr Lewis**

We are beginning to receive lists from senior schools with details of those children who are required to complete the Common Pre-Test as part of their senior school entry process. The Common Pre-Test will take place on the following days:

#### **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November**

English – 25 minutes

Verbal Reasoning – 36 minutes

#### **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November**

Mathematics – 50 minutes

Non-Verbal Reasoning – 32 minutes

Senior schools will confirm whether extra time is applicable for SEN/EAL candidates.

### **19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> November - 'A Night at the Movies' - Miss Post**

Whilst a way off, we would like to make sure parents are aware that all Upper Juniors' children will be involved in both performances. They are making wonderful progress and are sure to treat you to dances, songs and scenes from movies which they have chosen. We anticipate the show taking no longer than 1hr10 and parents are more than welcome to invited extended members of the family or friends to come and watch! Please keep an eye out for more details of this event in this section of the newsletter over the coming weeks.

### **Lower Junior Parents - Miss Furness**

Year 3 were blessed with blue skies during their successful trip to Butser Ancient Farm. The children greatly enjoyed stepping back in time and learning more about the life of the Celts.

Year 4 are looking forward to their trip to the Rural Life Museum, next Wednesday. This trip is in support of our Victorians topic, please look for a note in their diaries explaining what they need to wear and bring on the day.

Mr and Mrs Tomlin are looking forward to welcoming you all next Tuesday for drinks at 1930.

As the weather begins to turn more autumnal, please ensure your child has their school coat and wellies in school.

## **Pre-Prep Parents - Miss Hitchcox**

This week the children have all been developing green fingers as they excitedly planted and decorated pots in preparation for the Garden Opening on Saturday. Please visit our Pre-Prep stall to view your child's great work.

Year 1 began their exploration 'Under the Sea' and identified the many sea creatures that inhabit it, including a fictional character called 'Tiddler'. A highlight of the week was making fruit kebabs and of course eating them.

In Year 2, preparations are well underway for 'The Bee Musical'. Parts have been cast, scripts have been sent home today and the 'Bee Bop' dance is a definite highlight for the children and one you won't want to miss. Please can you support your child with learning their lines this weekend to help them feel confident during rehearsals next week.

Finally, can I ask you to make sure that your child has all their outdoor clothing in school, including waterproof trousers, and that all their uniform is clearly labelled.

## **Early Years Parents - Mrs Tomlinson**

Early Years have enjoyed a week in the Outdoor Classroom for our Hundred Acre Wood theme. Please look on Tapestry for an insight into their adventures. Eeyore has been spotted wearing a leaf hat just like the children! If you have not yet activated your Tapestry account, please do so as soon as possible.

Parent Meetings will take place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October. You will be able to book an appointment on our booking system from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October.

Please can all items of clothing the children bring into school are clearly labelled. Particularly coats, a name label near the collar is preferable.

## **Performing Arts - Miss Post**

### **Music**

This week saw the start of rehearsals for our larger ensembles and a wonderful first concert in our Informal Lunchtime Series. Well done to all the pianists who performed on Tuesday, it was wonderful to hear such a range of genres!

### **Informal Concerts**

Next Tuesday (5<sup>th</sup> October) sees our Brass players perform at 1300 in the Performance Studio. Family and friends are very welcome to attend. A list of those children who have been invited to play can be found [here](#).

As ever, if your child learns an instrument outside of school but would like to perform in the Informal Concerts, please email [music@hallgrove.co.uk](mailto:music@hallgrove.co.uk) the week before the concert, with title and composer of piece.

### **Instrument Storage**

Please remind children that they are no longer to store their instruments outside their form room, or in their cabin. All instruments should be stored in the music department, where instruments are much safer and have their own allocated space.

### **Wellington Orchestral Day – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October**

We are very much looking forward to taking some of our more advanced musicians over to Wellington College for their annual Prep Schools' Orchestral Day. Please [click here](#) to see whether your child has been invited to attend. (This is aimed at those musicians who play an orchestral instrument at around a Grade 3 level). There is also information for parents on collection times etc, which need to be confirmed with Miss Post by **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October**.

## **Sport**

### **Hall Grove U13 Girls Hockey**

Well done to the senior girls on their fine victory in the Hall Grove tournament on Saturday, the tournament was a closely fought affair and after the group stages Hall Grove made the final against Edgeborough. This was an incredibly close match that resulted in penalty shuffles. Leila Harris the 1st team keeper kept her cool to make to fine saves, backed up by Ria Kapoor and Zaara Norat, who converted their shots. Well done to all the girls who played including the U11's playing against the senior girls.

Year 5 and 6 girls not involved with Choristers are invited to take part in an exhibition hockey game on the astro at 1530 tomorrow at Grandparents Day. Please ensure you have gum shields and shin pads.

