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The Bulletin: No 12 March 2010

Trixie, our little 4 year old friend, was sitting having breakfast in our kitchen in Staverton on January 3rd before going back to Yorkshire with her parents. 'Is Christmas over?' she asked my wife.

'Yes'.

'What's next then?' she asked through a mouthful of Cheerios.

'Easter'.

'When's that?'

She, or anyone else, could have been forgiven for thinking that Easter started on January 4th judging by the arrival of chocolate eggs on the supermarket shelves the moment the last Christmas card had been sold and the tinsel cleared away. This year they even superseded the red hearts, and boxes of chocolates we associate with February! Hardly a breathing space in time to try and understand the meaning and significance of the two main Christian festivals. It won't be long before we are being offered a free Easter egg with every turkey we purchase!

Easter is a turning point in the year, not just because it is the most important of the festivals but because, as in pagan days, it marks a re-birth, a beginning – the end of the snow, ice, fog and miserable cold grey days. It's not the eggs that symbolise Easter to me but the tiny yellow daffodils that manage, against all odds, to survive the winter and arrive just as our spirits are at their lowest. They give us hope of sunshine, warmth, outdoor activities and long evenings spent with friends in the garden – perhaps with a bottle of wine and a barbecue!

This year the School, prompted by my wish to move the Prize Giving out of the Sports Hall and relying, rather foolishly, on the Met Office's promise of a beautiful summer, has hired a marquee. The Parents' Association has planned an event on Saturday July 3rd in the marquee that fulfils that dream of a perfect summer evening! They are organising a party, with a live Abba tribute band, a DJ, a lovely 2 course supper and a well stocked bar. It's a 'come as you are' party (unless, of course, you still have a 70's outfit lurking in your wardrobe) a relaxed singing and dancing evening to share with friends, and if you say Abba songs don't make you jump to your feet and want to dance, I don't believe you.

Please try to support this main summer event, tickets are £35 including a free drink on arrival and the supper. If you would like to book, or reserve a table for ten, please call the Main Reception on 454 1496 – or drop in and talk to the office staff.

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Staff Changes

1. Pre-Prep Department

Transition Manager

Miss Deborah Adams has been appointed as Transition Manager. The post is full time, for 52 weeks of the year. Miss Adams is currently Nursery Manager at Lilliput Day Nursery and has over 15 years experience in EYFS provision. She will take up her post after the Easter break.

Year 2

You will be sad to know that Mrs. Still will be leaving Hallfield at the end of the Summer Term. She has been offered a similar position at Hydesville School which is very much closer to her home. I will be advertising for a new teacher after Easter.

2. Upper School

Form 30

We are pleased to welcome back Mrs. Debbie Walder returns after her convalescence. We are indebted to Mr. Gray for covering Mrs. Walder's absence this term.

11+ results

You will be delighted to know that the 11+ results for the present Year 6 are extremely pleasing. In a year group of 56 pupils, 55 candidates sat the King Edward Foundation Grammar and Local Authority Grammar School examinations and 37 places have been offered. 34 pupils have been offered a place at either King Edward's School or King Edward VI High School for Girls. A record total of 18 scholarships and an exhibition were awarded to 14 children.

My congratulations go to all the Year 6 pupils who – in the main – have focused on their studies very well indeed over the last 12 months and should be pleased with the fruits of their work. My sincere thanks and congratulations also go to the staff – not just the Year 6 staff, but all staff who have taught your son/daughter throughout their time at Hallfield – for their dedication, commitment and hard work without them these results would not be possible. The results for 2010 are attached to the back of this Bulletin, along with the results from the previous two years for your information.

Inspection

At the time of writing we have not had the final report returned to us – once I have it I will communicate with you in a separate mailing.

Before School Supervision

During this term an increasing number of children have been arriving at school before 0800. I have in fact been aware of some children being left unaccompanied as early as 0740. As you know, the official start of the school day is 0830, but it is possible to drop children off between 0800 and 0830 at the hut where they will be registered and taken to the Upper School hall or Pre-Prep hall to wait for the school day to begin. However, the school makes no provision of care for children arriving before 0800. If you should need to leave your child a few minutes early please be aware there is no adult supervision and it is parents' responsibility to ensure the children behave safely.

