



## HALTON LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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### NEWSLETTER 09

5<sup>th</sup> November 2021



This week we have been able to send out details of two extra after school clubs (KS2 Art Club on a Tuesday and Yr4-6 Capoeira Club on a Friday). This is in addition to the inter-house Non-Stop Cricket Inter-House Competition that we will be running on a Monday and Thursday, after-school, for the remainder of this term.

We continue to hold meetings with outside providers and are looking for more opportunities for children in the infants to attend more after-school clubs and to widen the options open to our children. The School Council are considering which clubs the children in their class would most like to take part in – and, for as long as we can, we will ensure that these are all free to join.

Over the next few weeks, it is our intention to present Charlie Boardman (our long serving and incredibly friendly school crossing patrol officer – or lollipop man) with a series of gifts to acknowledge what an amazing job he has done for everyone at our school. If any families would like to make a donation to one of these gifts – which would come directly from the children and parents – please send a small donation into school, in an envelope, with CHARLIE written on the front.

#### School Swimming

Planning transport and weekly trips to the leisure centre (swimming pool) is proving to be very tricky – and costly – in the current climate.



Therefore, to ensure that our children receive their national curriculum entitlement, as part of the Physical Education curriculum, we are planning to have a small heated swimming pool – with changing rooms – erected on our school playground for three weeks: from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November until 17<sup>th</sup> December.

This will provide all of our Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 children the chance to swim for half an hour, every day for at least 10 days.

We have invested a lot of time (and now money) in this initiative which we are aware many schools in our neighbouring local authorities have used to ensure their children meet the standard expected of children by the end of Key Stage 2.

The pool comes with a trained swimming instructor and a fully-qualified lifeguard. The fact that the children do not have to catch a coach to and from the leisure centre and can get changed immediately prior to their lessons, will also ensure that they do not miss as much of their lesson time – which we know will be hugely beneficial too.

This venture will only be possible if we can get the essential electrical work – to install an external plug socket to enable the pool water to be heated to the requisite temperature over the next three weeks. However, we are very optimistic that this can be achieved – and we can trial this new way to give our children the chance to learn how to swim – before the more extreme weather comes our way in January and February.

At the last school the where pool was located, 98% of the children and parents stated that this way of teaching school swimming was much better than visiting their local leisure centre. We are hoping we will feel the same way after we have had had the pool at our school.

We hope we will be able to allow some of the younger children to have some time in the pool too – to assess their swimming ability and inform our plans for rehiring the pool in the future. I'm sure this will be something they get very excited about.

The maximum number of children in the pool at any one time will be nine.



#### PTFA Christmas Raffle

The PTFA have put together 9 fantastic hampers that will be the prizes for this year's Christmas raffle. Tickets will go on sale – at £1 a strip (consisting of 5 tickets) - next week.

All of the money raised will be invested on equipment and activities that will benefit the children in all year groups – so we would be most appreciative of your support with this fund raising event.

#### Is my child too ill for school?

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell.



However, there are government guidelines for schools (and nurseries) about [managing specific infectious diseases at](#)

[GOV.UK](#). These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school (or leave a message on [studybugs.com](#)) on the first day before 08:45am – to let us know that your child won't be in and to give us the reason for their absence. (we can only authorise a child's absence if it is for a legitimate reason).

If your child is well enough to come to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cough, cold sore or head lice, you just need to let their teacher know.

**Important: Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Keep your child off school if they have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste

**Stay at home and get a PCR test for your child.**

[Find out more about symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do](#)

*If your child does not have coronavirus symptoms - or they had a test and it was negative so you know they do not have coronavirus – you should follow the following advice:*

**Coughs and colds:**

It's fine to send your child to school with a minor [cough](#) or [common cold](#). But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes.

Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

**High temperature:**

If your child has a [high temperature](#), keep them off school until it goes away.

**Chickenpox:**

If your child has [chickenpox](#), keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over.

This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

**Cold sores:**

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have a [cold sore](#).

Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.

**Conjunctivitis:**

You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have [conjunctivitis](#).

Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

**Ear infection:**

If your child has an [ear infection](#) and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.

