

HALLFIELD

FOCUS

ISSUE 4 APR 2023



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BUILDING A BETTER HALLFIELD



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SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1879

Happy | Inspiring | Purposeful

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WELCOME



**HALLFIELD
SCHOOL**

FOUNDED 1879

From the Head Master

Hallfield has, and will always have, a strong academic heartbeat and another set of outstanding scholarships and senior school offers for Year 7 and Year 9 are testament to this. My huge congratulations to all the pupils on their successes this term. In addition to academia, in true Hallfield style, we have spent the past 12 weeks enjoying countless events including concerts, showcases and trips, alongside some exciting learning opportunities.

My highlights? It is difficult to pick just a few! There are many things one must get to grips with as a Head, but I never imagined it would be a python, brought into school by our special Hallfield Insights guest, Zoologist and Entomologist Dr Ross Piper. It was certainly a day to remember, featuring photos and insights from his worldwide travels, a few creatures of his own - including the world's largest spider, a python and a millipede - and lots of fascinating images of the small wonders of the world. Who knew how much more there was out there than meets the eye?

The Year 4 Performing Arts Showcase was another standout moment from this term. The audience was seamlessly transported between three stories by the pupils, who gave outstanding performances. I believe we may have some aspiring actors on our hands. I am eagerly anticipating the Year 6 performance in the upcoming term after the success of this production. Bravo, Year 4!

Our most recent successes? Firstly, congratulations to the winners and runners in our many cross-country events this term. In the final week of term, we celebrated two wins. Firstly, Hallfield was crowned the reigning champions of the Harborne District FA U10s Tournament, beating Blue Coat in the final. A fantastic effort from our U10 football team, well done boys! We also held onto our title as the IAPS UK Chess Champions for a 5th year in a row! Another fantastic achievement from our Chess team!

I hope you enjoy reading this jam-packed issue of Hallfield Focus.



We are delighted to announce
SPECIAL GUEST: AMY DOWDEN



*Speech & Prize
Giving Day 2023*

Star of Strictly Come Dancing!
British National Latin Dance
Champion, Crohn's Disease
campaigner and business owner

**THE GREAT HALL,
UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM**

Tuesday 27 June 2023

11:00 - 13:30



Hallfield *Insights*



An evening with Amy Dowden

Wednesday 28 June 2023

**Amy Dowden is swapping the dancefloor
for Hallfield School's Prep Hall.**

Join us for stories from Strictly, a
behind the scenes look into the
life of a pro dancer and a
Quickstep or two around the
stage. Amy's rise to success is truly
inspirational. This is an evening
not to be missed!

Tickets will be on sale soon

*Coming
Soon*





JUNIOR GRAND PRIX SUCCESS FOR DIAH

Congratulations to Diah, who was awarded her U11 Girls Warwickshire Junior Grand Prix trophy back in December. Warwickshire Grand Prix is a series of chess tournaments that take place in the county throughout the year, with the player who scores the highest points winning the title.



GOLDEN TICKET WINNERS

Congratulations to this term's Golden Ticket winners! Pupils enjoyed a range of special treats, such as ice cream and library sessions with Mr Morrow, to celebrate their achievements.



HEATHER AND HANNAH SHINE AT THE DUDLEY FESTIVAL

Well done to Year 2 pupils Heather and Hannah who competed in the Dudley Festival of Music, Drama and Dance back in March. Hannah came in second place in her age group competition and Heather won the Norman Darlington Memorial Trophy for Grade 3 Piano!





EVERY HALLFIELD CHILD AN AUTHOR PROJECT

Our exciting whole school writing project, Every Hallfield Child an Author (EHCAA), in collaboration with children's author James Hywel, is charting a right royal caper that's simply not to be missed!

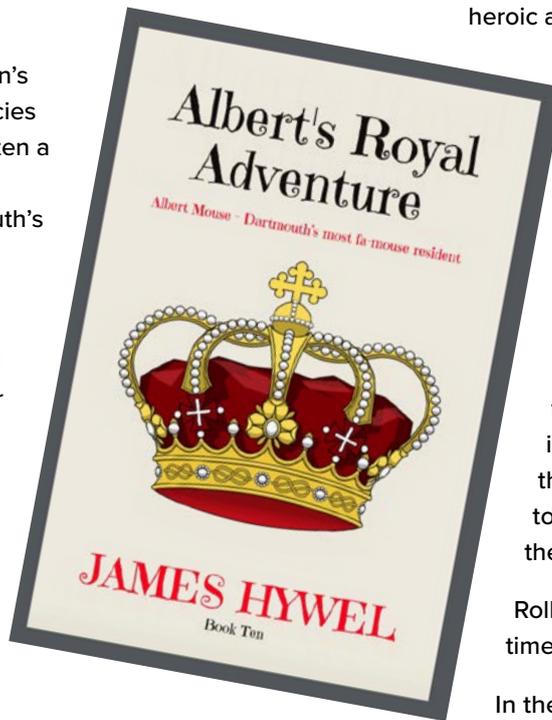
James is a prolific writer who is passionate about nurturing children's creativity and exploring the intricacies of the writing process. He has written a series of books centred on the character, Albert Mouse – Dartmouth's most fa-mouse resident! They're delightful tales and ideal for our whole-school book project, which has been planned out to enable all Hallfield pupils (Foundation to Year 8) to contribute to our very own 'Albert Book'. The project will result in a paperback and a full-colour eBook.

Our overall aims are to inspire all pupils to:

- read more
- explore the writing process
- develop imagination, creative freedom and expression
- believe that they can become published authors

The pupils have voted and we can now announce that the title of our upcoming book with James Hywel will be Albert's Royal Adventure!

All pupils have started the considerable task of engaging in collaborative writing to ensure that a playfully credible tale of a planned jail break, cross-country steam train dash (complete with mischievous stowaways), treacherous intent by a notorious smuggler to be, hopefully, foiled by the heroic actions of a fa-mouse character or two!



Be prepared to be astounded at the amazing antics which will span between the Devonshire tourist town of Dartmouth and the nation's capital city of London.

Will King Charles' coronation be saved from disruption and disaster?

Well, our Foundation pupils seem to think so as they staged a very impressive mock ceremony to help them get into the spirit of all things royal to assist with their creative writing for the book.

Roll on publication day which will be just in time for some celebratory summer reading!

In the meantime, you can find out more about James Hywel at his website by scanning the QR code. We are

sure you will agree that we are most fortunate to have secured this opportunity to support the reading and writing development of Hallfield pupils.



