

From the Headmaster – Neil Tomlin OBE

This week has been a 'classic 7 days in the life of Hall Grove'. Not even the weather could dampen spirits last Saturday on Grandparents' Day. At our peak, I estimate we had about 700 people walking around the school enjoying the displays, music, dance, gardens and animals. With sales of Hall Grove lamb, apple juice, garden produce and hospitality, we have raised over £3,000 much of which will go to the National Garden Scheme.

The national 'walk to school day' was marked with a walk around the grounds, finishing at the Lighthouse with a delicious hot chocolate. Year 4 travelled to the Rural Life Museum where they dressed up and enjoyed the experiences of a day in the life of Victorian children. Years 7 and 8 have been at Battsborough House in order to bond them as leaders of the school and leaders of their respective houses. We have also enjoyed a great deal of outdoor learning and sports, with tournaments and matches a plenty. Much of this has been captured on our various Hall Grove social media accounts. I have included a selection of pictures in this report.

I visited Charterhouse on Wednesday. The visit was another in my line of enquiries to the senior schools where Hall Grove children have historically moved on to. These visits form part of our plan to ensure we can guide parents through the senior schools' selection process. As part of this, we conducted briefings with Year 5 parents on 23rd September and we briefed Year 6 parents last night. Where any parents have concerns or questions, I have placed myself as the primary point of contact, ably supported by Mr Lewis, Mr Wheeler and Mr McLeod.

We held a meeting yesterday to look at our after-school care. We are looking to bolster the provision in light of a significant demand, with the potential to add an external agency to support the current core provision where certain sports and activities can be enjoyed by the children. Our aim will be to provide a larger menu of activities where parents can either book their children into general activities on an ad hoc basis, as well as provide focused clubs in which children can specialise through weekly attendance. As a part of the package we are developing, it was very welcome news that the Marist have not only announced that they want to work closely with Hall Grove and have therefore broadened their Year 9 entry for Hall Grove girls, but they have also offered us use of their swimming pool for our children to train in winter months.

The virus continues to keep us all on our toes. As I write we still have 10 self-isolating members of the 450 Hall Grove on-site population. We continue to remain vigilant, proportionate, and responsive to the virus and our aim is to ensure the school operates as positively as possible throughout the pandemic. On each occasion where individual cases are discovered, we continue to identify those who might be considered 'close contacts' for which our covid response co-ordinator has been able to provide notification and advice.

Our school value of focus next week is 'be honest and truthful' and we will continue to blend our values into our lessons so that we *live* by our values. We have also enjoyed a first week marking Black History Month. Mr Toulson's form introduced the theme and launched a number of initiatives including the launch of our creative writing competition. I was particularly impressed with Years 7 and 8 drama: they have studied influential speeches by notable people such as Martin Luther King and Barack Obama and have created and delivered their own persuasive speeches. We look forward to moving into week two of Black History Month next week.

Can I also take a moment to highlight the visit and lecture of Olympic Gold Medalist, Kate French next Thursday and remind you that all parents are welcome to attend the lecture that starts at 6pm in New Hall. I have also been asked by Mr Tullett to ask all parents to check the sports section from these newsletters as well as SOCS for any late changes and updates to sporting fixtures. There are some changes to the fixtures tomorrow.

Best wishes to the whole Hall Grove community



Whole School Messages

Black History Month

Who deserves the title of the greatest ever black athlete? Muhammad Ali certainly thought he knew the answer! However, five members of Year 8 will each be making the case for the individual they have chosen in assembly on Monday. The school will then have an opportunity to vote. Also in assembly, Miss Post will talk about the origin of slave spiritual songs and teaching the school to perform one together.

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.

Senior Parents - Mr McLeod

The House trips to Battisborough were a great success, with the activities as varied as the weather. Well done to the children who behaved impeccably and represented their school and their House in excellent fashion.

Senior Lecture

On Thursday 14th October, we welcome Kate French who speaks to the senior pupils about her life and her success in winning gold in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in the modern pentathlon. The lecture starts at 1800 and children, as usual, will be supervised from the end of the school until collection at 1900. We remind parents that we expect all senior pupils to be at the lecture and parents are welcome to attend.

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.

Upper Juniors Parents - Mr Wheeler

Another great week of learning in the Upper Juniors which has seen the children continue to excel in all aspects of the curriculum.

Our re-cap: The year 6's enjoyed a wonderful trip to Battisborough last week and whilst we focused on our pre-test preparation there was plenty of time to have lots of fun and of course ice cream! On Thursday, our artists went to Cranleigh School to attend an art workshop and we all enjoyed our 'walk to school'.

Mr Wheeler's notices for the week

Year 5: On Monday Year 5 will experience Mr White's legendary metal-melting demonstration. This year he will be making a bronze axe!

Year 6: On Monday 6HT & 6HQ will sit down with some of our highly skilled parents to carry out practice interviews. It will then be 6AK & 6FL on Tuesday and they will all receive their feedback on Friday.

Lastly, thank you to all the Year 5 & 6 parents who have supported us so amazingly over the last few weeks. It has been great to see you at the initial section briefing and then our senior school discussions ending with Year 6 last night.

19th & 20th November - 'A Night at the Movies' - Miss Post

Following on from last week's newsletter, a reminder that all Upper Juniors' children will be involved in both performances. We anticipate the show taking no longer than 1hr 10 minutes and parents are more than welcome to invite extended members of their family or friends to come and watch.

