

23 October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we near the end of the first half of term, there is a lot to celebrate in school, for example, Year 7 have made a fantastic start to their secondary school careers. Moving from primary to secondary school is a big change and the year group have settled really well. Parents/carers will have the opportunity to meet with form tutors on Thursday 7 December at the 'Settling in' Parents' Evening but please do not hesitate to contact school in the meantime if needed.

Year 11 pupils have been working hard sitting mock exams over the last two weeks. Results will be shared after half term but I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them on their attitude towards their studies. Putting the hard work in now will absolutely pay dividends in the summer exams.

Grand Designs

We are very proud of four Year 8 pupils who reached the final of the Mini Grand Designers competition recently. They designed a sustainable house, creating models that were displayed at the Grand Designs exhibition at the NEC. Congratulations to the winner, Samah Kiyani, and the runners up: Laaibah Akhtar, Shreyas Jagatia, Afsa Hussain.

Sports Partnership

We were recently successful in our application to run the Hall Green Sports Partnership, building on the work we have been doing for years in the Central Partnership. This will entail working closely with our local primary schools to ensure all pupils have access to, and undertake, physical activity on a regular basis. This partnership will provide further opportunities for Hall Green pupils to run sports activities.

Girls' football award

In further positive sporting news, we have recently been awarded the Outstanding Strategic Use Of Programmes/Competitions/Events To Engage Schools Award through our work as a lead school for the Barclays Girls' Football Schools' Partnership. Well done to Mr Kelly, Miss Reed, and all the pupils who have been involved.

Class Charts

We have written to parents/carers previously to inform you of the importance of using Class Charts to monitor your child's behaviour and attendance (<u>https://www.hallgreen.bham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Class-charts-letter-July2023.pdf</u>). Since the start of this academic year, we have used Class Charts to communicate detentions to parents/carers. Parents/carers are able to check on Class Charts if a detention has been set at any time, with full details of date and time of the detention. You should also receive a notification when a new detention is set from this week as long as you have set up the app. We wrote to all parents/carers who were not accessing this software at the start of the year. If

you need help getting set up, please do contact school. Please note that detentions are no longer communicated through texts and therefore it is essential all parents/carers are using the Class Charts app.

Compassion for others

A huge strength of our school community is showing compassion for others in need. Over the last 12 months, we have raised money in a variety of ways to support others in need:

£887.25 – DEC Pakistan Flood Appeal
£627.00 – UNICEF Morocco earthquake appeal
£51.90 – Mental Health Foundation (Mental Health Awareness Day)
£331.03 – Jigsaw (Shire House sponge throwing, non-uniform day)
£213.03 – Help Harry Help Others (Lorien House cake sale, non-uniform day)
£237.75 – Mad Hatters Children's Charity (Rivendell House cake sale, non-uniform day)
£595.03 – Water Aid (Isengard House odd jobs, non-uniform day)
£130.00 – Jacob's Well (In memory of Mrs Watkins, ex-Head of History)
£1,107.65 – Disasters Emergency Committee Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal
£460.93 – Red Nose Day (Activities led by Whole School Ambassadors) **TOTAL = £4,641.57**

We are currently raising money towards the UNICEF Children in Gaza appeal. This will be available through Parent Pay by the start of next week.

Our Whole School Ambassadors are also running a Link to Hope shoebox appeal through form groups to support those in need across Europe. They are showing excellent leadership in the co-ordination of this.

Thank you to all in our community that have contributed to supporting those in need. We understand how difficult it is sometimes to make a contribution, but even the smallest amount makes a difference.

Key dates

Thursday 23 November 2023, Year 11 Parents Evening Monday 4 December 2023 Inset Day – school closed to pupils Friday 22 December 2023, Term Ends for Christmas

We break up at the normal dismissal time of 3.15 pm on Friday 27 October and return to school 8:40am on Monday 6 November. You will receive our half termly newsletter next week celebrating the work through this half term; please do take a look.

Yours faithfully

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Miss K Slater Headteacher

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