

### Welcome back!

We would like to welcome back all of you who are returning after the summer break and extend a warm welcome to those of you who are new to Hall Green.

We hope that you managed to make the most of the summer break and you were able to spend some time with your children, despite the rain at times. What a change in weather our return to school has brought! Please be mindful that it is going to be hot this week!

With the weather in mind, please remember that we open our gates at 8:30 in the morning and school officially starts at 8:55 am. We open our doors 10 minutes early at 8:45 am so that there is not one mad rush as everyone tries to get in at the same time. We cannot ask staff to open doors any earlier if the weather is bad, so please make sure that you do not arrive too early and have to stand in the cold or rain.

At the end of the day, please remember that the lines painted around classroom doors or the areas where children are released are there for your children's safety — they ensure that we can have a clear view of children until they are with their adult. Parents coming across the lines or into the areas at busy times will hinder this and, even if for an instant, distract staff from ensuring your child is safe. Please stand well back and be patient, particularly at this time of year when staff are getting to know which adult belongs to which child! Thank you

### School Life

We have decided to keep our one-way system in place.

- keeping a one-way system when parents are on site avoids the arguments and bad feeling when "bottle-neck" jams occur with parents trying to come in and out of a small gate at the same time.

Whilst we will not be 'enforcing this', the majority of parents have indicated they are happy with the system and recognise how it eases congestion.

The side gate will not be reopened in the very foreseeable future — however, we will continue to review this regularly.

Please remember that while it is impossible to please everyone, decisions about the organisation of school life are always made for the right reasons.

We will also be inviting parents in as much as we can for various activities, including curriculum meetings, 'Inspire' sessions, fayres and assemblies.

You will have also seen our posters regarding a PTA we are hoping to set up!

### Sad but exciting news...

Mrs Paddock, our Safeguarding and attendance Lead, will be leaving Hall Green at the end of October. Mrs Paddock has worked at Hall Green for 17 years and we will all miss her. She is leaving to support her husband in their family business and wish her well for the future. We expect to have her replacement in post before Mrs Paddock leaves us.

### New faces!

We welcome some new staff for this academic year.

Miss Gardner and Mrs Walwyn have joined our teaching staff in Year 4 and Nursery respectively.

Miss Robinson also joins us in Year 5.

Mrs McLaren and Mrs Thear have also joined our support staff team on a permanent basis. We also welcome Miss Akhtar and Mrs Lawrence.

We have two new MSAs; Mrs Heeley and Mrs Holl and we look forward to working with them.

We also welcome back Mr Gultridge as our site manager — Mr Gultridge has been our site manager previously, so some of you may recognise him!

### Use of the arena before the start of school

For some time it has been a Y6 privilege to play football on the sports arena before the start of school. Y6 children are aware that this privilege is only kept if they are able to keep a few simple rules. However, it is best if you, as parents, are aware of a few key facts, particularly if you have children who come to school without being accompanied by an adult.

- There is no capacity for staff to supervise children playing on the arena.
- Limiting access to Y6 only gives them the opportunity to take responsibility for their own behaviour and provides them with some recognition that they are to be trusted as role models
- Children from other year groups are not allowed to be on the arena. Y6 children have been told that they must ask younger children to leave and if they are ignored, they should inform a member of staff who will then talk to the child later in the day.
- If arguments between Y6 pupils become a problem, the privilege will be withdrawn either temporarily or permanently. Given that it is outside school hours, a member of staff will not be instructed to supervise play at this time of day.

### Balls in the morning

If Y6 are allowed to play on the arena for a few minutes before the start of school, it is only fair to allow others to play a ballgame. We therefore allow children younger than Y6 to bring a ball and play in other specific areas of the playground. Your children will be told which areas these are, but again, certain conditions will be in place:

- There is no capacity for staff to supervise children playing on the playground, so this will remain parents' responsibility until the start of the school day.
- Children cannot go on the field to collect their ball without an adult's permission.
- Children must be considerate of other people on the playground, keeping the ball away from other parents and children.
- Balls should be carried to the area they are allowed to play in and also carried to the door once the bell has gone – bouncing and dribbling the ball in and out of other site users is not acceptable.

### Scooters, bikes etc

Again for the safety and sanity of everyone using the site, we do not allow anyone to ride any sort of bike or scooter on the school site. If parents allow their children to bring bikes or scooters, we are more than happy for them to be parked in the cycle shelter at the bottom of the playground (next to the staff car park) if parents do not wish to take them back home again. Although the school is as secure as it can be, I would advise that they bring a bike lock to use and should remind you that anything left, is left at their own risk.

### Contacting class based staff

Communicating with your child's teachers is an extremely important aspect of us ensuring your child is happy, confident and focussed on learning when they are at school.

If you pass a message via staff on the door that you would like to talk to your child's teacher, they will call you as soon as possible. It may not be on the same day and it certainly will not be during lesson time, but they will contact you as soon as they can.

Alternatively, you can email staff using our parent contact year group email addresses:

[nursery@hallgreenprimary.co.uk](mailto:nursery@hallgreenprimary.co.uk) The nursery teacher is Mrs Walwyn

[reception@hallgreenprimary.co.uk](mailto:reception@hallgreenprimary.co.uk) Reception teachers are Mrs Mason, Mrs Pratt and Mrs Gorton

[year1@hallgreenprimary.co.uk](mailto:year1@hallgreenprimary.co.uk) Y1 teachers are Mrs Marok, Mr Falconer & Mrs Dicken

[year2@hallgreenprimary.co.uk](mailto:year2@hallgreenprimary.co.uk) Y2 teachers are Mrs Read, Miss Stokes and Mr Wheeler

[year3@hallgreenprimary.co.uk](mailto:year3@hallgreenprimary.co.uk) Y3 teachers are Mrs Scott, Mrs Goodreds and Mrs Collins

[year4@hallgreenprimary.co.uk](mailto:year4@hallgreenprimary.co.uk) Y4 teachers are Miss Hall, Miss Gardner and Mrs Wiltshire

[year5@hallgreenprimary.co.uk](mailto:year5@hallgreenprimary.co.uk) Y5 teachers are Mr Cotterill, Miss Robinson and Mr Singh

[year6@hallgreenprimary.co.uk](mailto:year6@hallgreenprimary.co.uk) Y6 teachers are Miss Webley, Mrs Wall and Mrs Spriggs

## RAAC

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result areas in affected spaces will be vacated.

We wanted to inform you that we are not affected by this decision as we do not have RAAC in any of our buildings and therefore they will continue to function as normal. We understand that parents may want to understand more about the support to educational settings to manage RAAC safely. You can read more through the article published by the DfE on the Education Hub.

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	Y3 Curriculum Meeting*
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	Y4 Swimming starts
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	Y6 Curriculum meeting*
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Y2 Curriculum meeting*
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	EYFS Curriculum meeting*
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Y5 Curriculum meeting*
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Y4 Curriculum meeting*
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Y1 Curriculum meeting*
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Phonics meeting for Reception parents
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Individual pupil photographs
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 3:45-6pm	Parents' Evening
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct to Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Half Term
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Nasal 'flu immunisations
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Term ends
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December to Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Christmas holidays
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Training Day
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Pupils return to school.

\*Information about our curriculum meetings will follow shortly

Further dates will be sent to you when they have been confirmed