

Hall Grove School Newsletter



www.hallgrove.co.uk

20th October 2012

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Friday's Country Fair was a lovely way to connect the school with the world of farming, nature and field sports. As several people remarked, it was just like a proper Game Fair. There were labradors retrieving dummies, children busy fly casting on the front lawn, vintage tractors, a pack of hunting hounds, a mighty shire horse, hawks, falcons and owls, working sheep dogs and the most wonderful selection of stalls selling everything from natural local honey to Battisborough lamb chops. Our thanks to everyone for good support, to grandparents and families for braving the elements, and most especially to the children for organising events, parking the cars, greeting the guests and serving refreshments. It was a wonderfully eccentric afternoon that could only happen at Hall Grove; the steady rain did nothing to dampen the spirits. In excess of £1,200 was raised for Tiger Kloof, the mission school in South Africa to which we are offering support. We hope this will enable them buy animals for their farm.

This half term there are a number of exciting events taking place. Years 7 and 8 girls are off to Malta for a Netball Tour, a large squad of boys will be involved in a Rugby Camp at Hall Grove (several will then go to Sherborne School in Dorset to play some pre-season matches) and on Monday 22nd October our Choristers will be singing Evensong at Salisbury Cathedral. The service starts at 1730, do please go and support them if you are able to do so. Our best wishes to all these boys and girls as they represent the school over the next two weeks, and we wish all our pupils a happy, restful mid-term holiday.

Grade Sheets and CATs Results

Grade Sheets (Years 3 – 8) and CATs results (Years 4 – 7) were sent home with the children yesterday. As a guide, a grade of C3 for a subject should be taken as a child who is doing well generally, although there is room for improvement from time to time. Study tutors and form teachers have explained the descriptors to children and it may be a valuable exercise to go through these with your child. If you have any queries, please get in touch with your child's form teacher, study tutor or Mr Waltho, Director of Studies (j.waltho@hallgrove.co.uk). A letter accompanying the CATs results gives information on the principles and purposes of these.

Showstoppers

A huge congratulations to the children in Middle School who put on an electrifying display of song and dance on Wednesday evening. Each form group performed a medley of routines from Grease, Bugsy Malone and The Lion King along with three entertaining animal songs and a 'Hand Jive' finale. To have all pupils from Years 3, 4 and 5 performing really was quite a feat and well over a hundred children conducted themselves very well to achieve a thoroughly entertaining show. The sense of anticipation and excitement to perform, together with their enjoyment on stage, made for a special evening and I am sure the cast will have memories to cherish for many years to come.

Mr Slape

Showstoppers Video

The recording of the performance has now been added to the school website and can be found under the News section.

Open Morning

The Autumn Open Morning was very well attended with lots of families visiting the school eager to register their children on our waiting list. The feed-back from the visitors was entirely positive and Hall Grove gave a very good account of itself.

Book Fair Success

Once more we have had a tremendously popular Book Fair. We have taken more than £1,200 in orders, and they are still coming in! It is heartening to see the importance that Hall Grove parents and pupils continue to place in the value of reading for enjoyment. The school will also benefit from the largesse of the parents as we are able to select several hundred pounds worth of books in commission, enabling us to continue to add to our book choices in school. Most orders that were received by the end of Thursday have been processed and the children should have come home with their books. Unfortunately, perhaps due to such high demand, a number of books were out of stock – these books, together with those ordered yesterday will be here immediately after half-term. If you still find an order form at home, don't despair – we can accept it after half-term.

Pre-Prep Maths Workshop for Parents - Thursday 8th November

Are you after some tips to support your child with their Maths? If so, do come to the workshop being held in New Hall on Thursday 8th November at 1830. The Pre-Prep teachers will take you on a mathematical journey covering all the skills and strategies you need.

Remembrance Service - Friday 9th November

This special Assembly is always much enjoyed by parents. It begins at 1030 in New Hall.

Gift Fair in aid of Sebastian's Action Trust - Saturday 10th November

Taking place from 1100 to 1500 (*please note the change of time from that printed in the School Calendar*).