**Hand, foot and mouth disease:**

If your child has [hand, foot and mouth disease](#) but seems well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off.

Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.

**Head lice and nits:**

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice.

You can treat [head lice and nits](#) without seeing a GP.

**Impetigo:**

If your child has [impetigo](#), they'll need treatment from a GP, often with antibiotics.

Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment.

Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.

**Ringworm:**

If your child has [ringworm](#), see your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP.

It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.

**Scarlet fever:**

If your child has [scarlet fever](#), they'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks.

Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

**Slapped cheek syndrome (fifth disease):**

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have [slapped cheek syndrome](#), because once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious.

If you suspect your child has slapped cheek syndrome, take them to see a GP and let their school know if they're diagnosed with it.

**Sore throat:**

You can still send your child to school if they have a [sore throat](#). But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away.

A sore throat and a high temperature can be symptoms of [tonsillitis](#).

**Threadworms:**

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have [threadworms](#).

Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.

**Vomiting and diarrhoea:**

Children with [diarrhoea or vomiting](#) should stay away from school for 2 days after their symptoms have gone.

**Parent Governor**

We still have a vacancy for a parent governor on our Governing Board. Therefore we are asking you to nominate a parent or carer of a child at the school who would be agreeable to taking up this important position. If we receive more than one nomination, then a ballot will be held. However, if we receive just one nomination then this person would automatically take up this position.

The Governing Board, with the Headteacher, has overall responsibility for the running of the school and there are three core strategic functions that the school governors need to fulfil:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governors need not be experts in education but they do need to:

- have an interest in the school and in the welfare of our children; and
- the time and willingness to get involved.

The skills you have can be very useful to the Governing Board.

Our Governing Board expects governors to attend six termly meetings each year; to gain a clear overview of both 'Resources' and 'Curriculum & Standards' (and the school as a whole). These meetings usually take place at 5:00pm on a Wednesday – but the date of meetings will be set when all active governors are able to attend. In addition, all governors are given at least one area of responsibility and are encouraged to make at least one visit to the school - as a Governor – and invest time getting to know the staff; so they can gain a valuable insight into how the school is run.

In return, our Governing Board commits to provide you with:

1. a structured induction;
2. provide access to quality training; and
3. provide you with an experienced governor as a mentor.

Our Governing Body currently consists of:

- Anne Simmons (Chair of Governors)
- Diane Mercer (Vice Chair of Governors)
- Anthony Hilldrup (Headteacher)
- Mark Dennett (LA Governor)
- Laura Whiting (Staff Governor)
- Kirsty Moremon (Parent Governor and Interim Chair of Governors)
- Jo-Ann Brockie (Co-opted Governor)
- Gavin McBride (Co-opted Governor)
- Diane Mercer (Co-opted Governor)
- David McClelland (Associate Governor)
- VACANCY (Parent Governor)
- VACANCY (Co-opted Governor)

If you would like to find out more about how you can contribute to the governance at our school please contact Mr Hilldrup (Headteacher). **Equally, if you know of anybody who does not have a child at our school but may be interested in taking up the co-opted governor vacancy, please ask them to contact the school too.**

If you would like to make a nomination for parent governor - please complete and return the attached nomination form, or alternatively please collect a copy of this form from the school reception.

**Parent Governor Nomination Form**

Please enter **IN BLOCK LETTERS** the name and address of **the person being nominated for election:**

Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of person nominated:

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of proposer (if different to nominee):

\_\_\_\_\_

Name and address **in BLOCK letters** of proposer (if different to nominee):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***Please include a Personal Statement (maximum 250 words) which will be used, should the school receive more than one nomination, to inform other parents and carers of the reasons why you would like to become a parent governor at Halton Lodge and what skills you would bring to the role.***

I wish to submit my nomination for the election of parent governor.

I confirm that I am willing to stand as a candidate for election as a parent governor and that I am not disqualified from holding office for any of the reasons set out in the School Governance Regulations.

Signed.....

Print name.....

Dated.....

*Completed nomination forms must be returned to the school by 10:30am on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021.*

Personal Statement: