

3 March 2015

Dear Parents

****Rock Challenge 2015 – Please Read Carefully****

On behalf of the staff and adults who kindly supported your children on Saturday during the Rock Challenge experience, I would like you to know just how proud we were of their attitude and behaviour, not just during the day but also their resilience and adaptability over the last few weeks in particular. Their performance was truly wonderful with a significant amount of challenging dance content for children, many of whom had not performed before. It was great to see so many positive comments from Halterworth families and audience members posted on the Rock Challenge Facebook page over the weekend.

Our first place ranking on Saturday does now mean that the school is invited to the Southern Final in Portsmouth on Wednesday 17 June (evening performance) and I am writing to ask you to consider if you wish your child to participate in this second exciting opportunity. We do not normally seek parental permission for children to continue to work towards the final, but comments we have received throughout this year (albeit from a small number of parents) mean that we want to ensure that we have your full support for this second experience.

Common misconceptions this year have been that the curriculum has been reduced to accommodate rehearsals; these have taken place on Wednesday afternoons during PPA and, from February, group rehearsals on a Tuesday afternoon; no core subject learning has been lost at all. A budget limit exists for all schools participating in Rock Challenge, Halterworth largely chooses to make and build our own set and costumes through the goodwill of staff and supporting parents. It is a high profile event for the school and year group, but is one that we choose to commit our time and energies to because of the positive impact it has for all the children. This is a truly inclusive experience.

Please complete the slip attached to indicate permission for your child to attend the final. This means that your child will continue to work with Stacey on Wednesday afternoons, along with the other PPA activities. Those children not participating will work with Mrs Bailiff and Mrs Carter, and not work with Stacey.

To assist with the additional costs of attending the final we request a £10 participation fee (payable by 2 April). We also help fund our performances through sponsorship and fund raising. In previous years parents and children have enthusiastically engaged in a wide range of activities that they have organised. Last year children, staff and parents raised funds through a range of fun activities and events that did in fact, contribute towards the performance for Year 5 this year.

You will have received log on details for Nick Scott photography to view the official photographs from Saturday's performance and you are able to purchase the official photographs from them. We hope to be able to reproduce copies of the performance on Saturday, but are awaiting confirmation of this, and will let you know in due course.

Tickets for the final are not yet on sale, we will inform you of the release date and whether the school will be block booking seats again or not.

Finally, I would urge you make every effort to ensure that your child has someone attending the performance from home, this could be a grandparent, aunt or uncle as this is important and really does mean a lot to the children.

Once again, I would like to commend the children on their fabulous achievement on Saturday night and hope that you all had a wonderful evening supporting them. I would also like to extend our collective thanks to the volunteers who worked so hard until the show began, on hair, costume and make-up, literally with minutes to spare! This team work is what makes Halterworth special.

Best wishes



Jo Cottrell

Y5 Rock Challenge Final (Portsmouth)

1. I give permission for _____ to take part in the Portsmouth Guildhall Final on Wednesday 17 June 2015.
(Please circle) Yes / No
2. I am able to contribute £10 towards participation in the final.
(Please circle) Yes / No
3. I am keen to support the children with fund raising activities towards their final Rock Challenge performance in Portsmouth.
(Please circle) Yes / No

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Child's class: 5KJ / 5MH (Please circle)