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK: LEARNING TO CONNECT

In honour of Children's Mental Health Week, author and mental health advocate Vie Portland joined us to lead a series of workshops and assemblies with pupils throughout the school. Vie encouraged the children to be kind to themselves and to believe in their own abilities. Her assemblies emphasised the importance of being brave and facing life's challenges, as well as sharing worries in line with this year's theme, "let's connect," and challenging our mindsets to allow ourselves to be positive.

WORLD BOOK DAY

Another fabulous World Book Day Celebration was held at Hallfield, this time including parents in the morning events!

Halls and classrooms buzzed with hundreds of enthusiastic parents, children and staff, resplendent in wonderful costumes from their favourite books. Pupils and parents enjoyed a delicious breakfast provided by Holroyd Howe, over their favourite book.

Pre-Prep and Prep assemblies were held in the morning, and The Masked Reader returned by popular demand with fabulous and well disguised readings by members of staff.

The costumes, once again, were wonderful and thanks to our discerning judges, the true spirit of competition was captured by identifying such well balanced and fair criteria to select our worthy and very happy winners and runners up.



See more fabulous costumes here.



EASTER BONNET PARADE

During the final week of term, we welcomed parents into school for our first ever parent-facing Easter Bonnet Parade. It was an occasion that the students will remember for years to come, featuring hundreds of gorgeous bonnets carefully made by our Pre-Prep pupils (with perhaps some assistance from parents), musical performances from Heather, Arthur, Jiya, Vithikarani and Hannah, and not forgetting our special visitor – the Easter Bunny!



A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE WITH DR ROSS PIPER

Dr Ross Piper, a world-travelling explorer, stopped by Hallfield on Wednesday 8th March to talk all things animals, insects and the natural world!

Dr Ross Piper is a Zoologist, Entomologist, Author and Presenter. He has been fascinated by animals for as long as he can remember; an interest that led to a degree in Zoology and a PhD in Insect Ecology. Ross has travelled widely in Europe, the Americas, Africa and Southeast Asia; continuously searching for interesting and elusive beasts. He loves nothing more than to share his fascination for the incredible living things that surround us with anyone who will listen.

Pupils enjoyed multiple sessions with Ross including a STEM lesson, geography lesson, Year 2 assembly and Foundation Q & A, before their much-anticipated grand opening of the Bug Hotel!

Our Hallfield Insights series brought the day to a close, as if the already packed schedule wasn't enough. Dr Ross Piper's captivating presentation to parents, former and present pupils, and visitors covered the subject of Forgotten Frontiers. It was an evening spent learning about the rare and intriguing creatures, many of which co-exist with us on a regular basis, and exploring the tiniest species on the planet.



The full writeup and more pictures are available [here](#).



EASTER SERVICE

The Spring Term concluded with our annual Easter Service held at St George's Church, Edgbaston. Thank you to our choirs for their glorious singing!





WHAT'S NEXT AFTER YEAR 6?

We caught up with Year 6 pupils Ibrahim, Samantha, Edward and Rayna to find out what their plans are at the end of Year 6.

Name: Ibrahim

Which senior school are you going to?

I am undecided yet, it is between Bishop Vecey and KES. I'll probably go to KES as I got a scholarship there.

What other schools/offers did you receive?

All of the grammar schools and Solihull.

How did you choose your senior school?

I feel like KES will provide many opportunities for me in the future. It feels similar to Hallfield, so I am hoping it will not be too strange or uncomfortable to move. The modern facilities and technology that Hallfield has, is also at KES and some of my favourite subjects like STEM and music are really encouraged.

When did you join Hallfield?

I joined Hallfield part way through Reception. I was worried because my old school was nowhere near as good as Hallfield. However, I quickly made great friends who really encouraged me at break times. The teachers were supportive too.

How did Hallfield support you in preparing for your senior school entrance exams?

We had interview practice in Hallfield Enrichment and then a separate interview practice with Mr Morrow. The one to one with Mr Morrow really prepared me for the questions that I was actually asked in the entrance interviews, so that really helped!

What is your most improved subject, and why?

I was not great at English and comprehension was my weak point. In Year 5, we did enrichment sessions in verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning. The English



lessons, along with enrichment really pushed me and helped me get into grammar schools and the likes of KES and Solihull.

Do you have any hobbies or sports?

I am in the A Team for cricket and really enjoy watching matches like the 100.

In music, I am Grade 3 in violin and Grade 5 in guitar. I think Hallfield has shaped my love of music, because I really enjoy the music lessons. The teachers noticed that I was a bit ahead in music and pushed me to do things that are more complicated.

What is your message for our readers?

Even if you feel like a subject is a weak point or you don't really like it, just try your best, putting the maximum effort and drive into it! – You will achieve all of your dreams and become a much better person.

Name: Samantha

Which senior school are you going to?

KEHS

What other schools/offers did you receive?

EHS, KEHS and the grammar schools.

How did you choose your senior school?

I received a scholarship at EHS, but I preferred the features that KEHS has, such as great facilities and a high academic standard.

How did you prepare for the entrance exams and interviews?

We had interview practice and public speaking, which developed my confidence. In Hallfield Enrichment, we had practice in non-verbal reasoning and verbal reasoning. I wasn't really good at first, but after we started practising it every week, I got better. I started enjoying it more and that was a big part of some of the exams.

Outside of school, my parents got me practice books with maths, English and science questions, which I worked through.

When did you join Hallfield?

Reception

What opportunities has Hallfield provided?

If I went to another school, they probably would not have food technology or advanced DT equipment such as laser cutters and a printing press. As I have progressed through the school, Hallfield have developed all these provisions and it has been so valuable to use the equipment and make things and enjoy them.

I play the piano at Grade 6. In school, we get lots of support in music and there are many opportunities to practice performing and participate in concerts.



What is your best memory?

When I joined and I met all my friends and teachers. Before Hallfield I was really shy, but they helped me develop my confidence. I have really enjoyed the residential trips. I was really nervous about spending a week away from my parents but then it was really fun and I overcame my fear.

What is your favourite subject?

I really like drama and STEM as they're very interactive. The teachers are fun and make it interesting.

What is your most improved subject, and why?

Maths. I was not good at division and multiplying. However, as I got older, I started learning more ways to make it easier for me and got quicker. The teachers are really good! If you find something too easy, they give you more challenging work to really push you.

What is your message for our readers?

