



HALTON LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

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Sad News

It is with great sadness that I write to inform you of the passing of our former school cook, Jacqui Clarke, who passed away on Wednesday.

Jacqui has worked at Halton Lodge Primary School, in the kitchen, for over 10 years - and was taken ill around Easter time (which meant that she was unable to come into school and work during this time).

Although she started as a kitchen assistant, she took on the challenge of becoming our senior cook over the last 2 years - and must take credit for revolutionising and improving the quality of the school meals served at our school. She was extremely supportive of our decision to no longer serve processed meat (in preference of cooking fresh joints of meat) and changed the recipes used so all of the food served at our school was cooked from fresh each day - and the quality, portion sizes and nutritional value of the food increased substantially. Furthermore, she reinvigorated the salad bar, ensured fresh bread was always available, took on the extra challenge of preparing breakfast for our Breakfast Club members and invested time talking with the children (and serving them seconds) every day.

Every time we have a visit from an author, actor or musician - who all visit hundreds of schools - we always receive extremely positive feedback; many stating that the school meals served at Halton Lodge are better than at any other school in the country. This only started when Jacqui took over in the kitchen.

Jacqui was planning on returning to work very soon so it was deeply upsetting and a real surprise to hear that she had passed away, at home, on Wednesday. She will be greatly missed by all of the adults who work at our school and I am sure Jacqui will be remembered very fondly by many of the older children in school who knew her well. However, her legacy will continue as Mr Keith-Stewart, Mrs McCartney and Miss Foster (who Jacqui has trained and supported since they started working in our school kitchen) will continue to use many of the recipes that she introduced.

Our deepest sympathies, best wishes and thoughts go to all of Jacqui's family at what will undoubtedly be a very difficult time.

Operation Encompass

Each year we are asked to write to all parents and carers to remind you that our school, like all schools in Halton, participates in a police led initiative called Operation Encompass. This is a partnership between schools and the police that helps schools to better support any child where a domestic incident has taken place in the home and has been reported to the police.



Following a domestic incident, the police will make contact with the child's school via telephone and secure email (usually the next day) and will communicate relevant information to nominated, fully trained school staff. At our school these staff members are Mrs Ellis, Mr Hilldrup or Mrs Sproston. This ensures that, as a school, we are made aware early enough to support children and young people - who may feel tired, confused, scared or angry - in a way that means they feel safe, supported and listened to. It also provides an opportunity for the school to offer support to the whole family, if these is deemed useful.

This initiative was launched county-wide at the beginning of 2016. It is now active in all Cheshire schools. You can find out more about Operation Encompass via the following site: <http://www.operationencompass.org> Alternatively, if you would like to speak to someone at our school about the initiative - or require any additional information - please speak with one of the key adults named above. We are committed to working in partnership with local relevant organisations to keep children safe and to offer value able support to all children across Cheshire.

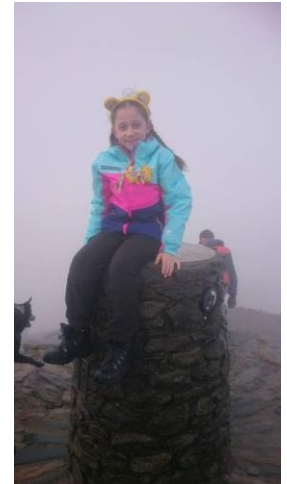
Children in Need

Over the last few weeks, Mrs Urmson has been selling pin badges, Pudsey and Blush headbands and wrist bands - to raise money for Children In Need.

Today, the children have each paid £1 to come to school in their pyjamas, onesie or spotty clothes - with many raising extra money by collecting sponsorship money to take part in a dance marathon (which started at 8:45am with Wake N Shake and lasted until lunchtime - as each class took part for 30-45 minutes; to keep the dancing going). All of the money collected, and brought into school next week, will be added to all of the money raised so far and we will let you know what the total raised by the children, staff and families at our school is next week.

A special mention must also go to Grace May (Year 5) who, last weekend, climbed Mount Snowdon, with her dad and aunt, to raise some extra money for Children In Need. Despite setting herself the challenge of raising £100, Grace has absolutely smashed that target - having raised over £650 already - after successfully reaching the summit after 5 hours and 30 minutes, which is a phenomenal achievement.

If you would like to sponsor Grace, please speak to her - or either of her very proud parents - who will let you know how you can do this via her Just Giving page.



If you are wondering when our Christmas Bingo is taking place, it will take place at 6:00pm on Monday, 4th December (with the doors opening and a tombola at 5:30pm).

Residential Visits

The deadline for returning the consent forms, and paying the initial deposit, for the residential visits that will be taking place this year are:



Condoover Hall (Year 6) - 17th November 2017 (today) with the final balance paid by 31st March 2018.

The Delamare Centre - Foxhowl (Year 3) - remaining balance to be paid by 30th November.

Llandudno (Year 2) - 15th December 2017 (with the final balance paid by 20th April).

We can usually extend these deadlines by one or two weeks, if we are notified that a place will be needed so, if you have yet to return the consent form (or need a copy of the letters that have been sent out so far), please contact Miss Smith or Miss Simcock in the school office; or contact your child's class teacher.

All of these trips work best when all of the children in the class get to go and enjoy the experiences - many of which link directly with their work, at that time, in school.



Halton Lodge Primary School

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Happy

Learning

Promotes

Success !