



## The Bulletin: No 13 May 2010

Getting in to the Front Office this week has involved negotiating a way past several scooters parked there by pupils who are participating in the 'Walk to School' week – well scoot to school week! The campaign is run by the charity Living Streets and asks parents, pupils and teachers to think about their journey to and from school and the benefits of making it on foot (or scooter). About 50% of children don't walk to school regularly and more and more are being driven to school in a car. This trend is contributing to reduced physical activity and increased childhood obesity, urban congestion and air pollution. So walking to work improves our health and improves the environment – it's a win win situation. Walking isn't always practical – sometimes there are bags of books or sports equipment to carry, meetings to be reached on the other side of Birmingham or, it may simply be pouring with rain. But we shouldn't minimise the importance of fresh air and exercise for our children. A recent survey commissioned by Natural England found a generation of youngsters is being deprived of the innocent pleasures of tree-climbing, pond dipping or making mud pies. 81% of the children said they would like more freedom to play outside and even when they get to do so, only 20% say they are allowed to spend time without an adult in close attendance.

Past generations of children benefited from extended amounts of unsupervised time outdoors and remember it as a positive impact on their development and health. My wife waxes lyrical about growing up on the edge of a Lancashire mill town in the Fifties, spending hours playing out in the streets and fields with a group of local children, albeit within a set of geographical boundaries, but well away from parental supervision. Although the developmental needs of children haven't changed, the current fears among adults about increased levels of traffic and the perceived increase in the threat of child abduction have led to a shift in society's attitudes towards children's access to the outdoors. A growing interest in computers and video games has also contributed to a generation of more sedentary children.

The curriculum for the Early Years Foundation Stage places great emphasis on outdoor learning believing it to have 'equal value to indoor learning' and essential to children's health, development and well-being. Here at Hallfield we are very fortunate in our outdoor areas especially being so close to the city centre. We recognise the importance of outdoor play and have been fortunate in having a Parents' Association who have contributed a huge amount of money towards play ground games, climbing equipment, picnic tables and sand pits for the children to enjoy.

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Naturalist Stephen Moss, author of the family outdoor guide 'The Bumper Book of Nature' says, 'Concerns over safety are understandable but if children can't get out and explore the natural world, we run the risk of raising a generation of cotton-wool kids, whose experiences are defined by websites and computer games.'

This half-term holiday is an ideal opportunity to turn off the telly, switch off the computer (and all related games) and go and do some pond dipping with the children – or go for a scoot in the park!

Me?

I'm off to become demoralised on golf courses in North Devon whilst Isy, Tigger and the children walk the beaches and cliff paths. It's time to blow away the cobwebs!

## **Staff Changes**

### **1. Pre-Prep Department**

Mrs. Collins is still unwell and unable to return to school. Mrs. Jane McCormack will remain acting form teacher for 2C for the rest of this academic year.

### **2. Upper School**

Sadly, at the end of the Summer Term, we will say goodbye to Miss Mari Wilson, 4B form teacher, who has accepted a post at the International School in Basel. We thank her for her enthusiasm and commitment to Hallfield and wish her every success and happiness in the future

Miss Laura Burchfield has been covering Mrs. Rafiq's maternity leave as 3T form teacher. Mrs. Rafiq will resume her role in September and we are delighted that Miss Burchfield will stay with us on a permanent basis as a Key Stage 2 teacher in Upper School.

### **3. Whole School**

Mrs. Amanda Kaye, Bursar for the last five years, have left to pursue other interests. We wish her well in her new venture. Mr. Dominic Christie-Brown is Acting Bursar on a temporary basis.