Even if you don't like a particular subject, one day it might help you!

Name: Edward

Which senior school are you going to?

I will be staying on at Hallfield Seniors as I am currently in the admissions process for Year 9 entry to Eton and Rugby. I would love to go to Eton because of its academic record.

What other schools/offers did you receive?

Bromsgrove School

How did you prepare for the entrance exams and interviews?

I do mock tests at home. I am practising my maths, English and interview skills. My interview for Eton is soon so Mr Butcher is helping me with interview practice.

When did you join Hallfield?

I joined Hallfield in Foundation (Pre-School).

What are you looking forward to most about senior school?

I really like Hallfield and I am glad that I can stay on where it is familiar rather than getting used to another school for two years, and then have to move again at Year 9.

What is your best memory?

My best memory was meeting all of my friends. We have stayed close the whole way through school.

What is your most improved subject, and why?

English. In Year 3 I struggled with spelling but now I'm much better and can do everything I'm asked to in lessons.



What opportunities has Hallfield provided?

Hallfield has given me a chance to learn in a fun way and it has nurtured me to become who I am today.

What is your message for our readers?

Don't give up even if a goal and dreams seem further away than they actually are.

Name: **Rayna**

Which senior school are you going to?

I am undecided, maybe Camp Hill. I also have offers for Handsworth and KEHS.

How did you prepare for the entrance exams and interviews?

We had different Hallfield Enrichment sessions to help us prepare.

When did you join Hallfield?

Foundation

How did Hallfield support you in preparing for your senior school entrance exams?

In Year 5, we had NVR, VR and mental arithmetic practice, which helped a lot. I struggled with arithmetic before but this helped to prepare me. The teachers supported me with maths in lessons.

What are you looking forward to most about senior school?

I am looking forward to having a fresh start and meeting new friends, and just having the experience of senior school.

What opportunities has Hallfield provided?

The best experience I have had is on my residential to Ullswater. It was amazing and I loved every second of it. Also, all the clubs and extracurricular, it has really helped me to grow and prepare myself for the future.

What is your favourite subject?

My favourite subject is art or DT. You can express yourself in art and DT and I like that, it is not a set thing that you have to do.



What is your most improved subject, and why?

Maths. I was bad, but now I am better and I get good scores in maths tests. I am starting to enjoy it more.

A message to Hallfield pupils and staff...

Even if you think you are not good at something, try your best and you will succeed with practice.

BUILDING A BETTER HALLFIELD

Over the last 5 years, Hallfield School has invested £4.5million in the School, from the grounds to the classrooms, the enhancements have been vast, and all with a common goal of providing the best educational experience for our pupils.



2018 - 2019 ▲

SECOND ALL WEATHER PITCH

Providing additional provision for our thriving sports department. It provides more flexibility when planning the sports curriculum and fixtures.



2019 - 2020 ▲

REFURBISHED NURSERY

The grand building at the front of our school was made the sole home of our wonderful nursery – Hallfield First. Made light and airy and kitted out with all the latest EYFS provisions, its location also allows the children to share a vast garden with Foundation.



2020 - 2021 ▲

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Why wait until senior school to enjoy design technology. Our DT suite features a 3D printer, heat press, sewing machines and laser cutter to light that creative spark in our Prep and Senior pupils!



2021 ▲

CREATIVE COTTAGE

Hallfield's hidden treasure; the Creative Cottage is home to the Pre-Prep Library and art room. With cosy reading nooks, artistic features that capture the imagination at every angle and a cottage garden to encourage green fingers; this space wows everyone who gets to enjoy it!



▲ 2021

FOOD TECHNOLOGY SUITE

We are the only Prep school in the area to have a purpose built Food Technology suite. There is no more important life skill than learning how to cook and nourish your mind and body. From lessons with Michelin star chefs; to after school clubs like "Ready Steady Bake" – the pupils love this space whilst honing a skill for life.



2022 ▲

THE BISTRO

Where hungry stomachs are satisfyingly filled, for a focussed day of learning. Our Bistro was relocated to the heart of our campus and serves food to every pupil from Reception to Year 8!



2022 ▲

FOUNDATION BUILDING

Our Foundation Building is home to our pre-schoolers. Here they get to enjoy modern facilities that prepare them for Reception. Three individual classrooms can be opened up to one free-flow space. A huge garden with play equipment to suit every child's interest and a kitchen to start their cookery journey, are just some of the highlights of this space.



2022 ▲

AARIYA'S GARDEN

This memorial garden pays tribute to Aariya, a little girl, and pupil of Hallfield School who tragically died in 2021. The garden celebrates her life and all the things she loved. It provides a calm space for children to socialise, build Lego, explore music and play.



2023 ▲

RADIO ROOM AND MAC SUITE

Our state of the art radio room and MAC Suite gives our pupils the opportunity to extend their ICT skills and understand media production. We cannot wait to launch our podcast series to you!

SO WHERE NEXT?

The developments do not stop there! We are excited to announce the build of two state of the art classrooms, a common room and break out space for our pupils in April 2024. We also hope to raise enough funds to build a sports centre that will be the size of four badminton courts. The innovative design will be bold, but in keeping with the conservation area. Well-equipped changing rooms will provide extra convenience and comfort. A refreshments servery and outdoor, decked area will provide a space for parents and visitors to enjoy whilst watching fixtures, or when they attend one of our outdoor event such as fireworks.





Our chess players have been busy as usual producing a series of excellent results in the following events:

WARWICK JUNIOR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Despite these championships usually being for players up to Year 6, we had several younger pupils taking part. Preesh finished 4th in a very strong field in the A section; Jixiao (Year 3) came 3rd in the D section - his best result to date; and, following his win in the D section at Kenilworth recently and promotion, Handuo (Year 3), promptly came first in the C section and will look forward to playing in the B section next time.

BDJCL

The final event of the Birmingham and District Junior Chess League took place at King Edwards Camphill. This is an U13 event so our players were the youngest competitors by far. Despite this, we only narrowly missed winning the event (after a disappointing final round) but nevertheless finished the season 2nd behind a very strong KES team (of mostly ex Hallfield players!) and ahead of KE Camphill, KE Fiveways, Solihull, Queen Mary's, Bishop Vessey, KE Aston. A brilliant first season for our young players.



EPSCA ZONAL

This took place in Nottingham and we had 2 teams competing in the U11 section and 2 teams in the U9 section.

