

From the Headmaster – Neil Tomlin OBE

A busy week of exams, nativity rehearsals, Years 5 and 6 parents' evenings and preparation for music exams. On the sporting front, Wednesday marked the start of the netball season with matches against Edgeborough where we won four and lost three. A fantastic clean sweep by our U11 girls. Our boys Rugby v Eagle House really hit full throttle, amassing 500 points across all age groups and conceding less than 250. Papplewick and U11 IAPS will be a stiff test this weekend.

Huge congratulations to the U13 boys football team who beat Northcote Lodge 7-1 to win the Surrey Plate, and to the U11 Boys who qualified for, and played in, the National Football finals at Millfield last Sunday. Well done to Timothy Cable and Joaquin Borekull Urrutia who were awarded football colours.

Events continue next week as they appear in the calendar with the highlights being the Pre-Prep and Early Years' Nativities, the Year 3 production on Thursday, the Pre-School to Year 4 Reindeer run on Monday and the Years 7 and 8 Parents' Evening. [Please read the guidance to parents when attending events in school in the whole school messages section.](#)

[At this link](#) is a template for a SWOT to help us develop our strategy for Hall Grove. We will be asking parents, staff and children to complete the SWOT. Please could all parents complete the analysis to answer the following questions:

S – What do you think are the strengths of Hall Grove that must be sustained or improved?

W – What do you think are the weaknesses of Hall Grove that must be improved or deleted?

O – What opportunities (external and internal) would you like Hall Grove to exploit over the next 5-10 years?

T – What threat (external and internal) do you believe Hall Grove must be aware of so that we can determine a course of action to deal with the threat?

Carol Services

At present, parents are invited to attend both of our Carol Services at Wellington College. Of course, this may change over the next week or so, depending on government guidance and our own risk assessment. We will alert parents as soon as is possible if anything changes.

Thank you all and we wish you a safe and healthy week ahead.

Whole School Messages

Parents attending Parent 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 and to wear a face mask whilst in school. Key symptoms of Covid – a temperature of 38 degrees or higher, a new persistent cough or the loss of or change in the sense of taste or smell. Staff and Senior pupils continue to do twice-weekly LFD tests and we would be grateful for your cooperation in this.

Updated

Covid

Protocol

Our updated Covid Protocol was sent by email to all parents on Monday. We would ask that parents

familiarise themselves with the requirements. If you have any questions, please contact the School Office and we will be happy to discuss it with you. Our rates remain low at present and, by working together, we aim to continue this trend.

Staying Safe Online - Parent Talk - Monday 13th December at 5pm

We would like to invite all parents to listen to an important and useful talk about keeping your children safe online.

The talk will help parents to identify vulnerabilities; understand online activity (including gaming) and be aware of social media and other apps. With Christmas fast approaching and consoles and devices being a popular gift, you will also be shown how to set up parental controls and privacy settings.

Our guest speaker, Sharon Girling, is a former police officer. She was at the forefront of developing the processes that led to the creation of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre. Sharon has been awarded an OBE for her services to policing the internet.

The talk will last approximately 1hr. If you wish to attend, please complete the form [via this link](#). If you require after school care please email Mr Cottrell, by Monday 6 December. j.cottrell@hallgrove.co.uk

Regular boarding night offer

As parents look to prepare their child for future schools or are still looking to see if a boarding school option may be best for their child, we are offering a regular booking discount of £25 per night rather than £40 when booked on an occasional basis. Bookings will need to be made for the same night/nights each week across the Spring Term. To book or if you have any questions, please contact Mr Cottrell j.cottrell@hallgrove.co.uk

After School Clubs

Any parents collecting their children from AFC between 1630 - 1730, please continue beyond the turning circle towards the main house where you will be able to collect your child(ren) and turn around.

Christmas Charities

For the second year running, we are delighted to be supporting the Valley End Cricket Club initiative to provide a Hamper and Christmas Presents to local families in need at Christmas. Last year was the first year that they ran the event, and they managed to raise £5.5K and received over four hundred presents for children. They were able to support 36 families and their children plus the local charity, Children with Special Needs. This year, the intention is to deliver a hamper and gifts, together with a Christmas card, to even more children and parents, with an aim of 50 families.