Summer Uniform

Although it is officially summer time the temperature has dipped already and I hope we will have some warmer weather at the beginning of next term. Your son/daughter may return in either winter or summer uniform next term, but after the half term holiday only summer uniform should be worn. A reminder that cricket and rounders will be played in the Summer Term and the appropriate kit should be brought to school.

Please can children in Foundation, Reception and Years 3-6 remember to bring a named water bottle into school each day. This is important to keep children hydrated during the summer term. Only water is permitted as part of our healthy school approach.

Upper School Reports

Children in Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 will receive a report card that gives effort and attainment grades in all subjects. As it is a short first half next term and all children will receive a full report at the end of the term, there will be no reports at Summer half term.

Magazine

Our new look magazine, compiled and edited by Mrs. Shackleton and Mrs. Devonshire, will be distributed to families. There is one copy per family and it will be given to the eldest child in the family. If, for any reason, you do not receive a copy please advise the school office. It's a visual publication, more pictures and less text, many of the articles having already appeared on the website in a longer format. Removing so much text from the main magazine allows more space for photographs. At the back is an A5 booklet containing a mass of information relating to the past year for you to look at over a coffee. In time both the magazine and the A5 booklet will appear on the website. I'm sure you'll agree it's lovely and hope you enjoy looking through it.

Photographs

We were fortunate to have Paul Rogers of Pellier Events taking photographs at the recent Pre-Prep Year 1 productions of "Goldilocks". His photos can be viewed on his website www.pellierevents.co.uk Prints of the photographs may be ordered through his website.

Teacher of the Week

On Friday 25th March 2010 an article appeared in the Young Times newspaper written by Amar Singh Bhandal about his teacher – Mrs. Simkin. She had been awarded 'Teacher of the Week'. Amar writes 'She is always kind and cheerful and when my work is wrong she doesn't shout, she helps me understand it'. 'All of her lessons are fun'.

Amar won a set of Collins Dictionaries and Atlases for the Pre-Prep department. Well done Amar and Mrs. Simkin!

Holiday Fun Clubs

A reminder that the Easter Fun Club will run from Tuesday 6th April until Friday 16th April 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

Bookings are also being taken for May half term holiday when Fun Club will run from Tuesday 1st June to Friday 4th June inclusive and for Summer Fun Club – from Monday 12th July to Friday 20th August. See Pre-Prep Secretary for booking forms.

Aston Villa FC will be running a soccer school from 12th to 16th April inclusive. Mini Kickers (Age 4 – 6) is from 1000 to 1200 and Soccer School (Age 7 – 11) is from 1000 to 1500. Call 0800 612 0970 to book a place.

House News

The Inter-House finals have just taken place for Upper School children and the results are:

Rugby Years 3 & 4	Stork
Rugby Years 5 & 6	Nowers
Netball Years 3 & 4	Pughe
Netball Years 5 & 6	Ridgway

The House that achieved the most merit marks during the Spring Term and the winner of the Greenwood Cup for Merits is Pughe.

Inter-House Music Competition

This has seen another year with a high standard of performances on piano, flute, trumpet, trombone, French horn, violin, cello, clarinet, flute and drums. Congratulations go to the 4 Junior and 4 Senior pupils who will perform in the final on the same day as the House Singing Competition, to be judged by an external adjudicator.

Junior

Hugh McMenamin	Saxophone
Jonathan Green	Trumpet
Martha Edge	Recorder
Suchir Salhan	Piano

Senior

Marianne Fitzgibbon	Voice
Aloysius Lip	Piano
Nadia Ismail	Recorder
Sam Saffarian	Guitar

Concerts

The first of this term's concerts took place in the Music Room with pupils of all abilities and Year groups performing Clarinet, Saxophone and Flute pieces. Mrs Shaw was present to accompany her pupils, both solos and a duet. We were treated to a range of styles from traditional favourites such as *Yankee doodle* and *When the saints*, to arrangements of well known pieces from Opera and classical music including *La Donna e mobile* and *Ode to Joy* from Beethoven's 9th Symphony. Some pupils had only been learning for a matter of months and others for years, but the standard throughout was excellent.