The U11 A team played magnificently and finished in first place, with the U11 B team also playing incredibly well and finishing 5th. Ayansh was our top scorer with 5 wins from 5 games, well done!

The U9 A team were exclusively Year 4 players and finished in 3rd place after some tough battles, whilst our B team (exclusively Year 3) had the tournament of their life, beating almost everyone (including our A team) and finishing first. Top scorers were our 2 leading Year 3 chess stars, Krish and Handuo, who both scored 5/5.

All 4 teams qualified to play in the semi-final which takes place in Nottingham in June.



KES BLITZ

In this event players need to make all of their moves in 5 minutes, making it a lot of fun for the competitors. This time we selected an all-girl squad and they were extremely well behaved, as well as playing exceptionally. Our top scorers were Diah (Year 6) and another one of our Year 3 chess stars, Hannah. Well done to everyone who competed.



IAPS CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hallfield have been IAPS Chess Champions (U11 and U13) for several years now and on the 30th and 31st of March the team defended their title once again at Twickenham Prep School. We're delighted to share that Hallfield Chess Team held onto their title as the IAPS Chess Champions for a 5th year! Diah was crowned girl champion and Preesh was joint champion in the boy's category. What an incredible outcome on all 3 wins!

Well done Hallfield Chess Team and Nick Thomas for another fantastic Chess achievement!

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY CHESS

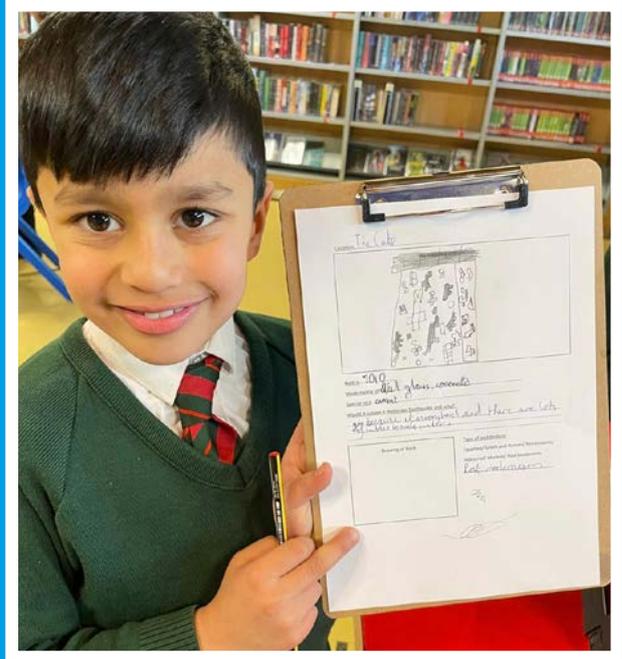
The Northern County U11 Team Final took place recently with half of the County team comprising Hallfield players. Our players were brilliant, with many of them winning all of their games and Warwickshire won the event ahead of many other strong Northern Counties! Special congratulations to Alex Tricoli (Year 1) who acted as a reserve for the team – definitely a star of the future!





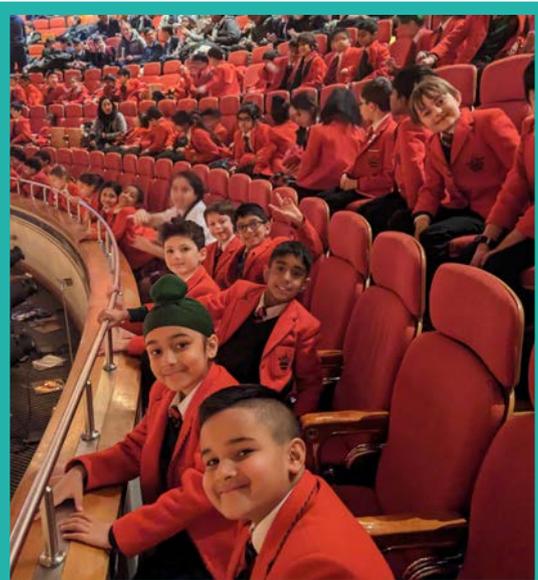
YEAR 3 STEM TRIP

Year 3 pupils enjoyed a STEM trip into Birmingham city centre. They looked at the architecture of buildings and studied whether they would be able to withstand an earthquake.



THE POWER OF MUSIC

Years 3 & 4 enjoyed a very inspirational trip to Symphony Hall to listen to the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's 'This World' concert. The children were transported across our planet, through rainforests and up mountains, by the four sections of the orchestra, which were representing the four elements of our planet: earth, air, wind and fire. The children were reminded through the power of music that it is important to respect and preserve this world, and thoroughly enjoyed listening to the world class musicians as well as trying to spot the instrument they play.



YEAR 1 EXPLORE SOHO HOUSE

Year 1 visited Soho House, where the children participated in an interactive workshop to learn about the exciting life of the nurse, traveller and author, Mary Seacole.



THE WONDER OF WILDLIFE

Year 5 enjoyed spending a day at Cannon Hill Wildlife Conservation Park as part of last term's STEM curriculum. Home to a unique collection of animals including red pandas, meercats, wallabies and lemurs, pupils explored the park to gain a better understanding of wildlife and the natural environment.



YEAR 5 BRASS TRIP

Pupils learning a brass instrument from Year 5 attended a lunchtime recital at the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre. It was a wonderful concert, featuring trombone and French horn, plus fabulous vocal, string and piano performances by the very talented music scholars of KES and KEHS. The children were thrilled to have the opportunity to meet the musicians at the end and came away full of enthusiasm and excitement about what the future might hold for them!



A CHOC-TASTIC DAY OUT!

Year 2 had a fantastic trip to Cadbury World! Pupils enjoyed learning about the history of chocolate, the process behind making it and of course eating far too much chocolate! We don't know who had more fun, the staff or pupils!





THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON

In honour of the Chinese New Year, Maple's children made a Chinese Dragon and performed a Chinese Dragon dance to mark celebrations.



VISITING THE CHICKENS AT CREATIVE COTTAGE

Mr Morrow and Hallfield First children visited the Creative Cottage to spend some time with our chickens. Mr Morrow explained all about chicken care to the children. Here he is with Lunar, telling the children she lays white eggs and loves eating sweetcorn!