### **Oscar Foundation Football Tournament**

For several years now, Hall Grove have supported the Oscar Foundation and hosted the boys and girls on three of their tours to the UK. The tournament this week reminds us of our close connection with this marvellous organisation. Their mission is to create a world that enables underprivileged girls and boys living in the slums in India to become role models within their communities. The OSCAR Foundation uses the power of football to teach the importance of education and all OSCAR children must attend school. Education transforms disadvantaged communities and provides young people the tools they need to fight poverty for the next generation.

OSCAR International and The OSCAR Foundation in Mumbai work together, raising awareness, funds and creating opportunities for children living challenging lives.

Wednesday's tournament was a huge success with five schools taking part. The 1st XI had a good afternoon and narrowly missed winning the tournament by the width of a goal post. The first match was a draw against Eagle House followed by good wins against Danes Hill and Edgeborough. This set up an exciting last match against The Pilgrims against whom, Hall Grove required a draw. The game was close but with Pilgrims scoring early, Hall Grove needed to chase the game. Unfortunately, this time, the team were unable to find the net, despite only conceding once all

afternoon. The result of this match meant Hall Grove finished runners up by one point to the Pilgrims.

To find out more and make donations please follow this link <https://www.oscar-international.org/>

### **Weekly summary**

In addition to the tournaments mentioned above it has been another busy week of sport with a lot of success for the boys and girls. The U9 boys finished 3rd in the Edgeborough tournament on Saturday and continue to find form as the season progress. The U8 boys and girls made a solid start to their season with fixtures last Friday and certainly enjoyed the afternoon of sport. Wednesday was again a successful day with 10 wins for the boys against Eagle house and Edgeborough and two excellent wins for the senior girls against St Mary's ascot.

### **Golf v Bishopsgate**

Congratulations to the golf team who played against Bishopsgate on Tuesday evening at Ashford Manor. Several players were making their debuts for the school and should be very proud of their individual performances in helping secure victory for the team.

Please check the [website](#) for details on fixtures and training sessions.

### **Sports Bags and School Bags**

It is school policy that children cannot take sports bags and school bags to away fixtures; storage is an issue, and the priority is making sure the children are equipped for their match. Please do not ask the children to take their bags. You may collect your child directly from the away fixture, however, children who return to school via school transport are to be collected at the usual pick-up time.

### **Rugby & Netball Half Term Camps**

#### **Pre-season sports training camp at Hall Grove on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

This is open to any Boys and Girls in Years 3-8 who is interested in preparing for the upcoming season. It may also be beneficial for any child who has never played before and would like to have an introduction before the season starts.

The camp will run from 0930 to 1500. The children will need to bring usual warm clothes (2 sets), a packed lunch and drinks and will cost £35 per day or £60 for both days.

Your child has the option to take part in either the Rugby or Netball camp. The Rugby camp will take place on both days. Netball will be split for Years 3-5 on Monday 1st November and Years 6-8 on Tuesday 2nd November.

To confirm your child's place [please click here](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Mr Cottrell [j.cottrell@hallgrove.co.uk](mailto:j.cottrell@hallgrove.co.uk)

### **1-1 Tennis coaching**

Following the success of the tennis sessions with Mrs Emmett this term we will be continuing with the lessons after half term. Please book via the school office if you would like your child to have a weekly lesson.

### **Staff and parent social bike ride**



The next staff and parent road ride will take place on Sunday October 10th departing Hall Grove at 0900. Last Sundays was an enormous success despite the rain towards the end. Thank you to all those who attended, it was lovely to ride with former and current parents. The ride will be at an average speed of 15/16 mph and a road bike will be necessary. Coffee and cake will be provided halfway. If you would like further information, contact Mr Lewis or Mr Tullett.

## **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 Adverts**

### **Documents**

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

- Senior Schools Open Mornings Information
- Half Term Camps

### **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](mailto:uniformshop@hallgrove.co.uk)

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

## **Public Notices**

### **Sebastian's Action Trust**

Hall Grove Parent, Chris Ayton, will be running in the Basingstoke Half Marathon on Sunday 3rd October. He is running for Team Phillips and raising money for the [Sebastian's Action Trust](#), which provides emotional, social, and practical care for life-limited and life-threatened children and their families. The donation / sponsorship fundraising page can be found by clicking [here](#).

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/TeamPhillips2021>

### **1st Sunningdale Scouts**

1st Sunningdale Scouts are in desperate need of support to fund the building of a new hut. Please help us achieve our goal and support a local charity by signing up for our raffle. There are over 20 prizes, worth over £1600, to be won.

For your chance to win a holiday, local 4-ball round of golf or local meals out, please visit [www.sunningdalescouts.org.uk](http://www.sunningdalescouts.org.uk) and go to the NEWS section for a link to buy the tickets online.

The draw will be made on the 7th October. Good luck and thank you for the support.

### **Half Term Netball Camp**

Georgie Maxfield will be running a half-term camp for Year 5-6-7 in Wellington College netball centre RG45 7PT. Places are limited - please contact her directly, see flyer on the website.