

Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### Personal Development Strengths



This week's personal development strength is **creativity**. We have been teaching the children the importance of celebrating their individuality and developing their imaginations. We have considered how we all need to avoid distractions to be as creative as possible, while also learning that making small changes to what we usually do can make a big difference.

Perhaps you could share with your child the ways you enjoyed being creative as a child and what you still do now as an adult to keep your mind and body active. Well done to the following children who have demonstrated their creative skills this week:



Reception	<b>Vinny:</b> for narrating when reading and role playing
Year 1	<b>Melissa:</b> for always using her imagination and showing creativity
Year 2	<b>Sofia:</b> for using her imagination to create pictures, models and stories
Year 3	<b>Jessica:</b> for trying hard and being creative
Year 4	<b>Ruby:</b> for making creative collage pictures
Year 5	<b>Poppie:</b> for creative pieces of writing
Year 6	<b>Romily:</b> for a creative WWII propaganda poster



### Harvest Service

After a number of discussions with the staff, we have made the decision to offer parents and carers virtual access to this year's Harvest Service. From a safety point of view, we think that this is the right decision for the time being and we also need to carefully build up to the children 'performing' to one another before they are faced with a full hall of adults (which many of our infant pupils have never experienced before).

The service will go ahead on the last day of the half term as planned and Kay Ahearne from the Widnes Foodbank will attend to receive the school's donations. We will provide recordings of the highlights from each class and these will be shared with you via our YouTube channel. Donations should be brought into school during the week beginning **Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> October**, ready for the service on **21<sup>st</sup> October**. Thank you in advance for your support.



# READING CHAMPIONS



Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4
<b>Warren</b>	<b>Hugo</b>	<b>Lacey</b>	<b>Emily R</b>

## Parent Governor Vacancies

Calling ALL parents..... we need YOUR help! Maybe you are new to Halebank and would like to get more involved in the life of the school. Perhaps you are one of our loyal and longstanding parents who now feels the time is right to give something back to the school. Now is your chance, as we have vacancies on our Governing Board!

The school's Governing Board is made up of parents, staff and other members of the community. The Governing Board meets every term to review, support and challenge the work of the school, and together with the headteacher is responsible for ensuring that a good standard of education is provided to all pupils.



We currently have **TWO** Parent Governor vacancies and it would be brilliant to welcome some new faces onto the board. While there is some commitment required, the role is a rewarding one as governors make an invaluable contribution to the direction, decision making and improvement of the school.

If you think you are interested and would like an informal chat about the role, please let me know. The procedure for nominations is as follows:

1. If you would like to become a Parent Governor, or to put forward the name of another parent who is willing to stand, please complete and return the nomination paper attached.
2. You can propose yourself or you may ask your partner or another parent to do this for you.
3. Candidates are asked to write a short statement which sets out what they would hope to do for the school if elected, and what skills and experience they possess.
4. Nominations will close on **1/11/2021**.
5. If the number of nominees is the same as the number of vacancies, the nominees will be elected onto the Governing Board.
6. If there are more nominations than vacancies, ballot papers will be sent out and an election will take place.

## Parents' Evenings

We will be using the [Parents' Area](#) of our School Spider website to enable you to book appointments to have a telephone consultation with your child's class teacher this term. The booking system will go live at **7.00 pm** on **Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> October** and will remain open until **9.00 am** on **18<sup>th</sup> October**. The telephone conversations will include an informal 7-8 minute chat to share information about how your child has settled into school with regard to learning, achievement and wellbeing. This will provide a useful opportunity to learn more about what is being done in school to support your child's development and teachers will share how you can help at home.

Our teachers will be available to talk to you as follows:

<b>Class 1</b>	Mrs Power	19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> October from 3.20 pm
<b>Class 2</b>	Mrs Draper	19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> October from 3.20 pm
<b>Class 3</b>	Mrs Bennett	18 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> October from 3.20 pm
<b>Class 4</b>	Mrs Eley	18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> October from 3.20 pm

The **PARENT LOGIN** button is at the top of our homepage: [www.halebank.halton.sch.uk](http://www.halebank.halton.sch.uk) Parents should use the usernames and passwords that were set up last year; if you've forgotten your details, click on the 'Forgot Password' link. Parents who are new to our school should receive a password reset email from **School Spider** in the next couple of days. If you have any problems, please give the school a ring or send an email and we will get back to you as soon as possible. If you are emailing, please contact both me and Mrs Fenlon: [sec.halebank@halton.gov.uk](mailto:sec.halebank@halton.gov.uk) and [head.halebank@halton.gov.uk](mailto:head.halebank@halton.gov.uk).

