



HALTON LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

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A Week To Remember

This week has been an extremely busy week in school, with a number of classes enjoying their first Topic Week – since we changed our approach to how we deliver the curriculum last month – in addition to a wide variety of trips and other events that have taken place over the last five days.

The Topic Weeks have included the children in Year 1 spending the week focusing on Pirates and making carts (as part of their D&T project) to transport pirate treasure, Year 3 learning an incredible amount of information about life during Roman Times and Year 4 creating various Moving Mechanisms using pulleys, gears and levers.



By planning specific weeks, whereby the children can really focus on a key area of the curriculum – such as Geography, History, Art or Design Technology – the children are able to explore each of these subject areas in much greater depth. This also enables the children to have a really fun and exciting week in school, utilising all of the skills and knowledge that they have amassed over the previous 5-6 weeks – and to apply what they have been learning in English and Mathematics to their new topic. We really hope that this new and innovative approach will enable our pupils to go on and achieve to an even higher standard as they progress through our school.

The amount of recognition that our school is receiving at the moment is really something that I would hope all of our children, parents, staff and governors are extremely proud of.

At the beginning of September, we had 188 pupils at our school. This number has increased to 206 – with one further pupil already admitted to join us in September.

Furthermore, we were notified this week that there were 53 requests for places at our school, for children to start school in our Reception Class in September. *Places at all maintained schools within Halton are allocated by the Admissions Team – and, when a school is oversubscribed, the criteria used is to place children in local authority care first, followed by children who have siblings at the school and then children who live closest to the school, in order, until the class is full. Our Pupil Admission Number is 30 – so this is the maximum number of pupils that we can accommodate - which unfortunately means that a significant number of families - who would like their child to come to our school - will have been disappointed to learn that their child has not been allocated a place.*



Potentially Very Exciting Times Ahead



I'm sure that many of you are aware of the budget cuts to schools and, in particular, to the Special Education Needs budget within the local authority.

In addition to having seven class teachers, we are very fortunate to have three extra teachers at our school (who all act as Phase Leaders and oversee the quality of teaching and learning within their key stage), and a wealth of very experienced and talented teaching assistants – which means that the children in all of our classes are typically taught by a minimum of two adults at all times of the school day. *The additional university students that we have on placement, the extra 1:1 learning support assistants we employ to work with and support specific children, and the number of other volunteers who regularly work in our school mean the number of adults within each class is usually even higher.*

While the cuts in funding will affect what we are able to do as a school, this staffing structure is something that we will preserve; and it will continue next year!

Last summer, the Department for Education issued guidance to all local authorities advising that the Government had committed £215 million of capital funding to help local authorities create new school places and improve existing facilities for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and disabilities. Local authorities were advised that they can use the funding to improve provision for those children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans in establishments with a Good or better Ofsted inspection outcome. This is something that all the Headteachers in Halton were very supportive of.



Knowing that the quality of education that we offer at our school is of such a high standard, we decided to put ourselves forward as one of the schools where a SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health) Resource Provision could be built. Two weeks ago, we had to give a presentation to the local authority to share what we felt we could offer, as a school, and at the end of the presentations it was decided that Halton Lodge Primary School would be one of the preferred locations for the two new Resource Provisions – subject to a period of statutory consultation.



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This information is now in the public domain – as it is included in the ‘Special Provision Capital Fund Consultation Outcome’ section on the Halton Local Offer website. Therefore, I felt that it was important that I shared this information with parents – and to assure all of you that the cost of building, furnishing and resourcing this provision would come from additional funding made available to the school (and so will have no negative impact on the school’s budget). *More information about this project will be available when the public consultation period starts next month – when parents of the children at our school, along with the parents of children who attend any of the schools in Halton, will be invited to voice their thoughts and opinions on how to make best use of the funding available.*

If, in the meantime, you have any further questions, please don’t hesitate to come and ask.



Year 3 Visit to Roman Chester

The children in Year 3 kick started their topic on The Romans with a trip to Chester on Monday.

They dressed up as Roman soldiers and trained in the amphitheatre before taking part in a special workshop, at The Grosvenor Museum, to learn about life in Britain during Roman Times. They were also invited to look at lots of Roman artefacts and learn about each of these in greater detail.

The children returned to school very excited about the day they had had – and it was great to hear that they had all behaved brilliantly throughout the whole day.

Year 4 Visit To The Brindley



The children in Year 4 went to The Brindley on Monday afternoon, to work with members of the Manchester Camerata and a class of children from Culcheth Primary School.

This was an opportunity to rehearse the songs they created and composed a few weeks ago, and rehearse their part in the ‘Safer Together’ performance in preparation for the final, polished, performance on 5th June.

There seems to be a lot of excitement about taking part in this event; and those families who have collected the tickets that are available to them, look to be in for a real treat!

Year 6 Rewards Day



On Monday 21st May, those children in Year 6 who had shown a real commitment to attending the SATs Booster Club - that has been run after school on a Tuesday by Mr Bradshaw, Miss Whiting and Mrs Sproston since the beginning of January - were rewarded with a special Year 6 Rewards Day.

