



HALTON LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

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Year 3 Class Assembly



On Wednesday, the children in Year 3 re-enacted the story of The Iron Man – a story they have been using as the stimulus for a lot of their English work this term – as part of their Class Assembly.

For those of you who were able to join us for the assembly, you will have seen that a lot of hard work and effort has gone into practising and rehearsing this performance – which included the screening of a 'live' broadcast that the children had recorded, confident and professional acting, very accomplished singing, wonderful narration and a collection of wonderful costumes.

It was clear to see that all of the children thoroughly enjoyed their opportunity to shine and showcase what they have been learning in school; and – I am sure – their family and friends who came along to watch were very proud of their performance too.

Thank you to all of the adults who work in Year 3 who have invested so much time in putting together – and working with the children - to produce such a magnificent presentation.



This was the children's second opportunity to watch a live performance this week as, on Monday, we were visited by The Image Theatre who – with the support of ten of our pupils who were invited to join the cast – performed a musical production of Robin Hood.

Hopefully, by singing along and watching this performance (and all of the other theatre company visits that we are fortunate to have at our school), a number of our pupils will be inspired to take up opportunities at our school, in high school and in the local community to join acting and musical groups – and have the confidence to get up on stage and display their talents in the future.



Year 4 Class Trip to Safety Central

On Tuesday afternoon, the children in Year 4 were invited to Safety Central (Cheshire Fire & Rescue Headquarters) in Lymm – for the start of a very exciting project.



Along with three other schools, our school has been invited to work with a composer, percussionist and a small team of professional and amateur actors (of all ages) to create music, a song and a piece of drama to educate people about staying safe at home, in the community and when playing near water.

Our school will be focusing on the impact of anti-social behaviour and the children in Year 4 spent the afternoon learning about what antisocial behaviour is. The children were able to act out scenes of antisocial behaviour in a small supermarket before learning about the consequences of such actions on different members of the community, learn about

the yellow cards that are used by all local authorities to record acts of antisocial behaviour, visit a police station (and a police cell) before sitting in a magistrate's courtroom – to share other examples of how people can be affected by how other individuals (and groups of people) behave.

The children are now looking forward to working with members of The Manchester Camerata over three days in May to create their play and compose the music to accompany their performance at The Brindley on Tuesday 5th June.

Easter Raffle and Bingo

Thank you to everybody who has bought a raffle ticket or who came along to our Easter Bingo last night.



Due to the hard work of a very dedicated team of parents– supported by a large number of staff at the school – we were able to accumulate a number of great prizes for the raffle, tombola and for the bingo this year. I'm sure those people who came along to the bingo evening last night thoroughly enjoyed the occasion and were very pleased with the wealth of great prizes they were able to carry home at the end of the night (if they had not eaten them already).

A huge thank you must go to Lyndsey and Linda Wilkinson, Kara Shaw, Kirsty Moreman and Cath Whitfield – who were responsible for encouraging so many local businesses to donate prizes. These included donations from: Macy's Cafe (at Grangeway Community Centre), Quigley's Bakers, Domino's Pizza, Hair by Hanna Richards, Mirror Image Hair & Beauty Salon, Meraki Hair & Beauty, Cineworld, Halton Borough Council (Runcorn Swimming Pool), Evenwood Farm (Farmhouse Inns), Terry's Boutique, Wilkos, Planet Ice, Wheatsheaf Wacky Warehouse (Helsby), Shaw's Butchers (Runcorn Old Town), our local Co-op store and many of our parents (who made very generous donations on our Non-Uniform Day).

These two events have raised over £1020 for the school – which is a phenomenal achievement. We had over 150 people attend the bingo on Wednesday and have sold more raffle tickets than we originally anticipated – so thank you for your generosity and support.

I hope everyone who was fortunate to win one of the Easter Raffle prizes will make good use of the prizes and enjoy these wonderful experiences.

If you have any thoughts of any other great fund-raising or family events that you feel the school could organise over the next 12 months, please speak with one of the Friends of Halton Lodge – or come along to the next planning meeting.

