



HALLBROOK PRIMARY - SUCCESS ACADEMY TRUST

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Autumn Half Term Newsletter 1

Head teacher's message

Dear Hallbrook Community,

I can't quite believe we find ourselves at the end of the first half term. It has been extremely busy in school. I would like to personally thank everyone for the warm welcoming I have had. It has made the process of being the head of a different school much easier. We have already begun improving many aspects of school life. Some of these changes you may have picked up on such as coming to school in our PE kits and changing how we run hot chocolate Friday. Others, such as looking at how we deliver our curriculum and improving our teaching and learning, will take longer to be as apparent but are already starting to positively impact the quality of education. I would like to pass on my thanks to all the parents who contributed suggestions to the parent forum and, especially, to those that attended the meeting to discuss things with me. Although there are aspects of school life that can improve, what fills me with confidence is the investment I have seen from a wide range of the Hallbrook community in wanting to support the school in making these changes happen. I would like to use my first newsletter to communicate some of these changes and keep everyone as up to date as possible with school life.

Clubs and wrap-around care

Many of you shared a similar concern about how clubs and wrap-around care had changed this year. For clarity, this was a decision that had been made prior to me starting but is one that I assured parents I would evaluate and seek parental voice on. Moving forward, I would like to be as transparent with parents as possible to avoid any confusion.

Afterschool wrap-around care

I would like to improve the variety and offer of our afterschool wrap-around care. I believe that we can offer an experience to pupils which means that parents will be happy to pay for activities and provide a greater choice to both parents and, most importantly, our pupils. Sent with this newsletter, is our new Hallbrook+ offer. You will see that Mr Garner will still offer sporting opportunities, but they are about being broad and inclusive. These are for children to enjoy sport and physical exercise but not about being selected for school competitions. Miss Deegan, a qualified dance and performing arts expert, Mrs Deeming and Mrs Richardson are going to run a different club which is not sports focussed. We will still offer the option for children to go into Hallbrook+ and play games or chat with their friends for those who do not want to participate in a structured club. These will all be under the umbrella of Hallbrook+.

For parents who want to guarantee their child's place at these clubs, they can book the specific club as they have in the past.

Any child who is booked into Hallbrook+ will be given the opportunity to participate in these clubs if there is space available.

All these clubs will run for the first session of Hallbrook+ which is until 4:30pm. At this point, children can either be collected or their parents can pay for them to attend Hallbrook+ until 5:30pm.

In changing the format, I am hoping to attract more pupils to attend sessions that they are interested in. If this is the case, then at Christmas we can review this further to look at what future clubs are offered and make sure they match the interests of the children.

Clubs and lunchtime

It is then my plan to run our competitive school clubs at lunchtime. On these days, children will need to have signed up for a club for the half term. **They will come to school in their PE kit.** Parents will be informed about the clubs that their child have signed up for. Children completing a lunch time club will have time to eat and then the club will run from 12:45 – 13:15 with our Sports Coach Mr Garner. As these clubs will be about representing the school in events, and will take part in the school day, **they will not be charged.** They are an inclusive way to ensure everyone can be selected to represent the school.

Mud Club

One of Hallbrook's positives is our amazing outdoor space. Having talked to the school council and individual pupils, we need to look at improving what we offer at lunch time. One of our first approaches to this is going to be **Mud Club.** This is going to give children the opportunity to go in our woodland areas all year round and whatever the weather is. As the name suggests, this does mean things are going to get a little muddy. All children will be able to participate in this lunch time activity as long as:

- They bring a pair of wellies to school which are labelled and stored in a carrier bag which is also labelled.
- They have a waterproof coat.

Our first mud club session will be **Wednesday 30th October**, and we will run this at lunchtime on Wednesday and Friday moving forward. The outdoor classroom will be open on Wednesday morning for children to deposit their wellies. It is up to you to decide if you are happy for wellies to stay in school or if they need to go home each day. We are happy to store them in there if you would rather.

Communication

Some parents highlighted an issue with communication they were having. After Christmas, the school is moving to a new system called Arbor MIS. This will allow us to use one system instead of multiple ones and should sort some of the points raised by parents. Once this is up and running, we will make sure parents are informed about how this works.

Charity

The school council have decided that this year we would like to change how we support charities. We acknowledge that there are many different charities who do wonderful work. However, we also realise that the constant flow of when these charities do special days means that parents can feel like they are being asked to donate regularly. The school council have decided that they would like to focus their efforts on supporting Friends of Hallbrook and charities

that help the lives of other children. This means that on other well-known charity days we may participate in events to raise awareness, but we will be very conscious about asking for donations.

Staff update

The Hallbrook community needs to say thank you and goodbye to a few members of staff at October Half Term. They are leaving for different reasons including work promotions and to be able to spend more time with family. Mrs Long, Mrs Walker and Mrs Quittenton will all be leaving at the end of this half term. I am sure you will join me in thanking them and wishing them the best for the future.

Dates already in the diary (updated on DOJO throughout the half term)

Date	Event
21 st -25 th October	Half term Break
28 th October	FOH Stay 'n' Carve Pumpkin Session 3:15pm
30 th October	FOH Halloween Disco EY & KS1 4:00- 5:00pm KS2 5:15 – 6:15pm
6 th December	Beauty and the Beast Panto in school (whole school)
9 th December	Pre School & Early Years performance of 'The Nativity' to parents 2:30pm
10 th December	Pre School & Early Years performance of 'The Nativity' to parents 9:15am
10 th December	School Nurse meeting for Parents 2:00pm
12 th December	Christmas Jumper & Christmas Dinner day
13 th December	Christmas Activity Morning 9:05am
20 th December	School closes

I hope everyone has a relaxing half term and enjoys time together as a family. As previously mentioned, if you have any concerns about your child or school then please get in touch and I am more than happy to meet you to discuss this.

Thank you

Mr Barrow