

HALLFIELD

FOCUS

ISSUE 7 MAY 2024



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

BUDDING WRITERS REVEALED

HALLFIELD'S EXCITING EXPANSION

WORLD BOOK DAY: BRINGING BOOKS TO LIFE

WHAT MAKES HALLFIELD'S EYFS EXCEPTIONAL



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HALLFIELD SCHOOL

From the Head Master

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 7th edition of Hallfield Focus. The Spring Term went by in a flash! There are so many highlights that I am glad you get to delve into each one in this magazine.

Well done to all the Budding Writers who feature in this issue of Hallfield Focus. I loved reading all your entries!

We officially broke ground with the commencement of the build of two state of the art classrooms at the front of school. The governors and I have always been committed to investing in Hallfield to ensure that our infrastructure matches the incredible education we offer. Over the last 5 years, we have reinvested over £4.5 million into building an even better Hallfield.

Hallfield reigns supreme as we continue to hold our crown as the nation's chess champions, winning the IAPS

Chess Championships and Birmingham and District U13 Junior Chess League Final. An incredible achievement.

We love welcoming parents to school, and the Spring Term had no shortage of opportunities. World Book Day brought all the novelty and charm, with children celebrating their favourite book characters, whilst inviting their parents in for a breakfast reading session. The Easter Bonnet Parade put a spring in everyone's step with a special visit from the Easter Bunny. A special mention to Pre-Prep children: Seth, Yanmi, Declan and Arthur who delivered beautiful, instrumental performances to a huge audience. As well as a Teatime Concert, Brass Showcase, Woodwind Showcase, Mid-Year Concert and the Year 4 Drama Showcase!

Now grab yourself a cup of tea, put your feet up and I hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as I have.

Keith Morrow





SIR PHILIP SYDNEY ESSAY COMPETITION

Mary, Zia, and Thomas from Year 6 were invited to Shrewsbury School to attend the awards ceremony for the Sir Philip Sidney Essay Competition. The title of this year's essay was: *"The rise of Artificial Intelligence will cause more harm than good for humanity. Discuss."*

It was a thoroughly enjoyable event, and our pupils should be very proud of the fact that they were shortlisted out of almost 100 entries.

Very well done to you all!



CHAMPIONS OF MATHS

Four of our brightest Year 4 mathematicians – Hannah, Robin, Mahi, and Siddh – competed at the Prep School Maths Challenge hosted at King Edwards' School. They tackled two lightning-fast rounds, a cross-number challenge and maths relay as a formidable team.

As the children eagerly awaited the results, cheers erupted as West House claimed 3rd place, followed by Blue Coat in 2nd. But the biggest cheer came when Hallfield emerged victorious as the ultimate champions!

Congratulations to our incredible children, whose hard work and dedication shone through. They are well and truly keeping the maths magic alive!





EXCITING EXPANSION PROJECT BEGINS

We are hugely excited about the build of our two, new, state of the art classrooms.

This development marks the start of our *Project 150 campaign*, focused on building an even better Hallfield.

Over the next five years as we head to our 150th anniversary we will be rolling out several initiatives to celebrate our history, fundraise, and invest in Hallfield to ensure our school maintains its position as the best prep school in the West Midlands.

READ THE
FULL WRITE
UP HERE:



THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON

Hallfield welcomed in the Year of the Dragon and celebrated Chinese Lunar New Year in style, with pupils wearing traditional attire. Meanwhile, Year 5 spent the day with Coventry University Confucius Institute learning calligraphy, paper cutting and martial arts.



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

At Hallfield, nurturing our pupils' mental health is paramount. During Children's Mental Health Week, we curated enriching activities aimed at enhancing their awareness and understanding of mental well-being. Our assembly delved into the theme "From Worries to Wellbeing", offering valuable insights and strategies. Year 4 and 5 pupils participated in workshops, facilitated by practitioners from Bigfoot Arts Education. Meanwhile, Reception and Year 1 pupils enjoyed "I've Got Magic Inside Me!" workshops, featuring The Worry Wizard, to explore ways of maintaining their mental health and well-being.



RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Hallfield is delighted to announce that it has launched its very own "Junior Duke Award" style programme: Hallfield Challenge. The initiative – led by Mr Dewhurst – is being trialled in the Summer Term with Years 6, 7 and 8. The programme has been designed to develop confidence, resilience, initiative, and life skills. We look forward to reporting on how the children get on later this year.



FIND
OUT
MORE



READATHON CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

At Hallfield, we were incredibly proud to receive a Readathon Achievement Certificate. We have hosted 15 Readathons, and our latest event raised £2,456. This now means the grand total raised is an amazing £31,118! It was a pleasure to participate again this year, promoting reading and supporting children's literacy. A huge thank you to all involved!



WORLD BOOK DAY

Halls and classrooms buzzed with hundreds of enthusiastic parents, children and staff, all looking magnificent in costumes based on their favourite books. Pupils and parents enjoyed a delicious breakfast, whilst re-reading pages from the books that inspired their costumes. Dive into the magic of World Book Day at Hallfield School in our blog post.



SAFER INTERNET DAY

Hallfield School is committed to educating pupils about online risks and providing them with the tools to manage and report any concerns. This 'Safer Internet Day', we helped guide and empower the children to use the internet safely and positively.



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 and the pupils that read beautifully.



A HOPPING GOOD TIME

At the end of the Spring Term, we hosted our Easter Bonnet Parade, welcoming parents into Hallfield to enjoy the celebrations. Children displayed their crafted bonnets, accompanied by musical performances from Seth, Yanmi, Declan and Arthur. There was even a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny!

FIND OUT
MORE HERE:



HALLFIELD SCHOOL – IAPS U11 & U13 CHESS CHAMPIONS (AGAIN!)

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT U13 JUNIOR CHESS LEAGUE – EVENT 4 (FINAL)

The final event took place on 8 March 2024, with Hallfield's U11 teams competing against the top U13 teams in Warwickshire and the West Midlands.

Our B team finished a creditable 13th (out of 17 teams). Aarav was the top scorer in our B team with 2.5/4 points against very strong Year 7 and Year 8 opposition. Alex was the tournaments youngest competitor (Year 2) scoring an excellent win against Solihull B.

The shock of the day was caused by the Hallfield A team, (which included two Year 4 players) who finished the event equal first after scoring wins against Bishop Vesey C, Archbishop Ilsey and King Edward VI Five Ways A. Our leading scorer was our star player on board one, Krish, who scored an amazing 4 wins from 4 games, including a win against the former Hallfield board 1 and England International player, Kai (Year 8).

Hallfield have now qualified for the national final of the U13 Junior Team Chess Challenge which takes place on Saturday 20th April.

BIRMINGHAM JUNIOR OPEN

Quite a few of our keenest players entered this local event on 23 March 2024 with the following Hallfield medal winners:

Handuo, Matthew, Arnav, Pavan, Joshua, Jacob, Zain and another Zain! Matthew was our leading scorer, coming equal first in the A section.

COUNTY CHESS

Well done to the following players who have been selected to play for Warwickshire in recent county fixtures: Krish, Handuo, Jasper, Hannah, Ayansh, Mark, Matthew, Hamzah, Aarav & Alex.

IAPS CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

A squad of 10 Hallfield players competed in the IAPS Chess Championship on 28 March 2024 at Twickenham Prep School. After a tough day of chess, Hallfield ran out clear winners in the team events and have now been the holders of the IAPS U11 & U13 Team Trophies continuously since 2018, an amazing achievement.





YOUNG VOICES CONCERT

Hallfield School had an unforgettable experience as our talented pupils in Years 5-7 took part in the Young Voices concert. The excitement was palpable at the NEC arena, where our young performers had the incredible opportunity to see renowned artists, Natalie Williams, MC Grammar, Nandy Bushell, and Urban Strides!

As our children sang and danced their hearts out in one of the world's greatest arenas, the experience was more than just a concert – it was a journey of empowerment. The numerous health benefits of singing, coupled with focused breathing exercises during rehearsals, added an extra dimension to this enriching experience.



A PREHISTORIC SYMPHONY

Our Year 1 pupils embarked on an exciting trip to the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO), where they were treated to an interactive concert like no other. Immersed in the captivating world of dinosaurs, they explored the elements of music in a unique and engaging way.

Year 3 pupils also visited Symphony Hall to see CBSO perform as a collective orchestra.



YEAR 3 & 4 A.I.M. HIGH

Pupils selected for the Year 3-4 A.I.M. High Writers trip had the opportunity to take part in a writing workshop at Harborne Primary School. Led by author, Colin R Parsons, they learnt exciting, less traditional ways to start their stories, how to create a plot twist, and much more.