Ready to shop? Why not watch some house rugby and then come along to the annual Sebastian's Action Trust Gift Fair and start/continue/finish your Christmas shopping. There will be some terrific stalls – some you will recognise from previous years and some new ones – catering for the whole family. Every year group is hosting a fun game/tombola so please offer your help. Year 4 are running a bottle tombola and Year 6 are running quality secondhand toy tombola – all donations would very much be appreciated – please leave them for the attention of Catriona Graham (bottles) and Emma Sharp (toys) at the School Office. Also, good quality books, jigsaws and games are required. Year 8 will be selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts so look out for their order form. Delicious refreshments will be on sale throughout the day – opening early for those needing sustenance during house matches – so come and find us, bring your friends and family and join the fun.

Independent Schools Exhibition - Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th November

Hall Grove will be exhibiting at the Battersea Park Exhibition on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th November. If you are in West London on either of those days, do call in and visit our stand.

Senior Schools' Fair - Thursday 15th November

We shall be hosting a senior schools information evening on Thursday 15th November. The evening will especially be of interest to Years 5 and 6 parents, but all parents are welcome. More details after half term.

Music Department

Choristers

Choristers are singing Evensong at Salisbury Cathedral on Monday 22nd October at 1730. Support would be most welcome.

Wellington Orchestral Day

On Thursday, nineteen of our musicians helped form an orchestra of one hundred and thirty at Wellington College for their annual Orchestral Day. The standard of playing from our children was very high indeed and we had representatives in every section of the orchestra – all of the three tubas and two of the three French horns were from Hall Grove! Everyone contributed well to the day, but I was particularly impressed with our youngest performers, Isobel Burford, Danny Wessely, Jana van Eeden and George Freeman.

Mrs Salmond Smith

Sports News

Netball

13th October v Cranleigh U11 Tournament: Hall Grove finished in 5th place

17th October v Yateley Manor: 2nd VII won, U11 lost, U10 A won, U10 B won

17th October v Bearwood College: 1st VII won

Football

13th October – Years 3 and 4 House Matches: 1st place Eagles, equal 2nd place Hawks and Kestrels, 4th place Falcons

15th October v Bishopsgate (Surrey Cup): Colts A won. They are now through to the semi final round where they will play Parkside on Friday 9th November at 1515 (a)

17th October v Ludgrove: 1st XI won, Colts A won, Colts D drew, U10 A won, 2nd XI, 3rd XI, 4th XI, 5th XI, Colts B, Colts C, U10 B, U10 C and U10 D lost

18th October v Parkside: U9 B drew, U9 D won

18th October v Parkside and Cranleigh (Triangular): U9 A lost v Parkside and Cranleigh, U9 C won v Parkside and lost v Cranleigh, U9 E drew v Parkside and Cranleigh

Many congratulations go to the 1st XI team who have finished the football season unbeaten.

Boys' Games from Half Term

After half term, Years 4 to 8 are switching to Rugby. They will all be required to have mouthguards from the first day to ensure they can train properly. We would like to remind you that House matches will be taking place on the first weekend back for Years 5 to 8 and they will be required to wear their house t-shirt. Years 2 and 3 will continue playing football for the first few weeks.

Greensomes Competition

The Greensomes competition last Saturday saw the largest turn-out to date with thirty teams competing. Jane Walker, Leslie Gathy and I would like to thank James from The Berkshire and everyone who took part and made the afternoon a success despite the weather. I would like to extend a special thank you to Katie Walker who did my job and made all the teas, coffees and hot chocolates.