The day started with an energetic, hour long, ‘fun swim’ before the children were transported to Cineworld for a private screening of the recently released film ‘Sherlock Gnomes’. They were also treated to specially prepared Munchboxes and seemed to enjoy the opportunity to relax between their swimming session, and the walk back to school from the cinema.

As always, the behaviour of the children was outstanding and an enjoyable experience was had by all.



Infant Music Festival



On Tuesday, the children in Year 2 went to The Heath School to take part in the Halton Infant Music Festival – to sing a variety of songs that they have been busy learning over the last few weeks in school.

All of the songs this year were connected to science in some way and the children were able to perform these songs alongside children from other local schools – who also attended this event.

Whilst they were there, the children were treated to some fabulous musical performances by some of the pupils from The Heath School. They all had a lovely time and are looking forward to performing these songs to the other children in school when we return, after the half term holiday.



Sports Day



Thank you to everybody who came along to watch the children compete in a series of sporting activities – as part of our school Sports Day – on Wednesday.

Throughout the morning, the children in the junior classes completed a series of eight sporting challenges focused on speed, agility and coordination. The points that they accrued for their house were then added to the scores that the children in the infant classes accumulated during the afternoon; as they completed a circuit of different sporting activities.

At the end of a very energetic day, in sweltering conditions due to the extremely warm and sunny weather, it was the children in Priory who accumulated the most points – having amassed over 1400 points! They were awarded with the giant golden Sports Day trophy, which will now adorn the Priory house colours (yellow ribbons) for the next twelve months. However, it should also be noted that so many of our pupils showed an excellent attitude, application and effort throughout the time that they were active; and we hope everybody thoroughly enjoyed taking part.

We hope that everybody who was able to come along also enjoyed the occasion and appreciated the opportunity to watch their child take part.



Bugsy Malone



Yesterday, the children who have been practising and rehearsing for several months to perfect their performance of Bugsy Malone got to take to the stage to perform the play, set in the 1920s, to all of the children in school (during the morning) and then to a large audience of family members in the evening.

The performance lasted just under 90 minutes and it is a real credit to all of the actors and actresses to have been able to put on such an incredible performance. It will have been clear, from anybody who came along and watched the show, that a lot of hard work and effort had gone in to the costumes, props and working with the children to learn so many lines, actions and dance routines.

Every year our pupils excel when they are given these opportunities to perform – and this year was no exception. It was great to see so many children sing, dance and perform with a smile on their face; and the quality of the performance was truly outstanding.

The cast members showed a great team spirit too, supporting each other throughout the whole performance, and the confidence the children showed on stage was a real credit to them.

Once again, a huge amount of praise and gratitude needs to go to Mrs Urmsom, Mrs Bowen and Miss Hunt – who have been instrumental in putting this performance together and adding the final touches. I am sure they, along with the family and friends who came along to watch, are extremely proud of the children's final performance. It was amazing!

school, Polo visits the residents of a care home in Frodsham each week – and has been assessed as an animal that does not bark, scratch or become over playful when he is with people.

We learnt about Polo through a charity called 'Pets As Therapy' who also take cats and dogs into hospitals, hospices, special needs schools and various support groups. As part of this project, the charity offer schools the opportunity for dogs to regularly visit their pupils; to encourage the children to read and develop the confidence to read aloud.

Over the last few weeks, Polo has been coming into school and has been visited by small groups of children, to become familiar with our school and to enable us to establish a routine whereby different groups of children can read with him.

Before any new activities are introduced at our school, a comprehensive risk assessment is completed. It is strongly felt that the benefits of having a 'reading dog' far outweigh the potential risks.

Whenever a child reads to Polo, they will always be with the dog's owner AND a member of staff from the school. Equally, no child will ever be forced to read to Polo – if they are fearful or worried about being near dogs.

If you child has a fear of dogs or has an allergy to dogs, it is important for your child's teacher to be informed of this. However, we would hope that you would share our enthusiasm to have something so unique and special at our school – which is another way that we can encourage and enthuse our pupils to read and develop a love of reading.



Halton Lodge Has Got Talent

Auditions for *Halton Lodge Has Got Talent* will take place, during the first week back after half term.

If you are looking to take part in this year's show, please make sure that you use half term to practice and perfect your act – to give yourself the best chance of getting through to The Finals!

"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island." — Walt Disney

"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents." — Emilie Buchwald



Reading Dog

Over the last few weeks, you may have heard about Polo (a greyhound) who has started to visit our school, with his owner.

Polo is a rescue dog who has undergone a series of tests and assessments to ensure that he is safe to be in school and around children. *In addition to coming into our*

World Cup Workshop – Wednesday 20th June



On Wednesday 20th June we will be hosting a FREE Family World Cup Workshop, in our school hall, for all the children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 – along with the other members of their family.

This event will be similar to the FAST (Families And School Together) project that we ran prior to Christmas – as it is aimed at the whole family – and the activities planned include:

- Scoring as many 'ping pong' ball goals as you can in one minute;
- Designing a football kit;
- Making football players out of play dough;
- Matching a variety of facts to countries involved in the World Cup; and
- Making flags for countries involved in the World Cup.