A CHOCOLATEY ADVENTURE

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 the “taste testing” (arguably, the most important part!) We don’t know who had more fun, the staff or pupils!



THE MECHANICS OF TEAMWORK

A small group of Hallfield pupils visited Malvern St James School for a STEM workshop. The 15 enthusiastic students explored mechanisms and gained valuable insights into mechanical engineering. They engaged in collaborative activities with peers from other schools, building and presenting mechanical systems.

Congratulations to Louie and Jaden for their outstanding teamwork!





BLACK COUNTRY MUSEUM VISIT

Reception had an enriching experience at the Black Country Living Museum, immersing themselves in the past as 'Time Travellers'. They thoroughly enjoyed stepping back in time to explore the history of the Black Country.



MSJ ART EXHIBITION

Miss Watton and Mrs Seager visited an art exhibition at MSJ in Worcestershire with selected pupils and their parents from Hallfield. Our pupils showcased their work alongside peers from other schools, viewing A-Level and GCSE work at MSJ as well as celebrating Hallfield's own winners, and those that came highly commended. The standard of art displayed made us all incredibly proud!





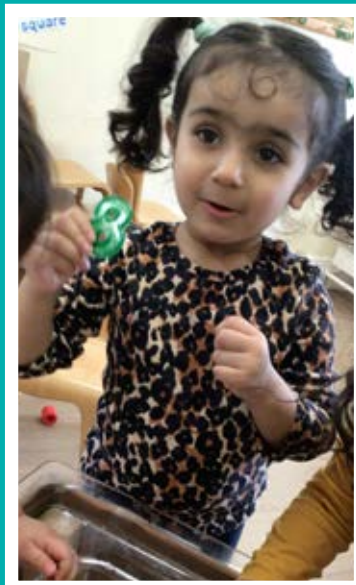
NATIONAL BIRD WEEK

The pupils in Willows Room made bird feeders and hung them outdoors during National Bird Week.



CREATIVE COUNTING

Willows Room spent time exploring numbers on Number Day. They used fishing nets to scoop up numbers from the water, which helped them to practice their counting.



IMAGINATION PLAY

Crockery items and new accessories from home environments, such as teapots, flowers, plates, and cups, have been introduced in Oaks Room. The children have been learning about the importance of caring for these items while engaging in imaginative play and exploring different materials. They discovered the effects of dropping or breaking things and what will happen. A great opportunity to play, whilst also teaching the children how to use items appropriately.





MUDDY MARVELS WITH FCM

FCM enjoyed exploring the mud kitchen as part of their outdoor learning lessons this term. They made superhero potions, buried each other’s feet in leaves and got stuck in a muddy puddle!



THE IMPORTANCE OF NUTRITION

Thomas Franks’ nutritionist visited Pre-Prep to hone in on the importance of balanced nutrition. She engaged the children in discussions about creating balanced plates, showing the recommended portions of fruits and vegetables, as well as encouraging them to explore new foods. It was heartening to see several children embracing this encouragement and trying new foods during lunchtime!



EXPLORING THE WORLD OF MUSIC

Our Year 2 children were thrilled to participate in an Instrument Taster Day, where they had a blast trying out various instruments. This trial is in readiness for their participation in our one-year sponsored music scheme, where children in Year 2 who are progressing to Year 3, get three terms tuition in their chosen orchestral instrument.

Guided by our dedicated peripatetic teachers, they had the opportunity to experiment with instruments ranging from the elegant violin to the majestic trombone. From discovering the rich tones of the cello to the melodic charm of the flute and clarinet, the day was filled with excitement and musical exploration, setting the stage for an inspiring journey into the world of music.



A STEP BACK IN TIME

Reception pupils took a captivating journey back in time with a special visit from Mrs. De Polo, our Alumni and Development Officer. She shared fascinating insights into the rich history of Hallfield School, bringing along authentic artefacts for the children to explore. From glimpses into past school dinners and boarding, to anecdotes about our teachers, and the evolution of our name and location – it was a mesmerising exploration of our 145-year journey!



YEAR 2 TO YEAR 3 PREP TASTER DAY

Year 2 pupils had a blast at our annual Prep Taster Day, immersing themselves in Year 3 activities like STEM, DT, and Food Tech. Our dedicated Prep staff guided them through these subjects in our fantastic specialist facilities, paving the way for a smooth transition in their Hallfield journey.





PICTURE PERFECT PORTRAITS

Year 6 delved into portraiture in their art lessons and were lucky to be joined in school by Birmingham based artist Nick Logan. Nick is a fantastic portrait artist, who took the pupils on a messy journey exploring shape, tone and form through the medium of charcoal. He was an inspiration to the children who produced some fantastic art. It's fair to say they didn't want the lesson to end!

CHECK OUT
NICK'S
WORK:



WALK LIKE AN EGYPTIAN

Year 3 enjoyed an immersive Ancient Egyptian Day, packed with activities centred around their current topic. From arts and crafts to artefact exploration and food tasting, they had a blast connecting with the rich history. To fully embrace the theme children came dressed in stunning Egyptian costumes!



YEAR 6 & SENIORS CAREERS TALK

This term we hosted three Year 6 & Seniors Career Talks with incredible professionals. First, we welcomed Mr Francis Peart, a renowned plastic surgeon who emphasised the importance of creativity, manual skills, and a deep passion for helping others. His career path reflects a demanding, yet personally rewarding journey.

Next, we welcomed Professor Rik Bryan who took us on a captivating journey of his career from being a surgeon, to becoming a cancer scientist. With 25 years of diverse experiences, he highlighted the intricacies of urothelial cancer research, covering diseases of the kidneys, bladder, and prostate. He also delved into the fascinating world of DNA, explaining its role in shaping individual identities.

Lastly, we were thrilled to welcome Dr Felicia Elena Buruiana, a specialist in Gynaecological Oncology. Dr Buruiana shared her inspiring journey as a gynaecologist with our pupils, shedding light on the dedication and hard work required in her field.

These professionals emphasised the dedication, creativity, and attention to detail required in their respective fields.



GET INVOLVED!

We are always looking for people to participate in our Career Talks series – if you would like to share your journey with our pupils then please get in touch with: cfjames@hallfieldschool.co.uk



TESTING OUR GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Our talented pupils advanced to the semi-finals in the Interschool General Knowledge Quiz Championships – we await the results!

PREP PAIRED READING

Prep engaged in a paired reading session with children from different year groups giving them the chance to read to each other, listen attentively, and ask questions about their partner's chosen books.



BIENVENUE À HALLFIELD

Prep had the wonderful opportunity to experience a live French theatre show at school.

Onatti Theatre Productions Ltd, performed a production entirely in French, where the plot revolved around the captivating topic of "Le Château." The play's synopsis took us back to the year 1540, where a young English knight embarked on a mission to find a suitable lady for King Henry VIII to marry. However, this seemingly simple task proved to be quite challenging, as the knight faced obstacles such as his limited knowledge of French, his lack of painting skills, and the presence of a protective maid guarding the lady.

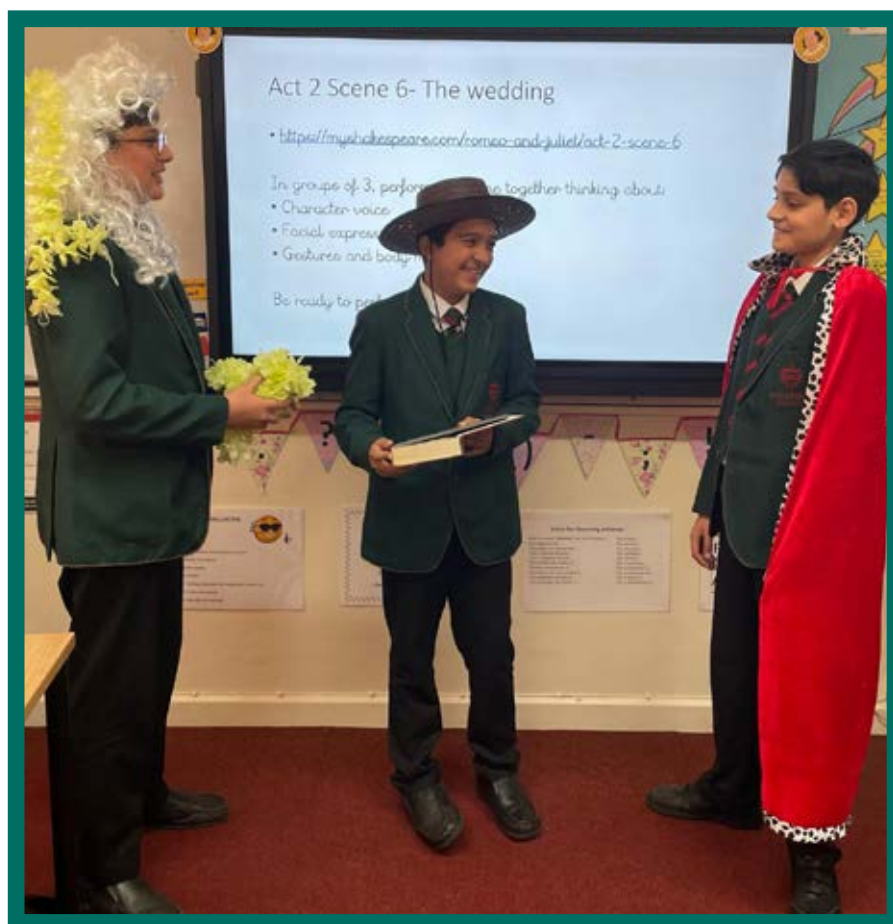
The show was filled with entertainment, laughter, and plenty of enjoyment for all.