## **Summer Uniform**

There is always some confusion in the Summer Term when your son/daughter is expected to wear summer uniform – after the half term holiday only summer uniform should be worn. The details are:

### **For the boys:**

#### **Pre-Prep Dept (Transition, Foundation, Reception, Years 1 & 2):**

Red blazer, school cap, grey short trousers

#### **Upper School (Years 3 to 6)**

Grey suit (grey short trousers optional), white shirt (short-sleeved optional), grey school pullover or sleeveless pullover (both optional), tie, grey socks and school cap

### **For the girls:**

#### **Pre-Prep Dept (Transition, Foundation, Reception, Years 1 & 2):**

Summer dress, red blazer, straw hat, white short socks.

### **Upper School (Years 3 to 6)**

Kilt, white short-sleeved open neck blouse (no jabot), green v neck pullover, white socks, red blazer and straw hat

Boys' hair should be kept short and neat and must be well away from their eyes. Girls with long hair should wear it tied back and hair accessories should be either red or green.

As the weather becomes warmer children will need to think about protecting themselves from the sun at break-times and during sports lessons. Sun hats are advisable and should be kept at school. The children can bring in sun cream (please name the bottle) and it will be their responsibility to apply and look after. It is also a good idea for them to bring a bottle of water (no other drinks please) in a clear plastic bottle, again named. Children will be encouraged to drink during break-times but will not be allowed to take water bottles to classes.

### **Early Years Uniform**

Our school uniform stockists, Early Years, will have new uniform for sale in the Upper School library on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July from 1430 to 1630.

### **Reports**

#### **Upper School**

As it is a short first half next term and all children will receive a full report at the end of the term, there are no half term reports with this Bulletin.

#### **Pre-Prep**

End of term reports for all children in Pre-Prep will go home with them on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June. If your son/daughter is absent that day the report will be posted. There will be an opportunity to make an appointment on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June between 4.00 and 6.00 pm with your child's form teacher, to discuss any points in the report that may need clarifying.

### **Chamber Choir Trip and Concert**

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2010, Chamber Choir set off for the highlight of the choral year, the Prep Schools' Choral Day at Stowe School in Buckinghamshire.

They had spent the Spring Term preparing the music for this day, working on an *Introit* and *Responses*, a contemporary setting of Psalm 150 *O Praise God in His holiness* by Armstrong Gibbs along with *O Thou the Central Orb* by the English composer Charles Wood. After a few finishing touches to the pieces in the morning session under the guidance of Simon Dearsley, Stowe's Head of Music, they enjoyed a fantastic lunch whilst overlooking the Capability Brown landscaped gardens at the School.

The afternoon session comprised of rehearsing with the Choir of Stowe and visiting staff who sang the soprano, alto, tenor and bass parts to the music. The day concluded with a service of Evensong based around Stanford's *Service in C*, held in the Chapel, re arranged this year in order to allow more visitors to join in with the service. The children sang superbly and the overall sound with 4-part harmonies was, as always, of an outstanding quality.

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May, pupils from Years 3 to 6 came together for an informal concert in the Music Room. This was an event showcasing brass, oboe and recorder playing throughout the School. The standard was, as always, high and covering a range of styles and abilities from Prep Test pieces to a jazzy *Twilight in Paris*. Parents were also treated to a Handel *Gavotte*, a traditional Czech *Polka*, an *Elizabethan Lament* and the contemporary *Jeepers Creepers*.

## **Inter House Music Competition**

On a hot and sunny Friday afternoon, the School gathered for this year's final of the Inter-House Music Competition and the Inter House Unison Song. The adjudicator was Mr Tim Frost, the head of SATIPS Music and Head of Music at Colet Court, the Prep School to St Paul's School in London.

Hugh McMenamin took the brave role as first to perform in the Junior section on his Saxophone, playing the well known *La donna è mobile* by Verdi. He was followed by Jonathan Green who performed *Jeepers Creepers* on the trumpet and Martha Edge with *E-B-G-Bees* on the recorder. The Junior Instrumentalist section was concluded by *Saturday Shuffle* on the piano, performed by Suchir Salhan, who went on to win the Junior Shield.

