



# Hulme Hall Grammar School

◆ Caring ◆ Nurturing ◆ Achieving

## Senior School Newsletter

20th November 2020

On behalf of all the pupils and staff at Hulme Hall, I would like to begin this week's newsletter by sending our very best wishes to our Marketing Manager, Mrs Mandy O'Reilly, who leaves the school today after nearly three years in the role.

From my point of view, I am very sad to see Mrs O'Reilly leave as I have really enjoyed working with her since I joined the School almost two years ago. She has transformed our marketing and publicity efforts and I am sure you have all enjoyed reading the weekly school newsletter that she painstakingly produces. I think that everybody looked forward to receiving her good news stories and multiple quizzes during the lockdown over the summer term. I wish Mrs O'Reilly every success in her future career.

Mrs O'Reilly's last major task has been to organise the production of a Virtual Tour of Hulme Hall, which is aimed at prospective families, especially those who are unable to visit the school site due to the current Covid-19 restrictions. I am delighted to say this is now available to view on the school website, so please take a look. I am very grateful to all those who took part in the production of the tour.



As Mrs O'Reilly's successor will not be in post immediately, our next newsletter is scheduled to be published in two weeks.

### A Safety Reminder

I would like to remind parents and pupils of the need for pupils to wear face coverings in corridors and communal areas around the school. This week, we have had a significant number of pupils each day reporting to the office as they have forgotten to bring one in. I would respectfully ask parents to ensure that your child has their face covering with them each day as they leave for school.

On a similar theme, pupils are reminded that they must wear a face covering when using public transport to and from school and should refrain from mixing with other pupils from outside their year group bubble. I know this is very difficult for them but please remind your child that the guidance is in place to minimise the risk of transmission of Covid-19.

In recent weeks, the Senior Leadership Team have been reviewing and updating various School policies and procedures. A number of these updated policies, including Safeguarding, Behaviour and Discipline and Anti-bullying, have now been approved by Governors and are available to read on the website.

Finally this week, Mrs Smith and I have been conducting interviews for the post of Head Boy and Head Girl. The standard of the applications has been extremely high and I would like to thank all those who applied for taking the time and effort to do so. We have a very difficult choice ahead of us, but I hope to announce the successful candidates next week. In the meantime, enjoy the weekend and stay safe.

# United Against Bullying

## Anti-bullying Week Assembly 16th-20th November 2020

As Assistant Headteacher responsible for Safeguarding and Pastoral care in school, I often get asked by prospective parents whether any bullying goes on at Hulme Hall. My response is honest, considered – but always the same. ‘Where there are children, there will be bullying.’

We are not afraid to talk about bullying here. It’s not a topic that we brush over or ‘tick box’ once a year during a national campaign, but a conversation that we have daily with our young people to ensure that they are safe, happy and secure in school. Do be reassured though that deep-rooted or repeated bullying, for us, is uncommon! This is because our ‘caring, nurturing, achieving’ ethos is at the heart of everything we do in school and we encourage our pupils to recognise and aspire towards these qualities.

In any organisation, however, where a diverse group come together, there will always be instances and situations where children behave unreasonably towards one another. There will always be occasions where pupils ‘feel’ bullied. So, for us, every week is anti-bullying week.

If a pupil reports bullying or feels bullied, or threatened, targeted or isolated we will investigate. In most cases, these instances occur between friendship groups. Pupils can feel pressure from a friend who goes too far with ‘banter’ and singles them out for teasing ‘just for a laugh.’ Like all schools we get the fallout from social media disagreements that start in the evening or at the weekend and spill into school. Very often, the person who is perceived to be the bully is not aware of the consequences of their actions.

Bullying in any form is unacceptable and whilst we investigate, our main focus will always be to educate. Children need to learn social cues. How to speak to each other with respect. How to resolve their differences without causing pain, worry, anxiety or upset.

As with anything, learning these skills doesn’t happen overnight!

My message at this week’s assembly was clear. That whilst teachers and parents do play an important part in dealing with reports of bullying, it is actually the pupils themselves that possess the power to make a difference! Put into practice the skills that the NSPCC suggest and that I spoke about:

Build your resilience – with **Passive Coping**. Walk away. Ignore, and when the dust settles, try to reconnect in a positive way. We all say and do things we shouldn’t, so sometimes we need to forgive and forget.

Use **Communicative Coping** to tell your peers / ‘friends’ how their behaviour is making you feel. Talking (not shouting!) or writing it down for them to read may be useful.

**Proactive or Problem-solving Coping** may make a difference. Block a number; delete the contact from your phone book; report any persistent cyberbullying to the social media platform; inform your parents; put time and space between you and the perpetrator; move to a different social group.

That said, always let your teachers know if you are struggling to resolve your differences, or if you are unhappy, as we are always there to help.