IN FAIR VERONA...

Drama and literature came together in a dazzling display of talent as our seniors brought the timeless tale of 'Romeo and Juliet' to life in their recent English class performance. In a captivating rendition of Act 2, Scene 6, the pupils transported the audience to the world of Verona with their exceptional acting and dedication to the craft.





A TRIO OF PERFORMANCES

Our Brass Showcase was a success, featuring the musical journey of Hallfield's young talents. From Year 3's charming debut, to the Year 6 Brass Band's captivating performance under guest conductor, Mr Cottrell, the evening was a harmonious blend of enthusiasm and skill.

The Woodwind Showcase highlighted Year 3's outstanding performance, showcasing not only their musical talents, but also the remarkable growth in their ability to play their instruments.

The spotlight also shone brightly on our budding young performers as Year 3 took to the stage for their mid-year concert, delivering a joyous, musical spectacle.



SERVICES FOR EDUCATION GALA CONCERT

Our talented Double Reed Ensemble captivated the audience at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. They performed renditions of "Feed the Birds" and "Shake it Off," skilfully arranged by our esteemed oboe teacher, Mrs. Morson. Their poised opening of the Services for Education Area Gala Concert demonstrated exceptional stage etiquette and presentation.



TEATIME CONCERT

A huge well done to all our pupils who performed in the Teatime Concert! We are incredibly proud of the range of talent here at Hallfield School.



HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION SUCCESS

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YEAR 4 PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE

After months of hard work and preparation, Year 4 took to the stage to perform their Drama Showcase. Featuring extracts from *Forty Fortunes*, *Daisy Head Mayzie* and *The Legend of Lightning Larry*; the pupils performed brilliantly, and we look forward to seeing them in future drama productions.





To celebrate the fantastic writing talents at Hallfield we welcomed pupils to submit a written entry on any subject of their choice. We were thrilled with the response and are excited to share with you the specially selected entries!

Our Residential By Aya, Year 3

Hi, my name is Aya, I'm in Year 3 and I'm going to be telling you about our residential. We are all so excited, we've picked our friends for sleeping together, but we are not allowed to tell our friends who we picked. We are going to Boundless Outdoors, we will stay for two nights and three days.

We will miss our parents so much, but we will be with our friends and teachers so I think we will be fine. It is in April. Some people can not go which is sad.

A lot of people will be coming which is good and amazing it will be so fun and exciting. We have all been talking about it a lot. In Year 2 we had a sleepover in school, we all had our sleeping bags ready and our pillow, we all slept next to our friends and we all had popcorn, watched a movie before we went to bed and we had pancakes for breakfast. It was a very good experience. I felt so excited and I knew it would be so fun.

We went Legoland and a lot of people went on the log ride and the pirate ship ride we all loved it and we got to go in a park to play then we had lunch. I felt so happy, I loved it so much it was so fun and we had a yummy lunch, we could choose either jam sandwich or cheese sandwich a lot of us chose cheese. We went on lots of rides a lot of them were so scary but it was so much fun. In the bus we got to have snacks and we sang songs.

In Year 3 we had another trip we went to Symphony Hall and we saw a choir playing music.

I am so happy for telling you about our trips and our residential. Thank you!



A Farewell to Mr Surr By Amber, Year 3

John Surr joined Hallfield School's Estates team two and half years ago. As he embarks on his retirement, Amber in Year 3 took the opportunity to sit down with Mr Surr and reflect on his time at Hallfield.



Q. How long has John been working for?

A. He has been working for an incredible 46 years, without any break in his employment. John started in the late 1970's and has many years of experience at the Fire Service and Highways Agency, before joining Hallfield School. He also mentioned that he was 21 years old – I didn't challenge him on that!

Q. What is John looking forward to in his retirement?

A. It has been a long time since John picked up a paint brush, and I am not talking about decorating a house! In his previous job at the Highways Agency, he was gifted a beautiful art set with watercolours, oil paints and canvases. This has been left untouched for many years due to his busy career, so finally it will be time for John to show off his creativity and skills.

Fun Fact – John has an A level in Art.

Q. How long has he been working at Hallfield School?

A. Our dear bus driver has been working at Hallfield School for 2½ years. In addition to transporting the children, John also provided support to the Estates Team on a variety of jobs.

Q. Do you have any last words or thoughts you'd like to share?

A. "I have really enjoyed the bus journeys. The kids have been great, and really well behaved. They are fantastic children and an asset to the school!" John commented with a big smile.

John also spoke fondly about the Estates Team. He will be leaving with some lovely memories.



Our Marvellous Musical Journey

By Laurie, Year 4 and Clara, Year 1

After recently finding out the exciting news that I was a House Music finalist, I decided to chart my musical journey at Hallfield to this special day.

When I was in Year 2, I had the wonderful opportunity of trying out a range of instruments that I might want to learn to play. This helped me realise that the violin was for me! I really liked the sound of the strings. Two years later, I am now in the String Ensemble and have completed ABRSM exams! I've even been learning some viola too! There are lots of other instruments which pupils can learn to play and they also have their own music groups. We often perform in Tea Time Concerts and go on trips to listen to professional musicians play. As well, I have had singing lessons since Pre-Prep and have performed with the Centenary Choir and as part of a duet! My goal next year is to join the Hallfield Orchestra because I would like to be part of a real, full-sized orchestra. I might even become a professional musician someday.

Like Laurie, I've been having singing lessons and I sing in the Pre Prep Choir. I like preparing songs to perform in the church with everyone listening. I enjoy singing on my own and would like to do a solo one day. I've been learning the ukulele as I hope to play the guitar eventually. I like learning new songs on the ukulele. In lessons I've been learning the recorder and we have been to Symphony Hall to listen to an orchestra. Next year I look forward to learning a new instrument!

We are still on our musical journey at Hallfield...we hope to see (or hear!) you along the way!

Doggie's Magic Adventure

By Sandrine, Year 2

Once upon a time, there was a lovely little dog called Doggie. One day, she met a beautiful fairy called Miss Flower in the forest and helped her to find her lost magic wand. As a thank-you for its help, Miss Flower granted Doggie a magic power to turn her into a different animal each day in a week as she wished for.

On Monday, Doggie woke up and found she became a furry cat. Doggie was excited to chase after butterflies in the park and sleep in a cosy box comfortably at night.

On Tuesday, Doggie thought to be a quacking duck. She happily learned how to swim with other yellow ducks and graceful swans in the pond.

On Wednesday, Doggie turned into a big and fat pig. It rained and Doggie loved to roll freely in the mud. It was fussy everywhere, but Doggie didn't mind being a muddy happy pig.

On Thursday, Doggie changed to be a strong and brave camel. She walked slowly in a huge desert and played in the sand under the sun. She also saw some men and women having adventure journeys in the desert.

On Friday, Doggie wanted to become a cheerful Mickey Mouse. She dressed up in a wonderful costume and waved hands to all the kids in a theme park. The children loved her very much. Doggie also hugged them with love and took lots of photos with them all day.

On Saturday, Doggie would like to fly as free as a bird, so she chose to become a clever parrot. She copied the words when she heard people talking. And then, Doggie joyfully flew high into the sky. She could see the houses, farms, parks, rivers, and roads on the ground. "Whooh! They looked so big when I was on the ground, but now they look so small when I am flying!" Doggie was amazed at the view.

