



HALTON LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER 21

30th April 2021



This week we have taken delivery of almost 200 tree saplings from The Woodlands Trust - and have decided to plant these on the school field to create a **small woodland**.

In addition to creating a diverse environment that will attract a wide variety of wildlife over the coming years, it is also hoped that this will become an area that the children will use regular for outdoor learning and forest school sessions. It may also help to absorb a lot of the water that causes the field to remain waterlogged for many months of the year; and also create some shaded areas when the sun is shining. This will enable the children to go up and use the field area more regularly; including at break and lunchtimes.

Yesterday, nearly all of the children were able to go outside and plant at least one of these trees. (Should we receive any further tree saplings over the coming weeks, we will ensure that any child who didn't get the chance to take part in the tree planting is able to do so).

It will be fascinating to see this mini-woodland grow and mature over the coming months and years - and I am sure that the children will take great care of these trees to ensure they do not get damaged.

We would like to express our gratitude to Mr Ellis who volunteered his time to dig the holes for each of the trees; and make the children's job much easier (and enable us to plant so many trees in one day)!

Within the next month, the work on our new adventure playground - which includes an amphitheatre, stage, large climbing frame, dens, wigwams and a dry river bed - will begin. These designs have been shared with the children, who can't wait to be able to use and play in each of the new activity zones.



Here are some of the other things that have been going on in our school over the last two weeks:



If you have read the most recent school newsletters, you will be aware that the children in our **Reception** class are learning about Minibeasts. They are so interested in animals and plants - and it has been great to see their interest in this topic blossom.

They have found lots of different insects and other creatures in their bug hotel - and have found even more on their bug hunt around the school field.

Alongside this, the children have been thinking about what plants need to grow. The children have planted seeds and have taken these home to look after. They are now holding a competition, each week, to see who is the Star Grower!

The children were so excited to plant trees up on the school field with Mr Hilldrup, Mr Gallagher and Mr Ellis. Some of the children spotted the roots of the plants and they talked about how the plant uses these to 'have a drink'.

Our reception Stars are doing magnificently well in their reading, writing, phonics and mathematics too. The 'number of the week' for this week is 18 - and they show great enthusiasm in everything that they do!



This week the children in **Year 1** have been taking part in an Art and Design Technology (Topic) Week.

In Art they have been examining the artist Henri Matisse and have been looking at lots of his collage pieces. The children have been busy sorting and investigating different media - to find the one that would be most effective to use in different scenarios - and then were able to use the materials they selected to create a 'Matisse inspired' collage.

In Design Technology, the children have been exploring food. As the children had a good understanding of which foods are healthy/unhealthy, they looked at a map of the world to see where different types of food are grown (and how it gets from faraway places all the way to our supermarkets).

The children really enjoyed using their senses to explore lots of different fruits, some of which they (and the teachers) had never tried before! They recorded their likes/dislikes before they then each designed, made and ate a fruit kebab!



In addition to welcoming two new pupils to their class over the last two weeks, the children in **The Fawns** have concluded the topic that they started before Easter, 'Finding Out All About Kenya', by learning about the people who belong to the Masai Mara tribe and making Kenyan necklaces.

Now the children are focusing on Healthy Eating, they have been creating actions to go with a song they are learning to help them to remember some of the key facts associated with this topic. They will start to focus on 'Nursing and Medical Care' over the coming weeks.

In **Year 2**, the children have loved delving into the book 'Grandad's Island'. They have explored the different settings and have been describing the garden, attic and jungle using prepositions and noun phrases: e.g. The flock of noisy, colourful parrots are flying above Grandad's head.



In maths, they have been finding fractions of shapes and amounts; calculating quarters, halves and thirds.

In preparation for their topic week, they have started to find out about The Great Fire of London. This has included learning three different songs and they have 'travelled back in time' to meet Samuel Pepys!

The children are really enjoying reading and sharing Roald Dahl's stories at the moment. They have just finished reading 'George's Marvellous Medicine' and can't wait to find out what happens next in 'Fantastic Mr Fox'.



Last week **Year 3** had their classroom transformed into an Egyptian tomb – to help them to learn about the different areas and to use the vocabulary they needed - to describe such a majestic and wonderful place (setting) to start their new English unit.

They have also had great fun carrying out investigations using magnets in Science and have been learning 'The Dragon Song' as part of their music lessons.



The children have also been learning how to create and design computer games as part of their computing (programming)

lessons. They will be moving on to using Scratch in next two weeks.



The children in **Year 4** are really enjoying their weekly French lessons with Miss Knight and they also had a great time taking part in a host of drama activities to support them with their understanding of direct speech (and how to incorporate character's thoughts and motivations into their narrative writing).