It is a great opportunity for all children and parents of Hall Grove to get involved. We are welcoming any toys (preferably in working condition), books, chocolates etc. to donate to Valley End. These can be for all ages and stages as there is a wide range of families to support. There is

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

New Hall will be open on 8th and 9th January (10am to 1pm) 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

Senior Parents - Mr McLeod

Well done to all the Senior pupils who have worked extremely hard during the exams this week.

Parent Meetings

Parent meetings for Seniors will take place in person on the following dates and times in December:

Monday 6th December between 1800 - 2130 in New Hall

Wednesday 8th December between 1800 - 2130 in New Hall

Thursday 9th December between 1800 - 2000 in the Admiral Room

We would like to remind parents that pupils should not be attending these meetings.

Please see the updated Covid Protocol.

Social Media and Instant Messaging

We hope to see as many parents as possible at the Staying Safe Online talk (13th December). In the meantime, we ask that parents continue to monitor their child's devices especially group chats.

Required Equipment

Please could all pupils in the Senior Section please ensure they have headphones/earphone in school for use with their Chromebook.

Year 8 Extension Sessions

Extension session will recommence on Monday 6th December. The last session this term will be Science at 0730 on Wednesday 15th December.

Covid Vaccination Catch Up Sessions

The School Aged Immunisation Service Surrey has asked us to provide the following information:

If your child missed their Covid-19 vaccination in school, we would like them to attend a catch-up clinic in your area.

In order to be eligible your child must not have tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 12 weeks. You must book their appointment via the link below at your preferred clinic location:

Appointments at Ashford, Leatherhead and Walton: <https://calendly.com/surrey-12-15-year-old-covid-pop-up-clinics>

Appointments at Emberbrook, Thames Ditton via National Booking System:
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

For information on all Covid-19 vaccination sites in Surrey please visit
<https://surreyheartlandscg.nhs.uk/covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-centres>

Upper Juniors Parents - Mr Wheeler

Parent Meetings

A big thank you to all the parents who attended parents' meetings this week. It was fantastic to see you all in person, and the room was buzzing with positivity. The quality and honesty of the conversations between you and the teachers will stand our children in good stead as we progress through the academic year.

Senior School Insight

At the recent Independent Schools Show in London, Hall Grove were approached by the 'Education Independent'. The details of the service they offer is set out below.

Education independent offers prospective parents and their children an insiders insight to help inform their future schools choice in the form of 45-minute consultations. Our ambassadors are recent alumni of the top UK Schools who we match by school and interests to families looking to identify the school where their child will flourish best. By their nature, the school's admissions processes do not provide the opportunity for a fully honest and unbiased "off-site" conversation. We are able to fill this gap by answering the wide range of questions that arise to best inform the choice of school. Discussion points often relate to house choice, sporting opportunities, highlights in the school year, and policies on sensitive issues. Furthermore, we are aware that families may not wish to ask the schools certain questions for fear of negatively influencing their chances in the competition for places – obviously, there is no such risk in discussing these issues with one of our ambassadors in a confidential space.

We provide the service all through the admissions process, whether that be years in advance with advice around which school will most suit your son or daughter to advice from those who have been through the admissions process and pre-tests right up to days prior to starting. Parents have loved having chats about the first couple of hours and days to calm the inevitable nerves of starting their next step in their school career.

We have offered all parents of Hall Grove 20% off our consultations, including the trio consultation package. If you would like to learn more about our service, head to our website www.educationindependent.com and feel free to book a consultation through www.educationindependent.com/request-consultation and use the code "HALLGROVE20" for 20% off your consultation. We very much look forward to hearing from you talking to you.

Lower Junior Parents - Miss Furness

Another busy week for the Lower Juniors, lots of laughter and Christmas play songs on loop! We have also noted that children are not always coming to school dressed for the cold. Please ensure you child has a jumper on and their **black school coat** at school. **Wellies**, if not already in school, will be needed to watch the Pre-Prep Nativity rehearsal on Monday.