On Sunday, Doggie wished to be a bouncing rabbit.

She woke up with lots of fluffy and soft rabbits in a big farm.

"Let's have a jumping race to see who can jump the highest!" Doggie said.

"Okay!" The other rabbits agreed.

Doggie jumped very hard, BOING-BOING-BOING, and finally she jumped the highest of them all.

"I win!" she shouted loudly and felt very proud of herself.

What an excited sport day it was!

When the fairy's magic finally ended, Doggie turned back to the lovely dog as she was before. Doggie whispered, "How brilliant week it was! Thank you, Miss Flower. I have lived many amazing different lives of other animals, and I will never forget."

The Enchanted Door!

By Zia, Year 6

"We have to go and live with your grandparents, we have no choice" Mum squealed! We have just been evicted from our apartment because our Mum lost her job. Dad abandoned us, it was mine and my twin sister's third birthday - we both still ponder where our Dad has gone, is he still alive? Has he found a wealthy partner? Does he have more children? Those queries still run around in our innocent minds.

Ivy was taking over the inclined house. The towering grass leaning over their antique car that most likely doesn't work. Our grandparents never step foot out of this 'house', which they call a home. We finally built up the courage to knock on the door. The grey miserable door looked like it had been beaten a million times. Hanging around waiting impatiently, an old pensioner opened the crooked door and looked startled. Mum had to introduce herself, we were strangers knocking on his door for no reason. It felt like twenty minutes before he finally stood to the side to let us in. He looked quite melancholy to see us there yet, on the other hand our Grandmother recognised us straight away, almost like she was sitting on the settee waiting patiently just for this precise moment! She gave us the world's biggest hug - we could barely breathe!

"I'm sure you're very tired after the long car journey, I will take you straight to your rooms that you will be sleeping in, and you can start to unpack whilst I warm up the supper I have prepared" Grandma said eagerly. My sister and my mum had to share a room. My bedroom was in the attic - it looked like a prison cell! Mum forced me not to say anything to grandma as it would make her upset. The bed was uncomfortable and cramped, not in the greatest shape either, but I guess it's better than nothing!

Just as Grandma shut the door on her way out, at that very moment, something caught my eye, the exact words were DO NOT TOUCH, so you know what that means- do the exact opposite! There was what looked like a blanket covering the unknown object, the steps towards the restricted thing were causing nerve wracking-beads of sweat to trickle down my anxious face. Suddenly there was a loud bang at the door. I froze in wonder. ... Who was it? Phew! It was only Grandad letting everyone know that supper is ready. I would have to come back to find out what this strange thing was.

After a very quick, but filling dinner, I shot up the stairs like a pistol escaping from a gun, waiting patiently was the unrevealed object. Holding my breath, I tiptoed towards and pulled the antique blanket off, leaving the mysterious thing strip naked! I couldn't trust my eyes, I even had to pinch myself a dozen times! There it lay, a rusty, prehistoric door, a number of quizzing questions assembled in my startled mind. Struck in horror what to do- should I cover up the mysterious door again? Or should I just build up the courage to open it? ...

After a long weekend of thinking whether opening the door was a good idea, I finally made the decision, I must do it! I took a deep breath, but even before I could reach the handle, I started to have second thoughts.

My thoughts ran away, and my hand shot towards the handle. I was stunned and perplexed, I even had to pinch myself to make sure that I wasn't dreaming, why were our grandparents hiding this from us? That's for another day- This was way too interesting! I knew I had to go in but my conscience was telling me not to.

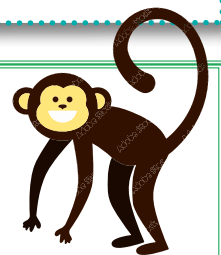
Unexpectedly, I got sucked into the weird door, anxiety attacking me. When I took a quick glance behind me, my emotions changed from terror-stricken to being overwhelmed! I couldn't believe it, it felt like I was in heaven. The fluffy cotton, candy clouds, the fine grass. This rare experience felt like I was imagining it, but I was positive I wasn't! Clouds were playing hide and seek with the vibrant yellow sun-flowers, spreading everywhere like a disease! Standing strong were the blossomed trees, saluting down the narrow path. Out of curiosity, I checked my analogue clock, and it was almost past my bedtime, my mum will probably walk into my bedroom any moment ready to tuck me into bed. I had to rush back.

As I ran back towards the door that led me here, I noticed a range of odd and different pigments all around it, I nudged the door... I nudged the door a little harder, but the door wouldn't open. I'm pretty sure I left the door ajar. I began to get nervous; this wasn't supposed to happen, I need help! I want my mum! Screaming for help, no one around me, no one can hear me, not knowing what to do next...



The Past

By Serah, Year 1



I heard an interview with my Great Gran. She talked of her school days. She used to walk through a jungle to go to school. The jungle was scary and dark! There were monkeys in the jungle!! If she was teasing them, they would throw fruits at her. If she was nice, they would not talk.

My Gran walked on hills and valleys. She walked with her friends and uncle. She was born on August 14, 1908. She died when she was 96. I'm so lucky to hear her voice today even though now I don't see her!!

My Exciting Holiday to Nice

At the airport: Me and my family were so excited to go on our holiday to Nice, last August 2023. We flew from London Airport in the evening and we reached Nice around midnight. It was a short 2-hour journey, but a tiring one!

The hotel we stayed at: When we reached the hotel, my dad rented a Peugeot 2008 for our one week stay to visit places. When we got into the car, the seats were softer than I ever imagined. We drove off into the night and found our way to the hotel that we booked: La Perle D'Erze. I sat slumped on my tiny suitcase while I waited for my parents to collect the room keys. To my astonishment the weather in Nice was very warm even at midnight. The unexpected weather for the week we stayed was 33 degrees. Gosh, I thought to myself; hoping I can survive the heatwave. In contrast, our hotel had a pool which made me happy - as I could now cool myself down. Tiredly, I crept under the duvet and dozed off.

The next morning, we went to Aldi and bought a week's worth of groceries. My mum made a delicious English breakfast and we planned our sightseeing options.

My favourite places: The first place we visited was the Fragonard Perfume Factory, which was only a few metres away from the hotel. I tried smelling lots of perfume flavours and at the end of our tour, we bought a Rose and Lavender Perfume for my mum.

My favourite place in Nice was the beautiful beaches which wasn't sandy like in the UK, instead it had minute pebbles. I made sure I had a dip in the cooling waters at the end of each day. Another of my favourite places was the zoo. I particularly loved seeing the slithering snakes at the entrance. There were even wild boars covered in mud, in the same enclosure as white peacocks!

One of the days, we left quite early to spend a whole day in Monaco. We visited the Car Museum and watched the race track, which my brother absolutely enjoyed. We took lots of pictures and bought souvenirs. We walked long distances and my dad had to piggyback me at the end of the day.

Time to end our journey: On the last day before our departure, we arrived at Cannes when we took a boat tour to a nearby island. The sea was picturesque! At the end of the day, my dad took us to an Italian restaurant where we were treated to mouth-watering pasta and pizza. My brother and I would have loved to stay there for a few more days but sadly we had to return back home. We boarded an early morning flight and arrived at our house mid-afternoon.

What an amazing holiday I had, and I am looking forward to go on another holiday in the near future!



My Trip to Soho House

By Imaan, Year 2



In Year 1 Hallfield School had a trip to Soho House. We started off by eating lunch at school. We then got on a National Express coach. When we arrived all of Year 1, which are 1DC (my class), 1BC and 1EL were split into groups. We went into a room where you can dress up and colour and look at photos of Matthew Boulton, Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale. After that, we went to see the place where Mary made medicine. I thought it was amazing for Mary to make medicine by herself. A man told us that Soho House was Matthew Boulton's house! The same man showed us their dining table, where they ate all of their yummy food and their bedrooms. In the bedroom one of my friends was pretending to be a man writing the newspaper. I thought that was really funny! Finally, we went back to school on the coach and then it was home time! I told my mum and my dad about my trip and they told me that my Uncle went to a college named after Matthew Boulton! I really enjoyed my trip to Soho House and learning about Mary Seacole, Matthew Boulton and Florence Nightingale. I think everyone should visit Soho House!

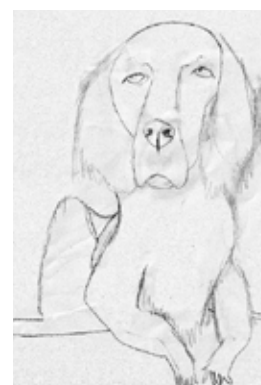
Red

By Leonardo, Year 3

I met a dog called Red,
He really liked being fed,
My mum's sponge cake.