The violin and cello players from Years 3 to 6 held an excellent concert in the music room, demonstrating their skills from beginners to Grade 7 level. Violinists performed traditional favourites including *Old MacDonald*, *Ode to Joy* and *Au Clair de la Lune* as well as the theme tune from the Flintstones. We were treated to some very mature performances including *Souvenir de Sarasate* by Potstock too.

The cellists played *Hungarian Stomp* by the ever popular Pam Wedgwood, Gluck's *Dance of the Blessed Spirits* and the event concluded with the percussion interlude in *Tap Dancer* by Blackwell. Well done to all pupils for their hard work in preparing for this event.

The final informal concert of this term was the Singing and Guitar concert held in the Music Room on the penultimate afternoon of term. The event was yet another example of the high standard of performance in these two areas of the Music Department. The singers treated us, amongst other songs, to *I have a dream* by Abba, *Where is love* from Oliver and a traditional Maori song, *Pokare Ana*. The range of genres in the guitars was equally broad from *Spanish Dance* to *Freewheeling* and *Carnival* by the popular Peter Nuttall.

Well done to everyone who took part.

ABRSM Examination Results Spring Term 2010

Congratulations to:

		Grade		
Darshan Wouhra	Piano	1	100	Pass
Parisha Blaggan	Violin	3	110	Pass
Teerath Khaira	Cello	3	111	Pass
Phoebe Georgevic	Oboe	3	113	Pass
Cerys Stotts	Singing	1	115	Pass
Shriya Sanghera	Cello	4	115	Pass
Ishmael Silvestro	Violin	2	116	Pass
Hugh McMenamin	Alto	1	120	Merit
Daniel Nathan-Rock	Descant Recorder	1	120	Merit
Rhea Thakar	Singing	1	120	Merit
Jonathan Green	Descant Recorder	2	120	Merit
Raushan Takhar	Oboe	1	121	Merit
Rohan Kaya	Piano	3	121	Merit
Rhea Takhar	Oboe	1	122	Merit
Marianne Fitzgibbon	Singing	3	124	Merit
Timothy Van Mourik-Street	Clarinet	2	126	Merit
Daniel Black	Descant Recorder	1	130	Distinction
Jonathan Green	Trumpet	1	134	Distinction
Hugo Meering	Piano	Prep Test		
Lola Simpson	Descant Recorder	Prep Test		
Amarah Badial	Piano	Prep Test		

Elocution Competitions

Mrs. Sarah Miles, former Head of English at Hallfield, adjudicated both the Pre-Prep and Upper School Elocution Competitions. The winner of the Pre-Prep competition was Lily Brocklehurst-Cordell. In Upper School in the Years 3 & 4 category Himmat Sidhu won the Mudd Cup and in Years 5 & 6 the William Atkins Cup was jointly awarded to Marianne Fitzgibbon and Nadia Ismail.

LAMDA Examination Results

Many congratulations to the following candidates:

Year 6	Mia Brocklehurst-Cordell	Acting Grade 2	Distinction
	Nadia Ismail	Acting Grade 2	Distinction
	Rebecca Vitarana	Acting Grade 2	Merit
	Araadhna Sinha	Acting Grade 2	Merit
	Hal Simpson	Acting Grade 2	Pass
	Adnahn Silvestro	Acting Grade 2	Pass
	Sam Saffarian	Acting Grade 1	Distinction
	Cameron Hundle	Acting Grade 1	Distinction
	Teerath Khaira	Acting Grade 1	Merit
Year 5	Steven Hazelwood	Acting Entry	Merit
Year 3	Philopater Sharobeem	Preliminary	Distinction
	Adhitya Rajeskar	Preliminary	Distinction
	Shivendu Mandal	Preliminary	Distinction
	Varum Sinha	Preliminary	Distinction
	Aadil Ali	Preliminary	Distinction
	Emil Ali	Preliminary	Distinction
	Lewis Smith	Preliminary	Distinction
	Oliver Hudson	Preliminary	Distinction
Yusuf Ahmad	Preliminary	Distinction	