Christmas Productions

Year 3 - 'Are we nearly there yet?' - Thursday 9th December 1830. We ask that the children **return to school for 1800** in costume. Class teachers will meet the children in their classrooms. Parents are then invited to Mr and Mrs Tomlin's house for an aperitif ahead of the show.

Year 4 - 'Superstar!' - Tuesday 14th December 1830. We ask that the children **return to school for 1800** in costume. Class teachers will meet the children in their classrooms. Parents are then invited to Mr and Mrs Tomlin's house for an aperitif ahead of the show.

Preparations are well on the way for the Christmas Productions: thank you for helping to provide costumes. We would be grateful if all costumes could be brought into school early next week.

Reindeer Run

On Monday the children will be doing their Reindeer Run for charity. Please remember to make and bring in antlers on Monday, if you haven't done so already. The template for the antlers has been re-attached to this week's newsletter. More information on the run can be seen below.

For the second year running we are taking part in a Reindeer Run on Monday 6th December in aid of Woking & Sam Beare Hospice and Wellbeing Care. Last year we managed to raise a terrific £1,200! We will be walking and running around the school grounds during the morning. Before taking part, we will be asking every child to design and create their very own reindeer antlers to showcase during their challenge. We have included a template should you wish to use it and ask that the antlers are brought into school no later than Friday 3rd December. We hope parents will feel able to support by making donations, and we suggest a donation of £5 for those who wish to participate. Rather than handle money, we suggest that we put the £5 charge on the term's bill of those children taking part. If you would like to donate more than £5, please email h.solomon@hallgrove.co.uk with the amount and this will be added to the school bill.

Please note that the £5 charge will be added to your Spring Term 2021 invoice unless you opt out by Friday 27th November via [this online form](#).

Year 3 Charity Auction

Congratulations to Year 3 parents who hosted a charity auction at their Christmas party last week. They received tremendous support from local business/community through vouchers/goods which were auctioned off and raised a remarkable amount of £2,283 which will be donated to the Surrey based children's charity Eikon.

Social Media, Instant Messaging and Gaming

We hope to see as many parents as possible at the Staying Safe Online talk (13th December). In the meantime, we ask that parents continue to monitor what their children are playing and viewing online. Age restrictions are carefully considered by the creators and should therefore be adhered to.

Pre-Prep Parents - Miss Hitchcox

Nativity: The First Christmas Day

Final rehearsals have gone really well this week and we would like to remind you that the performance is on **Tuesday 7th December at 1430**. Pre-performance drinks will be hosted by Mr and Mrs Tomlin from 1400. We strongly suggest you **wrap up warm and wear your wellies** for this wonderful occasion, as Pre-Prep bring the Christmas story to life in our beautiful Hall Grove grounds.

We are keeping a close eye on the weather forecast. If it is particularly poor weather, we may have to postpone the performance until Friday 10th December at 1430. We will send you details regarding this if necessary.

A reminder that we have provided the costumes for your child, however, if you have not done so already, we request that you urgently **send in layers to wear underneath their costumes**, e.g. skins, thermals or a long-sleeved top, full-length leggings and warm socks for Monday.

Year 1 have learnt their lines in their classes, but a few of Year 2 need time this weekend to really perfect their lines. Please can you support your child with learning these so they can feel confident in their delivery of them.

We cannot wait to share with you this truly unique performance.

Reindeer Run- Monday 6th December

A reminder, for the second year running we are taking part in a Reindeer Run on Monday 6th December in aid of Woking & Sam Beare Hospice and Wellbeing Care. Please make sure your child brings their antlers to school ready to wear on Monday morning.

Please see last week's newsletter for further details.

Early Years Parents - Mrs Tomlinson

Thank you for the support you showed your children in our Christmas Craft Stay and Play this week. It was wonderful to see so many of you, and the children thoroughly enjoyed sharing the experience with you.

A reminder there is no Stay and Play next week due to our Nativities, resuming for a final session on Wednesday 15th for those who are signed up. We will operate the same system in the new year, so a sign-up sheet will be available in the final week of term.

