

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.

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

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** (unless for disability purposes). 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.

Please Remember:

- **No foul or abusive language** to be used anywhere on site.
- **No dogs** (even if on a lead or carried) on site.
- **Children should not walk/play** on the **low walls** at the front of the school.

THANK YOU

On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank you for the generous gifts and cards that were given at the end of the summer term.

New faces!

This term we welcome Miss Walker, who will be joining our Office team every morning.

We also welcome Miss Fryer, who will be part of our lunchtime supervisor team.

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.

Attendance Expectations

Our expectation is that your child attends school every day. We expect as many of our children as possible to achieve 100% attendance across the year.

We understand that if your child has a serious illness then 100% attendance may not be possible. We do however expect children to come to school if they have a minor illness. Examples of minor illnesses are coughs, colds, sore throats, headaches, head lice and stomach ache.

If your child has a bout of sickness or diarrhoea, then your child cannot come into school and should be kept off for 48 hours after the last episode. However, if your child is complaining of feeling sick, but has not been sick, send them to school.

If you know you are going to be late getting your child to school, please still bring them, but attempt to do this before 10.00am as a cooked lunch cannot be ordered after this time. You can still bring in your child after this time, but you will need to provide a packed lunch.

If your child is going to be off due to a serious illness, or is going to be late, please ring the school office before 9.30am. If you do not inform the school, then a phone call will be made to ask why your child is absent.

Please note that if a child's attendance falls to 90% or below, this is classed as 'persistent absence'.

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 The nursery teacher is Mrs Walwyn

reception@hallgreenprimary.co.uk Reception teachers are Mrs Mason, Mrs Pratt and Mrs Marok

year1@hallgreenprimary.co.uk Y1 teachers are Mrs Gorton, Mrs Pratt, Miss Evans & Mrs Dicken

year2@hallgreenprimary.co.uk Y2 teachers are Mrs Read, Miss Stokes and Mrs Dicken

year3@hallgreenprimary.co.uk Y3 teachers are Miss Gardner, Mrs Goodreds and Miss Spriggs

year4@hallgreenprimary.co.uk Y4 teachers are Mrs Scott, Mr Colterill and Mr Singh

year5@hallgreenprimary.co.uk Y5 teachers are Miss Wall, Miss Hall and Mr Singh

year6@hallgreenprimary.co.uk Y6 teachers are Miss Webley, Mr Falconer and Mrs Wiltshire

Should you wish to contact other staff, this can be done via the school office on 0121 588 2080.

School Governors

The Governing Body have asked me to extend a warm "welcome back" to everyone on their behalf.

Your parent representatives on the Governing Body are Mrs Baker (Child in Y4) and Ms Devi (Child in Y3).

Our Chair is Mrs Lamb and our vice-chair is Mr Westbury. Our Body also consists of Mrs Loach, Mrs Paddock and Ms Senya.

SCHOOL DINNERS

School dinners are £13.00 each week (£2.60 per meal). Dinners must be paid for at the beginning of the week for the whole week.

Please be aware that:

- the latest dinner orders can be sent to the kitchen is 10am
- dinners cannot be booked for any child arriving after 10am unless you have arranged this with us the day before. A packed lunch must be sent instead.

Free School meals for ALL children in Reception and KS1 classes.

All children in these year groups, no matter what the household income and no matter what type of benefits are being claimed, are entitled to a free meal provided by the school kitchen. If you have not returned the forms sent out, or need more information, please ask at the school office. If you aren't taking up this entitlement because you aren't sure about what meals may be provided, why not ask at the office for a menu.

If your child is in KS2 (Y3 – Y6) and you are entitled to free meals and don't take advantage of them, please ask for a form at the office. Once you've had your claim accepted, it doesn't mean that your child has to always have a dinner. More than 50% of our families save an awful lot of money by claiming and no-one but adults involved in the admin knows who pays and who doesn't. Once your claim has been accepted it will continue for as long as you are entitled.

Just think of how much money you could save if you pay for dinners now but could claim - £195 this term, £390 if you have 2 children... that could be a huge help towards the cost of Christmas. Over the year you would save £507 for one child and £1,014 for two. Now that really is food for thought!

If you think you may be eligible, pick up a form at the office – the sooner you do it, the more you could save.

Please note that we are moving towards a cashless school and therefore, ensure you have downloaded and can access our Arbor School App, to enable you to pay for meals online.

Changes to Lunchtime Play!

This year we are changing the offer the children have in terms of lunchtime play. Children will be able to choose to move around 'zoned' areas within our site, during lunchtime. Each zone will offer a different type of play and activity, from role-play and quiet zones, to football and construction zones!

We aim to make lunchtime play more purposeful and in doing so, support children with their social and emotional skills through the range of activities that will be on offer.

We will be using some assembly time to introduce the zones, activities and resources available to the children, during this half term, along with our rules and expectations, using our 'play charter'.

Should you have any resources you could donate to support this initiative, please see Mrs Gilbert or Mrs MacDiarmid.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Tuesday 9 th September	Y6 Curriculum meeting*
Wednesday 10 th September	Y3 Curriculum meeting*
Monday 15 th September	Y2 Curriculum meeting*
Wednesday 17 th September	EYFS Little Wandle Meeting*
Thursday 18 th September	Y5 Curriculum meeting*
Tuesday 23 rd September	Y4 Curriculum meeting*
W/C Monday 29 th September	Book Fayre Week
Tuesday 14 th October	Y1 Curriculum meeting*
Wednesday 15 th October	Individual pupil photographs
Friday 17 th October	Non-Uniform Day (£1 donations)
Tuesday 21 st October 3:45-6pm	Parents' Evening
Friday 24 th October	Training Day – school closed to pupils
Monday 26 th Oct to Friday 31 st October	Half Term
Monday 17 th to Friday 21 st November	Year 6 Residential to Frank Chapman
Friday 21 st November	Non-Uniform (donations of sweets)
Friday 28 th November	Non-Uniform (donations of chocolates)
Friday 5 th December	Non-Uniform (donations of bottles)
Friday 12 th December	Non-Uniform Day (£1 donations)
Monday 15 th December	Christmas Extravaganza
Friday 19 th December	Term ends
Monday 22 nd December to Friday 2 nd January	Christmas holidays
Monday 5 th January	Training Day
Tuesday 6 th 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