We took him for a walk,
He didn't want to talk,
He just jumped in the lake.

We took him home once more,
He went running through the door,
And straight to bed.



Caked With Cake

By Mylo, Year 6



On March 10th, my Dad and I decided to make a cake.

WARNING! This does not actually tell you how to make a cake!

I had been begging Dad to make one with me for AGES! And now the day had finally caked. I mean, come. Sorry!

We started out by buying ingredients. My dad told me to work out what cake we wanted to make in the car, but in the car I was so distracted by listening to music that I completely forgot to think about it!

When I realised this, I thought:

'Mylo. WHAT CAKE DO YOU WANT TO MAKE?!'

I was leaning over to Red Velvet or Chocolate Cake, so I WAS going to start weighing up the pros and cons in my head, when, before I knew it, we were already at ASDA!

'Mylo. Mylo. What cake have you decided?' My dad asked me, impatiently.

'Uhh...' I whispered. I had to think fast.

'I'm not going to tell you. You'll see!'

It wasn't a very smart thing to say, as my dad would see me reading the recipe or ingredients anyway.

Eventually I just sucked it up and pretty much blurted out:

'Ok, lets just make a chocolate cake.'

So that was that. We got the ingredients, then had a squabble whether to get toppings or not. It felt illegal not to, so we did anyway.

Then it came to actually MAKING the cake.

At the start everything was a mess because the instructions said we needed two 8 inch sandwich boxes but we only had two 6 inches!

We were freaking out because after spending 30 odd pounds, we couldn't even make the cake!

You're probably thinking:

'Why didn't you just use the two 6 inches and have a slightly taller cake?'

That is because we weren't thinking straight and were freaking out!

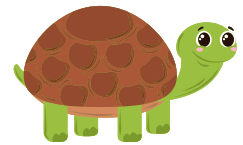
Luckily there was someone who was thinking straight in our house and they also baked cakes regularly. And this was my auntie.

She said that you could just use the two 6 inches and have a slightly taller cake, and that put our minds at ease.

Then came the mixing.

My Holiday Trip

By Yukthesh 1PK



I am going to write about my holiday trip. In February I went to the Canary Island on a plane. We stayed in a good hotel I enjoyed floating in the pool. Next day I went to Palmitos Park. I saw birds, dolphins and tortoises.

On another day I went to Aqua land. I enjoyed the waterslides, floated on an inflatable boat. On that hot day I ate a brownie ice cream. I went to the beach and collected some beautiful shells. The last day of my trip, I enjoyed a bike ride with my brother. On my plane back to Birmingham I played cards. I had a great time in La Palmas. Did you?

We used vanilla extract, sugar, eggs, milk, bicarbonate of soda, and all the regular things to make a cake.

And let me tell you from experience; when making a chocolate cake, do NOT try to eat the cocoa powder! IT TASTES HORRID!

This part of the cake was relatively straightforward.

You just had to put all the ingredients into a large bowl, and whisk, whisk, whisk away your sense of difference. Not really of course, but it does get very repetitive...

'Baking is like escaping reality' – yeah right

We had to pour the mix into sandwich boxes then put it in the oven.

While they were in the oven, we made the icing. We had to melt chocolate and double cream in a pan then leave it to set for TWO HOURS!

It wasn't the best period, but I just kept thinking about the after result.

Eventually the cakes came out of the oven after MULTIPLE attempts, but they were good. Then the icing set, and we could put the icing on the cake! FINALLY! After we did that to both cakes, we put on the toppings. My choice of toppings were edible eyeballs! Now, that I've reread this, that probably wasn't the best way to say that! Ha-ha!

Anyway, we ate the cake, and it was...

Scrumptious, delicious, complex, amazing, great, wow-worthy... etc. You get the idea. It was good! But of course, we added too much 'bicarbonate of soda'! [I think].

This is Mylo, Signing off.





1PK



5EK



5HF



7SH



RGW



5CW



RSK



6HW



4SH



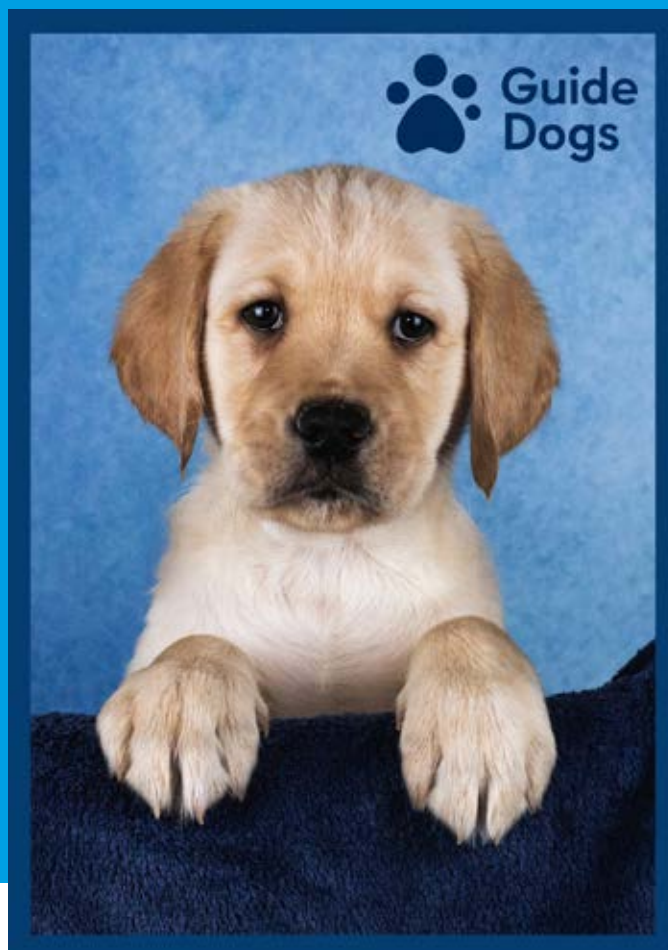
CHARITY

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

PUPDATE

Our sponsored Guide Dog, Biscuit is settling in beautifully with her dedicated Puppy Raiser.

Biscuit's future is brimming with promise, filled with joy, excitement, and new experiences. While the path ahead for this incredible pup remains uncertain, what we do know is that, with our steadfast support, we are already making a positive impact, helping individuals with sight loss lead lives of their choosing.



ECO DAY AT HALLFIELD

Hallfield Prep made a positive impact by supporting the charity "Wings of Hope," dedicated to uplifting underprivileged children in the UK, India, and Malawi. Additionally, former Hallfieldians (now Camp Hill students) organised an inspiring Eco Day, promoting sustainability through engaging activities and a thought-provoking assembly.



IT ALL ADDS UP

We're amazed by the creativity of our pupils! Number Day saw the children 'Dress up for Digits' and engaged them in new learning and fundraising efforts to help the NSPCC and British Red Cross. Special shout out to Handuo and Jai V for rocking the TT Rockstars assembly and beating the staff!

A special note from Mr Hewer and Miss Lewis (Heads of Maths):

"A huge thank you for your generous donations and support with outfits for Number Day. The children have had a brilliant time with lots of fun number-related learning, helping to instil a lifelong love for all things numerical!"





WE SAT DOWN WITH MS CAITLIN WILLIAMS, HEAD OF EYFS TO LEARN ABOUT EYFS AT HALLFIELD AND WHAT MAKES HALLFIELD'S EYFS PROVISION EXCEPTIONAL.



1. How does the experience of a child transitioning from Hallfield Foundation to Reception compare to a child who has not attended an EYFS setting, such as one who was homeschooled or attended a less developed/funded nursery?

Children who join Hallfield School in Foundation (age 3 – 4) get a solid grounding in the prime areas of learning before progressing to Reception.

What are the Prime Areas of Learning?

There are 7 Prime Areas of Learning which are developed within an EYFS setting between the ages of 0 – 5:

1. Speech and Communication
2. Language
3. Personal, Social and Emotional Development
4. Literacy
5. Mathematics
6. Understanding the World
7. Expressive Arts

The prime areas are fundamental to ensure a broad and balanced base of learning for young children. Special attention is given to self-regulation, confidence in communication, and observing and enhancing physical skills where they can develop further. The EYFS states that the primary areas are “crucial for igniting children’s curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive”.

Pushing the boundaries of learning

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.