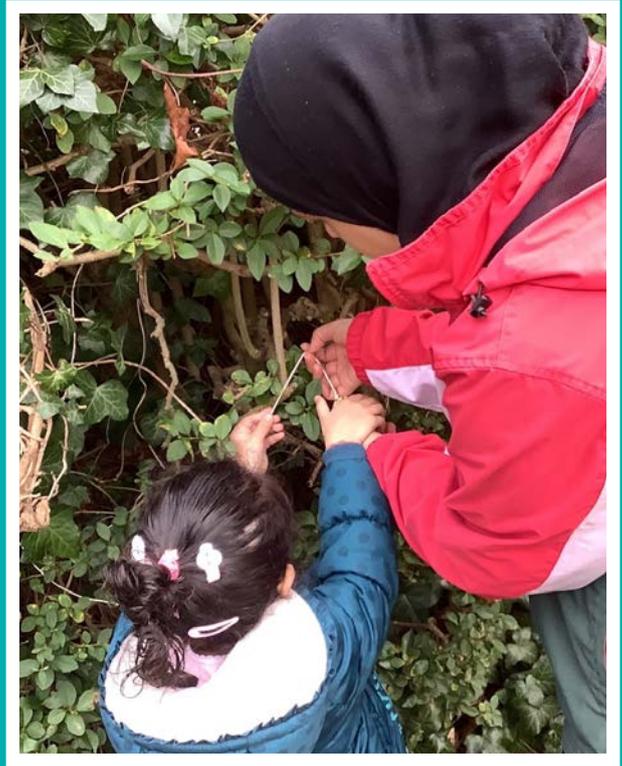


FUN WITH PLAY DOUGH

The children very much enjoyed helping to make play dough last term! They measured, weighed, and mixed the ingredients before helping to knead it. We can't decide which part they liked more: making or playing with it!

THE BIG GARDEN BIRD WATCH

In honour of 'The Big Garden Bird Watch', Hallfield First children helped to make bird feeders and went on a walk around the grounds to hang them, exploring lots of potential locations before deciding to spread them evenly across the site. The children couldn't wait to return to check how much food had been taken!



BRINGING THE BEACH TO US

Maples can't wait for summer months spent on the beach enjoying the sand. In the meantime, pupils made their own beaches in the classroom – not quite as good as the real thing, but still an enjoyable afternoon seeing who could make the best sandcastles!



THE POWER OF PLANTS

Oaks room has been busy preparing for spring. After enjoying looking at all of the lovely flowers in full bloom around school, pupils practised planting some of their own. The children learnt about lots of different bulbs and seeds before planting their pots, watching them begin to grow at the nursery before taking them home.



PREP TASTER DAY

Year 2 had a fantastic Prep Taster Day experiencing all that is to come next year.

Pupils loved spending time in food tech, design technology and STEM, and especially enjoyed their assembly featuring the Head Master's challenge. Pupils finished the day excited for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Mr Morrow left children with a key message to take away: "Don't be scared of facing difficulties, most challenges can be overcome, sometimes with a bit of support".

We're confident that Year 2 will handle the transition amazingly! The specialist teachers can't wait to see all the children back in their classrooms very soon!



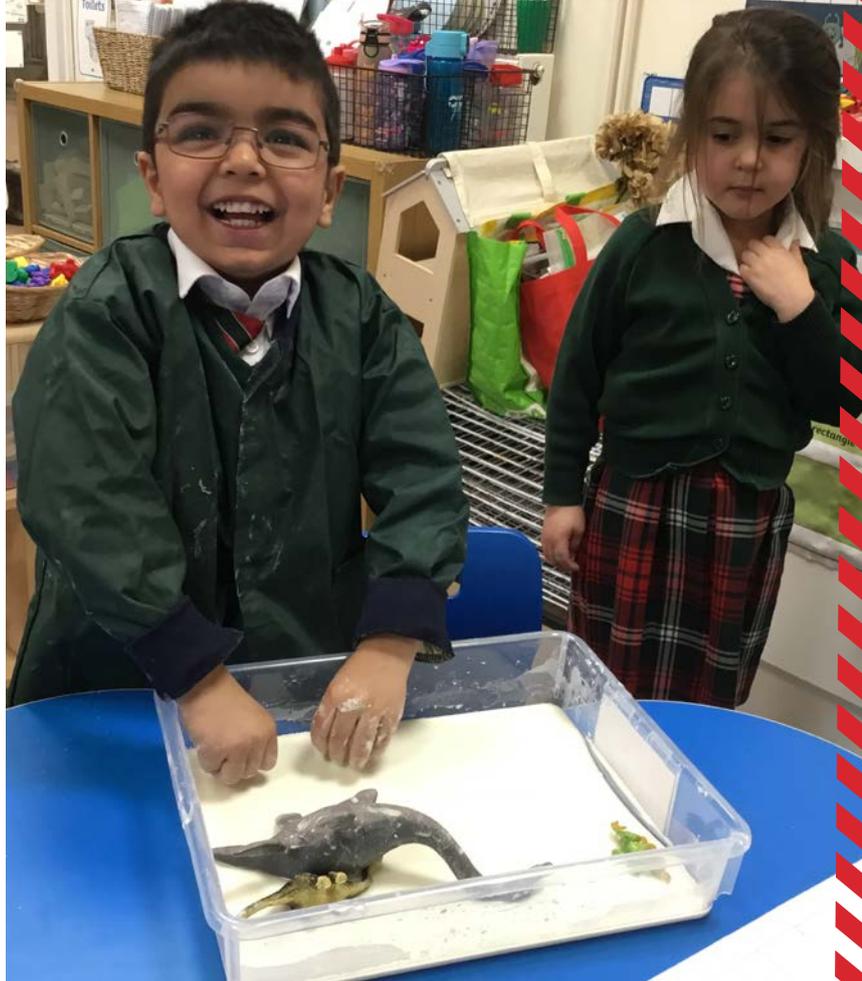
JUST RIGHT...

Foundation spent some time finding out more about the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Pupils enjoyed learning how to make porridge in the Foundation kitchen before choosing their own toppings. The porridge would have been approved by Goldilocks herself, as it was just right!



THE VERY COLOURFUL CATERPILLAR

In our Jumping Clay Club in Reception, the children worked hard to make their very own caterpillar. This club inspires creativity and helps to improve fine motor skills – it's also lots of fun!



AN EGG-CITING DISCOVERY

Whilst studying the topic of dinosaurs, the children were very excited to discover that one had been in their classroom and laid an egg! Pupils enjoyed watching it daily and were very excited to see that the dinosaur had started to hatch. They enjoyed participating in lots of exciting activities, including measuring dinosaur lengths and heights with cubes and getting messy in a sensory dinosaur swamp!