Halton Lodge Primary School

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Happy

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This special event will take place from 3:15pm (so straight after school) until 4:30pm – and, provided you do have a child in Reception or Key Stage One, older siblings are also able to attend.

So that the organisers of this event know how many of the different resources to bring and set out in the school hall, we do require families to book a place at this event.

It would be fantastic if we could have all of the children in the infants attending – so please contact the school office (by telephone, email or in person) to add you and your child’s name to the list of attendees.



What’s Still To Come...

There are still nine weeks before we break up for the summer and the children move up to the next class. Here are some of the key events that will be happening during this time.

Half Term – 28th May to 1st June 2018

- Mon 4 June **School Closed: INSET Day**
- Tues 5 June **Year 4 afternoon rehearsal followed by an evening performance of ‘Safer Together’ at The Brindley Theatre**
- Thurs 7 June **Year 5 Chemistry With Cabbage Day**
- Fri 8 June **FOHL’s Father’s Day Surprise Room**
- Fri 8 June **2:45pm Family Assembly**
- Tues 12 June **Class Photographs**
- 13th to 15th June **Year 6 Conover Hall Residential**
- Wed 13 June **3:10pm Year 2 Llandudno Residential Information Meeting**
- Thurs 14 June **New Intake Information Evening**
- Fri 15 June **2:45pm Family Assembly**
- Mon 18th June **Year 1 & 2 Futsal Competition at The Grange**
- Wed 20th June **Year 6 Healthitude ‘Fit For Life’ (First Aid) Training**
- Wed 20 June **3:15pm to 4:30pm World Cup Workshop for Reception and Key Stage One Children & Their Families**
- 21st to 22nd June **Year 2 Residential Visit to Llandudno**
- Fri 22 June **2:45pm Family Assembly**
- Mon 25 June **Year 1 Class Assembly (9:10am)**
- Tues 26 June **Year 4 & 5 High 5 Netball Competiton at The Grange**
- Thurs 28 June **Halton Lodge Has Got Talent: The Final at 5:30pm**
- Fri 29 June **Year 2 Class Assembly (9:10am)**
- 2nd & 3rd July **Year 6 Transition Days at their new high schools**
- Wed 4 July **2:30pm Year 1 Parents Invited To Watch ‘Year 1 Summer Sing-A-Long Concert’**

- Thurs 5 July **Year 5 Enrichment Day at The Grange**
- Fri 6 July **Year R Class Assembly (9:10am)**
- 9th to 14th July **Rock Kidz working with all pupils in school (for 90 minutes each day)**
- Thurs 12 July **6:00pm Whole School ROCK KIDS Concert**
- Fri 13 July **Non-Uniform Day in return for a donation towards the Summer Fayre**
- Fri 13 July **2:45pm Family Assembly**
- Fri 20 July **Move Up Day**
- Fri 20 July **PTA Summer Fayre (from 3:10pm)**
- Mon 23 July **Year 6 Prize Giving at 6:00pm**
- Wed 25 July **School closes at 1:30pm**

Please remember, our school will be closed for an INSET Day on Monday, 4th June – so the children will return to school at 8:45am on Tuesday, 5th June.

Don’t forget: If you are looking for things to keep the children entertained and active next week, details of some of the things that Active Halton are putting on during Half Term were included in last week’s newsletter. *There are also some additional activities being planned in the run up to, and during, The FIFA World Cup (see below).*



Date	Activity	Venue	Time	Age	Cost
29/5/18	Soccercise	Kingsway leisure centre	5pm – 6pm	13– 18yr	FREE
1/6/18	Freestyle Football	Frank Myler	10am – 12	7– 13yrs	FREE
1/6/18	Freestyle Football	Grangeway CC	1pm – 3pm	7– 13yrs	FREE
6/6/18	Active Kidz Club	Kingsway leisure centre	4.30- 5.30pm	7yrs+	£2
13/6/18	Active Kidz Club	Kingsway leisure centre	4.30- 5.30pm	7yrs+	£2
15/6/16	Friday Night Football	Brookvale recreation	6 – 8pm	13yrs+	£1
20/6/18	Active Kidz Club	Kingsway leisure centre	4.30- 5.30pm	7yrs+	£2
23/6/18	Pop Up Football	Trident Retail Park	12 – 3pm	All	FREE
22/6/18	Friday Night Football	Brookvale recreation	6 – 8pm	13yrs+	£1
27/6/18	Active Kidz Club	Kingsway leisure centre	4.30- 5.30pm	7yrs+	£2
29/6/18	Friday Night Football	Brookvale recreation	6 – 8pm	13yrs+	£1
6/7/18	Friday Night Football	Brookvale recreation	6 – 8pm	13yrs+	£1

England’s Group Matches:
Monday 18th June: 7pm
Sunday 24th June: 1pm
Thursday 28th June: 7pm

Call or text 07920833405 for more information

www.activehalton.co.uk
 Email:sports.development@halton.gov.uk



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