At Hallfield, Ms Caitlin Williams, Head of EYFS has developed a bespoke curriculum that includes specialist teaching in Dance and Music from the age of two. This expands to include French, Music, and PE in Foundation

(3 years+). We push the boundaries of the education we offer to ensure competence for every child in the seven areas of learning, and providing opportunities and experiences that instil a love of learning and curiosity from a very young age.

We know all the children individually and can adjust the curriculum based on observations of each child to address any areas that need work. The goal is to ensure that children have the necessary skills by the end of Foundation to flourish in Reception – their final year in EYFS.

Preparing your child for Reception

By the end of their Foundation year, children have cultivated the essential skills and awareness required for a seamless transition into Reception. They have not only become accustomed to the daily routines of starting their day with maths and phonics, but have formed a strong bond with their specialist teachers and familiarised themselves with the school environment. Whether it’s exploring the wonders of Hallfield’s very own woodland during Forest School sessions, or delving into the literary treasures of our Pre-Prep Library housed in the cosy confines of the Creative Cottage, every experience enriches their journey at Hallfield School.



2. In many countries and cultures, the significance of play in children's development is not fully understood, with a tendency to prioritise academics. Could you elaborate on how Hallfield EYFS promotes learning through play, emphasising the advantages and why this approach is beneficial for children's development?

Picture this: a bustling classroom filled with giggles, creativity, and boundless energy. This is Hallfield Early Years Foundation (EYFS), where learning through play isn't just a side activity – it's the cornerstone of our educational philosophy.

At Hallfield, we understand the paramount importance of Personal, Social and Emotional Development, physical prowess, and effective communication and language skills. These prime areas serve as the bedrock upon which all further learning is built. After all, before a child can grasp complex academic concepts, they must first master the fundamentals.



Think of it this way, before a child can write their first sentence or solve their first numeracy problem, they need the physical dexterity to hold a pencil and the social skills to collaborate with peers. By prioritising these foundational skills in nursery and pre-school, we pave the way for smoother academic progress in Reception and beyond.

But our approach is not just about ticking boxes – it's about fostering a deep, enduring understanding of concepts. We immerse children in rich, meaningful experiences that allow them to explore and discover for themselves. Instead of simply reciting facts, we encourage children to dive into the sandbox, splash in the water, and proudly demonstrate their newfound knowledge in a variety of settings.



Ultimately, our aim is simple: to cultivate effective learners who are equipped not just with knowledge, but with the curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking skills needed to navigate an ever-changing world. By giving children, the autonomy to lead their own learning, with expert guidance along the way, we're nurturing the thinkers, innovators, and leaders of tomorrow.

3. What are the top three skills that teachers would like to see in a child by the time they reach Reception, and how do our staff at Hallfield actively contribute to the development of these skills in each child between the ages of 0 - 4?

Imagine a world where every child enters Reception not just ready to learn, but eager to embrace the adventures that lie ahead. At Hallfield, we believe that the journey to readiness begins long before a child sets foot in their first classroom.

1. From mastering the art of toileting to confidently wielding knives and forks, personal independence is key for our young learners.

Our Foundation unit is a haven for independence, we take a collaborative approach to toilet training, working closely with parents to provide consistent support and encouragement. Furthermore, our curriculum is meticulously crafted with age-appropriate milestones in mind, ensuring that every child progresses at their own pace. Because at Hallfield, we believe that there's no limit to what a determined 3-year-old can achieve!



2. Confidence is the key that unlocks countless opportunities, and at Hallfield, we're passionate about nurturing this essential trait from an early age. Whether it's interacting with adults or forging friendships with peers, we empower children to navigate the world with resilience. Through our guidance, we help children understand and manage their feelings, laying the groundwork for success in Reception and beyond. We encourage chatter and conversation, fostering a culture where every voice is heard, and every opinion valued. After all, confident communicators make confident learners!

3. As children prepare to embark on their educational journey, basic skills readiness is paramount. From phonics to early numeracy, our little learners are primed and poised to pick up a pencil and dive into the wonders of mark-making. Our curriculum is a carefully curated roadmap from Nursery to Reception, progressively building literacy and mathematical skills at every stage.

4. What are the key benefits of continuing with the tailored Hallfield EYFS curriculum up to Reception? And how does it contribute to the overall development and success of the children?

At Hallfield, we believe that every child is unique, with their own set of talents, interests, and aspirations. That's why our tailored Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum isn't just a programme—it's a journey of discovery, exploration, and boundless potential.

Step into our classrooms, and you'll find a world bursting with excitement and opportunity. We understand that one size does not fit all, so our curriculum is specifically tailored for Hallfield children, considering their unique needs, interests, and learning styles. The curriculum is meticulously designed to maximise every facet of the school environment, from specialist lessons in Dance and Music, to enchanting library visits and heartwarming interactions with our furry friends, like guinea pigs. With a broad, balanced, and rich curriculum, children embark on a journey of exploration and discovery, uncovering their passions and talents along the way.

So, there you have it—the magic of Hallfield's EYFS. By continuing this journey up to Reception, we're not just shaping children's minds—we're igniting their passion for learning, empowering them to reach for the stars, and laying the foundation for a lifetime of success!





STUART HAMMERSLEY HEAD OF COMPUTING AND DIGITAL LEARNING

Why do you like working Hallfield Prep?

I love working at Hallfield Prep because of the very varied interests of the different age groups you teach. From Year 3 pupils that are so excited to have progressed through to 'big school' to the teenagers of Year 8 who keep me up to date with the latest trends!

What is the best part of your job and why?

I love making the curriculum come alive using digital tools. Seeing the WOW on children's faces or hearing the 'that's sooooo cool' comments with things that are simple and effective, but are not possible without use of technology.

What does a typical day look like?

Every day is different, which is very exciting. Often filled with lots of questions, wow moments and children working creatively throughout the classroom. Sometimes, though, we have to cover spreadsheets and other less exciting topics!



What do you love most about Hallfield?

The friendly nature of all the staff and pupils. Everyone has been so welcoming to me since I joined.

What hobbies/interests do you have outside of school?

I love spending time with my family and friends. I watch and coach rugby in my spare time (my body tells me I am too old to play now!) I also spend a huge amount of time listening to records and attending gigs - most of the music I like most people have never heard of!

What words of wisdom do you have for your pupils?

Embrace all the amazing opportunities that being at Hallfield affords you. You will learn so much and create amazing memories that will last you a lifetime!

CHECK OUT
OUR FULL
SPOTLIGHT
SERIES:





INDEPENDENT SCHOOL'S CROSS COUNTRY U9-U11

A fantastic day for our Independent School's Cross Country U9 & U11 event! Despite the gusty weather, our pupils gave it their all on the track. Teams from Chad Vale Primary School and Priory School joined us for some thrilling competition.

Our outstanding results:

Amber - 3rd in the U9 Girls
Raahil - 2nd in the U9 Boys
Harman - 3rd in the U9 Boys
Josh - 3rd in the U11 Boys
U9 Boys Team - Winners
U11 Boys Team - Winners



INDEPENDENT SCHOOL'S CROSS COUNTRY U9-U13

It was a blustery but dry day for our rearranged cross-country fixture and our children pulled out all the stops in their running. Pupils from Bromsgrove, EHS, West House and Norfolk House were about to join in too, so there was good competition. Although boys and girls ran at the same time, there were categories for U9 Girls, U9 Boys, U11 Girls, U11 Boys, U13 Girls and U13 Boys. The U9s race was over 1.2km and the U11s and U13s was over 2.4km.

The results for Hallfield were as follows:

U9 individual girls = 1st place Maidah, 2nd place Anna
U9 girls' team = 1st place
U9 individual boys = 2nd place George
3rd place Ishaan
U9 boys' team = 1st place
U11 girls' team = 3rd place
U11 boys' team = 4th place
U13 boys' team = 2nd place

A huge well done to everyone who ran!





OLD HALLFIELDIAN LUNCH & TOUR FOR 145TH BIRTHDAY

Happy 145th Birthday, Hallfield! As we celebrated another year of tradition and excellence, we took a trip down memory lane to 1879—the year of our founding. It was a time when Thomas Edison had lit up the world with the electric light bulb, and Queen Victoria had graced the British throne with her presence.

We were thrilled to welcome seven Old Hallfieldians back to school for a nostalgic tour and delightful lunch. A special highlight was the presence of Mr Button, a distinguished Classics teacher who had dedicated his expertise to Hallfield from 1968 to 2006. Accompanied by his wife Mary and son Tom, who also had his own Hallfield tale from the 1980s, the Button's joined in the journey of rediscovery. Sharing in the joy of the day, former student John Woodhead couldn't contain his delight at reconnecting with Mr Button, his esteemed teacher from the 1970s.