A VISIT FROM FARHANA ISLAM

Pre-Prep were very lucky to have a visit from the author Farhana Islam who wrote the story 'Not Now, Noor!' Farhana is a teacher herself and explained that she was inspired to write her story because children in her class did not understand why she wore a hijab. The children loved listening to Farhana and had the opportunity to draw Noor themselves.



SPRING HAS SPRUNG

In Reception the children celebrated the first day of spring by using watercolours to paint daffodils.



INSTRUMENT TASTER DAY

Year 2 had a very enjoyable Instrument Taster Day, trying out all of the orchestral instruments on offer at school. Each child had a go on eight different instruments during the course of the day - a unique opportunity and one which was met with great enthusiasm by everyone involved. We can't wait to see which instruments our budding musicians have chosen to play.

“Year 2 will start lessons on their sponsored orchestral instruments after Easter. Seeing and hearing the pupils being so enthusiastic and excited about learning an instrument was a real pleasure. This is the start of a long musical journey for many of them and they will be playing their new instrument to an impressive standard by the time they leave Hallfield School.” – Mrs Edgar, Director of Music



A HALLFIELD CORONATION

Foundation children learnt all about the coronation before acting out the ceremony ahead of our upcoming celebrations. If there's a general knowledge quiz, we'll definitely have some experts!



A LOOK BACK IN TIME

Reception pupils enjoyed taking a journey back in time to explore the rich history of Hallfield. From insights into past school dinners, boarding, our first female pupil and name and location changes, it was fascinating to see how we have progressed over 144 years!



THE POWER OF PRAYER

Year 3 have been learning about Hindu prayer in their RE lessons. Pupils enjoyed exploring all of the different special objects which feature on the Puja tray.



GETTING INTO CHARACTER

Year 4 wrote their own character descriptions after becoming inspired by reading about Edward Tulane in *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. Pupils took inspiration from Miss Dicks' array of teddies!



YEAR 4 DRAMA

Year 4 spent drama lessons rehearsing for their Performing Arts Showcase, which was a huge success – the hard work really paid off!



CHINESE NEW YEAR WORKSHOPS

To mark the Chinese New Year we welcomed the Coventry University Confucius Institute to lead a Chinese Cultural Morning with Year 5, following the success of last year! Year 5 pupils participated in three workshops across the morning; Calligraphy, Martial Arts and Chinese Paper Cutting.



KEHS CLAY WORKSHOP

This term a small group of Year 4 and 5 artists got the exciting opportunity to go to KEHS for a ceramic animal workshop, where they learnt how to create 3D animal sculptures.



KES MATHS CHALLENGE SUCCESS

On Friday 24 March Jaden, Louie, Rheuban and Nicole represented Hallfield at this year's KES Maths Challenge. Year 4 tackled a cross number challenge before the fast-paced relay challenge. Lots of determination was shown and there was a fantastic effort from the team – well done everyone!



YEAR 6 AND SENIORS CAREERS TALKS



This term we hosted two sets of Careers Talks. Firstly, we welcomed Financial Adviser, Mr Paul Graville and Investment Banker, Mr Inderpal Singh Gujral, to talk about their respective careers.

Next, we welcomed Mrs Derrig and Mr Kotecha who provided lots of fascinating insight around freelancing and training in the film and television industry, and a behind the scenes look at the life of an orthopaedic surgeon!

STEM FAIR FUN

Prep pupils have had lots of fun participating in this year's STEM Fairs! The pupils came up with some really creative concepts and presented their ideas brilliantly.



AN INTERESTING DEBATE

The Debate Club enjoyed discussing whether children should be in charge of curriculum design.





HALLFIELD SENIORS – WHAT'S NEW?



LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Seniors led a brilliant PE lesson for 3JS as part of their leadership program.



BIKEABILITY TRAINING

Yousef, Armaan and Aaron did brilliantly in the 'Learning to Ride' session and all successfully rode a bike - some for the first time! Others have completed level 1 and level 2 Bikeability Awards, showing excellent development in their understanding of the Highway Code and road safety; reminding some of Birmingham's drivers of the rules in the process! Their attitudes and behaviour were superb throughout; well done Seniors!





MEET MRS EDGAR, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

When did you join Hallfield?

September 2018

Where were you before you joined Hallfield?

I was in Scotland, working as a Kodaly Music Specialist across 15 different primary schools in Aberdeenshire. I worked there for four years, and really enjoyed experiencing a schooling system different to the one we have in England. Prior to that, I was a peripatetic music teacher, teaching keyboards and woodwind in Reading. Before that, I was Head of Music at Plymouth College Prep School.

What made you want to become a music teacher?

I have always loved music, and I have been so lucky to have wonderful and inspirational music teachers at my own schools who passed their love of music on to me when I was growing up. I wanted to be able to do the same.

What is your favourite topic(s) to teach and why?

I love teaching all of music, but I particularly enjoy teaching the art of performance. I find it incredibly rewarding guiding children through all the stages, from the initial practice right up to the final bows!

How does your subject enhance a child's curriculum / development?

Music enhances and enriches a child's education in so many areas. Research has proven that learning to read music and play an instrument, or sing, can help children develop reading skills. It can increase a child's ability to think critically, problem-solve, and learn new information. Playing music and singing can have a positive effect on a child's emotional well-being, promoting feelings of happiness, relaxation and calmness. Music can inspire creativity, allowing children to express themselves and develop their imaginations. And finally, playing music or singing with others can help children develop social and teamwork skills, promoting collaboration and communication.



How does music at Hallfield differ from other schools?



I asked our Visiting Music Teachers to give me some answers for this question, and their answers show how very fortunate I believe the children at Hallfield are in terms of music provision:

- We are the only school to offer individual instrumental and vocal lessons – these are done in paired lessons elsewhere.
- The range of instruments on offer for children to learn is huge compared to other schools.
- Our music lessons are longer than in other schools – each child gets an hour's curriculum music per week and if they sign up for instrumental or vocal tuition, they get 30 minutes rather than the normal 20 minutes.
- We have a vast array of ensemble and performance opportunities.
- The music department is one of the nicest and most well organised around, with excellent resources and practice rooms.
- We offer supervised practice sessions so children can come in at break, lunch and before school to practice independently.
- Music is used to enhance school events, such as Open Days, special commemorative days like the Queen's Jubilee, and Speech Day.
- (And my favourite!) – there's a real lively buzz around the department, from both children and staff.