Rachel Bray

James Warrington, our golf professional, wrote:

"On a temperamental October afternoon, thirty brave teams competed against all the winter elements in an attempt to become a Hall Grove Greensomes Champion. All four seasons were thrown at the players including a rather painful hail storm! This did not lower our spirits though as the teams very quickly formed a Ryder Cup like attitude. With a special appearance from one of the more brightly dressed American competitors! You know who you are Rickie... The weather did nothing but inspire our players with some excellent scores posted by all. However, there were some teams that excelled in the treacherous conditions and a huge congratulations goes out to the following players:

Reception / Year 1: winner - Sienna Beeching; runner-up - Thomas Warren

Years 2 and 3: winner - Callum Kinner; runner-up - Maddy Beeching

Years 4 and 5: winner - Pierre Gathy; runner-up George Freeman

Years 6, 7 and 8: winner - Alex Wessely (who won on count back); runner-up - Ben Soanes (who lost on count back)

May I also thank, on behalf of all the players, the three helpers who kept us warm and fuelled up throughout the event. Well done everyone for a great day."

Operation Christmas Child

As many of you will be aware, we have in previous years taken part in the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal. This is a project of Samaritan's Purse and each shoe box provides a Christmas gift for a girl or boy who is a victim of war, poverty, famine, disease or natural disaster. Leaflets have been sent home with the children last week containing details of how to fill the shoe boxes. Please include a donation (recommended donation is £2.50 per box) which covers shipping, transportation, distribution and promotion. If you would like to donate more, any extra will go towards supporting disadvantaged families. Cheques should be made out to Samaritan's Purse. Alternatively, you can pay online. Giving online makes the processing easier and cheaper, leaving more money to go directly to helping children. Please visit www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk to make your donation. If you would like to take part in this worthwhile project, please bring your filled shoe boxes to the School Office by Friday 9th November.

Headlice

There has been a case of headlice reported in Middle School. We would ask you to check all members of your family over half term and, if lice are found, treat as soon as possible with the lotion recommended by your chemist. Regular checks at home are important. Lice spread rapidly and, if we are going to keep the problem at bay, we do need your co-operation.

Newsletter Attachments

The following documents are attached to this week's newsletter:

- Chelsea FC Flyer
- Sebastian's Action Trust Bonfire Party 2012
- Sebastian's Action Trust Santa Run Flyer 2012
- Sebastian's Action Trust Santa Run Registration Form

Sebastian's Action Trust

Haskell's Firework Spectacular - Friday 2nd November

On Friday 2nd November, James Haskell - England Rugby Player - and his family are hosting a Firework Spectacular in aid of Sebastian's Action Trust at their family house. There will be a hog roast, a subsidised bar and the best firework display outside of the Olympics (well almost!). It is a lovely family event and they have opened the doors to include Hall Grove families and their friends this year. Please see the attached flyer for further details and how to buy tickets. Tickets must be bought in advance. Doors open 1845.

Santa Fun Run - Sunday 25th November from 1000

It's that time of year again! On Sunday 25th November Sebastian's Action Trust is holding its annual Santa Fun Run round the lake at Virginia Water - 7km. Come and join all the other Santa's running, walking, toddling and skipping and raise vital funds for families with serious-ill children this Christmas. The run is open to everyone so bring all your little and big Santa's helpers. Entry is £20 for adults and £10 for children, which includes your very own Santa suit and medal. For further information see the flyer attached and registration form. Any questions call Meirion on 07769 655591.

My Little Shoe Box

School shoes, Winter boots, wellies, trainers and shoes for boys and girls are in stock at My Little Shoe Box in Sunninghill (www.mylittleshoebox.co). We have styles by GEOX, UGG, Hunter, Petasil, Pom d'api, Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger, Superfit and many more. Please pop in and see us this half term!

Off The Red Tees Ladies' Winter Texas Scramble - Monday 19th November

Off The Red Tees Ladies' Winter Texas Scramble will be taking place at Wellington College Golf Course on Monday 19th November from 0900 to 1430. An exclusive opportunity to play this exquisite private golf course in a fun nine hole Texas Scramble team event for all levels of golfer (no handicap requirements). Buffet lunch in the Monro Sports Pavilion included. Price £45. For further details, please visit www.offtheredtees.com or contact Lucie Robson at lucie@offtheredtees.com or on 07970 037249.