Our local Co-op Store is currently running a raffle for a variety of Easter prizes, with all proceeds from this event being donated to our school. Therefore, if you would like to be in with a chance to win one of these prizes, you may wish to purchase a ticket when you are next visiting the store.



FOHLS Film Night



The Friends of Halton Lodge are hoping to hold a Film Night for the children, after school, on Friday 27th April.

The children who would like to stay in school – and watch a film – are invited to stay in their school uniform (or change into their pyjamas or onesie at the end of the school day, bring along a pillow or teddy) and watch a film (Paddington 2) with their friends.

We will also be serving popcorn during the film – and the children can choose between a margarita pizza or a hotdog to eat during the interval. *The children will be supervised by adults with DBS certificates throughout the whole event.*

The cost for attending our Film Night is £3.50 per child (or £5 for a family ticket – for those families who have two or more children who attend our school) – and this includes all the food and drinks. **It is important that your child is able to sit through the whole film, if they would like to come along to this event.**

Tickets for this event will go on sale on Monday 16th April – and will be available from the school office. *It is important for parents to understand that Paddington 2 has a PG rated film and must give consent for their child to watch this film when purchasing a ticket. The children will also need to select whether they would like a hot dog or pizza when collecting their ticket too.*



National Blanket Email To Schools

Yesterday, we received one of the blanket emails that had been sent to numerous schools across the country.

On receipt of the email we immediately put our safeguarding and security procedures into force – by keeping all of the children within the school building and limiting access into and out of the school building. We also contacted Cheshire Police immediately and were in contact with them – via email – throughout the morning. Even though we were informed that it was believed to be a hoax and was being investigated by the National Crime Agency as well as a number of local forces, we remained in a partial lockdown until it was confirmed by the Lead Officer for Communications within Cheshire Police, at 12:20pm, that we resume with our normal daily routines. (However we did maintain a heightened awareness of what was going on nationally and looking out for any unusual activity near the school – as requested).

While I can fully appreciate that a number of parents (and grandparents) received a lot of misinformation and reacted in way that they thought they must to ensure the safety of their children, it is also important for parents to note that if there is a reported danger to the children if

they were to stay in the school building then we would evacuate the building (as we would in the case of a fire). **However, when the threat to the children is from outside the building, then it is important that we secure the building and keep the children in the safest and calmest environment until the threat is over.** *Had the threat been real then we would have taken the decision to keep the children locked in the building until the threat had been nullified by the police (or other appropriate law and enforcement organisation).*

During these times of emergency, we will endeavour to communicate what is happening to parents as best we can. The quickest and easiest means of communication is via the school Facebook page and through the Studybugs app (provided you consent to receiving Information, Alerts and Notifications from school).

During times of an emergency, it is vital we try to keep the school phone line clear – so we can communicate with the relevant organisations and act swiftly on the advice and intelligence we receive – and that staff are allowed to supervise and take good care of the children (which is difficult when so many families turn up to collect their child early and we need to coordinate this in addition to everything else that is going on).

I would hope that all families, on reflection, feel that the school dealt with yesterday's scenario in the best way possible. The children were unaware of what was happening whilst they were in school. However, we did want to brief them all before they left school – but this was not possible due to how the day ended.

Studybugs – A New Way To Report Your Child's Absence



If you have not yet downloaded the free Studybugs app – or registered on the Studybugs website (<http://studybugs.com/about/parents>) – to inform us whenever your child's ill and unable to attend school, please consider doing this today.

You can also opt in to receiving Newsletters and Alerts from the school – so we can communicate any key information with you.

We now have just over 20% of parents signed up and using the app; but it would work great if we could have everybody signed up before Easter.

Winning House

The winning house this week is **BRIDGE**.

This means that all the children who are in Bridge are invited to come into school on Monday 16th April, dressed in clothes of their choice - but sporting something that is red - to celebrate their success.



Halton Lodge Primary School

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Happy

Learning

Promotes

Success !