What does an average day at Hallfield look like for you?

Every day is different and usually incredibly busy! I always start the day by putting on some music and checking my emails before getting ready for the day's teaching and welcoming the children in for their practice sessions. From then onwards it's full of class teaching, ensemble rehearsals, keeping a check on whether children have remembered to come for their music lessons and dealing with necessary admin.

What musical opportunities does Hallfield offer pupils?

We have three choirs, a brass band, wind band, orchestra, swing band, ukulele club, strings club, viola club and guitar ensemble, all of which perform to parents throughout the year. We take children on school trips to Symphony Hall and local schools such as KES to watch concerts. We perform outside of school at local care homes. We include music in drama productions from Year 2 upwards. The children can also perform in assembly.



Why is it important to begin teaching music from a young age?

The younger you are when you begin learning music, the better, in my opinion! Studies have shown that the brain develops fastest in the first few years of life and when those neural connections are being made, it's easier to pick up new skills such as note reading. I started the piano at age 3, and for me, reading music is as easy as reading letters and words.

How does music enhance a child's future?

Studies have shown that children who regularly engage in music tend to perform better in academic subjects. This can lead to better grades and higher chances of getting accepted into universities and school. Children who take music seriously and put in the effort to improve their skills have a wider range of career options, including becoming a musician, music teacher, music therapist, music journalist, music producer, sound engineer, or concert promoter. Playing music in groups or ensembles requires teamwork, communication and collaboration. These skills are important for success in any job and also help children develop social skills that will serve them well throughout their lives.



What would we be surprised to know about you?

My dad taught Chris Martin (Coldplay) the piano. He used to come for lessons at my house when I was little and I met his mum at a concert once!

What hobbies / interests do you have outside of school (any musical)?

Musical activities play a huge part in my life outside school – I am second flautist in the Worcestershire Symphony Orchestra and lead alto sax in The People's Big Band. I also play tenor sax with the Warwick Community Band and am learning the cello. When I'm not busy making music, I enjoy exercising (when I can fit it in around being a mum to my two boys aged 8 & 3!)

If you could pass on any wisdom to your students, what would that be?

Play, play and play some more – play anything and everything you can lay your hands on – listen to it as you play, and have fun.



A TRIO OF CONCERTS

We had a very musical week at Hallfield during the first half of term, with three concerts showcasing approximately 140 of our children on their orchestral instruments. All the children performed brilliantly, from the very youngest Year 3 beginners, up to the more experienced Year 6 players. We were joined by a number of professional musicians from Services for Education, all of whom teach the children, and all were thrilled to hear their performances. It was wonderful to see so many children playing and so many parent spectators in the hall!



HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION SUCCESS FOR RIDGWAY

The House Music Competition culminated in a fabulous final concert on Friday 24th March. The whole school was treated to twelve performances from pupils in Years 3 – 6 and the atmosphere in the

Prep Hall was electric, as our finalists shared their love of music through some truly impressive performances. Well done to all of the performers throughout the whole competition – there was a real sense of the uniting power of music throughout as the children strove to earn points for their House. The winning House was Ridgway, closely followed by Pughe, then Nowers and finally, Stork.

YEARS 4-6 SHOWCASE MUSICAL TALENT

We had a wonderful Tea Time Concert on Thursday 16th March, featuring solos and duets from some of our talented musicians in Years 4-6. With voice, brass and string instruments, it was fantastic to see such a wide array of musical talent, highlighting the broad spectrum of musical opportunities on offer here at Hallfield. Well done to all who participated, we look forward to seeing them perform again later this year.



FROM MR WOOLLHEAD

“ The performing arts have always been a powerful way to express creativity, tell stories and bring people together. Recently, I had the pleasure of supporting a group of young people as they embarked on their first steps into performing. Here, I'd like to share my experience and reflect on the importance of supporting the performing arts in our communities.

Throughout the showcase, I was struck by the energy and creativity of the performers and the passion they expressed. It was an opportunity to develop skills; such as teamwork, communication and resilience. Every child had lines to say and was fully involved in their performances.

Having the opportunity to lead young performers into their first experience of theatre is such a privilege - one in which I take a lot of pride. But how can we continue to support these learners and develop these skills? Communication, problem solving and creativity are a few skills that graduate employers seek out and I cannot think of a better place to develop these than being part of a theatre program.

Access to theatre has been shown to develop improved social tolerance, better academic performance and a

positive social change. Along with a boost to academic performance when drama is part of the curriculum (Dr Kirkham 2019).

The Year 4 performance was superb. Three stories were told, three dances performed and three songs were sung. It was a magical, transformational experience and one that will live long in the memories of parents and performers alike.

Singing, dancing and acting are all skills that will be useful for children hoping to take on larger roles in their Year 6 performance. These are all extra-curricular opportunities available to children that have enjoyed the process. Singing lessons and LAMDA lessons are also available by request from the Front Office.

Ultimately, the performing arts are a vital part of our culture and our humanity. They allow us to explore the depths of our emotions, connect with others, and imagine new possibilities. The Year 4 showcase was a reminder of just how powerful and transformative the performing arts can be – and why it's so important that we continue to support them.

Mr Woollhead, Head of Drama ”





A BUSY TERM FOR NOAH!

Year 6 pupil, Noah Crann, has had an exciting term on the sporting front. He has represented the school in rugby, football, hockey, badminton, basketball and cross-country.

He said, "I love all sports and it has been great to have been given the opportunity to play so many different sports against other schools".

As a Sports' House Captain, Noah has also led his House team, Nowers, to success in rugby and football competitions and was the first Year 6 to cross the line in the House cross-country race. Not only has he been performing himself, but he has been helping out the younger ones in their House events, too.

When asked what his highlight of the term was, he replied, "for me it was the football match against Birchfield. At half time we were losing 3 - 0 but came back to draw 3 - 3. We celebrated the third goal as if we had won the FA Cup! It was so good to come back into the game, as no-one gave up and we kept on trying."

Noah is proud of gaining a sports scholarship to Priory and hopes to emulate Old Hallfieldian, Ronan Maher, into professional sport.



Year 3 have enjoyed playing tag rugby and won a couple of their games this term. Year 4 relished their first taste of contact rugby and learnt how to tackle quickly, showing no fear when they had to run into or tackle their opponents. They produced a good win over Prestfelde in their first game this term and backed it up by beating West House. Every boy in Prep played at least one game against West House in A-D matches and the results were very impressive - Played 28, Won 19, Lost 4, Drew 5.