The Senior section consisted of 5 performers, starting off by Marianne Fitzgibbon who performed *Think of me from Andrew Lloyd Webber's Phantom of the Opera* to a very high standard. The baton was passed to Aloysius Lip whose dexterity was put to the test in the first movement Mozart's Sonata for piano K545. Nadia Ismail then performed on the recorder *Frolicsomeness* by the German baroque composer, Telemann followed by Tim Van Mourik-Street who played Diabelli's *Ländler* on the clarinet. This section was brought to a close by Josephine Yeoman playing *Fernando's theme* on the guitar. The standard and quality of all of these performances was characteristically high and in the end, Marianne was declared the winner of the Senior shield.

The Inter House Unison Song formed the second part of the afternoon with this year's theme being Disney Songs. Nowers, under the direction of Mrs V-C, gave a strong lead with *You've got a friend in me* from Toy Story, followed hot on the heels by Miss Wilson and Pughe with Song of the South's *Zip-a-dee-doo-dah*. Ridgway, conducted by Miss Cochrane, who exchanged her baton for crutches with Shree Jemahl as the warm up act, sang *A whole new world* from Aladdin. The proceedings were concluded by the reflective *When you wish upon a star* (Pinocchio) by Stork under Miss Kishishian, who were the overall winners of the Honey Shield for Inter House Unison Song 2010.

My thanks go to all of the School, both staff and pupils, who participated in different ways and helped to make the afternoon a superb opportunity to celebrate and enjoy music at Hallfield, and in particular to Mr. Alexander who masterminded the whole occasion.

## **Year 2**

The children visited Blakesley Hall to enhance their studies of Tudor life. Some children dressed up in the costumes to give some reality to the experience and good weather allowed them to enjoy the herb garden. The children in 2S and 2F were lucky enough to experience a "yogabugs" session during a PE lesson and the coaches from Aston Villa returned to give all the children an opportunity to learn some football skills. Year 2 children are now in training for Sports Day and all of them have enjoyed the clubs .... and the garden is being tended weekly by selected children. Such variety!

Mrs. Villiers Cundy, Year 3 Co-ordinator, has made a few visits to meet Year 2 children so that they become familiar with her and her staff ready for their move to Upper School in September.

## **Year 6 Science Fair**

It was a fabulous exhibition of science from our Year 6 pupils. The quality of the work was extremely high and everybody shared in this independent learning experience. All the exhibitors showed good understanding of their projects and were able to talk confidently to judges, children and teachers about what they did and the main thrust of the science behind it. This was an outstanding example of the capacity of our children to learn some quite complex concepts, outside the classroom. The competition was judged by the Head of Year 7 Science at KES, Ms Deborah McMillan and the Head of Science at KEHS, Ms Jill Oldfield.

The overall winner was: Teerath Khaira with an investigation of how aeroplanes fly, showing results from a range of experiments into the effect size of wing and angle of aerofoil affects lift.

The form prizes were won by:

6X: Imaan Kotadia, Shree Jemahl, Araadhna Sinha (Electricity around the home, Series or Parallel). Highly Commended: Akash Doshi (A heart attack and how to avoid one).

6L: Nadia Ismail (Life cycle of an orchid) Highly Commended: Maya Jaswal and Hannah Nolan (What does a Big Mac really contain?).

6V: Priya Suthi and Georgina Holyoake (How much do tights stretch?) Highly Commended: Darshan Wouhra, Adam Shah and Kuran Saini (The Planets of our Solar System).

Additional Winners: Honor Meering and Marianne Fitzgibbon (Electricity, The Good , the Bad and the Ugly).

### **Forthcoming Events**

14 <sup>th</sup> June	1620 Concert in the Music Room for some ABRSM exam candidates
18 <sup>th</sup> June	0915 Years 1 & 2 Sports Day
21 <sup>st</sup> June	0915 Foundation & Reception Sports Day
21 <sup>st</sup> June	1100 Transition Sports Day & Family Picnic ABRSM Music exams will be held this week
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	1400 Pre-Prep Summer Concert
24 <sup>th</sup> June	1900 Summer Arts Celebration Evening in Upper School Hall
25 <sup>th</sup> June	1600 Classics Club play “The Simpsons” performance to parents 1800-2000 Staff v Parents Cricket 20/20 for details email <a href="mailto:ian.j.black@btinternet.com">ian.j.black@btinternet.com</a>
28 <sup>th</sup> June	1400 Years 1 & 2 Concert
29 <sup>th</sup> June	1300 Years 1 & 2 Ballet – parents invited to watch lesson
30 <sup>th</sup> June	1900 Year 6 play “Camera, Lights, Action!” performance to parents (A-L)
1 <sup>st</sup> July	1500 Reception, Years 1 & 2 Dance Crazy performance to parents
1 <sup>st</sup> July	1900 Year 6 play “Camera, Lights, Action!” performance to parents (M-Z)
2 <sup>nd</sup> July	1430-1630 Early Years new uniform shop in Upper School Library
3 <sup>rd</sup> July	1900 Parents’ Association Summer Party with Abba tribute band
5 <sup>th</sup> July	1345-1630 Upper School Sports Day (children to come to school in PE kit)
6 <sup>th</sup> July	1430 End-of-Year Service at St. George’s Church – parents welcome
7 <sup>th</sup> July	1800-1930 Staff v Parents Tennis for details email <a href="mailto:dtobin@hallfieldschool.co.uk">dtobin@hallfieldschool.co.uk</a>
8 <sup>th</sup> July	1100 Pre-Prep Break up and Prizegiving (Year 2 parents invited)
9 <sup>th</sup> July	1030 Upper School Speech Day and Prizegiving

### **School Photograph**

A photograph of the whole school was taken recently by Gillman & Soame and copies will soon be available for you to see, either in the side window of the School Office (to the left of the front door), or in the window of the Pre-Prep Department. Orders will be made on line and Gillman & Soame will have the photographs delivered to your home. A proof card will be distributed to your son/daughter to take home and details of the log-in and password will be on the reverse.

### **Holiday Fun Clubs**

A reminder that the Fun Club will run during the half term holiday from Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June inclusive and is for all children in Transition, Foundation, Reception, Year 1 or Year 2. To book a place contact Mrs. Kingston via email at [dkingston@hallfieldschool.co.uk](mailto:dkingston@hallfieldschool.co.uk) Also from 1<sup>st</sup> June to 4<sup>th</sup> June inclusive Aston Villa Football Club are holding i) Mini Kickers (age 4 – 6) from 1000 to 1200, and ii) Soccer School (age 7-11) from 1000 to 1500. Bookings are also being taken for the Summer holiday when Fun Club will run from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August. See Pre-Prep Secretary for booking forms.

## **Hallfield Pupils Play Chess for England**

Many congratulations to Matthew Fergusson who has been selected for the Under 11 England Chess team. He played for England against the rest of the UK on 22nd May and will be playing against Holland on the weekend of 3rd/4th July. This is a quite wonderful achievement, bearing in mind he is Under 10 and still available for this age range next year.

Congratulations also go to Aloysius Lip and Ashwin Kalyana who have been selected to play for the England Under 10 team and their first fixture is against Wales at the beginning of June.

My sincere thanks go to Hallfield's chess coach, Mr. Malcolm Hunt, who must take great credit for coaching these boys to such a high standard – we are indeed very fortunate to have his services.

## **Climbing Club**

Outdoor adventure is an aspect of childhood that can be difficult to nurture in our modern society and Mr. Florance is pleased to be able to offer a new activity for Hallfield's older children: Climbing Club. This will take place at the Creation Climbing Centre in Moseley after school on Tuesdays starting in the Autumn Term – further details will be sent out after the half-term break. Mr. Florance is hoping that for the children who are able to attend it will be the start of a lifetime of excitement in engaging in outdoor activities. Mr. Florance and Miss Smith are both keen climbers and they hope that the children will enjoy this opportunity.

## **Lost and Found**

A child's gold (hallmarked) bangle was found in the car park on 28<sup>th</sup> April. If you have lost one, please see the School Office.

## **Parents' Association**

Thank you for supporting the Children's Fun Day on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May. The sun actually shone for the whole afternoon! The giant inflatables and go-carts kept everyone busy and happy throughout the afternoon. Samosas, sausages, candy floss and donuts disappeared very quickly and we raised around £1,135. My thanks to all the hardworking members of the committee (in particular Mrs. Minhas and Mrs. Russell) and other press ganged parents who helped make this a successful day.

I have mentioned the Parents' Association and their generosity to the School, please support them and buy tickets for the ABBA concert on July 3rd. We have sold 170 tickets but there are still 80 more to go. It promises to be a great night and not only is the PA raising money for the School, they are supporting Acorns Children's Hospice by giving a donation from the proceeds of the evening. We'd love to see you there. Tickets are £35 and that includes supper and a free drink on arrival at the Marquee. They are on sale at the Reception area. Tables are for parties of ten but we will be happy to help put smaller groups together.

## **Web site:** [www.hallfieldschool.co.uk](http://www.hallfieldschool.co.uk)

The website is a mine of information and is regularly updated with articles and photographs including those on the following recent activities:

Foundation and Reception visit to the Botanical Gardens

Chess success at the Mega finals

Old Hallfieldians' bowling afternoon

Inter House Music Competition

Parents' Association Children's Summer Fun Day

Year 2 visit to Edgbaston Old Church

## **Speech Day**

My guest this year is Mr. Richard Atkins. He attended King Henry VIII School in Coventry between 1973-84. He then read Jurisprudence (Law) at St. Catherine's College, Oxford University, from 1985-88, before reading for the Bar, and was called to the Bar in 1989. He has practised in Birmingham since 1990, first at No 1 Fountain Court and then at St. Philip's Chambers from 2002, following the merger with 1 Fountain Court. His practice is now exclusively criminal and since 2005 he has sat as a Crown Court Recorder (part time Judge). Richard sits on the bar Council (governing body of the Bar).

Richard has been a Governor of King Henry VII School since 1998 and became Vice Chairman of Governors in 2005, and throughout my Headship at King Henry VIII Junior School he was my "boss"!

He lives in Harborne with his wife Nicky and their two children. I am delighted and indebted to him for being prepared to present the prizes and talk to us at Speech Day – he is an entertaining and witty person and will be well worth listening to. I do hope you are able to come.

An invitation to parents in Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 will be enclosed with this Bulletin.

## **Individual Data Records**

The DCSF (Department for Children, Schools & Families) requires us to complete a census annually and we have to provide them with information. It is also very important that we have up to date information for your child. An individual sheet for your son/daughter is enclosed with this Bulletin. Please take the time to complete the form and return it to school immediately after the half term holiday on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June. Thank you for your cooperation – it is vital that we are able to contact you in case of an emergency.

## **Enclosures**

The following information will be enclosed with this Bulletin:

### **Upper School parents should have:**

Invitation to Speech Day  
Year 6 only – invitation to Leavers' drinks after Speech Day  
Individual data sheet for your son/daughter

### **Pre-Prep (including Transition) parents should have:**

Individual data sheet for your son/daughter

### **Hallfield/first parents should have:**

Individual data sheet for your son/daughter

And finally, can I remind you that any changes to the school calendar are on the web site – an important omission is the meeting for all Year 3 parents (about Year 4 next year) on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 7.00 pm in the Pre-Prep hall. It will last about an hour and I'll write to all individual parents inviting them straight after half term.

Have a lovely half term holiday.