It has been great to see the children playing one of the warm up games they were taught in their most recent PE lesson – called 'Coral and Sharks' - at playtimes, and they have been impressing their teachers with the amount of progress they are making in mathematics (learning about equivalent fractions).

Another highlight has been learning about The Human Body and finding out about the journey food takes through the digestive system (focusing this week on the mouth, teeth and saliva).

Year 5 participated in a Junior Lego STEM workshop, to deepen and extend their understanding of mechanisms, at the end of last week. The children made a range of moving models by including a motor, gears, cams and a sensor. Utilising their computing skills, such as coding, enabled the children to create algorithms on the iPads to control the speed at which their Lego model moved.



One of our local PCSOs is coming into school today to talk to the children about peer pressure, staying safe and knife crime. This is because this week has marked the start of *Operation Sceptre* (a 2 week national Police initiative - which began on 26th April) that has been set up to help reduce knife crime by engaging and educating young people.

The children will end the day understanding the importance of speaking out to a range of people they can trust if something is worrying them.

Year 6 have been learning about how to have and maintain good mental health. Everybody faces different challenges in life and the children now know a variety of ways to counterbalance these challenges with supportive strategies such as talking to someone, reading a book, playing a sport etc.

The children have also learned about how to keep themselves safe online, by being 'share aware'. A PSCO came into school last week to further explain the importance of this to the children; and was able to make them appreciate how important it is to consider what is appropriate to share online – especially when using social media.



This week we were contacted by **Runcorn Hockey Club** who wanted to make us aware of a fun and exciting opportunity for your children aged 5 – 8 years of age.

Runcorn Hockey Club is the only hockey club in Halton and, like many other sport clubs, they are passionate about giving children the opportunity to participate, build confidence, develop new skills, and make new friends.

They have been approached by England Hockey to run 'Hockey Heroes' - which they are delighted to do.

Hockey Heroes is aimed at 5–8-year-olds and will be taking place at Brookvale Leisure Centre every Sunday (from Sunday 9th May) from 10:00am to 11:00am – for a period of 8 weeks.

The course costs £40 and children get their own T shirt, stick, ball and cones too! It has been a highly challenging 12 months, and they believe activities like this, will help children get back to doing 'normal' things and creating new memories.

More specifically, Hockey Heroes is an 8-week hockey programme aimed at beginners that not only focuses on helping children develop some physical hockey superpowers such as dribbling, passing and goal scoring, but also places as much emphasis on character development superpowers including teamwork, communication, perseverance, and respect.

Our aim is for children to have lots of fun, experience lots of success, and feel like a hero! This will boost their confidence and ensure a positive experience of physical activity and sport that will have a beneficial effect in the rest of their life.

Sign up here by searching for your postcode or Runcorn via this link: hockeyheroes.co.uk

GROW citizens advice
Getting Ready for Opportunities and Work

GROW is a range of 1-2-1 support, workshops, and online learning from Citizens Advice Halton to help people grow their confidence, skills, readiness for new opportunities like jobs, managing money, and more.
GROW is for people who are 18+, living in Halton, and not in work, education or training.

GROW Workshop Taster Sessions

Our GROW Taster sessions are designed for you to get a feel for what our GROW workshops are like, and how the GROW support will benefit you.

Whether you're looking to boost your job searching, or want to get your motivation mojo back after a year of lockdown, we have a GROW workshop to suit you wherever you are in your employment journey.

The Taster sessions will:

- Help you identify the things that you need support with
- Let you meet our fabulous team
- Give you information on signing up for the GROW support and the full workshops.

Each Taster session lasts around 30-40 minutes.
Workshop Taster sessions are on Zoom (link to be sent after you've booked on the session).



GROW Taster Sessions at a glance...

Date	Name of session
10.30am, Thursday 13th May 2021	GROW your confidence - how to develop self-confidence and keep on building it
10.30am, Thursday 20th May 2021	GROW your motivation - how to get your mojo back after a year of lockdown
10.30am, Thursday 27th May 2021	GROW your learning - how to get the best from online learning opportunities
10.30am, Tuesday 8th June 2021	GROW your CV writing skills - how to make your CV stand out from the rest
10.30am, Thursday 10th June 2021	GROW your job searching - how to find that perfect job match
10.30am, Tuesday 15th June 2021	GROW your job applications - how to sell the best version of you
10.30am, Thursday 17th June 2021	GROW your interview skills - how to shine in front of the panel
10.30am, Tuesday 22nd June 2021	GROW your budgeting skills - how to make the most of your money

Bookings on the sessions are through Eventbrite. For links to the Eventbrite pages for each Taster Session, please visit the Citizens Advice Halton website:

haltoncab.org.uk/grow-workshops

GROW

Getting Ready for Opportunities and Work

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