The staff are very much looking forward to talking to you in a few weeks' time. They will contact you on the telephone number you provide to the school on your data collection form which was sent out yesterday.

### **Covid-19 Update and Illness**

Our supply of lateral flow home testing kits has now arrived; these are available for parents to collect from school each week. Mrs Boon will put out a supply of kits on the playground and at the main entrance for you to take away. This will enable you to complete asymptomatic testing at home.

Should children develop any of the three main coronavirus symptoms (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste), they should **not** come into school. A PCR test (which is sent off to a lab) should be booked as soon as possible. If you require any further guidance, please give the school office a ring and the staff will be happy to help.

As we move into autumn and winter, there will certainly be more coughs, colds and bugs going around. We have noticed an increase this week in the number of children feeling unwell. As we work through the aftermath of two major school closures and a pandemic, it can be difficult to know whether your child is well enough to attend. It might be useful to have a look at the [NHS's online guidance: Is my child too ill for school?](#) This guidance offers parents and schools clear guidelines, particularly around sickness and diarrhoea which we know is currently affecting some families. Children with diarrhoea or vomiting should 'stay away from school for **2 days after** their symptoms have gone'.

### **Attendance**

Like all schools, Halebank CE Primary School is expected to promote good attendance and punctuality. We also monitor and analyse attendance data on a daily, weekly and termly basis to ensure that we identify any patterns or irregularities including persistent and unauthorised absences. We are currently monitoring pupils whose attendance has already fallen below the school's target of **96%**. At this stage in the year, only a couple of days of absence will have quite a big impact on your child's attendance figure. Nevertheless, we are required to have robust school systems in place and you may receive a letter at the end of the half term to alert you to the fact that your child's attendance is currently below target. An accompanying letter, which outlines the school's general attendance expectations, is attached to this week's newsletter and I would appreciate it if you could make time to read this. Thank you for your support.



### A Message from the School Cook, Mrs Robinson

As from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021, children in receipt of free school meals will now be required to pre-order a school packed lunch at least 24 hours before any school visit or outing, if required. A selection of three options will be offered and the children will simply choose the option of their choice. This is due to new legislation which now requires us to label all pre-packed food unless it is pre-ordered by the child. Thank you.

### Data Collection and Privacy Notice

You should have received a copy of the school's Privacy Notice which explains how we use, store and share pupil information. I would be grateful if you could read the information provided and then check the data collection sheet which is also enclosed in the envelope. Please check the information on the data collection sheet and return it to school as soon as possible, signed and dated; this will ensure that we have your up to date emergency contact details. Thanks.

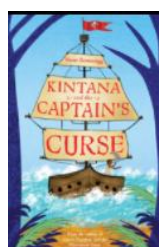
### Pupil Parliament



I am pleased to announce that our newly-elected Pupil Parliament has met for the first time this academic year. The representatives from Class 4 shared what they hoped to achieve in their new roles this year. I am sure you will be hearing from them in the months ahead as they make plans to improve our school and fundraise for various charities. If your child has any ideas which they would like to pass onto the children for discussion at their meetings, here is a list of who's who:

<b>Isaac</b> Year 6	<b>Poppy</b> Year 6	<b>Hayden</b> Year 6	<b>Poppie</b> Year 5	<b>James</b> Year 5	<b>George</b> Year 5
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The group elected Poppy to the role of Chair and the remaining members will share the roles of Vice Chair and Secretary. We hope to elect additional members from Years 3 and 4 later in the academic year.



### Author Visit: Susan Brownrigg

Pupils in Classes 3 and 4 were treated to an exciting visit from local author, Susan Brownrigg, on Wednesday. She told the children all about the inspiration for her books and even brought in some artefacts for them to handle! The children were able to ask her lots of questions and got many ideas for their own stories. We hope that her visit will help to inspire the children's creative writing.

I hope you all have a great weekend!

Yours sincerely

*Richard Harley*

Mr R Harley  
Headteacher

Halebank Church of England Primary School  
**Election of Parent Governor/s: Nomination Form**

Name:

Address:

The above-named has a child at the school, is willing to serve if elected and is hereby nominated to stand for election.

Nominated by\*: (name in capitals and address)

Signature of nominee:

Completed nominations must be returned to the school office by **1/11/2021**.

\*Self-nomination is acceptable

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**Personal statement**

The nominee should use the back of this form to complete a short **personal statement** (100 words max.) which should include:

- evidence of the extent to which you possess the skills and experience to support the Governing Board;
- your commitment to undertake training to acquire or develop the skills to be an effective governor;
- details of your contribution to the work of the Governing Board during your previous term of office (if seeking re-election); and
- how you plan to contribute to the future work of the Governing Board

**Name of nominee:**

**Personal statement**