Our journey spanned eras, and we thrived on the stories of past pupils, parents, and teachers who had shaped the legacy of Hallfield. Your memories were the threads that wove our history, and we invite you to share them with us.



OLD HALLFIELDIAN INTERVIEW: TIM HAMER

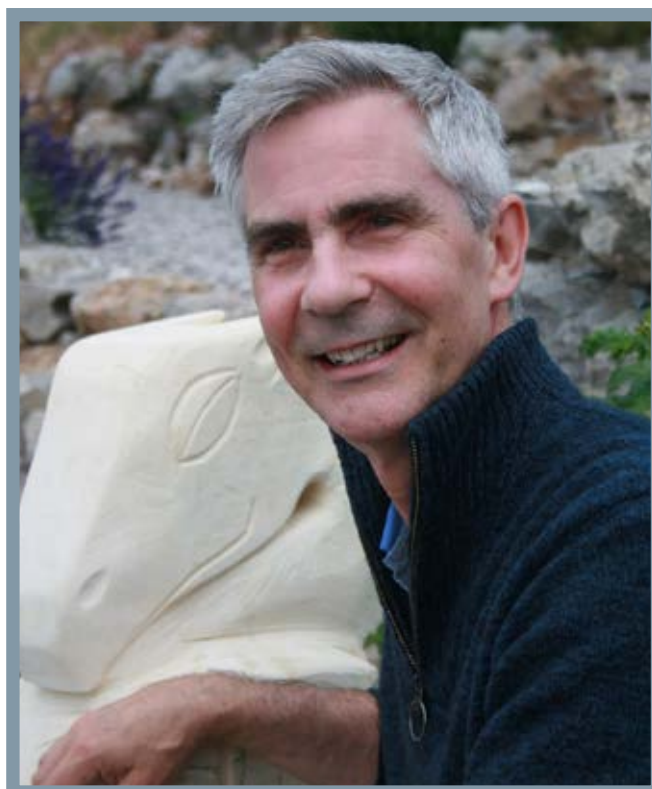
Old Hallfieldian Tim Hamer (OH 1966-75) got in touch recently to pass on his thanks to Hallfield teachers, past and present. Read on to find out how they inspired Tim and played a part in him becoming an author later in his career.

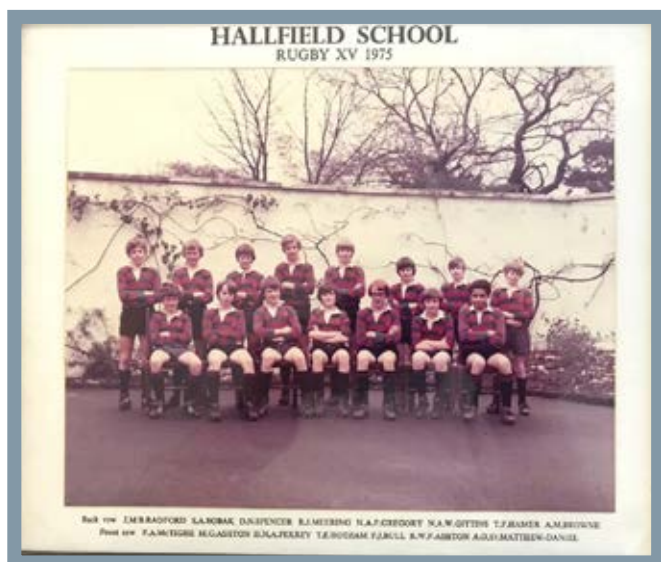
When did you attend Hallfield?

I attended Hallfield from Pre-Prep through to Seniors, leaving in 1975.

What's your favourite Hallfield memory?

One of my favourite memories was during my final year when, as left wing in the rugby XV, we completed a historic unbeaten season of nine wins and no losses, finishing with an exhibition game against Stourbridge Rugby Club, after which we were all “accidentally” served an after-game shandy - happy days - but something I am sure would





never happen now! Our success was really down to our new PE and rugby coach, Les Smith, an ex-professional and giant of a man at 6ft 6ins who had introduced military style training sessions and tactics, which we all secretly moaned about, but no-one was going to argue with him!

What were your favourite subjects at Hallfield?

I very much favoured the sciences, initially taught by Mr Plenderleith, although there were several inspirational teachers in other subjects who made me think twice about my choices. Firstly, Mr Button, who taught Latin/Classics and of whom we'd all been terrified when young, suddenly had us all enthralled when we discovered we could actually translate quite a bit of real "Roman stuff". His favourite admonishment for a failed answer to a question was "Piffle, boy!", but delivered humorously. Another was Mr Davies, who took us for English (and was a cricketing demon bowler), broadened our horizons and boosted our self-confidence with debates and creative writing projects.

Did you take part in extra-curricular activities?

I enjoyed playing any sport and was lucky enough to play both cricket and rugby for the school, so this took up much of my spare time. In those days I was actually really quite small for my age, but it meant that I could change direction very quickly when running with a rugby ball and bowl a deceptive very low-trajectory seamer in cricket! A good team spirit was always encouraged and enabled us to understand that a team could be made up of very different shapes and sizes, but each brought their unique skills to the game, making the team work better.

Where did you go to secondary school?

I had been a weekly boarder at Hallfield in my last year, which helped me to adjust to boarding school life. I left Hallfield for Malvern College, an amazing school nestled at the base of the Malvern Hills but didn't settle in and moved a year later to King Edward's School (Edgbaston) where I



met up again with some old Hallfield friends, like Roger Ashton, Nick Robinson and Peter Bull, and immediately felt at home.

Are you still in touch with your Hallfield friends?

Not as much as I should be! In the later school days, I continued to stay in touch with a few friends but after university I think we all drifted apart into busy careers.

Have you been back to Hallfield since you left?

I have only returned once, back in 1980, and that was to captain the Parents/Old Hallfieldians v The School, cricket match - it was all taken very seriously but diplomatically ended as a draw!

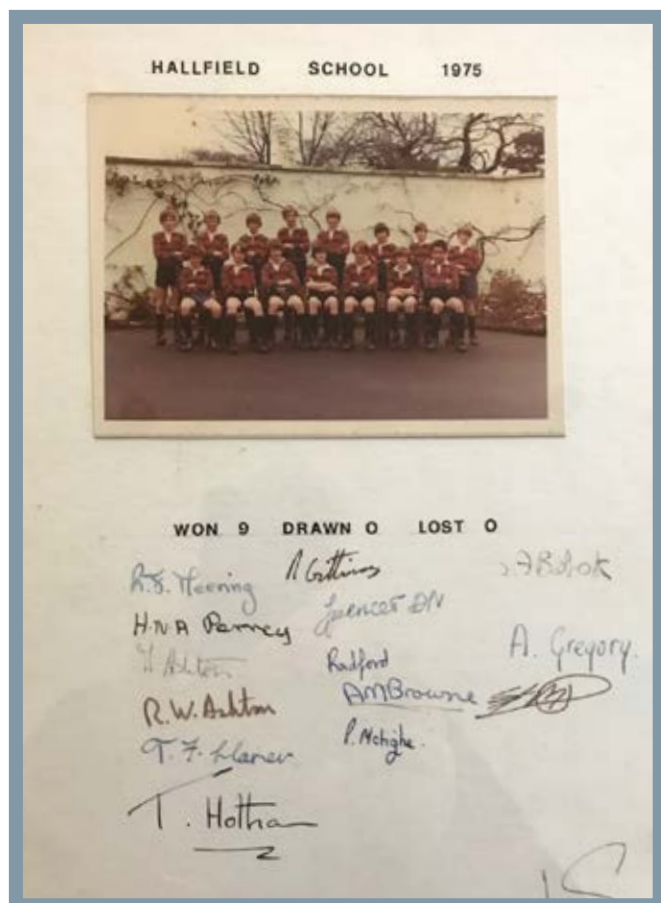
Where did you go to university and what did you study?

I took a gap year between school and university in 1980-81 and worked and travelled in Australia and New Zealand, before going up to study Engineering Science at Durham University, at St.Cuthbert's Society/College, in October 1981. It is a beautiful and scholarly university, with a great inter-university sporting reputation. After three amazing years of hard work and fun, I graduated in 1984.

What is your career?

An engineering degree is highly valued by employers because of graduate numeracy and problem-solving skills. In addition to engineering careers, this meant there were job opportunities in all sorts of fields.

