



Old Hall School Newsletter Autumn 2 2018



Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to thank all parents / carers for their continued support of Old Hall during the building works. We are aware that parking is difficult and thank you for your patience. This is one of our busiest terms with performances, Christmas parties etc so please look carefully at important dates adding them to your calendar.

Open Evening

A huge thank you to all families and friends who attended our open evening in September. The feedback was very positive and staff found it useful to chat with families in a relaxed atmosphere. Thank you as well to all staff who gave up their time.

Harvest Assembly

The children had a wonderful time participating in the harvest assemblies last half term. We enjoyed seeing the children work together in their classes to create lots of lovely, colourful and fun presentations. In classes, the children have learned about why we remember harvest each year and why it is important to be grateful and say thank you for the food we eat. We're sure all who were able to join us and watch the assemblies would agree that the children did themselves very proud. We look forward to seeing the children perform again at Christmas time and would be delighted to see all parents who are able to be with us to come and join in with the festivities. We had a letter of thanks from 'Good Food Ministry' who were very grateful for the food donated. (Contributed By Andrew Gardner)

Inspired Through Sport

On October 19th we held a sponsored sports event. The theme of the day was to be inspired through sport. We were joined by Jamie Clarke – the captain of both England and Great Britain's deaf football team. Jamie hosted a short assembly where he introduced himself to the children and described what he does and how he has been able to achieve all he has. The children seemed to be very interested in our special visitor. Each class then had the opportunity to take part in a physical session. We showed Jamie our Old Hall warm up song and he then helped pupils to participate in skill activities. These included: throwing at targets; relay races and bowling. Lots of fun was had by all and each child in the school had a positive experience during the day.

We would like to offer our sincere thanks for your generous efforts in sponsoring your children for this event. A total of £739.50 was raised! This amount will be shared between

supporting British athletes and much will be used to bring in new PE equipment that will benefit all children in school. (Contributed By Andrew Gardner)

Diwali day

On Wednesday 7th November, we held a special whole school celebration day for Diwali. The children had the opportunity to experience and take part in several activities that helped develop their understanding of why and how Diwali is celebrated. We listened to and learned about the story of Rama and Sita, we looked and dressed up in traditional Indian clothes, we tasted and smelled food and spices that are shared at Diwali parties, and we created rangoli patterns and decorated diva lamps. There was a festive feel around the school during the day and it was wonderful to see the children gain some understanding about a celebration that is important to people around them. (Contributed By Andrew Gardner)

Poppy Project 2018

To commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the end of World War 1 every child and adult in school has made a poppy using recycled pop bottles. These are displayed on the green fencing at the front of school. They make a very impressive display as I am sure any of you who have visited school recently will agree. The topic has been discussed in class and also in assemblies at a level the children understand. (Contributed by Pauline Williams)



Parent Hub

We would like to invite you into school for our Family Hub session on **Wednesday 28th November** to start at **9.30am**. There will be a Makaton practise session with Bev, our music teacher, who will be teaching a Makaton Christmas song. The session will be different to previous sessions as we will be including a Literacy workshop and then you will have the opportunity to work alongside your child to develop skills and resources linked to the literacy we do in school. A free goody bag with Literacy resources will be available to take home.

Executive Head Teacher Appointment

The Executive Head Teacher role has been advertised with a view to appointing a permanent Executive Head Teacher by the end of this term.

Building works

We now have access to two new portakabins which have been very welcomed by everyone at school. The larger portakabin is now home to Tiger class and the second one is a meeting

room. We are awaiting further developments from the building company and the next stages of the plan. We will keep you informed as and when we have further developments.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

We are looking for parents / carers who would like to be part of our PTA and possibly organise an event for our children or be part of our Old hall fundraising committee. If you are interested please come and speak to Angie Howells at school.

Attendance

Fantastic Attendance!

A great big thank you to everyone who is working hard to ensure that their child has high levels of attendance. Last half term 40 pupils came to school every day and received a 100% attendance award. At the end of the half term, our whole school attendance had risen to 94.5% which is way above national average. Thank you for your continued support. (Contributed by Hannah Shepherd)

Safeguarding News

Safer Internet Day will take place 5th Feb 2019 but Safer Internet Day can sometimes be the only focus during the year; like many things, little and often helps. ChildNet International and the Safer Internet Centre have combined to create a twelve-month calendar of ideas to spread online messages throughout the year. You can access this calendar by using the link below; we hope you find this useful. This calendar will also be available on the schools website.

You can download the calendar here: <https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/online-safety-calendar-2018-2019.pdf>

Staff News

Congratulations to Courtney Taylor, Tina Smith, Evie Taylor and Kelly Isaac who have recently joined the Old Hall. We wish them a very warm welcome and look forward to working alongside them,

DOJO points

Congratulations to the Dojo Winners of Autumn 1 2018

The children work hard all term collecting Dojo points for good work and good behaviour. At the end of each term the children with the most Dojo points receive a 'Winners' medal to keep. It is lovely to see all of our children working hard and receiving certificates and prizes



at the end of each term. It is also exciting for us to be able to share these moments with families through Dojo. If you have not yet signed up to receive photos and messages please contact your child's teacher for an invitation including a private code to ensure confidential messaging. (Contributed by Tracy Tandy)

Old toys, games and jigsaws

Just a reminder, as Christmas is approaching, if you are having a sort-out of any unwanted toys, games and jigsaws we are always grateful of them and will distribute them across the school. We would also like any unwanted outdoor toys such as scooters and rocking toys.