Our U10s have been the standout team of the term, with the A team playing particularly well in the Shrewsbury U10 Rugby Tournament. They only lost their first match by one try and drew with the eventual winners, but beat the other 3 teams, finishing off in second place. A particular well done to the Vijh twins who scored 15 tries between them! Then they turned their attention to football and at the end of term won the Harborne District Football Cup, beating Blue Coat in the final 2 - 1.

It has been another busy term of sport for the Hallfield children. There have been lots of netball matches for the girls and everyone from Year 3-8 has represented the school. We finished off netball season with House matches. There were well-played games and the girls

showed how much progress they had made this term. The final results were as follows:

Y3&4:



Y5-8:



Congratulations to the girls' sports team of the term, the U11 football team! They were chosen for their excellent resilience and teamwork at the Crackley Hall Football Festival, where they played 12 football matches and completed 2 football workshops over 4 hours in freezing conditions. We are very proud of you, girls!





CHARITY

We are proud of our support for charities and the thousands of pounds that Hallfield students have raised for worthy causes.

RUNNING FOR A GREAT CAUSE

In May Year 7 pupil, Angie will be participating in The Great Birmingham Run to raise money for Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity. You can support her efforts by scanning the QR code.



PREP PUPILS RAISE MONEY FOR CHARITY

Prep pupils participated in an outdoor obstacle course to raise money for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. Split into their Houses, each year group raced to complete the course in the shortest time. Pupils worked in pairs, with one pupil blindfolded and the other acting as the 'guide dog.' We were blessed with sunny skies for two fun-filled afternoons in honour of this great cause.



RED NOSE DAY

Pupils were invited to wear a red nose and something red in support of Comic Relief.



NSPCC NUMBER DAY

“Wow, I was overwhelmed by all the love for numbers on our Valentine's Number Day! So much number-joy around the school, including geometric coin art, House charity fundraising competitions, maths scavenger hunts, Times Table Tournaments with a staff vs pupil finale, and tons of amazing number-related lessons happening across school. Even the Bistro made number bread and carved fruit into numbers for the occasion! Thank you to staff for ensuring such a successful day for the children and thank you to parents for your efforts to support costumes and all your generous donations towards the NSPCC and DEC to support those in need in Syria and Turkey.”

Best wishes, Mr Hewer
(aka Times Table Legend, Vince Dread).

**The totals raised were: £733.31 for the NSPCC
and £813.32 for DEC.**



READ FOR GOOD READATHON

The new total is £2,364.98 with thanks and gratitude to our whole school community for such an amazing result for schools in disadvantaged areas and unwell children in UK hospitals.





FORM ASSEMBLIES



1BC



1DC



5HF



5CW



5GJ



4JD



4DD



REB



4DP



1EL



UPCOMING EVENTS

KEY DATES

Wednesday 3 May	Year 4 STEM Trip to Peak District
Wednesday 3 May – Friday 5 May	Year 3 Residential
Thursday 4 May	RSK Form Assembly
Tuesday 9 May	School Coronation Celebration Day
Wednesday 10 May	Seniors trip to Buddhist Peace Pagoda and Edgbaston Reservoir
Wednesday 10 May	Year 3 Greeks Workshop
Wednesday 10 May	Old Hallfieldian Cricket Match
Thursday 11 May	Year 4 Anglo Saxons and Vikings Workshop
Thursday 11 May	RGW Form Assembly
Tuesday 16 May	Year 6 and Seniors Careers Talks
Thursday 18 May	3SR Form Assembly
Thursday 18 May	Tea-Time Concert
Monday 22 May – Friday 26 May	French Trip for Year 6 and Seniors
Wednesday 24 May	Staff v Parents Cricket Match
Thursday 25 May	3JS Form Assembly
Monday 5 June – Friday 9 June	Year 5 Residential
Thursday 8 Jun	3TR Form Assembly
Friday 9 June	Year 2 Sleepover
Tuesday 13 June – Friday 16 June	Year 4 Residential
Thursday 15 June	Foundation Form Assembly
Friday 16 June	Year 6 and Seniors Careers Talks
Tuesday 20 June	Pre-Prep and Prep End of Year Concert
Thursday 22 June	Year 1 Farm Trip
Tuesday 27 June	Speech and Prize Giving Day
Wednesday 28 June	Hallfield Insights, Amy Dowden
Thursday 29 June	Pre-Prep Sports Day
Friday 30 June	Prep Sports Day
Thursday 6 July	Hallfield Prep Spelling Bee



For the latest information on upcoming events, check your iSams calendar.

We hope you enjoyed Hallfield Focus!

The best way to keep up to date with all the latest and greatest news from Hallfield School is by subscribing to our newsletter by scanning this QR code:



SCAN ME

www.hallfieldschool.co.uk

Don't forget to follow us on social media:

 @HallfieldSchool

 @HallfieldSchool

 Hallfield School

HALLFIELD SCHOOL BUS SERVICE

We currently offer two morning shuttle bus services and a walking bus for children from Reception upwards. Booster seats are provided for children that need them.

Sutton Bus

Stops	Location	Pick up time	Price
1	Four Oaks Methodist Church (B74 2UU)	07:20	£5 daily
2	Wyvern Road (Litchfield Rd Junction)	07:30	£3.50 daily



Moseley Bus

Stops	Location	Pick up time	Price
1	Oaklands Road (opposite St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School)	07:45	£2 daily
2	Moseley Village Car Park (B13 8HJ)	08:00	£2 daily
3	Walker Memorial Hall (Ampton Road)	08:15	Free

We have 10 spaces available, which will be offered on a 'first come, first served' basis. Please email David Tinkler to book your space: dtinkler@hallfieldschool.co.uk

Walking Bus

We also have a walking bus from the public car park next to The Physician Pub and The High Field, on Highfield Road, which is an excellent way for your child to start the day with some exercise and for parents to avoid the car park. Two members of staff (or more depending on pupil numbers) will escort the children to school. Please drop children off between 08:00 and 08:10, but **DO NOT leave your child in the car park** without a member of Hallfield staff. Staff on duty will take a register of the children taking the Walking Bus before setting off promptly at 08:15.



A 50% discount will be applied to second siblings and a 75% discount applied to third and subsequent siblings.



FOUNDED 1879

HALLFIELD SCHOOL

Happy | Inspiring | Purposeful



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