Lower Junior Parents - Miss Furness

Our Parent Meetings will take place on Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st October. You will be able to book an appointment on [our booking system](#) from Tuesday 12th October at 11am until Monday 18th October at 12pm. These meetings are planned to be face-to-face and will take place in your child's classroom.

A guide on how to book your meeting can be [found here](#).

In other news, the Year 4 children enjoyed a superb trip to the Rural Life Museum on Wednesday, learning lots about what life was like for Victorian children. They had to face a fierce teacher in the school room, who was extremely impressed with their handwriting, and they enjoyed playing with some Victorian toys over the lunch break. The children also learnt how to make a wheel! It was a super day and they all looked wonderful in their outfits, thank you parents!

A reminder please that black coats and wellies should now be at school as these are becoming essential items for Forest school.

Pre-Prep Parents - Miss Hitchcox

Year 1 have had another busy week writing stories, making fairy cakes and exploring number fact families. The children rounded their week off with a wonderful talk from a Year 1 parent, Ms Sabahat Gurdezi, about their bodies, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

In Year 2 we have been busy rehearsing for our Performance Assembly, which we warmly invite you all to attend on Thursday 14th October at 0915 in the New Hall. Please can you continue to support your child with learning their lines over the weekend so they feel confident in delivering them to an audience next week. We have provided most of the costumes, but your child does need to wear their black jogging bottoms for the performance, so we would like you to make sure that they bring them into school on Wednesday 13th October.

A gentle reminder that we are still waiting for a few black coats and waterproof trousers to be sent into school. Please would you ensure that your child has the correct clothing so they can access all areas of the school grounds.

Finally, our Parent Meetings will take place on Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st October. You will be able to book an appointment on [our booking system](#) from Tuesday 12th October at 11am until Monday 18th October at 12pm. These meetings are planned to be face-to-face, but we have scheduled a few online meetings, on the same dates, for anyone who cannot attend in person.

A guide on how to book your meeting can be [found here](#).

Early Years Parents - Mrs Tomlinson

The children have continued to explore our Hundred Acre Wood theme this week, making some delicious honey crispy cakes, making repeating patterns, finding 1 more and 1 less, listening to instructions to find the characters in the Outdoor Classroom and making 'woolly' bees at the creative table. We have been taking part in lots of rhyming activities as well. Have a look for some story books at home that include some rhyming words and keep practising this vital skill with your child. Please keep a close eye on your letter box this week for a little insight into what your child enjoyed during our Outdoor Classroom week last week!

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Performing Arts - Miss Post

Music

All information regarding Informal Concerts, or any other music events can be found in the newsletter each week. We are no longer sending out direct emails to parents whose child has been invited to participate, so do please keep a close eye on information in the newsletter.

Informal Concerts

After a great Brass concert this week we are looking forward to hearing from 12 of our String players next Tuesday (12th October) in the Performance Studio. In order to allow the children time to get to the concert we will start at 1305 not 1300. 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 the week before the concert, with title and composer of piece.

Wellington College Orchestral Day – Thursday 14th October

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).

UPDATES - 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. Thank you to those parents who have already emailed in about collection – please could those parents who haven't got in contact with us yet do so asap.

For those parents picking up from Hall Grove at the end of the day, and not Wellington, please note an amended arrival time back at Hall Grove of 1835 not 1800.

For those parents attending the concert at Wellington at 1730, you are also invited for refreshments in Selangor Court from 1700.

Wellington have requested that staff and children wear face masks at various points throughout the day (queuing for tea in the Dining Hall for example). Please could you send your child in with a mask on the day. If your child is unable to wear one please contact music@hallgrove.co.uk as soon as possible.

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.

Sport - Mr Tullett

The U11 and U10 girls continue their good run of form on the hockey pitch with three wins out of four against LVS Ascot on Wednesday. This was excellent preparation for the IAPS regional qualifiers this week. The U11 girls are at Haileybury School today and the U13s have theirs on Monday. The boys played Ludgrove on Wednesday, a traditionally tough fixture, and the schools came away with honours even across the eight fixtures. The highlights were wins for the U11 and U10 A teams. Over the weekend, the U10 As also finished a very impressive third place in the Bradfield tournament. Mr Toulson was delighted by their performance and very proud to receive praise on the style of football Hall Grove play from the Director of Football at Bradfield. The U9 football squads are showing good form and should be happy with their performances against Lambrook.

Saturday 9th Football v Papplewick

This is an afternoon fixture, squads and timings are published on the school website.

Unfortunately, the U11C, U10C and U9 B matches have been cancelled. The 1st XI are now playing away and it is a home fixture for the 2nd XI.

Rugby & Netball Half Term Camps

Pre-season sports training camp at Hall Grove on Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd November

This is open to any Boys and Girls in Years 3-8 who are 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 it 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

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.

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 online 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/>

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. Our first outing 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.

Public Notices

Half Term Netball Camp

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

Chobham Rugby Club

At Chobham Rugby we coach and develop players from age 2 onwards with the active participation of their families and are proud to run vibrant Senior Mens' and Womens', Junior, Minis, Girls, Touch Rugby, Walking Rugby & Mixed ability sections, all with a thriving membership and shared love of the game. We enjoy a reputation for being a very well-organised and open club with friendly members.

All Mini and Junior players receive a 3-week trial where they come down and see what they think of us before deciding whether to join the club as a member. If you are interested in bringing your player along to Little Cannons or Minis please fill in this registration [FORM](#) and we will be in touch with further information. If you would like more information on the Minis section please contact our Minis Chairman, Ally Edwards, allychobhamrugby@gmail.com. For more information on other sections of the club please use this contact [form](#).