Mrs Smith, Assistant Headteacher



# Brilliant Books

Congratulations to Willow in Year 7 who has just published her first book at the age of 11!

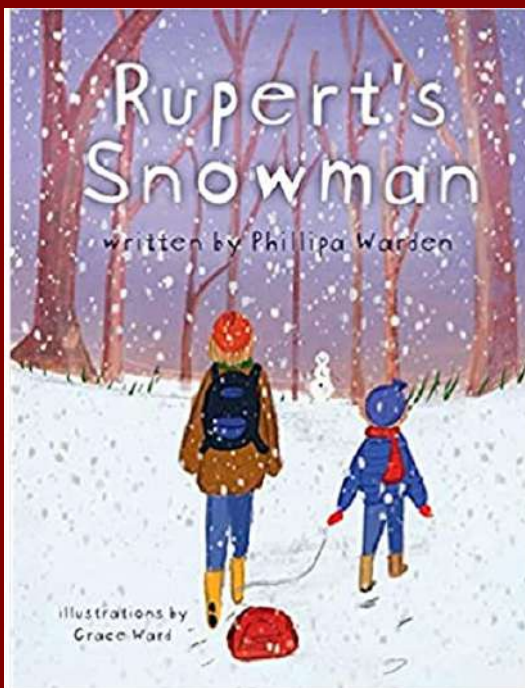
It has been two years in the making and was inspired by an English lesson on adventure stories when she was in Year 5. It was during lockdown that the book really began to take shape and nine months on, it is now available to buy and download from Amazon.

*Survivor Girls* tells the story of four girls who go on a sleepover to Survivor Island but the weekend away proves to be much more than a fun tree house retreat. The girls make a life-changing discovery and a big mistake!



Willow has already planned a sequel to the book and in fact has a further five books in the pipeline! We think this could be the start of a fabulous career, although she views it as a part-time hobby and has high aspirations to become a Cosmologist! Follow the link to purchase your own copy! [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Survivor-Girls-Willow-Woolhouse/dp/B08N21DW1C/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Survivor-Girls-Willow-Woolhouse/dp/B08N21DW1C/ref=sr_1_1?)

## Alumna Turns Illustrator



Willow is not the only one who has had a book published in the last couple of months. Class of 2011 pupil, Grace Warden, recently illustrated her first book written by children's author, Philippa Warden.

*Rupert's Snowman* is a heart warming Christmas story about a snowman rescue and is a must-have present this year! Grace's full page illustrations are just beautiful and they add magic and wonder to the melodic prose of the book.

During her time at Hulme Hall, Grace showed a real artistic talent and used this gift to complete a degree in Visual Communication at Birmingham City University. This is her first book but a second is already being planned.

We are excited to announce that Grace will be coming into school to do a book reading and some workshops with us in the New Year, but in the meantime have a look at her book, [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Ruperts-Snowman-Phillipa-](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Ruperts-Snowman-Phillipa-Warden/dp/1948604698/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=rupert%27s+snowman&qid=1605784817&sr=8-1)

[Warden/dp/1948604698/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=rupert%27s+snowman&qid=1605784817&sr=8-](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Ruperts-Snowman-Phillipa-Warden/dp/1948604698/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=rupert%27s+snowman&qid=1605784817&sr=8-1)

# JLC News

## Books and Baking

The JLC children are so hungry for reading that they are even doing it during their lunch break! They are so gripped by *The Beast of Buckingham Palace* that they just don't want to put it down! Their enthusiasm impressed Mrs Gately so much that she awarded them all a praise postcard! They have also discovered an aptitude for baking and made the most impressive looking meringues with Mrs Norman this week using some very tricky techniques.



## A Booming Good Music Lesson!

Pupils have been experimenting with tuned percussion tubes this week in Music. The covid-safe instruments, known as Boomwhackers, proved to be very entertaining and sounded impressive too!

## A Final Word

It has been an absolute pleasure working on the newsletter over the past few years. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed, and in particular, our wonderful pupils who have endured me pushing a camera in their face at every given opportunity! I wish you all the best for the future and look forward to reading what you are all up to!

Mandy Marketing

## Community News

We always like to support our local community and our choir would normally be preparing for the Cale Green Christmas in the Park event.

Sadly the event will not be taking place this year but the residents of Cale Green are still hoping to get families in the Christmas spirit. They are creating a Christmas Trail from the 5th to the 13th December that takes you on a tour of the neighbourhood looking for Santa—you may even find yourself near school!

There are clues to solve and prizes to be won! For more details or to download an entry form, visit

<https://sites.google.com/view/calegreenpark/home>



## Numeracy Ninjas

Congratulations to our Year 8 students who were awarded their Numeracy Ninja certificates yesterday.

Most have now achieved their black belts and some are even Grand Masters!

Our Business Manager, Mr Lynch, had better watch out! Their mental calculation skills are now so good that they will soon be challenging him for his job in Finance!