Halloween Party

The Halloween Party was a great success and the children looked fantastic. Games and dancing went on throughout the afternoon.

Have Your Say – Walsall Council Budget Consultation.

Walsall Council Children's Services are currently consulting on budget proposals which may have an impact on children and young people, and their families, accessing Home to School Transport support, Policy Proposal Reference Number 20.

It is important that everyone tells the Council their views about these proposals, whether you agree with them and what impact they could have. **Please remember to return your questionnaire or complete online before 21 December 2018 when consultation finishes.**

You can also go along to one of the following drop in sessions where Council Officers will be available for you to talk to, no need to book:

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 20 th November 2018	2:00–4:00	Castle Business and Enterprise College, Odell Road, Leamore, Walsall WS3 2ED
Friday 23 rd November 2018	17:00–19:00	MyPlace, Walstead Road West, Walsall WS5 4PE
Monday 26 th November 2018	1:00-3:00	Jane Lane School, 203 Churchill Rd, Walsall WS2 0JH
Wednesday 28 th November 2018	10:00–12:00	Mary Elliot School, Leamore Lane, Walsall WS2 7NR
Thursday 29 th November 2018	17:30–19:30	Education Development Centre. Pelsall Lane, Walsall, WS4 1NG

More information about these and the Council's other budget proposals, and to have your say, please visit: www.walsall.gov.uk/budgethaveyoursay

Meet the Governors

I will use our newsletter to introduce our Federation governing body to you all – we have an experienced and committed governing body that are well placed to challenge and support staff at Old Hall and Mary Elliot Schools. Governors will often be in both schools to work with staff, students and students across the year. Firstly may I introduce.....

Mrs LESLEY FOSTER (Co-Chair of Governors)



Hello, my name is Lesley Foster (sorry for the awful photo) and I currently Co-Chair the Federation with Teresa Tunnell having previously chaired the Governing Body at Old Hall.

I have been a School Governor for 15 years and I also Chair another local Primary Federation. In addition I chair the newly formed Walsall Strategic Inclusion Partnership Board (what a mouthful!) I am a member of Schools Forum and sit on the Executive Committee of Walsall Governors Association. You might say I am a glutton for punishment but I really enjoy the work and am passionate about improving the lot of Walsall Children.

I run my own business and am a mother of three and a Grandmother. I am always happy to stop and chat if you see me around school or you can contact me through the school office.

Mrs Teresa Tunnell (Co-Chair of Governors)

Hi, my name is Teresa Tunnell and I'm Co-Chair of Governors of our Federation together with Lesley Foster. Previously I chaired the governing body at Mary Elliot. I started as a parent governor, about fourteen years ago, at Oakwood School while my son was there and then carried on as governor at Mary Elliot when my son moved over. He left Mary Elliot last year and I became chair of governors. Over the years I have become increasingly involved in education, health and social care. I also sit on the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee. I'm a member of FACE Walsall, our parent carer forum. I'm an advisory board member of Healthwatch Walsall and a member of the Carer User Support Partnership. As a mother of a young adult with a profound learning disability and autism I am very passionate about provision and opportunities for all children and young people in Walsall with SEND.

Caring for my disabled son has meant that I had to give up work as a computer software engineer. However, since my son went away to residential college last year, I am kept very busy with all the voluntary work that I do. I'm often at school as I try to attend as many events as I can and I'm a member of Friends of Mary Elliot. So if you bump into me, I'm happy for a chat or you can contact me through the school.



Dates for your Diary:

Thursday 22nd November –Parent/carer consultation afternoon (if this day is a problem, please contact your class teacher to re-arrange it)

Wednesday 28th November – Family Hub morning

Thursday 6th December – Enterprise Day

Friday 14th December – Christmas Dinner Day

Wednesday 19th December – Christmas production morning

Thursday 20th December – Christmas production morning

Thursday 20th December – Early years and Ladybirds Nativity

Friday 21st December – Christmas party and Santa visit

Friday 21st December – School closes for Christmas holidays – normal time finish.

Monday 7th January – School re-opens at normal time

Inset Days

Monday 29th April 2019

Monday 22nd July 2019

Once again, thank you for your continued help and support in making Old Hall a wonderful school for our children, it is greatly appreciated.

Suzanne Davies

Deputy Head Teacher

Breakfast with Santa

Christmas party for Special Needs

Children and Siblings under 12s Only

At SNAP playground, Pye green

road, Cannock WS115RW

Saturday 15th December 11am–

2pm

£5 each

Price includes cooked breakfast,

Meeting Santa, Presents and games

For more details please call

01543579286

