



## HALTON LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tel No: 01928 564053

Headteacher: Mr A Hilldrup

Email: [head.haltonlodge@halton.gov.uk](mailto:head.haltonlodge@halton.gov.uk)

Website: <http://haltonlodge.haltonschools.info/>

## NEWSLETTER 12

26<sup>th</sup> November 2021



### Shutters

I am sure that it has not gone unnoticed that we have been having some problems with the shutters outside Year 3 and Year 4 this week. Unfortunately the motor to these shutters has failed and, to maintain the security of the building, we have had to leave these shutters down.

Now that the issue has been identified and the key parts have been ordered, we have engineers ready to carry out the repairs next week. We apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause when you drop off or collect your child from school!

### Children In Need

Thank you to everybody who made a donation to Children In Need. As a school we raised £269.80.



A huge "Thank You!" must go to Mrs Urmson for her enthusiasm and time organising back-to-back discos (which included various games and prizes) so all of the children could dance and party in their pyjamas last Friday!

Well done everybody!

### School Swimming



Anybody who has been on the school playground this week cannot fail to have missed the large marquee that is housing the temporary swimming pool. It has taken over 3 days to fill the pool and now the water is being heated to 35.5°C in preparation for the children in Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 to start their swimming lessons on Monday.

It is a legal requirement for primary schools to teach the children to swim. In particular, as outlined in the national curriculum, pupils should be taught to:

- Swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres
- Use a range of strokes effectively (for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke)
- Perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations.

Obviously, had we been able to secure a booking at one of the local swimming pools, then we would have done so. However, Covid restrictions on transport, the unavailability of pools in the local area and the need to teach our children to swim has forced us to find an alternative solution. Equally, if we had the option of a hire of the pool later in the school year (i.e. late Spring or during the Summer) this

would have been our preference too. However, we are very hopeful, from everything we have heard from other schools who have hired the pool in the past, that this will prove to be a highly effective and potentially even more successful way to get more of our children to become confident and more proficient swimmers.

The children in Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 will each bring home a letter today outlining the plans for how the children will get changed prior to and after their swimming lesson each day for the next 2-3 weeks.

### Inter-House Cricket Competition



This year we are keen to give as many of our pupils as possible the chance to compete in competitive sporting competitions – and to learn how to play lots of different sports.

The first of our inter-house competitions started at the beginning of the month with the children in the juniors being invited to take part in a taster session, before the house captains then selected a team to represent their house in the first round of the Inter-House Cricket Competition. These fixtures took place this week – and we have some very talented cricketers!

On Monday, Bridge beat Castle by 41 runs to 34 - in a closely contested game.

On Thursday, Mersey beat Priory by 33 runs to 15.

This means that '3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Play Off' on Monday 29th November will be between Castle and Priory, and 'The Final' between Bridge and Mersey will take place on Thursday 2nd December.

Every child who was selected for the semi-final matches has been invited to compete once again, to see if they can win their final match.

All the points won throughout the school year will determine the overall winner of the Inter-House Cup at the end of the school year - so every point earned this week may prove to be vital when we come to crown the winning House in July!

The next round of sporting fixtures are most likely to include dodgeball and indoor athletics. However, we may be able to have a swimming (or water polo) competition over the next few weeks. We do also have plans to allow those children in the infants who wish to compete to do so later in the year.

### Mrs Meadows Joins The Team

As you may be aware, Miss Stephens has two young children and has taken the



decision to go part-time – so she can spend more time with her family and not miss out on taking them to and from nursery and school on at least one day each week.

This means that, from the start of January, Miss Stephens will be reducing the days that she works at our school to four (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday).

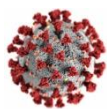
We are incredibly grateful that Miss Stephens agreed delaying her move to working part-time until we could recruit and appoint an experienced qualified teacher. I am very pleased to announce that Mrs Meadows will be joining the teaching team at our school, teaching in Year 4 every Friday.

Although Miss Stephens will continue to be in school every day for the remainder of this term, Mrs Meadows will have a number of transition days (starting with Wednesday and Friday next week) - to get to know the children in Year 4, the staff she will be working alongside and how we teach each aspect of the curriculum – over the next few weeks.

The children in Year 4 may remember Mrs Meadows as she taught them a literacy lesson, focusing on how author’s capture the readers imagination and teaching them how to recognise fiction and non-fiction texts by using a wide variety of extracts from books about the titanic, places around the world, aliens and a hippogriff) as part of her interview. She even introduced them to Bowtruckle!

We will ensure that the parents and carers of the children in Year 4 are given the opportunity to meet Mrs Meadows before Christmas and I’m sure everyone will make her feel very welcome as she continues her career at our school!

### Covid Update



Thank you for all of your support and understanding to help control the current outbreak of the coronavirus amongst the children in school.

The extra testing has helped to identify a number of positive cases and families have been proactive in helping to ensure that their children have not come into school if they have any symptoms.

We have also introduced a number of measures to help restrict the risk of infection being spread amongst the children in school. In addition to continuing to have a comprehensive cleaning regime, classrooms have been fogged (with a child-friendly disinfectant) if a child who has tested positive has been in school, the children in each class are being kept apart as much as possible, staff within each phase are maintaining social distancing from their colleagues, and we have temporarily suspended Wake N Shake and school assemblies.

It is hoped that by taking these steps now, we can reduce the number of positive cases and return to normal as soon as possible.



### FREE Christmas Sports Camp

For those children who are eligible for free school meals, Elite Coaching Solution

(in conjunction with the DfE and Edsential) are offering free sport camps over the Christmas Holiday period. So far we have only received details of the events that are taking place in Widnes. Should we receive any details of any taking place in Runcorn, we will share this as soon as we receive them!

### FLU vaccinations



The school-aged immunisation service will be returning to our school on Thursday. Therefore, all those who have requested that their child is vaccinated whilst they are in school can be reassured that this will take place. However, the service is also delivering a series of Flu vaccination drop-in sessions. If your child has not yet received their Flu vaccination and you want your child to be vaccinated, your child can receive their vaccination from the school-aged immunisation service as below.

Date	Time	Location	Booking requirement
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	10.00 – 14.00	Ditton Community Centre Dundalk Road Ditton Widnes WA8 8DF	You can just turn up at this drop-in clinic or you can book a timed appointment by ringing 0151 495 5066 (9am-5pm Monday to Friday)
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	10.00 – 14.00	Castlefields Community Centre Village Square Castlefields Runcorn WA7 2ST	You can just turn up at this drop-in clinic or you can book a timed appointment by ringing 0151 495 5066 (9am-5pm Monday to Friday)
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	10.00 – 14.00	Spencer House, 81a Dewhurst Road Birchwood Warrington WA3 7PG (main entrance opposite carpark 4 of Birchwood Centre)	You can just turn up at this drop-in clinic or you can book a timed appointment by ringing 01925 946808 (9am-5pm Monday to Friday)

**Please note:** These sessions are for all school-aged children (Reception to year 11) and all children must be accompanied by an adult with parental responsibility so the adult can give consent.