Suchir Salhan	Preliminary	Distinction
Anshu Banerjee	Preliminary	Distinction
Aroun Kalyana	Preliminary	Distinction
Nikhil Gupta	Preliminary	Distinction
Chinmay Monga	Preliminary	Distinction
Anna Pigadas	Preliminary	Distinction
Rhea Takhar	Preliminary	Distinction
Rhea Arora	Preliminary	Distinction
Mille Shaylor	Preliminary	Distinction
Ellie Smith	Preliminary	Distinction
Hector Meering	Preliminary	Merit
Lola Simpson	Preliminary	Merit
Danika Doal	Preliminary	Merit
Mahe-Nau Javed	Preliminary	Merit
Taiyaba Sohail	Preliminary	Merit

SATIPS Art Exhibition

Parisha Blaggan, Amnish Sall, Rayan De, Asha Peacock, Haresh Ram, Ben Hale, Raees Ismail and Harvin Suthi have had paintings selected for the exhibition which will take place in May 2010. This is a national exhibition.

Science Week

Paper aeroplanes were taking flight legitimately out of the Upper Lab windows last week during the many events organised for Science Week. Year 3 visited Thinktank and Year 4 went to Enginuity. All the Upper School children took part in the spaghetti and marshmallow building competition and a break-time treasure hunt.

Parents' Association

Thank you for supporting the Quiz Night on 5th March. Dave Tobin really tested our tired brains but Team GB (George Bennett's father) just managed to pip one of the staff teams at the post to claim first prize. The fish and chips were a real treat and kept everyone quiet for a few minutes.

On Saturday 15th May from 1400 to 1700 Flip & Dippy will be plate spinning and stilt walking their way around the Children's Summer Party. There will be a disco, giant inflatables and – fingers crossed – go-carts, to keep everyone busy and happy throughout the afternoon. More details next term, but put the date in your diary now. It will be a good family day out!

An invitation to the Summer Party is enclosed with this Bulletin and I do hope that you will consider supporting it again. Tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis so please get your application in as soon as possible. Tickets are £35 per person. Please apply as soon as possible.

Tesco and Sainsbury Vouchers

Once again Upper School are collecting Tesco vouchers for Schools and Pre-Prep are collecting Sainsbury's equipment for schools vouchers, so please don't forget to ask for them at the checkout or from the delivery driver.

Web site: www.hallfieldschool.co.uk

Upper School parents will be able to read the Summer Term's summaries of work on the website – they may be found under curriculum in each year group.

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

Chess success for Hallfield
Warwickshire Junior Championships & English Primary Schools Chess Association
Year 2 Geography Field trip to The Vale
French Theatre workshop with “The Onatti Theatre” for Upper School
Upper School Woodwind/String concert
Major Mustard’s workshop on Cinderella for Pre-Prep
Parents’ Association Beetle Drive and Quiz Night
World Book Day of magic in Pre-Prep
Visits to the Birmingham Art Gallery to see the Bridget Riley exhibition
Year 3 play “The Boy King”
“Mad Hatters” charity event
Upper School Cross Country Tournament
Grand Polyhedron Competition
Young Scientists – Mr. Ashok Takhar’s talk on teeth
Bodies Revealed – a trip by Year 6 to the exhibition at the Custard Factory
Year 1 visit to the Avoncroft Museum of Building
Felt Workshop and French Breakfast for Year 1
Reception visit to Bournbrook Fire Station

Enclosures

The following information will be enclosed with this Bulletin:

Upper School parents should have:

School Magazine (in a separate envelope – one per family)
Years 3- 6 end of term grade reports
Years 3- 6 Clubs lists
Calendar for Summer Term 2010
Letter from the English Department and Reading list for Years 4, 5 & 6.
Invitation to the Parents’ Association Summer Party

Pre-Prep (including Transition) parents should have:

School Magazine (in a separate envelope – one per family)
Calendar for Summer Term 2010
Invitation to the Parents’ Association Summer Party

Hallfield/first parents should have:

School Magazine (in a separate envelope – one per family)
Calendar for Summer Term 2010
Invitation to the Parents’ Association Summer Party

Isy, Tigger and I are off to Padstow for a few days R and R after Easter for long walks by the sea in the sunshine in an effort to put this very demanding term behind us! And we are looking forward to a warm and outdoor summer term on our return. Have a wonderful Easter break and thank heaven for those daffodils!