As a reaction to my heavily mathematical course at university, I broadened my education through reading as many classic novels as I could, which led me to becoming really interested in the publishing industry, particularly scientific publishing. It is a very competitive career, but thanks to a professor introducing me to his publisher, I

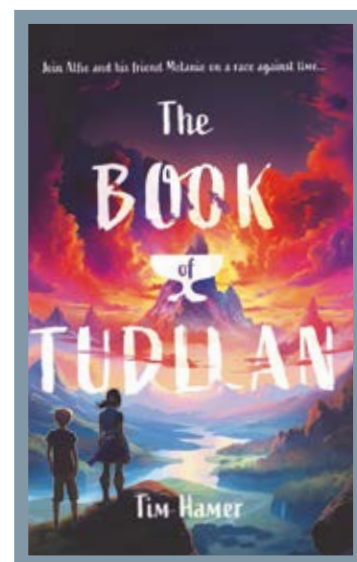
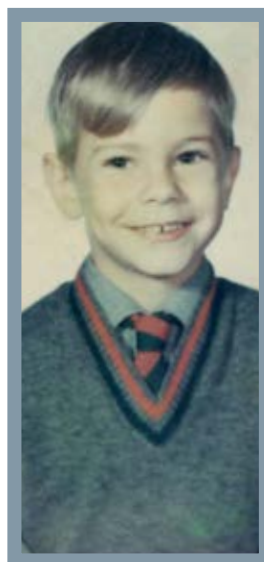


managed to get a toe-hold in the industry by getting a job as a Publishing Sales Representative, with a view to becoming an editor later. It was a wonderful starter job with lots of autonomy. I was given a company car and an expense account and had to visit bookshops and academic departments all around the UK and Ireland, selling higher education textbooks and looking for potential new authors. It felt like an extended travel holiday! I went on to cover France, Germany, and the Netherlands, becoming a Field Editor.

The company I worked for was owned by the Thomson Corporation, and a change in its strategic direction in the 1980s/early 90s led to opportunities for me to become a Sales Manager, Marketing Manager, Sales and Marketing Director, then Managing Director; eventually finishing as Senior Vice President, Global Marketing Services and UK General Manager at the newly created Thomson Reuters (London/New York/Stamford) in 2008.

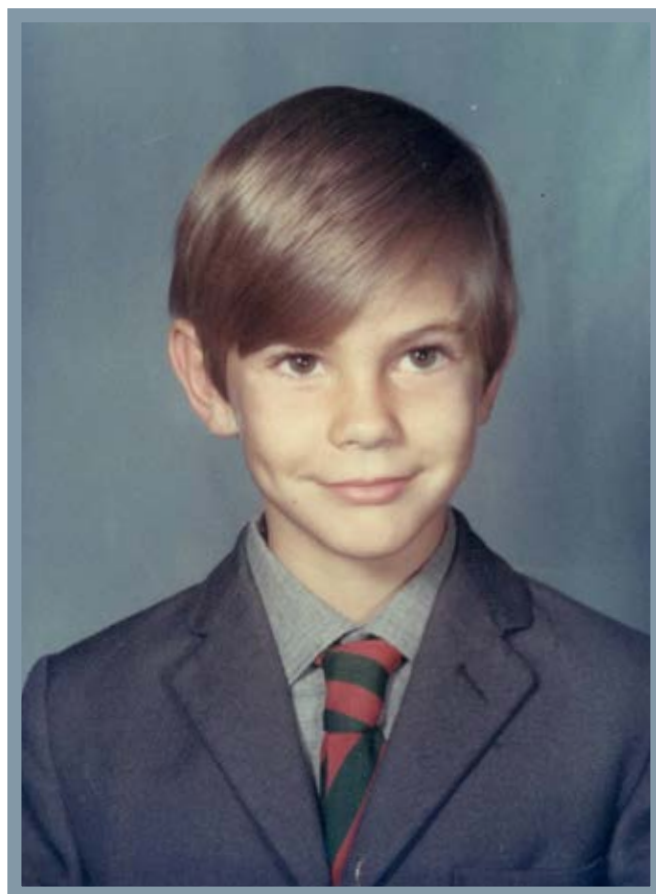
I went on to join The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) as Director of Knowledge and was made a Fellow of the IET in 2016, having digitised the IET's publishing and information services.

I retired in 2017, to renovate two Welsh houses/barns on a beautiful mountain headland, before taking up writing in 2021; my first book, *The Book of Tudllan*, is historical fantasy novel for young adults, and was published in January 2024. I now write, travel, repair dry stone walls and carve stone dragons!



Do you have any words of wisdom for current pupils?

We are all different, but I think one thing I would encourage everyone to do, in whatever career or profession pursued, and at whatever level, is to treat people you meet and work with, with politeness, respect and kindness. It doesn't cost anything, and it makes life a much more pleasant experience! And it certainly doesn't mean that you will be compromised when faced with having to make tough decisions; contrary to some popular mantras, in my experience, it makes you much more effective at whatever you do, and a better leader.



MEET OLD HALLFIELDIAN: ASHVIR SANGHA

There are many Old Hallfieldians still in the local area. We recently caught up with Ashvir Sangha (OH 1993-2000) about his time at Hallfield and his plans to become the new Member of Parliament for Birmingham Edgbaston, to make a difference where he grew up and now lives.

When did you attend Hallfield?

From around the age of five (in 1993), all the way through to Year 6.

What's your favourite Hallfield memory?

It was Sports Day, the relay race. As the baton was handed to Nowers' final runner Nick Maynard, there was little to no hope remaining. Nowers were just too far behind. But somehow, Nick Maynard managed to make up the huge distance and won the race!

What were your favourite subjects at Hallfield?

I especially loved the lessons with Mr Button in the old study room up the wooden stairs. In particular, the special project in Year 6 where we prepared a presentation on any subject we were interested in and shared it with the class. Mine was on UFOs!



Did you take part in extra-curricular activities?

I remember being part of the rock-climbing club after school with Mr Braithwaite.

Where did you go to secondary school?

I went to King Edward's, Edgbaston after Hallfield. The values and culture of excellence at Hallfield definitely prepared me well for life at KES. In particular, the school motto introduced by Deputy Head Mrs Thomas: "To act with courtesy and common sense at all times, and to strive for excellence in all we do." These words still resonate with me today and set me in good stead not just for KES, but also for university and working life.

Are you still in touch with your Hallfield friends?

Yes! There are at least two or three friends I've known from Hallfield since the age of five, with whom I'm still good friends and see regularly. This is a real blessing for which I'm very grateful to have had this experience in common. We share a lot of good memories together.

Have you been back to Hallfield since you left?

Not yet, but I would love to visit again soon! I'm sure the facilities are even better now.

Where did you go to university and what did you study?

I went to Oxford University where I studied History and Politics. While at Oxford, I was elected by my fellow students as President of the Oxford Union - the historic debating society which has hosted guests ranging from Michael Jackson to Albert Einstein.





What is your career?

After leaving university, I set up a small education business with my brother (who also went to Hallfield, and even won the Stanley Allday Cup!). We delivered educational programmes inspiring young people in Birmingham, before expanding abroad to places like Dubai, Singapore and Mumbai. For the last two years, I've worked with the Mayor of the West Midlands, Andy Street, as his Communications Adviser. I've just left that job to stand at the upcoming General Election, to be the new Member of Parliament for Edgbaston! I'm sure I'll be seeing lots of Hallfield parents on the campaign trail over the coming months.

Do you have any words of wisdom for current pupils?

Cherish your close friends at Hallfield. You may be friends for life and that would be a great outcome to aim for. Also, even from a young age, start trying to discover what your "ikigai" is. This is a Japanese word which translates roughly as "reason to live", but its true meaning is to find the thing that you are uniquely called to do in life. The thing you love to do, are good at, that the world needs, and that you can be paid for. This can be totally different things for different people, but the sooner you identify and practise it, the smoother your life will go!





UPCOMING EVENTS

**Hallfield** *Insights*

Dr Andy Cope
Dr of Happiness

Thursday 27 June 2024

Happy Families offers quick wins to help families flourish and build strong relationships to navigate life's ups and downs.

17:30 - 19:00

Book Tickets








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


We hope you enjoyed Hallfield Focus!


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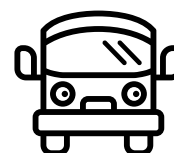
 Hallfield School

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
3	Kingsbury Road, Erdington (near Little Ripley Day Nursery)	07:50	£3.50 daily



Moseley Bus

Stops	Location	Pick up time	Price
1	Oakland Road (opposite St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School)	07:50	£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 Mrs Helen Surr to book your space: hsurr@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.





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HALLFIELD SCHOOL

Happy | Inspiring | Purposeful