The Nativity

Pre-School – Wednesday 8th December at 1100

Reception- Wednesday 8th December at 1430

Refreshments will be hosted by Mr and Mrs Tomlin in their home from 1030 for Pre-School parents and from 1400 for Reception parents.

The children will be performing in our Performance Studio. We ask you to make your way there via the main school entrance by the School Office, walk through the courtyard, down the steps and bear right along the path towards The Barn.

We have provided the costumes for your child, but there are some children who will need parts of their PE kit. Please check your child's Communication Book for the particular items they will need. Please could these be sent into school by Monday 6th December in a named bag.

Reindeer Run- Monday 6th December

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Please see last week's newsletter for further details.

Cold Weather

The weather has been particularly cold recently. Thank you all for sending in named hats scarves/ snoods, gloves or mittens. I am sure this will continue to be needed in the coming weeks. If it is a particularly cold day, please do feel that you can send your child's black PE trousers into school in their book bags to wear during outdoor playtimes or sessions.

Performing Arts - Miss Post

Lower Juniors' Instrumental Scheme

It has been wonderful to have so many parent emails this last week requesting that their child start lessons or has another taster session. If you are thinking about your child starting in the New Year and haven't yet emailed me, please do so by the end of this term to allow the music teachers as much time as possible to work out their Spring Term timetables which are rapidly expanding by the minute!

Music Exams

Music exams will take place in the Performance Studio tomorrow morning. Candidates are asked to arrive for their exam at least 20 minutes beforehand and should come to the Food Cabin, which will have been transformed into a warm-up room, with piano and music stands etc! They may wear whatever they feel comfortable in for the exam, either school uniform or home clothes. If your child is in Year 7 or 8 and is taking an exam, please send them in with a face mask which they will be asked to wear on their way into the exam, but not during. A reminder of the timetable for tomorrow can be found [here](#).

Christmas Concert

We will be filming all of our music ensembles on Tuesday 14th December in the Performance Studio. Children will be told what time they need to arrive for their filming slot in the Studio. We would ask that children who would not normally have their instrument in school on that day, to

bring them in ready to film. The final video will be sent out to parents as a link with the final newsletter of term.

Trinity Speech & Drama

As we approach the end of term, and the busy Christmas period, due to exams, Nativities and Christmas concerts/services, there will be no further Trinity sessions this term. They will recommence in the Spring Term.

'Hall Grove Dance Academy'

We are extremely excited to be launching our Dance Academy next term and will be kicking off the Spring Term with a dance academy taster week for Early Years all the way through to Year 8. More details on days and times for each different discipline and age group will be sent out next week.

Music Practice Club

Due to nativities and carol services requiring staff to be at rehearsals etc, we are unable to offer Music Practice Club for the final two weeks of term. We will however restart in January. If you would like to book your child in for practice club after school again (free of charge) please email music@hallgrove.co.uk before Week 1 of the Spring term.

Sport - Mr Tullett

Further congratulations to all the boys and girls on the fantastic sports results achieved this week on the football pitches, rugby pitches and netball courts. The level of intensity in training has been wonderful to see and has been rewarded with excellent results. This weekend sees the boys playing Papplewick. It will be a tough and competitive set of rugby fixtures and we wish all the squads good luck and hope they all rest up ready.

Please check the team sheets for timings, it is important everyone is prompt and turned out in the correct kit.

School Adverts

Documents

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

Public Notices

Flu Jabs

The Health Clinic at Longacres are offering flu jabs every Monday and Friday. No appointment needed. Visit The Health Clinic @ Longacres Garden Centre, Bagshot or email info@health-clinic.co.uk www.health-clinic.co.uk or call them on 01276 479727

Enjoy Christmas or New Year on the Devon Coast with your extended family!

Battisborough House is available for rent over the forthcoming Christmas period. There are four double rooms with bathrooms, two twin rooms and dormitory space for 12 children. Further information from info@battisborough.co.uk

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](#).

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.

Aldershot Development Centre – Football Coaching

Football coaching for U7 – U14's.

Wednesday evenings 6.30pm - 8 pm during term time.

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