

From the Headmaster – Neil Tomlin OBE

Rather than report the many successes and activities of this week and the next, I would like to focus my introduction to this newsletter on one aspect of study throughout a large part of the school this week.

The racism scandal surrounding Yorkshire Country Cricket Club has been a topic of discussion as part of the Hall Grove Journey programme this week. This is not about cricket, although the lessons to be learnt will have a significant impact on the sport in this country. This is about prejudice and poor culture. This is about poor moral courage and the bystander effect. We believe that the discussions we have been able to have with many of our children over this last week have been essential for their development and learning.

Where you have the chance to continue these discussions at home, we will welcome your support. Many of our children should have a reasonable knowledge of this case and can combine this knowledge with their studies as part of anti-bullying week. Here is [a link](#) to the presentation from Monday's Assembly for Years 3-8. It might also be useful, as part of any discussion, to recognise the ability to apologise, as well as the value of an apology in addition to the importance of learning from mistakes.

At Hall Grove, we recognise that some will get things wrong, but we will educate the children to understand where and how they can get it right.

Whole School Messages

School Telephones – Thursday 25th November

The school telephone system requires an update which is taking place on Thursday 25th November. During the update, no inbound or outbound calls will be possible. The expected downtime is approximately 15-25 minutes. Prior to the phone systems being unavailable, a text message will be sent to all parents with a mobile number that can be used during this period. We ask that it is only used if necessary.

Upon completion of the update, a further text message will be sent confirming that the phones are restored and working.

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After School Clubs

The after-school clubs this half term have been hugely successful with a number of clubs being fully booked (girls football, shooting, magic club and more). We still have spaces for Bushcraft, Arts & Crafts, Lego Design and Story Book club for Pre-Prep and Pre School and Netball, Dance, and Rugby for years 3 and above. Please contact [Mr Cottrell](#) for any bookings.

Now that the weather has taken a colder turn, please can parents ensure that children who are signed up for an outdoor club have appropriate clothing in school, such as underlayers, tracksuits and hats. For younger children in Pre-Prep and Pre-School, please can parents provide hats, tracksuit trousers and trainers, they do not need a full change of clothes.

Should any parent need to report a late pick up after school hours, the after-school club and boarding mobile is 07821 394921.

Parents attending Parents Interviews and other events in School
We would ask all parents coming into school for events, concerts, parent interviews and the like to please take an LFD test before arriving. Staff and Senior pupils continue to do so twice-weekly and we would be grateful for your cooperation in this.

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Second-Hand Uniform Sale – Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th January

New Hall will be open during the 8th and 9th January (1000-1300) for any second-hand uniform requirements.

Donations of used, good condition uniform and school shoes welcome as well as any outgrown sports kit (tennis racquets, cricket bats, hockey sticks, footballs etc). Please leave outside the Lighthouse on Friday morning 7th January.

Suzie Greenhalgh suzanne.greenhalgh@oracle.com

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Covid Contingency Plans

We are continuing to work hard to minimise so far as possible the levels of Covid in school. Our discussions with other local schools confirm our view that our rates relative to other schools are extremely low. We are grateful to parents for continuing to work with us to achieve this.

However, we are mindful that, as the winter progresses, the situation may worsen and, as required by government guidance, we have therefore considered the further steps which we may need to implement at a later time if we believe they would assist in reducing case numbers. These may include requiring Senior pupils to wear face masks in school, moving to daily LFD testing for Senior pupils, reinstating bubbles or requiring siblings of a confirmed positive case to remain at home. We will only bring in measures when needed and those which we believe will assist us in bringing case numbers down by targeting particular concerns relevant to our setting.

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School Instagram

A reminder about the @hallgroveschool Instagram account! Posts every day show you what your children are up to. Work, play, sport, music, drama, dance, art, clubs, lectures, trips, living by our school values and the beautiful school environment where your children are growing up and learning. www.instagram.com/hallgroveschool

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Hall Grove Howlers!

Advance warning - I am very excited to announce that the Hall Grove staff and parents' choir will start on Tuesday 30th November from 1930 - 2030 in the Performance Studio. No auditions necessary! As long as you can vaguely hold a note and are up for a laugh, please join us. There will be refreshments from 1915 each week. Ideally, we're hoping for Tenor and Bass parts as well as Soprano and Alto - so MEN please come along too! Repertoire will be mainly pop/rock/musicals for upbeat, feel-good or emotional impact.

Please email Gigi e.tomlin@hallgrove.co.uk if you'd like to join us so we have an idea of numbers/voice parts and how many pots of tea to brew.

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World Science Day Competition - Mr McLeod and Mr Wheeler

You may have seen in last week's newsletter that we have also launched a simple competition that all can get involved with for World Science Day. Please [see the attached poster](#) for details of how the children can enter. We are delighted with the enthusiasm and engagement from the children so far and we have received many outstanding posters. The deadline for submission is Monday 22nd November, and we will announce the winners in a coming assembly.

Section News

[Early Years](#) [Pre-Prep](#) [Lower Juniors](#) [Upper Juniors](#) [Seniors](#)

Department News

Performing Arts

This week's headlines: Pre-Prep concert, next week's piano concert (which is open to those who learn within and outside of school), and information about music exams on Saturday 4 December.

Sport

This week's headlines: Girls' Hockey, Hall Grove & Highfield Rugby Tournaments & post-match procedures.

School Adverts

Documents

The following documents can be found on the school website, under the parent information tab: Senior Schools Open Mornings Information

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School Uniform Shop Opening Times

Term-Time Only Opening Times

Mondays: 0800 - 0915

Thursdays: 1500 – 1730

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/>)

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Staff and Parent social bike ride

The next staff and parent road ride will take place on Sunday November 21st, departing Hall Grove at 0900. Our first two outings were 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

Sebastian's Action Trust Christmas Boxes & Festive Hamper Raffle

Christmas Boxes:

From inception, Sebastian's Action Trust has been a family-led charity, so when our beneficiaries' expressed concerns over the continuing threat of COVID, we decided not to hold our annual Christmas party or Santa Fun Run this year.

Instead, we have created Christmas Boxes, which will be tailored to each of our families and will contain a wonderful array of seasonal goodies, including sweet treats, festive games, keepsakes, decorations and activities to celebrate Christmas.

These very special Christmas Boxes will each cost £40, and we are inviting supporters to donate funds – whatever they can – to bring Christmas into the homes of our families. Please follow [this link](#).

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Festive Hamper Raffle:

Win a fantastic Christmas hamper worth over £200 and support Sebastian's Action Trust.

- The 2 runners up will win an amazing LEGO City kit.
- £5 per ticket. Unlimited entries per person.
- Prize winners to be drawn on Wednesday 15 December.
- Click [here](#) to enter for your chance to win.

If you have any questions, please contact fundraising@sebastiansactiontrust.org.

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Aldershot Development Centre – Football Coaching

Football coaching for U7 – U14's.

Wednesday evenings 1830-2000 during term time.

Please see [attached flyer](#) for more information